Impact of terrorism

AUSTRALIAN SCENE

Ralph Godau
Terrorism Attack in Bali – October 13, 2002

– Two bombs detonated in Kuta, Bali, in an area packed with hotels, restaurants and bars.
– 202 people killed, including 88 Australians, many Balinese and other foreign nationals. Many more injured, especially with burns.
– The event was a profound shock to Australians who have long seen Bali as a popular holiday destination.
The Sari Club immediately after the bombs were detonated.

The next day

Searching for friends and relatives
Aftermath

• Australia’s foreign intelligence service (ASIO) lacked the information to foresee this type of event.
• Indonesia has adopted a much more aggressive stance against Islamic terrorism within its borders.
• ASIO attentions are now focused on regional terrorism.
• Australia’s alliance with US strengthened.
• Heightened border protection.
Infrastructure Protection

• Development of vulnerability studies
  – 10 million AUD required by Australia’s only nuclear facility (Lucas Heights)
  – Water essential for coal powered generation facilities
• Understanding of interdependencies
  – Close interdependencies between gas and electricity – emergency preparedness
• Finding the right balance of disclosure
• Revisiting industry response capability
Engineers Australia responds to the threat of terrorism

“Engineers Australia released its report "Engineering a Safer Australia: Securing Critical Infrastructure and the Built Environment" at the National Press Club, in Canberra, on Wednesday. At the launch, chief executive John Boshier said all governments, industries and professions should work together to improve the response to threats to vital infrastructure and other built environment elements” (June 27, 2003).

Conclusion

In Australia the focus is on:

• Identifying threats and establishing a collaborative environment within the nation and with partner nations.

• Establishing priorities and implementing appropriate strategies associated with anti-terrorism.

• Ensuring the development of appropriate solutions at a local, national and international levels – a role for Systems Engineering.
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Ralph has just been awarded his Doctor of Philosophy in Engineering (Infrastructure Management). Ralph is a civil engineer with a Graduate Diploma in Business Studies, Graduate Certificate in Tertiary, Teaching and Learning, and a Masters in Systems Engineering.

Ralph is currently working as a (1) technical regulator dealing on a collaborative level with gas distribution and transmission infrastructure organizations in the areas of safety case and asset management, (2) lecturer at RMIT University in the areas of systems thinking and systems approaches within the engineering management program, and (3) consultant with INFASE Solutions providing support and training in the information management domain.

Ralph is co-chair of SEATC (Systems Engineering Applications Technical Committee) and the chair of ISEWG (Infrastructure Systems Engineering Working Group) within the INCOSE community.