

COUNTER TERRORISM FOR THE COMMON MAN - 1

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With 26/11 two months behind us, there is no doubt in any Indian's mind that this was an attack by an adversary against our Nation. Most citizens would agree that even if a state of emergency was not proclaimed, some steps should have been taken to raise the level of security higher than what obtained prior to 26/11. Whether these should have been taken even before 26/11 is another matter which we overlook at present. Whether steps have been taken is left for you to judge. In my opinion the setting up of another Intelligence agency, positioning NSG at a large number of places combined with statements by senior ministers are knee jerk reactions which do not lower the threat to the ordinary Indian in any way. If you disagree, do not bother to read further.

The aim of writing this article is not to criticise any agency or person, which is the easiest thing to do, but in an attempt to raise the general awareness about Terrorism and Counter Terrorism, for the benefit of the Common Man.

Though the subject is vast, it has now become essential for every person to acquire some knowledge of Terrorism and the threat we perceive. It is essential for every individual to learn basic survival skills, be able to appreciate high threat areas and the timings when these areas are best avoided.

In addition there are some more defensive measures that can be taken collectively in mohallas, housing colonies, offices, Institutions, Schools, colleges, academies, and industry to not only try and prevent attacks but to reduce their effectiveness should they still take place.

Offensive Counter Terrorist measures which aim to seek and destroy terrorists, and neutralise their supporters, are to be taken by security personnel, in both proactive and reactive mode. Still some knowledge of these would help the common man, one to stay out of the way and if possible to provide whatever assistance is possible.

Special operations such as for dealing with hostage crisis are to be handled by special teams and the common man can help a great deal by remaining well out of the way. This includes all our political 'leaders' as well as the media, who, due to their lack of expertise, can only make matters worse. These are matters which must be handled by high grade professionals only. Details can be shared only with the authorities concerned.

Then there are aspects of damage control which are best managed by Disaster management organisations where some voluntary organisations can help.

Some other aspects such as Economic, Legal, Human Rights, Intelligence, External Affairs, Punitive action by the Defence Forces, Financial support to terrorist organisations, Religious motivation and indoctrination, and petty politics practiced by low grade politicians could form part of the 'Could Know' information for the common man.

Even though the common man may find himself helpless to eradicate weaknesses in our administration, exploited by terrorist organisations it is necessary for him to know that terrorists and their organisations make full use of the corruption, anti social elements, and the disgruntled elements in our society. It follows that raising the Satisfaction level of the Common man is vital; when for a common man to get a patient hearing and a fair deal without approaching a 'mai baap' is unimaginable!

It would be obvious that terrorism is not a Law and Order problem that can be wished away by ordering the police to do so. It has to be tackled by the Administration from the highest level to the lowest organisation. A multi-pronged strategy is essential at the National as well as the State level.

At the national level the most important measures to be taken are to deal with the external affairs. This entails not only shaping World Opinion (which implies dealing with a large number of individual countries) but more important the adversary. Since the War on our Nation State is undeclared, it is not easy to fix the blame on the adversary. Nevertheless efforts have to be made. Since war is a continuation of the policy of the State by other means, more convincing arguments have to be projected through the Armed Forces in the language the adversary understands. This has various implications which must be factored in. More on this on a later date. Effective domination of the Line of Control, counter infiltration / exfiltration operations across all our frontiers, by land, air or sea, are essential.

Relentless counter terrorist operations against the terrorists, their organisations and supporters, including against the over ground workers (who remain within the Law) are a must. Legal and judicial measures are essential not only to book the criminals but to obtain convictions. Failure to do so encourages enthusiasts to act outside the law in national interest, at times.

Effective public information systems and investigation of Human Rights violations are vital to ensure transparency. All actions must remain within the Law.

Economic development and political measures ensure all sections of the population remain part of the National Mainstream and do not feel discriminated against. For this National interests have to be placed higher than political interest. Can this happen? It is for the public particularly the electorate to decide. The public must be

informed about all these measures through effective public information system and Perception Management campaigns.

While all these aspects will be covered in subsequent article we shall start with analysis of target areas and individual survival skills in the next article. It is for the information of the citizens of Dehradun that many of these have been shared with the Civil Defence wards and Beat Constables, in Police Lines in the presence of the DM, SSP, and the Chief Warden of Dehradun, a month back, by Shri JC Pant, IAS (retd), Shri Rakesh Oberai of Oberai Motors and by myself.

COUNTER TERRORISM FOR THE COMMON MAN - 2

The art of war teaches us to rely not on the likelihood of the enemy's not coming, but on our own readiness to receive him; not on the chance of his not attacking but rather on the fact that we have made our position unassailable.

-Sun Tzu

How do we make our position unassailable? That should be the major question that should be on the minds of officials responsible for security at all levels. Whilst we wait for Central and State Govts initiate measures there are some actions that every individual must take. First we must acquire some knowledge of Terrorism; to include the strengths and weaknesses, aims and modus operandi of terrorists and their supporters. Next, we must learn to appreciate likely target areas which can then be avoided.

In their War against the State, terrorists hit innocent, defenceless civilians. Every individual is now a possible target; therefore must acquire skills to increase chances of survival, individually and collectively.

The common man must know that a terrorist is no superhuman and therefore do not get paralysed by shock. His image is blown up by the victims, the security forces who tackle him, to glorify their own achievements and by the Media which tends to sensationalise even routine affairs. Publicity is what terrorists desire most of all and our media provides it to them free of cost, unknowingly, to terrorise the population in order to influence the Government in favour of their political aim.

To follow guerilla tactics of 'Hit and Run', terrorists need to be physically fit. Since most terrorists used to execute strikes, are in their early twenties, they are very fit. They are trained to handle a couple of weapons and it requires no great skill to fire automatic weapons, or to throw grenades. Only a few terrorists can handle explosives. Since their basic tactics involve hit and run, they aim to spring surprise attacks at huge crowds in carefully selected 'killing areas' inflicting maximum

casualties in the shortest possible time and escape. Resultant panic, fire, or stampede multiply casualties and impede reaction of the police, and relief staff, giving the terrorists adequate time for escape. Suicide attacks are very few and employed for high value targets only (at least in India, so far). Notice that a good deal of hard scale rations and money is found on all terrorists killed in encounters. It is different matter that the planners know that most terrorists would get killed within 12 to 72 hours.

Next, what every person must realise is that the organs vital for survival constitute only about 15 percent of the human body. This includes the brain, all organs in the chest region and portion of the neck. If these can be saved by crouching, reducing your silhouette or by taking cover behind a hard object such as a tree, pillar, wall, a divider in the middle of a road or in a drain, one is comparatively safe. Instead of facing the terrorist squarely one can half turn with your shoulder towards the terrorist which can save organs in the chest. Even though your hand cannot stop a bullet it could help stop a ricochet or a lower velocity projectile from hitting your head. If you see a smoking grenade, turn your back to it since you cannot get far enough before it explodes. (I took this action and survived despite receiving 40 splinters, which I still have)!

To create a belt of fire, terrorists shoot at hip level. The trajectory of the bullets is near horizontal. It is easy to fire and inflict maximum damage this way. Hence it is best to get out of the line of fire or below it.

If the first bullet has not hit you, the action is Dash, Down, and Crawl to cover. Then try to observe the terrorists if you can without exposing yourself. The initial dash is just a couple of steps to get out of the line of fire. Then get down letting the bullets go over. Don't emulate Bollywood heroes. Those tricks work only in movies!

