



INTRODUCTION



INTRODUCTION

“The future may see a time when such a (nuclear) weapon may be constructed in secret and used suddenly and effectively with devastating power by a nation or group against an unsuspecting nation or group of much greater size or material power.”

- Henry Stimson, Secy of War, WW II to Harry Truman, President of America, 25 April 1945.

General

Nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, collectively known as Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD), present a serious danger to humanity. These weapons, once recognised as tools of deterrence available to State actors, are now even feared as the weapons of choice for Non-State actors. During the last few decades, the perceived threats from WMD have become a significant issue in the foreign policy and national security agendas for many Nation-States. In the recent past, the perceived WMD threat to the USA profoundly influenced the Bush administration's national security policies and shaped their foreign policy dogma. The invasion of Iraq (2003) challenged the concept of sovereignty and even identified the perceived proliferation of WMD as a rightful reason for toppling a regime. At the same time, the absence of WMD in Iraq had such an impact that many analysts started rating the WMD threat as an 'overstated threat'. However, the Iran, North Korea and the Pakistani Nuclear Scientist AQ Khan's network exposé made people aware that the threat is far from over and existing non-proliferation policies of the international system are not sufficient to cap this threat.

Today, the threat of a general war - both nuclear and conventional - between the Cold War era superpowers and their respective alliances has faded. Nuclear saber rattling have led to dialogues and pacts. Numerous bilateral agreements and Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) have led to practically negating the threat of WMD from states / nations. But, at the same time, it has arguably been replaced by new security challenges of potentially far more amorphous, less quantifiable, and perhaps even more ominous characteristics that may also be far more difficult to prevent. Terrorism ! New adversaries, new motivations, and new rationales have surfaced in recent years to change the concept of terrorism as understood by most. Typical terrorism is undergoing a metamorphosis. Another development of grave concern to all nations of the world is the advent of organized terrorist groups with sound financial and / or state backing. Globalization and revolution in

Information technology has caused a spurt in transnational terrorist networking. Coupled with this is the factor of newer versions of small arms weapons and proliferation of WMD material.

Modern man is living in a violent world and undeniably, societal threshold of violence is rising. As a result, people are increasingly getting inoculated against current dosage levels of violence. More spectacular or significantly different attacks would be necessary to receive greater attention. The need to spill more blood, to sensationalize the issue and to capture bigger headlines is also a compulsion because of heightened security against traditional terrorist acts. Recent trends (from the aircraft attacks on the twin towers of World Trade Centre of 11 Sep 2001; the Tokyo nerve gas attack; the London Metro bombing ; the 2006 and 2008 Mumbai Attacks and the Jan 2011 Moscow Domodedovo Airport Terrorist Attack) suggest that terrorists are graduating to 'ultra violence' – from controlled and surgical acts of terrorism to killing 'en masse'.

The world is starting to think of the potential terrorist use of WMD, (RNBC weapons). Terrorists may resort to WMD for one or more reasons, to massacre as many people as possible, to incite the type of widespread panic that could bring down or embarrass a democratic government, or, to establish a position of strength from which to extort / negotiate their demands. The nerve gas attack by the Japanese cult group, Aum Shinrikyo, on 20 March 1995 had set precedence in the use of WMD and has encouraged other terrorist groups to display interest in them. We have already seen the Anthrax cases in the US and radiation scares across the EU in the last decade.

Terrorism and political violence in India are nothing new. They are part of the socio-political life of Indian history and society. Eleven years into the new millennium, India urgently needs to take note of the changing nature of terrorism – WMD Terrorism. A coordinated approach by the Central Govt and State Administration with support from the Armed Forces and NGOs is called for. India needs an integrated RNBC Crisis and Consequence Management structure with adequate wherewithal and expertise to tackle RNBC Terrorism Disasters and hone our responses.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

As the result of recent events, significant threats over the past few years, and the increased availability and proliferation of RNBC materials, there is an increasing concern for the potential of terrorist incidents occurring in India involving WMD.

