

TERRORISM CLOSE CALLS EPISODE SUMMARY

1. THE NY CITY SUBWAY PLOT

Three homegrown US operatives link up with Al Qaeda and hatch an audacious terror plot to wreak maximum carnage - they plan to detonate homemade bombs hidden in backpacks simultaneously on various trains in the New York City subway system. It's up to the FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force working with their counterparts at US Department of Homeland Security and the National Security Agency to stop the plot before they strike.

2. THE STUDENT BOMB MAKER

Khalid Aldwasari, a 20-year-old Saudi national on a student visa in the United States purchases chemicals for bombs and researches targets - among them the Dallas residence of former President George W. Bush, several dams in Colorado and California. He also has plans to travel to New York and plant bombs in rental cars and blow them up at rush hour. An FBI operation helps uncover the plot and reveals that the Saudi student has both the technical knowledge and the political motivation to carry out his plans.

3. CARGO BOMB PLOT

Once foiled the details of the plot were easy to find. Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) wrote about it in their online magazine listing the cost of the items used – in all they spent a little over US\$5000 in a plot to blow up UPS and FedEx cargo planes using highly sophisticated printer cartridge bombs. The devices are timed to explode in mid-air over the eastern United States. Just three hours before the bombs are set to explode, they're discovered by US, British and United Arab Emirates intelligence services. It is one of the most successful examples of international intelligence sharing between countries to date.

4. OPERATION CHEVROLET: THE PLOT TO KILL THE SAUDI AMBASSADOR

The plot has all the makings of a Hollywood action film –Manssour Arbabsiar, an Iranian-born car salesman living in Texas plans to assassinate the Saudi Ambassador to the United States. Manssour reaches out to the Mexican Cartel for help, but the cartel member he enlists is also a DEA source. The resulting investigation reveals a

disturbing link between Manssour and the top echelon of the Iranian government. It's a plot that if successful could have resulted in mass casualties and been the staging of a possible war.

5. OPERATION OVERT: THE TRANSATLANTIC LIQUID BOMB PLOT

A terror cell made up of 25 predominantly British born men of Pakistani decent plot to create another 9/11. The plan is to smuggle liquid explosives inside sports drinks to be detonated simultaneously by suicide bombers on at least 7 flights headed from London's Heathrow Airport to the US and Canada. This deadly threat would drive both the US and Britain to new levels of transatlantic security and intelligence sharing and forever change the way we travel today.

6. MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY PLOT

Kevin Harpham, a thirty-seven-year-old with strong ties to white supremacists planned a to kill and maim as many people as he could during the Martin Luther King Day Parade in Spokane, Washington. Harpham carefully planted a pipe-bomb into the most crowded area of the parade route –it was intended to explode and hurl poison-laced shrapnel from fishing weights and rat poison into the crowd. He would return two hours later with a remote-controlled detonator and video camera hoping to film the carnage, instead he found the backpack being disassembled by the FBI bomb squad. A seven-week manhunt ensued as FBI traced every lead along with Harpham's communications to conduct a complex sting operation to capture and arrest him before he could strike again.

7. THE SAUERLAND CELL – PLOT TO KILL US SOLDIERS

A group called the Sauerland cell consisted of two Turks and two German converts to Islam. Their targets are the US Ramstein Airbase and popular bars and nightclubs in Germany. Modeling their plot on the Bali bombings of 2002 they plan to detonate bombs inside the clubs forcing people to the streets where they plan to place bigger car bombs for maximum impact. The plot to kill "many" is considered one of the most significant homegrown terrorist threats to Germany and would launch a nine-month undercover surveillance operation. Once arrested all four suspects issued lengthy confessions calling their intended plot a "defensive jihad" and retaliation against the enemies of Islam.

8. THE ISRAELI HONEY TRAP

A suicide attack by a young Palestinian woman at an Israeli checkpoint made headlines not only because she killed two soldiers, but because she left behind a martyrdom video to her daughter. Israeli intelligence later discover Reem's true motivation for the attack may not have been a desire for jihad, but a result of an ultimatum delivered to her by her husband and Hamas leaders - she could be remembered as an adulterer or a hero – she would die either way, she chose the latter. Israeli forces retaliate by going after one of Hamas top terror operatives by using a special forces female agent in a love triangle of their own – a plot to seduce, pinpoint the targets location and eliminate the threat.

9. AUSTRALIAN ANZAC DAY PLOT

Anzac Day is a national day of remembrance to those who served and died in wars past and present in Australia, but it is also the day marked for a terror attack. When police arrest a 14-year-old boy in England for threatening to behead his teachers they discover a keyboard jihadi with over 24,000 twitter followers and a link to a terror plot on the other side of the world. Australia is just days away from experiencing a devastating, violent terror attack orchestrated by a schoolboy.

10. GERMAN JIHAD & THE EURO PLOT

The jihadist group of ten German citizens and residents planned a multi-pronged terror attack in France, the UK and Germany targeting German bus stops and busses with explosives, if successful the Euro Plot would have resulted in hundreds of casualties. The plot to attack three European cities is revealed only after the arrest of 36 year-old Sidiqi a German national of Afghan descent who grew up in Hamburg and worked at the Hamburg International Airport. Intelligence gained through Sidiqi's interrogation reveals close ties to Osama Bin Laden and how Germany has evolved from being a safe haven where jihadists like the plotters of 9/11 had based themselves to becoming an important terror target. As Sidiqi reveals names of the other cell members they include seven other German citizens or long-time residents. German security services track the plotters from Germany to Waziristan while the US initiates unprecedented drone strikes to go after members of the cell and dismantle the deadly plot before it's too late.