Differentiate between cover from lethal munition and cover from observation. Getting behind a vehicle cannot protect you, yet if nothing else is available it may be better than being totally exposed. Hope the bullet or splinter may hit the engine block or the chassis instead of only passing through the body. This could just save your life. Getting down would be dangerous in a crowd, hence instead of running along a street, run sideways if a few steps can separate you from the crowd; then take cover. In a crowded area get away from the street which is likely to be the 'killing area' of the terrorists. If you can get into a shop and run from a rear door it would be the best. If no rear exit is available just get behind some cover in the shop itself and get below hip level, preferably lie down. Of course, you must keep your children and partners with you. As soon as you are behind good cover 'freeze'. Movement attracts attention, so keep still once you take cover. If you are in a narrow passage, go through it as far as possible creating space for others to come into its safety.

If you have a mobile report to Number 100 (police control room). The time of the call will be recorded on your mobile. This will be useful, later. Do not hesitate to report even if you are in doubt. The police will not harass you for a wrong report provided it is not a deliberate prank. Hope the police will make this announcement themselves. More on desired police actions, later.

It would be a chance of a lifetime that you happen to have a weapon when a strike takes place. Draw and Fire at the terrorist. If you are behind cover, the chances of your hitting him are far greater than your being hit. Your fire will make him run for cover or run away. Read what happened at Mumbai CST. The policeman who snatched another constable's weapon and fired was never hit in return. In fact he became a hero just as the armed policeman who failed to fire was declared a coward. You will never get another opportunity in your life. I write this with authority!

Study of past strikes in India, reveals that the aim of terrorists is to kill as many civilians as possible. The ideal target areas are highly crowded shopping areas or transportation systems. On the eve of festivals the density is the highest. Avoid these areas if possible. If you must go, avoid peak timings. Avoid taking all your family members for shopping at peak timings.

Railway stations are suitable 'killing areas'. Strikes could commence by a couple of blasts at strategic points to block entry and exit; followed by firing of automatic weapons. Throwing a couple of grenades could assist escape unless they decide to wait to ambush police reaction before escape on foot along the railway line till a suitable spot where two wheelers could provide further escape through narrow lanes. Firing along the length of a platform with trains on either side would also trap a large number of passengers. In such a case get into any train and lie down to avoid chance bullets coming through windows; then 'freeze'.

Crowded buses must be avoided. Similarly avoid traffic jams. These could be attractive targets, since it would be difficult for the police to chase. In case you can see a jam ahead or at a railway crossing, halt 100 metres away and wait for the jam to clear. You will find you lose no time in doing this instead of crawling along in first gear for 10 minutes. Try once just to see how much time you lose and the fuel you save in the process. At a railway crossing imagine what would happen if a couple of grenades were dropped from the last bogey of the train with delay fuses of a few seconds.

Other targets such as institutions, industries, educational institutions, crowded government and municipal offices will be dealt with later. As a visitor spend minimum time in these areas.

In case any citizen wishes to seek answers to face unique situations the queries may be raised to the warden of civil defence, your beat constable, or to the Garhwal Post.

In case you can have a soldier or an ex serviceman to explain and demonstrate what has been stated here you would be better prepared and more confident to face terrorists. Above all don't get shocked into inaction, keep your cool and use your head to get out and stay out of the 'killing area'. Help others and report the matter to commence action against the enemies of the State and Humanity. A prayer will help but remember God helps those who help themselves.

On 01 February Shri JC Pant, Shri Rakesh Oberai and I are scheduled to speak to selected members of the hotels, restaurants, cinemas, and market committee who have shown the desire to learn about the subject. Such talks can be organised in other organisations, if desired. Contact the Garhwal Post.

COUNTER TERRORISM FOR THE COMMON MAN - 3

IS INDIA A SOFT STATE?

You often hear that question to wonder why India continues to be very vulnerable to terror attacks.

Who are we soft against? The terrorists? Supporters of terrorism? Minorities? Or against criminals? Are we soft on corruption? We are the most tolerant people. Look at the quality of politicians we tolerate! Or for that matter the corrupt officials in many departments of civil administration. Unfortunately India is too soft on the weaknesses of the State. Unless we do something about it we are living in a mansion that is burning individuals are fighting for bigger rooms for themselves and for bigger share of the residue instead of fighting the fire!

To survive, our Nation has to find answers no matter how unpalatable and take remedial action no matter how hard or unprecedented.

In most states people have little confidence in the police which is considered corrupt and ineffective. Even in Mumbai, the terrorists killed were on the roads when their being terrorists was not known. For nearly 12 hours the ATS did not kill a single terrorist in any building. If they entered a building this has not been reported. The so called 'encounter specialists' can *conduct* encounters but when terrorists struck, the ATS was conspicuous by its absence. Yet they have been doled out the highest awards for gallantry by the dozen; more than double of those awarded to the Armed Forces in any single full fledged war such as in 47-48, 1965, 1971, or in 1999!! We have just witnessed the greatest dilution of gallantry awards. This is due to lack of ability to distinguish Gallantry from Distinguished Service, and of course politics

even in matters military and gallantry. The Services cannot be too pleased about it. Then we wonder why the youth does not want to join the Armed Forces!

Luckily things are not so bad in Uttarakhand. However before we tackle what the State Government must do, let us first cover what we can do ourselves, immediately.

In the last two articles we have seen what counter terrorism involves and what measures can be taken by individuals to avoid high threat areas as well as to minimise the effect of terrorist strikes taking some immediate actions. It is reiterated that the best way to defeat enemy designs is to remain cautious, and practice immediate action drills.

Having done this it is time to see what can be done collectively in Mohallas, housing colonies, and in other organisations.

The most obvious action is to ensure better Security. However what we want in Security is not well understood. Every organisation must identify the threat against which it wants to be secure. Is it against trespassers, theft, burglary, robbery, dacoity or terrorists? Some of these can lead to grievous hurt or loss of life. Colonies with a large number of senior citizens need special security. Improving strength of doors or keeping guard dogs provides security only to individual houses.

Having identified the threat these must be spelt out to the Security agencies. which cannot visualise the threat for you! If this is not done, which is so in most cases, the security provided is mostly cosmetic; not even adequate to deter petty crime.

It is time for the Security Agencies to train and provide better manpower albeit at higher cost, to those who desire better security.

People who keep a lot of cash, jewellery or valuables at home are the most vulnerable. Ex servicemen for that matter, would be the least vulnerable!! Banks would be too glad to appeal to all citizens to reduce cash holding at home. Of course the Income Tax officials would be delighted!

Before you wonder what burglaries have to do with Counter terrorism or who am I to recommend how to handle your assets let me explain. Holding cash and readily disposable assets attract burglars. Terrorists make use of all anti social elements in the society since it is easy to influence a person on the wrong side of the law.

Organisations such as housing colonies can and must organise some surveillance within their colonies. This involves keeping updated data on all residents whether house owners or tenants, on computers. Police personnel in nearest posts should be

asked to assist. Reporting of, and responsibility for tenants on one's property must lie with the owner and surprise checks must be conducted both by the police and the societies. This should include all servants whether residents or working part time. To overcome inertia, this will have to be enforced by the police assisted by the managers of the colonies or other organisations, after necessary instructions have been promulgated.

Besides keeping an account of the residents and workers, it is also desirable for colonies to keep a discrete watch for terrorists seeking shelter before they strike somewhere else in the city.