Ministry of Home Affairs under the Indian Government has the overall responsibility for consequence management in response to a terrorist incident. Other ministries, departments and agencies assist in enhancing overall terrorism response capabilities. Nevertheless, there are problems of coordination, dual authority, psychological detach between theory and practice and sheer complacency on part of concerned authorities. Capacity building, citizen awareness levels, logistics and National involvement upto grassroots level are key problem areas.

National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has been working with local and State governments to assess their response capabilities, identify shortfalls and take remedial measures. While much of the work has been in the field of Natural Disasters and Manmade industrial accidents, awareness about terrorism related disasters is increasing. India has begun to take heed and has enacted the WMD Act 2005.

Still, mere likelihood of WMD terrorist acts are brushed aside as figments of naïve and paranoid people. A lot needs to be done with preventing, combating and managing WMD terrorist acts including surveying State terrorism response capabilities and creating and honing RNBC incident response mechanisms. On the health side, developing surge capacities, building adequate antidote reserves, pathological and paramedic facilities and pandemic prevention capabilities are the need of the hour. Special attention needs to be given to the critical area of citizen awareness and preparedness and to media management in RNBC scenarios.

AIM

The aim of the research is to analyse the various facets of RNBC Terrorism, study India's present mechanism to tackle it and suggest a model framework to streamline its Crisis Prevention and Consequence Management in India.

SCOPE

The study is based on open source material, historical accounts, threat perceptions and initiatives taken the world over for Consequence Management of RNBC Terrorism primarily by State Administration and other Non Military agencies. The study takes into account the existing policy and structure for Crisis Prevention and Consequence Management in India and the current state of population vulnerabilities and preparedness at the time of writing.

No reference has been made to Military capabilities or classified material during the study.

Research Methodology

The research was conducted in the following manner :-

- (a) Collecting and researching literature and content.
- (b) Analysis of known RNBC incidents and response thereof.
- (c) Study of Crisis and Consequence mechanisms in select nations of the world.
- (d) Interacting with Govt and other agencies like Police, NDMA, NDRF and Municipal Authorities in select cities, dealing with RNBC terrorism issues.
- (e) Carrying out field visits to training institutes like Faculty of NBC Protection, CME, Pune, YASHADA, Pune, BARC and Civil Defence College, Nagpur.
- (f) Collation of findings and generation of research paper.

Literary Survey

The research was carried out by studying numerous books and papers on the subject. Relevant databases prepared by reputed research centres were also analysed. Documents and policies from Govt and official sites were studied. List of important books and sites are given below :-

- (a) Richard A. Falkenrath, Robert D. Newman and Bradley A. Thayer, America's Achilles' Heel: Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical Terrorism and Covert Attack, (MIT Press, 1998).
- (b) James M. Acton, M. Brooke Rogers and Peter D. Zimmerman, Beyond the Dirty Bomb: Re-thinking Radiological Terror, (Survival, vol. 49 no. 3, Autumn 2007).
- (c) Jonathon Tucker (Ed.), Toxic Terror: Assessing Terrorist use of Chemical and Biological Weapons, (MIT Press, 2000).

- (d) Falkenrath, Richard A. .Confronting Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Terrorism. (Survival 40, no. 3, Autumn 1998).
- (e) Gary Ackerman, WMD Terrorism Research: Where to From Here? Discussion Paper for Conference on Non-State Actors, Terrorism, and Weapons of Mass Destruction, CIDCM, (University of Maryland October 15, 2004).
- (f) Rajesh M. Basrur and Friedrich Steinhäusler, Nuclear And Radiological Terrorism Threats For India : Risk Potential And Countermeasures, (Journal of Physical Security).
- (g) Basrur, Rajesh & Rizvi, Hasan-Askari, Nuclear Terrorism and South Asia, (Occasional Paper 25, Cooperative Monitoring Center, Sandia National Laboratories, Albuquerque, NM, February 2003).
- (h) Chris Seiple, Consequence Management: Domestic Response to Weapons of Mass Destruction, (Parameters, US Army War College Quarterly, Autumn 1997).
- (i) Websites of following organizations : UNO, SAARC, EU, Dept of Homeland Security USA, NDMA, NIDM, James Martin Centre for Nonproliferation Studies, Nuclear Threat Initiative, Centre for Non Traditional Security Studies, Federation of American Scientists and Monterey Institute of International Studies.