Global Security Environment: The Threat and how Customs is responding

Jim McColm
Security Programme Manager
World Customs Organization
Recent Terrorist Attacks

- **Surabaya, Indonesia bombing**
  - May 13, 2018
  - 28 people killed
  - 50 people injured

- **Christchurch, New Zealand**
  - March 15, 2019
  - 51 people killed
  - 49 people injured

- **Sri Lanka Attacks**
  - April 21, 2019
  - 253 people killed
  - Over 500 injured
Dynamics of violent extremism

- In recent years, terrorist groups such as ISIS, Al-Qaida and Boko Haram have shaped our image of violent extremism and the debate about how to address this threat.

- Their message of intolerance – religious, cultural, social – has had drastic consequences for many regions of the world.

- Holding territory and using social media for real-time communication of their atrocious crimes, they seek to challenge our shared values of peace, justice and human dignity.
Violent Extremism

- Ideology
- Recruits
- Equipment
Ideology
Recruits
Equipment

Person Borne IEDs (Suicide Vests/Belts)
- Used in offensive operations, most prevalent in the Lake Chad region
- Suicide bombers are often women or children in groups of two to four

Radio Controlled IEDs (RCIED)
- Used both offensively and defensively
- Motorcycle alarm fobs are regularly used as triggers
- Found in Mali, Somalia, Nigeria, and Libya

Suicide Vehicle Borne IEDs (SVBIED)
and Vehicle Borne IEDs (VBIED)
- Used in offensive operations, often to breach a building or checkpoint and sometimes in assassinations

Victim Operated IEDs (VOIED)
- Most often used in defensive operations to protect key terrain and infrastructure

Image Source: http://www.allufamous.com/

Image Source: USAFRICOM IED Recognition Guide

An SUV prepped as a VBIED found in Mali.

Image Source: https://africa.liveuarmap.com/

A pressure-plate found in Nigeria.

Image Source: USAFRICOM IED Recognition Guide

Workshop on Coordinated Border management against Transnational Organized Crime
Border Security – The issues
Violent Extremism

- Ideology
- Recruits
- Equipment

Workshop on Coordinated Border management against Transnational Organized Crime
Threats: Foreign Terrorist Fighters

- How do they travel
  - Air or land boundaries, in groups or solo
- What are their routings
  - To or from conflict zones
- How can Customs identify them
  - Indicators, use on API/ PNR
Threats: Small Arms and Light Weapons

- Internal or External threat
- Trafficked or loss of control
- Interdiction or licensing
Threats: IED’s

- Are they deployed by terrorist groups?
- Are materials (explosives, precursor chemicals) sourced or trafficked through my country?
- Interdiction or Audit approach
Threats: Strategic Goods

- Raw material or manufactured goods
- Military or dual use goods
- Export or transshipment
Threats: Terrorist Finance

- Cash or other methods of funding
- “Taxing trade or movement” -
- Loss of control of border areas
- Smuggling of Antiquities or CITES goods
Maritime Piracy
Criminal-Terrorist Nexus

Established Smuggling routes and networks

Presence of violent extremist groups and ideologies
WCO Security Programme

- Passenger controls/FTFs (API and PNR)
- IEDs (Global Shield)
- Strategic Trade (STCE Programme)
- Small Arms and Light-Weapons (SALW Project)
- Terrorist financing

WCO Border Security Initiative
- Information and Intelligence Centre
- Security Project Fund

Workshop on Coordinated Border management against Transnational Organized Crime
The WCO’s Policy Commission issued a very significant resolution with respect to the security role of customs.

Key points:

- Include security in their mandate and strategic plans.
- Cooperation at national, regional and international level between Customs authorities and other law enforcement authorities.
- Use the full extent of the law to secure an appropriate level of punishment (deterrent).
- Provide financial support to ensure that Customs authorities can contribute to WCO Security Programme activities.
- Make use of the available WCO Security Programme training and reference materials.
WCO Security Programme

- Passenger controls/FTFs (API and PNR)
- IEDs (Global Shield)
- Strategic Trade (STCE Programme)
- Small Arms and Light-Weapons (SALW Project)
- Terrorist financing

The GTAS Solution:

API & PNR Processing Today

Workshop on Coordinated Border management against Transnational Organized Crime
WCO Security Programme

- Passenger controls/FTFs (API and PNR)
- IEDs (Global Shield)
- Strategic Trade (STCE Programme)
- Small Arms and Light-Weapons (SALW Project)
- Terrorist financing

Workshop on Coordinated Border management against Transnational Organized Crime
WCO Security Programme

- Passenger controls/FTFs (API and PNR)
- IEDs (Global Shield)
- Small Arms and Light-Weapons (SALW Project)
- Terrorist financing
- Strategic Trade (STCE Programme)

Workshop on Coordinated Border management against Transnational Organized Crime
Security Project Fund – Regional Security Projects

Asia Pacific Security Project

West and Central Africa Security Project

Workshop on Coordinated Border management against Transnational Organized Crime
WCO Asia-Pacific Security Project

• Response to terrorist attacks in the region
• EUR7.25 million over two years from Government of Japan
• Project delivering three Security Programme initiatives:
  • Passenger Controls (API/PNR Systems)
  • Programme Global Shield
  • Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW)
Implementation Approach

- Awareness raising and requirements gathering
- Training Development
  - Procurement of equipment
  - API PNR assessment visits
- Train the Trainer workshops
- Detection equipment deployment
- API PNR Systems deployment
- National Training
- Coordinated operations

Workshop on Coordinated Border management against Transnational Organized Crime
Donated detection equipment

Handheld Backscatter X-Rays

Handheld Raman Spectrometers

Global Shield Field Test Kits

Handheld Fluorescence X-Rays
Feedback on Project Outcomes

- **Awareness of security threats**
  - overall awareness of the role of Customs has increased
  - ongoing need for Senior Management support for operational staff

- **Training**
  - content broadly met the needs of the operational staff
  - should now be embedded into the curricula of Member administrations
  - a pool of trainers (recognized experts) is now available in the region
  - benefits came from other agency participation in training
  - budget issues are limiting delivery of training at national level
Feedback on Project Outcomes cont...

- **Donated detection equipment**
  - donated equipment will increase the ability to detect security threats
  - the handheld backscatter x-ray, while a very valuable detection tool, has a limited capability to detect SALW

- **Coordinated operations**
  - awareness raising, training and equipment donation had together raised operational capability
  - operations have raised awareness of operational staff of the role of Customs in relation to security threats
Future Activities

- **APSP Phase 2**
  - additional 12 months of funding from Government of Japan
  - Team of three staff (2x Brussels, 1 x Bangkok)
  - PGS coordinated operation
  - expert support to sustain and embed national Passenger Controls and PGS training
Thank You