Surveillance required does not require high skilled operatives; all it needs is greater alertness by the security guards and the members of the colony. Reporting unusual activities or inquisitiveness about new persons seen in the premises is not too much to ask from a responsible citizen.

Housing colonies, mohallas should organise some training to increase awareness about terrorism. Since the subject is new the theoretical aspects will need explaining. Besides theory, survival skills should be taught and practised. This can be done with assistance from some ex servicemen residing in the area. If no ex servicemen are available the personnel of civil defence must be utilised. Civil defence has about 310 wardens in Dehradun and a meeting with all of them has been held at Police Lines on 14 Dec 08 in the presence of all beat constables.

Organising training is not something uncommon. It is usual to organise sessions for Yoga, aerobic exercises, Judo, Karate classes for different age groups. Why not sessions to learn and practice immediate action drills in case of terrorist attacks? Ladies and even senior citizens are known to have tackled intruders by their presence of mind using implements available at home. Such training would also be useful to avoid injury in case of shoot outs with armed gangs. The training need not be too long. Short initial and later refresher sessions of a few days at a time would keep everyone fit and reasonably well trained. This would also increase confidence levels. Individuals would also learn to avoid high threat areas particularly at peak timings. These aspects have been covered in a previous communication.

This brings us to coordination with the police. There are 135 beats with a constable each. The name can be ascertained directly or from the site www.doonpolice.com. The housing societies must maintain close liaison with the beat constable, the local

SHO and civil defence warden. Important tele numbers to be used in emergencies must be stored in all mobile phones.

Mohallas should also organise some immediate support in case of emergencies. Knowledge of first aid in case of a bullet or splinter injuries, fractures or burn injuries would help even if not suffered in a terrorist attack. Medical and paramedical staff in each colony should conduct this as part of their social obligations.

A very major contribution of the societies and organisations would be to maintain communal and religious harmony. Unfortunately there is a tendency amongst some politicians to exploit disharmony. The citizens of colonies would be aware of this but need to be more vigilant against any form of parochialism or regionalism, which is evident even in our state. India has too long a history of infighting which must cease if we are to survive as a Nation. It is time for citizens to realise and defeat the designs not only of the terrorists but also of the petty politicians.

Religion is a matter of personal choice. While one is free to practise what one likes, no one has any business to interfere with the thinking or practice of others. We must guard against commenting against any section of people. There are strengths and weaknesses in people of every religion. It is the weaknesses that need to be targeted and not the people.

In your colonies it is the responsibility of the management to ensure all civic amenities are provided uninterrupted. This aims to increase the level of satisfaction of the common man. Societies should be able to improve the availability of basic amenities.

Putting up boundary walls or fences can upgrade security to some extent. This needs gates where checking is important. Depending on your visualisation of risk or threat it is necessary to check vehicles leaving your colonies rather than those coming in. Personnel sneaking in cannot be prevented as no boundary wall or fence can prevent entry or exit of thieves or robbers. Yet trucks taking away stolen goods or stolen cars, or two wheelers can be checked. Vendors and salesmen should be permitted only with passes, that too after checking.

Another important matter is of thoroughfares. While these cannot be stopped checking can be introduced for better security.

The discussions last Sunday and in Vasant Vihar this Friday have been most interesting and useful. A variety of subjects such as our conventional and nuclear responses, utilisation of ex servicemen to train security staff in various organisations, problems with the Police, problems in cinema halls, with jewelers etc. these were answered by Shri JC Pant, Shri Rakesh Oberai and myself. We will cover these in subsequent articles.

COUNTER TERRORISM FOR THE COMMON MAN - 4

CAN THE POLICE PROTECT THE COMMON MAN?

In our fight against Terror attacks launched by our adversary, the greatest responsibility lies with the Police. Despite this being common knowledge, why has the police miserably failed in this task in all states? Why is it that the attacks planned by our adversaries, have succeeded wherever attempted? Have the States and the Police at least learnt lessons from past failures? Or is it business as usual till the next strike?

Our readers would note that we first discussed how a citizen must learn to analyse likely target areas and to protect himself individually and collectively to reduce the effect of the strikes. Having done that we must now focus on what the State should do. The biggest and most powerful arm of the State is the Police.

From the way police resources are seen to be employed it is the perception of the common man that the Police is primarily meant to protect our VIPs. Perhaps the police is right in doing this since the VIPs don't enjoy the confidence of the people to venture forth unprotected in public! No one grudges them the security in public or private places nor priority given to such vehicles on the road. What irritates a person, is the traffic jam created by halting traffic for long periods, with the police treating you as offenders by their body and spoken language.

No one grudges the Vidhan Sabha being converted into a fortress with obstacles to beat back armoured attacks, for the safety of the legislators. If that be the threat perceived by our 'leaders', defensive measures are essential. But blocking the roads around with scant regard to the harassed residents whose inconvenience is of no concern to the police nor their masters does not convey a very people friendly approach of the State Govt. The term 'Civil Servants' is now a misnomer, if used at all.

If a common man needs help of the police he knows approaching the concerned officer directly would be a waste of time. He searches for a third person to either project his problem or to put in a 'kind word'. Of course, people with some money to spare follow the direct approach! Remember the terrorist organisations have plenty of money and so have no difficulty in getting past normal checks!

Even the Govt of India, Min of Home has acknowledged that the State Police cannot counter terrorism effectively. Instead of finding ways and means to enhance professionalism and accountability of the Police, their simple solution has been to position NSG at a number of places. How this would help only God knows! If proximity of NSG could deter terrorist attacks, Delhi should have been the safest place of all!

A study of terror strikes in the last decade or more will show that most casualties occur within the first few minutes. These 'few minutes' could stretch from five to fifteen or even thirty at the most. Infact in most cases terrorists follow the age old guerilla tactics of 'hit and run'. How NSG or any other reactionary force will reach the spot in fifteen minutes or what they will do thereafter is best known to the Min of Home and their advisors. This is another example of muddled minds taking low grade decisions of increasing numbers rather than improving quality and increasing accountability. I suppose this is because none of the advisers of the Min of Home or the bureaucrats have any kind of experience in countering terror. So what do you expect? After the next strike they will expand some other force advised by a different set of advisers. The common man will not only pay for them but India will continue to bleed in the process from the 'thousand cuts' planned by the adversary.

We must realise that though it is easy to criticise the Police, we will stand to gain more by an objective approach to understand their strengths and weaknesses and what the common man expects of the Police.

No organisation can counter terrorists better than the State Police. Ways must be found to make them more professional, dedicated and effective.

Keeping Intelligence and Operations separate all the way to the top is a fundamental flaw. These must be integrated right down to the lowest level. Every police officer in charge of an area must create his own intelligence network and operate it. If he is not trained to do so he has to learn now. The only intelligence network that works is your own. There is just no other way. Inputs received from the 'professional' Intelligence agencies must be considered bonus; since their reliability has always been low.

Creation of an effective network itself will deter terrorists. The latter prefer to strike where the authorities are more complacent. It must be recorded that no strikes take

place where the security is alert. The very fact that terrorists decide to strike indicates laxity over a long period during which they carry out reconnaissance and planning. Subsequent reactions by our agencies have always proved the terrorists to be right, in their assessments.

Details of how to create or operate an intelligence network is not being covered here. This can be shared with the authorities, if they show interest in the matter.

Having created their own intelligence network, the police must be trained to act on the Intelligence received. Since the initiative lies with the terrorists it is difficult to predict where and when the next strike would take place. Therefore, every policeman must be trained to tackle an armed terrorist. Every police officer must be able to lead a squad or team to neutralise the terrorists.

For this, the subject of Terrorism and Counter Terrorism must be studied, comprehensively. Why it is not being done despite the threat increasing over two decades is difficult to comprehend. Help can be taken from the Army or ex servicemen, who have handled counter terrorism over long periods.

Even in the Army an average serviceman lacks knowledge of the subject. Hence courses are run at the Counter Insurgency and Jungle Warfare School and each individual is trained at specially established battle schools before induction into operational areas. Therefore to expect an average policeman or even an officer to have adequate knowledge of Terrorism shows total ignorance of the subject.

Training of all officers and policemen should include Study of Terrorism to include the strengths and weaknesses, aims, modus operandi, supporters, finances and knowledge of the organisation which breeds terrorists. Counter Terrorism must highlight the importance of a multi pronged strategy and the defensive and offensive measures to be taken by different organs of the State.

Rommel had said that the best form of welfare (of troops) was first class training. Therefore each policeman deserves to be imparted full training in use of arms, battle craft, elementary battle drills, patrolling, laying ambushes and counter ambush drills. He or she must learn use of explosives including remote control devices, to be able to counter these effectively. The Bomb disposal squads have to be very highly trained for their tasks. An average policeman can only take defensive steps awaiting the special squads to come and diffuse the explosives. Policemen must be made familiar with weapons and ammunition used by terrorists to be able to exploit their weaknesses. Even as a brigade commander I saw the effect of AK series of weapons on a firing range to see what thickness of wood or metal could the bullets penetrate. As far as Chinese grenades are concerned we knew enough about them to take some

immediate action to be able to survive through an encounter. This came in handy when I faced a live, smoking grenade at a distance of two feet.

Every constable must have knowledge of places where weapons, munition and explosives could be hidden in a car, scooter or any other vehicle. This cannot be the job of traffic police only. Similarly no traffic police person can predict that he or she would not be the first one to see a terrorist. Therefore every constable has to be fully trained. Similarly every officer no matter how senior must be trained better than the constable. I have faced a terrorist as a major general. Of course the Mumbai police also knows it now, unfortunately the hard way. Sympathy is fine but sympathy and lavish awards don't enhance professionalism which is sadly lacking.

The police need to operate in rural as well as urban areas. Fighting in built up area and doing so causing minimum collateral damage would need a high level of skill, which implies not only initial training but refresher training to hone the skills. Head constables would need to be trained not only in individual skills but in handling small sub units of a section or a platoon. Inspectors need training to handle larger bodies. Of course the officers need to be trained to be best of all.

From what we see, leadership and motivation training will improve the quality of any organisation manifold.

Training is also required in dealing with the common man in a better manner. A policeman has to deal with people of all classes, so he or she must be trained to deal with everyone firmly but with respect. Such an attitude will not only earn more respect a people friendly approach will also help gain more intelligence.

The police should also induct sniffer dogs to be able to smell explosives and metals. These need not be of very rare and expensive breeds only. Local dogs can also be trained equally well provided pups are trained at an early stage.

Police persons have to learn to deal with Over Ground Workers. The police must help the revenue departments in tracing sources of finances of the terrorist organisations. They must learn to monitor calls and jam communications when necessary.

The Govt has laws to award certain medals to the police. If these are not considered adequate they may introduce some more but it is most demoralizing to see awards meant for soldiers being awarded to police personnel who have been killed by the terrorists, while on duty. Soldiers being killed this way would not be awarded even the Chief's commendation card. Will the Government ever realise that gallant soldiers die differently.

Training of police personnel must be a Key Result Area. The police must strive for Excellence and slowly establish a tradition of Excellence.

Being an ex serviceman it is difficult to understand why this cannot be done. The reason is only lack of Will. Luckily now we have an ex serviceman at the helm of affairs. If he cannot understand the crying need, no one else will. Let us see and hope for the best.

(to be continued)

COUNTER TERRORISM FOR THE COMMON MAN - 5

WHAT AILS THE POLICE?

(Continued from last Week)

To continue from where we left last Week, it is reiterated that the basic force to fight terrorism is the State Police. All other forces including the Special Forces can only provide support. Therefore all efforts must be made to make the State Police professional, fair, effective, and people friendly, at the earliest. This may appear a Utopian dream but the State can do wonders provided there is the 'Will' to do it. Luckily our State is different - because of the Chief Minister.

Last week I had explained the need to integrate Intelligence and Operations at all levels. Ideally the Intelligence must be subordinated to Operations. In other words every officer, who is responsible for any area, must establish his own intelligence covering his area.

The process must start with the Beat Constable who must be responsible to create an intelligence network in his jurisdiction, with a little overlap. The Intelligence gained, or lack of it, must be passed to the SHO concerned on occurrence with a periodic report, and be so recorded. The same process must be repeated upwards giving a clear picture to the SSP and his superior officers uncorrupted by the sycophancy prevalent in many Intelligence organisations, who often feed Intelligence to please superiors.

Each input is graded to indicate the reliability of the source (without disclosing identity) and likelihood of the information being true. At each intermediate level the Intelligence is either confirmed or contradicted based on additional inputs. In the Intelligence picture emerging there would be gaps. Subordinates and additional sources should be tasked to confirm or contradict the previous inputs. The cycle continues till the Intelligence picture is crystallised.

During visits and inspections of subordinate HQ or police stations, senior officers must insist on briefings on the Intelligence network created and inputs received. Some police officers and inspectors will succeed faster than others. It should be the KRA (key result area) of the seniors to spend more time with the SHOs and beat constables who have not been able to create an effective network rather than bask in the glory of a few successful ones. The network can be called effective only when every single police station in the State is vigilant and prompt. Just to illustrate, I must bring out that on taking over my sector in J&K, my first two months were spent only in creating an intelligence network which helped our formation neutralise approximately 700 terrorists losing only four jawans in the process, during my tenure. This is possible only through a thoroughly professional, intelligence based approach.

If you have Intelligence you have the initiative. In case of active operations, the morale of your troops / constables will soar, due to your successes. Also if you have Intelligence you will not suffer casualties. Both these will further raise the morale of your troops. Terrorists will not dare to enter your area. You would achieve moral ascendancy, which is sadly lacking now.

For this, surveillance is essential over areas where the terrorists may find safe haven. Surveillance is also necessary over 'Over Ground Workers' (OGWs) who openly support Terrorism but remain within the Law. In fact they are the 'brains' of the organisation. I would say that neutralising one OGW is more important than neutralising 10 terrorists.

Acquisition of Intelligence needs Continuity. Sources can never be handed or taken over. They are confidential, personality based and continuity of their operatives is most important. Shuffling of officials for political or other reasons is most detrimental to Intelligence and therefore reduces effectiveness of any organisation; with predictable consequences.

In addition to the basic surveillance over the entire area, surveillance must be high in the appreciated high threat areas. Surveillance by armed personnel equipped with essential optical instruments is recommended. Such personnel must not be seen, to be of greater value. If exposed, they would perhaps be the first targets. Such Observation Posts should ideally be hidden on well selected vantage points on roof tops or inside buildings, for greater observation and security. If they observe anything untoward they should be able to act themselves and call for reinforcements. If cameras can be placed these would enhance security of the high threat areas tremendously; but we must remember cameras have to be monitored constantly and an effective force is essential to react. Otherwise the information will be useful only for post strike investigation!!

Policemen need special training in observation, somewhat on the lines of training imparted to snipers in the Army; with the difference that instead of looking for the enemy on desolate battlefields, they will be looking for terrorists in crowds. The task being far more difficult, training standards will have to be higher.

While I can only explain the concept, it is up to the authorities to implement measures. For example, Market committees may request the Police to establish armed observation posts at vulnerable locations, if they are convinced of the requirement.

Such surveillance is also necessary in villages and localities suspected of harbouring terrorists or even having OGWs.

Surveillance must also be enhanced by integrating the surveillance networks of housing colonies, Institutions, Industry, in fact of all other organisations, including the Army. The system will be more effective if Police takes the initiative to overcome inertia in the society. Data collected should be maintained on computers.

Reaction. The SSP must position reserve manpower to be able to react fast in every part of his district in an acceptable time frame. The disposition must be threat based rather than mathematical. To cut down the time to reach the incident site roads must be kept clear and traffic orderly. If the traffic police is proficient, the police reaction can be effective in lesser timeframe. Hence even a smaller force can be reserve to cover a larger area. In other words due to the ineffectiveness of the traffic police, larger number of policemen have to be kept deployed to ensure reaction in a desired time frame. So poor traffic discipline not only makes a common man more vulnerable to terror, he also pays more to maintain a larger police force! The Police will then cry about shortage of manpower!! The deficiency is in quality not quantity.

The Traffic Police has its own problems which we will analyse next week.

The reaction force has to be an effective, professional force ready at all times. Like the Armed Forces they have to be on 24 hr duty spending their time in honing professional skills. The large contingents of the police around VIPs must be ready to react to any threat nearby. Should a major incident occur in their proximity, a squad must rush to the scene of attack leaving a small detachment for protection of the VIP. Turnover will ensure better training hence better security of the VIPs.

At the lowest level, all police persons must be trained to operate in pairs. One person must cover another who is exposed to discharge his duty. Both must never be exposed together.

The reactions of the Police can be improved by conducting two sided exercises.

The common man can help by providing feedback. This could be through letters, through the site www.doonpolice.com, through the Media which is playing a very positive role after 26/11, or through public meetings organised by senior officials and politicians.

In our articles a number of recommendations have been made to enhance professionalism in the Police. The recommendations are based on shortcomings perceived by the common citizen. No doubt perceptions will differ based on point of view.

It is necessary to record that while a large number of reforms are possible the resource that will make the maximum difference is the Human Resource. All other matters of weapons and equipment and resources put together, will not enhance professionalism as much as improvement of the human resource will.

In battles, objectives are captured not by the quality of bullets or the steel of bayonets. The enemy is defeated by the glint in the attacker's eye.

Having given our frank feedback and suggested workable improvements the ball is in the court of the State Government; our State is lucky as I had explained earlier. Will the State take action?

We must remember that despite best efforts by our MEA there is no reduction of belligerency in Pakistan's statements, giving a clear message that the undeclared war on India will only increase in intensity, in future. If we still don't act the responsibility for loss of innocent lives in future, will lie on the decision makers of today. Jai Hind!!

(Next week - The Traffic Police)

COUNTER TERRORISM FOR THE COMMON MAN - 6

HOW DO WE ASSESS THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE POLICE?

Terrorists always strike where and when they find maximum complacency.

Attacks are preceded by months of reconnaissance and planning. Not only are the terrorists sure of being able to infiltrate and execute their tasks, they can also predict that the reactions of the Police would be slow and lethargic.

Before striking Mumbai the terrorists would have factored in the presence of the ATS. **Striking despite the presence of the ATS, shows they did not consider this**

elite force to be any major threat. Subsequent reactions of the ATS have proved the terrorists' perceptions to be correct. Similarly **neither the Delhi Police nor proximity of the NSG has deterred terrorist attacks in Delhi.**

In the latest attack, **the common man must know why the Mumbai Police, including the ATS, was not able to deal with the terrorists conclusively. Was it not their job? Did they lack ability? If so, why? Who is responsible for their lack of skill? Why was it necessary for another force to be brought in from far away? Even after the arrival of the NSG what did the Police and the ATS do?** This information is necessary for objective analysis.

Time has come to compel the governments to demand higher professional standards from the Police Forces, be they State Police or the Central Police Organisations.

It is time for the common man to know more about Security. Those responsible for security of the State are expected to know much more.

It is necessary for the common man to be able to assess the effectiveness of our Police.

The pot bellies of some policemen are indicators of their level of training and prosperity. Can such policemen combat terrorists? Are their superiors satisfied with such proficiency and capable of leading these men into combat?

The most visible face of the Police is the Traffic Police. It is also the most exposed and vulnerable. **Performance of the traffic police gives us a clear idea of the commitment, dedication, and professionalism of the complete Police force, in particular its leadership.** Can the senior officers maintain different standards for different branches of the police? Can the bureaucrats and politicians demand different standards in different sections of the Police? The simple answer is NO!!

Yet, before we simply blame the Police, it is necessary to realise that there are **other agencies too who contribute to chaos on the 'Killer Roads'**. There is the **Transport Office which issues licenses**, the **Town Development Authorities** which are responsible to plan ahead and create infrastructures to meet requirements and the **Municipal authorities** who ensure the infrastructures created remain serviceable without disrupting traffic. **The Police ensures implementation of orders** and rules on the roads. Above all these, is the **State Government** whose duty it is to **ensure all organs of the State function at optimum efficiency 'for the people'**.

In fact all functionaries whether elected or appointed, who draw salary from the State must realise their responsibility.

For the last two and a half months or so we have noticed a major drive to improve traffic on the roads of Dehradun. The drive seems to be **only at Police level**, thanks to a 'live wire' SP of police, Mr Nilesh Bharne. **No improvement is seen in the functioning of the other agencies.**

The initiative of the Traffic Police since last December proves that improvement is possible, if there is a will. **The common man can help by obeying rules and also provide objective feedback to the police.**

Since the number of vehicles in towns have been increasing by thousands per year, the density of traffic on the roads is high and will continue to rise. Yet if rules are followed, the limited road space can be optimally utilised. **Strictness of the Police will bring order on the roads.** Punishments should include fines, impounding of licenses and cancellation of registration depending on the gravity of offences. Certainty is more important than severity.

The police must accept feedback from the public through telephones, letters, emails, or SMSs. A start has already been made, thanks to the vision and professionalism of Doon Police. This information must be stored in computers to identify vehicles that violate discipline frequently.

The citizens must **stand up for the honest cop** who does his or her duty on the roads. This must be done especially when the police muster courage **to check erring government vehicles.** The presence of citizens will help expose VIPs who order overlooking the faults of their protégées. **Many policemen openly complain that VIP interference comes in the way of effective policing.**

It is also recommended that about **50 % of the money recovered in fines must go to the policepersons as incentive.** 25 % should be used to improve conditions further such as putting up signs etc, with the **balance going to Police Welfare Funds.**

While **we have the deepest sympathy for any person killed by terrorists** whether policeman or civilian and the **families need utmost support** as stated earlier we must keep in mind that **prestige of gallantry awards is not diluted for political gains.** (Having been part of an Awards Committee for a number of years I have scrutinised thousands of citations for gallantry and distinguished service awards; I can throw more light on the system, if required.)

As regards **genuine welfare**, the Police must leave no stone unturned. **Families of policemen killed need to be looked after for a long time and not just for a couple of initial months.**

To ensure our appraisal of the Police Forces is totally objective, it is necessary to list the **indicators which help assess the effectiveness of the traffic police** in a town.

It is easy to **observe whether traffic follows lanes, including at the turns**. Does the slower traffic keep to the left of the road or drive in the middle; forcing faster traffic to often overtake from the Left.

The public must report **halting and parking of vehicles within 50 mtrs of turns**. It should be common knowledge that vehicles even halting near turns slow down the flow of traffic at the bottlenecks. At the turns do the Policepersons simply stand by and watch the violations?

Similarly where **U turns** are permitted there cannot be any parking anywhere in the full radius of turn of the largest vehicles permitted on the roads. Has the Police put up signs to warn drivers against parking there?

Vehicles parked on the roads are the biggest nuisance. Due to the failure of authorities to provide 'Parking' areas, vehicles simply park on the roads which are not broad enough even for normal traffic. Vehicles move very slowly; thus increasing the density of traffic manifold. As stated earlier higher the density of traffic higher the threat from terrorists.

There must be checking of **driving licenses** of all vehicles particularly the two wheelers, tempos, vikrams and buses. Licenses of drunken, erratic or dangerous drivers must be confiscated. There must be a **check on drivers driving after consuming liquor** in the evenings.

Giving way to vehicles with hooters and sirens shows the attitude of the public to vehicles using these. The fault does not lie with the citizens only. They are so used to **such facilities being misused** that they refuse to give way till forced to do so. **Unfortunately serious patients suffer in the bargain.**

What do the common people do when they notice **scores of vehicles with red beacons and hooters** at times even without any occupant in the rear seat!! The public must report such incidents to the Civil Administration as well as to the Police.

Perhaps **the greatest indicator of discipline is the behaviour of government vehicles**. It would be stating the obvious that behaviour of staff cars show personalities of the occupants. **Cars of senior government and police officers should be models of discipline** for the citizens to emulate. Are they? Citizens can judge for themselves.

Narrower the roads greater is the need for policing. Unfortunately the **deployment continues to be VIP oriented.**

The discipline of the citizens is evident at **railway crossings** where the police is not deployed, unless a VIP has to pass that way! If the traffic police is strict in the town, discipline would be imbibed by citizens as a matter of habit.

As stated earlier the **Police has to be and is the only force which can protect the common man against terror attacks**. This is not to underplay their other roles, but only to remind the citizens about the new and more deadly threat.

It would be apparent that the Police will have to enhance their professionalism manifold. It can be done provided they realise the need and develop the will. Unfortunately the biggest hurdle is their attitude.

Instead of finding faults with other organisations, **they would serve the Country and their own organisations better by some introspection**. Md Iqbal's words may help them decide the direction they wish to take:-

"Khud hi ko kar buland itna, ki har taqdeer se pehle

Khuda bande se khud puchhe, bata teri raza kya hai"

What is the role of the Civil Administration in counter terrorism? Overwhelmed by the response to our articles and discussions with a large number of citizens we continue our efforts to spread awareness. Before we do that today, a few clarifications for the Common Man.

While we notice perceptible change in the attitude of some police personnel at the executive level, the attitude of some 'think tanks' is regrettable. Differences in perceptions and views are inevitable and most welcome, for a healthy debate, but there is **objection to half truths being stated to salvage the image of any organisation.**

Firstly, the image of no organisation is boosted by criticising another.

Secondly, to deliberately turn a blind eye to the deficiencies of any organisation, particularly in face of increasing terrorist threat, would be disloyalty to the Nation. For officers of the Indian Army (retired or serving) the Chetwode credo remains:

"The safety, honour and welfare of your Country comes first, always and every time.

The honour, welfare and comfort of the men you command come next.

Your own ease, comfort and safety come last

always and every time"

Thirdly, **there is no objection to award of medals to police personnel.** The criticism is on dilution of awards by the Government in awarding these for acts for which no Armed forces Personnel would have ever got the highest award for gallantry. The heroism of Maj S Unnikrishnan and Hav Gajender Singh who deliberately closed in to kill the terrorists is way above gallantry displayed by any other person in Mumbai, in those days of November. What exactly was their act of bravery for which Ashok Chakras were awarded? Can someone enlighten us? That will clarify the matter more than anything else.

Fourthly, had police personnel also gone into the buildings to hunt down the terrorists their gallantry would have been widely applauded. Gallantry is not seen by the colour of the uniform. In the fierce Battle of Basantar in 1971 where the highest gallantry awards were conferred by both sides, the appreciation of bravery for the adversary has been recorded by both sides. The bravery of 2/Lt Arun Kheterpal has been appreciated by Brig Khwaja Mohd Naser, CO 13 Lancers of

Pakistan Army during 1971. **To insinuate that service officers would fail to recognise Gallantry because of the colour of a uniform displays ignorance of soldiering, narrowness of thought and attitude of particular individuals.** That is again my perception.

Fifthly, it is also a fact that the original gazette notification clearly states that the award is NOT meant for personnel of the Police and Fire Services possibly because they have their own medals. Why was this there; when and why it was amended would make interesting reading.

Sixthly and most important, **the police failed in their duty to keep Mumbai secure**, as is perceived by the common man. If the police had gone in as the special forces did later, perhaps a lot of civilian lives might have been saved. The terrorists could not have killed so many citizens and tourists with such impunity. Total helplessness of the nation would not have been exposed. The pride of the Nation would not have suffered so badly. India might have attracted more foreign visitors and capital. Consequently the effect on our economy might not have been so adverse. **Do the Police realise the effect of their inaction?** Again these are personal perceptions. Perhaps the Police has a different point of view, as always.

Infact after overcoming the initial inevitable shock, the initiative should have been with the police. From what we have heard **even the 'Encounter Specialists' did nothing at all to counter any terrorist in any building.** Is that acceptable to the citizens of Mumbai? More than three months later is the level of professionalism any better? **Is the top leadership of the State satisfied with the performance of the Police at Mumbai?**

Seventhly, **if the Police find these questions uncomfortable, it is time to introspect.** Adversity is inevitable. What matters is how it is overcome. That is the job of the top leadership in every organisation; not to start criticizing the Armed Forces who have served the Country loyally throughout.

Eighthly, **it is time we see matters from the point of view of the Common Man rather than from Police or Armed Forces point of view.** Not only will the perception be different, it will lead to **higher satisfaction level of the common man.**

We will deal with other matters later.

For the time being let us continue our project to increase awareness of the common man. **Today we focus attention on the civil administration at the Town and District levels.** The areas which need attention are given below.

The greatest need is to increase general awareness of all citizens. This can be done through various departments, institutions, the media, through schools, lectures, civil defence etc. voluntary organisations could also help. There is no dearth of volunteers but some initiative by the government would help. Shri JC Pant (IAS ret'd), Rakesh Oberai of Oberai Motors and I are doing whatever we can to assist the civil administration in this vital task. The Garhwal Post has realised this necessity most of all. **We are looking for more volunteers** who can help.

The civil administration must **organise and impart training in Survival Skills.** They must organise training of the trainers. Like Yoga and aerobic exercises it is important to teach survival skills now. Ex servicemen can help.

Re organise and re train personnel Civil Defence to meet terrorist threats.

Carry out target analysis to identify high threat areas and enhance security of the areas. Deployment of police should be threat based. Target analysis must be a continuous process and feedback from the citizens can help the administration.

The crying need to **decongest roads, markets, religious places, Railway stations** etc would be obvious.

Transport officials must ensure better skills in handling of vehicles before issuing licenses. Greater the density of traffic, greater is the requirement of skill before issue of licenses. Unfortunately this is not realised. The Civil Administration needs to **organise surprise checks** to ensure correct issue of licenses. Also there must be greater emphasis on **Road Etiquette and knowledge of rules of the road such as right of way** etc. Traffic police must check dangerous drivers to prevent accidents rather than only investigating later.

Special security is required for highly congested market areas, schools, hotels, cinemas and restaurants. If these cannot be decongested the public must at least be warned by signs. Also greater presence of police would deter attacks, or help apprehend the terrorists. The administration can educate the public by appropriate signs at different places.

There is a greater need to ensure security and improve functioning of the **Essential Services** even during and after a terrorist attack.

Roads must be repaired only at night to ensure fast flow of traffic.

Threat to hospitals must be analysed. We cannot expect terrorists to exclude hospitals from their list of targets. The hospitals must improve ability to **handle emergencies, following terror attacks.**

There must be greater **transparency in various affairs of the civil government** including the Development Authorities and public works departments. Special attention is required on the bad hats who bring a bad name to entire organisations. **Overall there must be greater respect for the human beings.**

Training in educational institutions needs upgradation. Not only to safeguard our children but to **increase security consciousness, and educate the future generation about Terrorist threats and counter measures.** Nearly all schools have taken some initiative to impart knowledge. What is necessary is to give proper direction and assistance to the schools by way of educators who have knowledge of the subject.

The Government must act against **institutions that preach hatred**, irrespective of the political outcome. This action must be strictly apolitical and must guard against alienating communities. In fact those who polarise the population are the biggest enemies of the State.

Next biggest enemies are the **'over ground workers' (OGWs)** who provide all possible support to terrorism but do not break the law openly. These could be in religious institutions, government departments, the Police, public and private institutions, industry, schools, and may be self employed. The government must be alert to identify these for further action. At the same time safeguards are essential to **prevent misuse of powers for private or political gains.**

Surveillance networks are essential in all areas. Methodology has been covered earlier.

Next the civil administration must ensure **defensive counter terrorist measures are taken by all institutions and the Industry.** Instructions or advice issued must be followed up to check implementation.

Perhaps the greatest responsibility lies in doing whatever is possible to demand greater professionalism and dedication from the Police, not to mention transparency and a people friendly approach. Since the subject has been covered in previous articles, no further elaboration is necessary here.

A large number of **security agencies** have mushroomed to deal with increasing insecurity in society. There is a need for the district administration to exercise some **quality control.** Similarly there is a need for the **security of banks and hotels to be upgraded.** Even the proficiency of all ex servicemen cannot be taken for granted always. That is why there is need for refresher training in the Armed Forces, too.

Disaster management needs to be practised. The administration may conduct exercises to practise all concerned.

The civil administration needs to **establish e-sites to accept feedback** from the people.

The **Media needs to be educated** to guard against helping the terrorists inadvertently. Periodic refresher courses will be essential. The Media can play a **major role in exposing weaknesses in administration** but we must understand constraints of the Media, too

It is surprising that vast numbers of ex servicemen, who retire very early to maintain a young profile in the Armed Forces, are not utilised by the society.

Recommendations of the Kargil Review Committee need to be implemented.

The greatest need is for synergy. There is no shortage of talent, expertise or resources of any kind in our State or in the Country. It is for the civil administration to be able to exploit these optimally.

The efficiency, responsiveness, transparency and honesty in public affairs must be perceived by the common man. No amount of Publicity campaigns will change his perception or enhance the image of any organisation.

- Shri JC Pant, Rakesh Oberai, and I wish all our readers a wonderful Holi!!

COUNTER TERRORISM FOR THE COMMON MAN - 8

Readers who have followed the last seven articles would have realised that the subject is vast. We still have a lot of ground to cover. However our interaction with some citizens makes us believe that a recap is called for.

First of all it is necessary for every citizen to be aware of the threat. All citizens must realise that the terrorists are ordinary men with elementary knowledge of handling their weapons and equipment. Their tactics of Hit and Run require them to be very fit and agile. So are all our young college students. There is no need to be overawed by terrorists and we must guard against exaggerating their capabilities.

Every individual must learn to appreciate high threat areas and likely 'killing areas'. Avoid highly congested areas, peak timings, packed public transport and traffic jams. Even if these cannot be avoided spend minimum time there and take minimum family members with you.

Know and protect your vital organs. Get out of the line of fire and likely killing area. In case of an attack, carry out some immediate action drill to Dash, Down and crawl to safety behind hard cover. Do whatever is possible to counter the terrorist without exposing oneself.

Above all do not panic and do whatever is possible to help others. There will always be people who may know much less or may get shocked into inaction. So be a leader, and take charge. Reaction by authorities will always be slow. Meanwhile you can save precious lives.

Once you are out of the 'killing area' apply first aid on yourself and on others. Since every citizen is threatened by this new form of war against the State, it becomes incumbent on everyone to know first aid.

Report to the Police control room on tele 100. Store emergency numbers on your mobile which you should be able to ring with least effort. Every shop should display emergency numbers not only for education of customers but for anyone to use in case of emergency. The civil administration should make this mandatory.

At an awareness meet of Rotarians two questions were raised. How does one recognize a terrorist and would it be correct to expose oneself to take aggressive action against the terrorists?

It is difficult to recognise a terrorist. He can be identified only by hostile or suspicious activities, such as leaving a container unattended or going away having parked a cycle, two wheeler or four wheeler at a critical place. In other words all

citizens should be on the lookout for suspicious activities and for cover where they may take shelter in case of an attack in the street.

On the second question I would advise all to first ensure their own safety. In a meeting of citizens a prominent citizen had advised “Rahoge to Karoge”. After that is ensured, aggressive action must be taken against the terrorist with minimum exposure. A terrorist cannot face in all directions. There will be people behind, on the flanks and some in upper storeys of buildings in congested areas. A terrorist has only two eyes and can only see in front. At times they talk to their controllers on a phone. How can he use his weapon at the same time? What prevents other citizens from throwing at him from other directions whatever they can lay their hand on. Don't worry about the cost of the item! **Attack! Seize the Initiative!! Get that b*****d on the run.** If he has come to go to his holy gods, help him in getting there quickly!

The crowd must turn into a pack of wolves attacking their hunter. A person on the run cannot fire accurately, nor can he change his magazine easily. If his magazine is empty, charge at him before he can change his magazine. A magazine has approx 30 bullets which can be fired in 6 to 8 bursts. If the terrorist is trigger-happy you are lucky! If he throws a grenade it takes four seconds to explode, enough time to duck, take cover or turn. Smoke comes out of a Chinese grenade when the fuse is burning inside. No one can talk on a phone, fire a weapon and throw a grenade simultaneously, so there will be times when the terrorist is vulnerable. That is why they operate in pairs. If you can't do anything else - shout abuses. Punjabi is not only more expressive but well understood by the Pakistanis!! If they are distracted by actions in one direction they become vulnerable to all others. Don't miss the opportunity. I wish the authorities could demonstrate this for the benefit of citizens.

If you can ask a group of ex servicemen to demonstrate in your organisation, you will find it workable.

You can help spread this awareness.

As a responsible citizen your duty does not end there. Even with your elementary knowledge you can make a major difference in the organisation to which you belong, be it an institution, industry, the market, an educational institution, a government department, housing colony / mohalla, or a village.

To whatever organisation you belong, speak up to enhance security measures, organise surveillance, be alert for anti national activities by over ground workers, and beware of divisive politics.

All organisations, housing colonies must maintain updated records of all residents including tenants and servants. The illegal migrants work for cheap and possible terrorists may even work free; so the colony must be responsible to check and report all inhabitants to the police. Surprise checks may be conducted by the police to increase alertness.

Demand better professionalism from the security agencies. Inform the agency about the threat against which you want security. Do not be impressed only by the turnout and smartness of the security staff. Check whether the guards know their jobs. Do they know anything about Terrorism?

Differentiate between security guards, chowkidars and peons. All are important but have different roles. While it is possible to utilise other staff for security, do not use security staff for any other duty.

Dogs of any breed can enhance security, particularly early warning.

In all organisations and residential colonies periodic talks and review of security are most essential. In addition there must be organised training in survival skills, reporting procedures and first aid. For training full use should be made of ex servicemen residing nearby. Similarly medical and paramedical staff should be utilised to impart training in First Aid. Such training will also lead to better cohesion and understanding within the organisations and colonies.

Mohalla Security and Environment committees are essential since the present societies are not able to ensure full security for all residents and keep the colonies spic and span.

Correct disposal of garbage is important not only to keep the colony and the environment clean, it prevents the terrorists and criminals from using their favourite hiding places. Awareness is required such as witnessed in Maldives where all residents not only keep their own homes clean but the entire area around including the road in front of the house. The garbage is neither thrown into the neighbours' compound nor burnt. It is disposed of exactly as advised by the Environmentalists. The Mohalla security and environment committees should not only educate the residents but check and advise. Checking of security is far more important than merely organising it. Most security lapses are due to casual attitude and non implementation.

The committees should be vigilant against unattended packages and should organise vigils, by turns. This does not involve patrolling the whole night or day. It involves checking of the existing systems at irregular timings.

It is important to keep an eye on strangers; to engage them in friendly conversation to actually ascertain the identity. In most cases you may end up helping a person looking for directions; but the system must be put in place. I am sure nobody would mind this.

In addition actions to be taken in emergencies must be tied up. These may not be terrorist related but will streamline procedures which would be useful in any emergency.

In the Security reviews the beat constable, local police official, civil defence wardens must be invited. Police and Civil Defence organisations must ensure these officials attend.

Liaison with the Beat Constable is most important. Every citizen should have his number on one's mobile phone.

A greater degree of awareness and alertness will itself deter terror attacks to a large extent. Think before you decide to ignore this. The life of your dear and near ones may depend on it.

A very major contribution of the societies and organisations would be to maintain communal and religious harmony. The citizens should be vigilant against any form of parochialism or regionalism.

Having done whatever we can do the residents and citizens must be on the lookout to locate loopholes in their security. No security can be foolproof for all time to come. It needs constant review.

The next duty of the citizen is to demand proper service from the authorities for which you pay. In this the Police play the biggest role. Only if we know the task of the Police can we hold them accountable. The public will have to build up pressure on the government to demand greater professionalism and commitment from the police and greater transparency in civil administration. Since terrorists and the over ground workers bribe their way through systems the citizens will have to expose corrupt officials and anti social elements.

Can we do it?

Before we throw light on measures to be taken by State and National governments, we need to know our own duties.

The three of us, Shri Pant, Rakesh Oberai and I, are grateful to the citizens for their inquisitiveness and valuable suggestions which we find very useful. We appeal to those interested in selfless service to help us spread awareness.

COUNTER TERRORISM FOR THE COMMON MAN - 9

Mention of Civil Defence brings to mind pictures of blackouts, wailing sirens, underground bunkers to save the people from enemy bombs. One pictures hundreds of volunteers evacuating people from debris, burning buildings, providing first aid, and disposal of the dead.

If this picture remains unaltered since World War II, it is not the fault of the Civil Defence. Perhaps no one has bothered to apprise them of the changing threats. Being civilian volunteers their dedication and enthusiasm more than makes up for their lack of knowledge of modern warfare. It is a pity that this vibrant, highly responsive, people friendly organisation has been neglected and its potential not utilised for many decades.

The story of the Home Guards is no different. The way they are employed they might as well be renamed 'Police Guards' instead of Home guards since most of them guard police establishments. Getting Rs 150 a day serving about 20 days a month on an average, the personnel of the Home guards are sincere, friendly and helpful.

It is unfortunate that both these organisations are treated as appendices to the civil administration and the Police. Can these organisations be better utilised?

Role. The Civil Defence and the Home Guards must act as the **eyes and ears of the society to prevent terror attacks** and to mitigate their effects, should they still take place. No organisation can do this better, with the exception of the State Police, of course.

Organisation. At present there are 3320 wardens in Dehradun under a chief warden, Shri Chandragupt Vikram, a very energetic and enthusiastic person. Yet the common man does not even know any warden, leave alone interact with him. **It is recommended that the number of wardens be increased to one percent of the population** in every town. With this, **one citizen in every hundred would be a warden of Civil Defence.** There is no financial burden on the State because all these are volunteers.

Other Towns. Civil Defence must be organised in other towns of Uttarakhand as well; such as in Haridwar, Rishikesh, Nainital, Haldwani, at the earliest.

Responsibility. Each warden must be responsible to increase awareness, **organise training** of the citizens within his/her ward, be on the **lookout for over ground workers, breaches of security systems, disharmony in the citizens for any reason, and houses where terrorists may find shelter or support.** To improve security of

the citizens in their ward, the Wardens should carryout necessary **liaison with all concerned ie, the Beat Constable, SHO, and organisations of the residents.**

Surveillance. The wardens must help organise **discrete surveillance** for the benefit of the committee of management of the residents, call them by any name. Information gained should be shared with the police both through the Beat Constables and SHOs. **Under no circumstances should they be merged into the intelligence network of the Police. While the Civil Defence needs intelligence for prevention of Terrorist activities, the Police needs actionable intelligence on which it must execute offensive counter terrorist operations.** Since all information received by the civil defence or any other organisation is to be passed to the Police in any case, the Civil Administration should allow the Civil Defence to organise its own intelligence.

Training. For all these personnel, training can be organised by the organisation itself, without extra expenditure. However the level of training must be upgraded for all wardens, including the existing ones, to include all defensive counter terrorism measures. It is recommended that a large number of ex servicemen be recruited.

Interaction with the Citizens. The Civil Defence Organisation must increase interaction with the citizens. A list of wardens should be published indicating area of the ward, and contact details. Important information should also be displayed on boards within the ward. On the same boards the assistance that is provided and information sought should be displayed prominently at a number of places. The HQ of the Civil Defence and the Home Guards must launch a public information campaign through all mass communication media.

What needs to be disseminated is:-

- (a) The responsibility of the Organisation,
- (b) What help is being extended,
- (c) What help is desired from the citizens,
- (d) It should also inform the public of the intention to raise general awareness of security and terrorism,
- (e) Need for training in immediate action drills.

While I cannot comment on the threat to the government officials including the police, **my duty lies in pointing out threat to the common man.** If there is paucity of resources as often claimed by the Police, the **poverty must be shared between the VIPs and the common man.**

The police must be able to guard its own HQs, the Government offices, and manage the traffic for which it has adequate resources.

It is high time the security of the common man is given some consideration.

The Civil Defence and the Home Guards are excellent organisations with motivated, enthusiastic leaders and personnel. **The Government must utilise these optimally for the security of the common man.**