

Sniper

The lone sniper has long been used for assassination, the most famous case being the death of President Kennedy, on 22 November 1963 in Dallas, Texas and there have been many other attempts from lone gunmen throughout history.

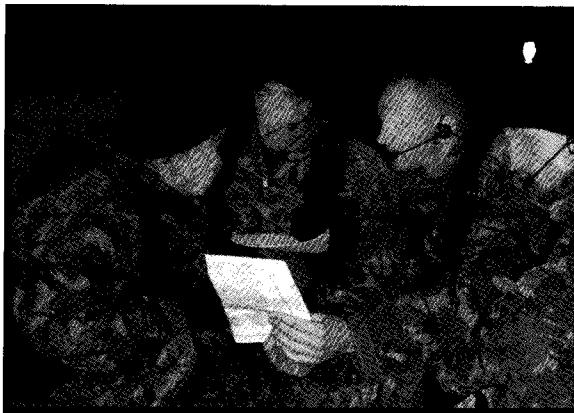


▲ Records show some 26,000 VC were executed, many by sniper fire, during Operation Phoenix.

On the other side, literally, at the start of 1965, the American intelligence services in Saigon created a list of Vietcong cadre that it wished to dispose of. Special teams were drawn up; these were mainly recruited from the Green Berets or Navy SEALs and worked under the direction of the CIA.

A similar unit has been established in Iraq called Task Force 121. Their main task objective is to track down and capture hard-core Baathists who they believe are behind the insurgency against the US soldiers and their allies. Task Force 121 comprises elements of Delta Force, Navy SEALs and the CIA. The unit's priority is the neutralization of the Baathist insurgents by capture or assassination.

The sniper provides a long-range capability for taking out targets. In many cases, a sniper will carry at least two rifles, one for short distance (300 metres or less, with day-night capability) and one for long range (300–600 metres for daytime use only). The combination of sniper rifle and sights will depend on the individual. More recently in Iraq, there has been a demand



◀ Task Force 121 is a joint Special Forces operation to track down members of the hard-core Ba'athist party in Iraq.

for heavy calibre (.50) sniper rifles that provide extreme-range accuracy. Snipers wear camouflaged "Gilly" suits that blend with the surrounding terrain. At present, a new range of "stealth" clothing is being developed, which will allow the snipers to approach the target unseen to infra-red or night-vision equipment.

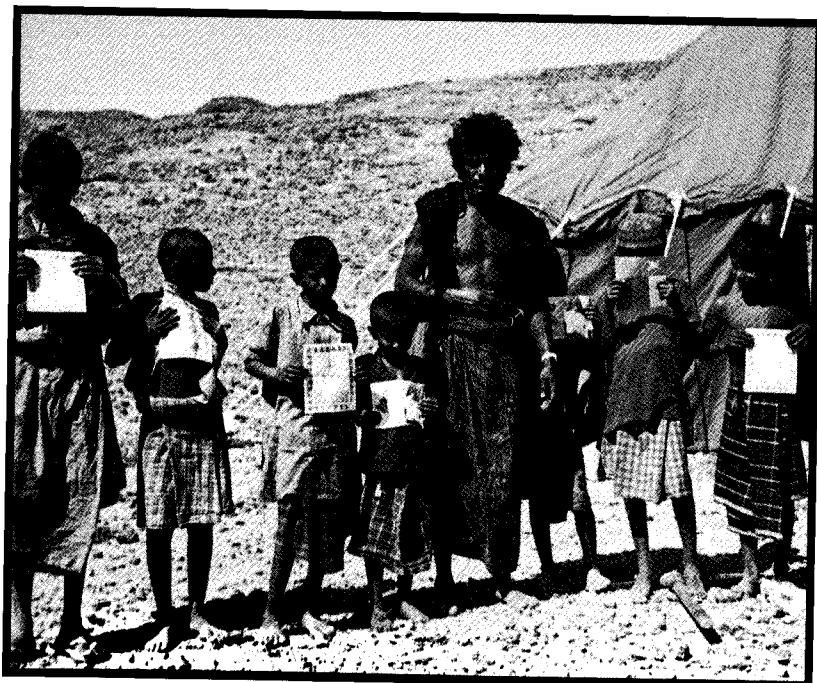
Psychological Operations



◀ Psyops means winning over the will of the people. The influence of psychological operations is a serious aid to winning any conflict.

Psychological warfare, or "Psy-Ops" as it is better known, is used to mentally persuade an enemy to conform and surrender. Although the basic idea has been around for many years, its full potential was not recognized until the Second World War. For example, German propaganda played on the fact that American soldiers were having a wonderful time in England, having sex with the girls, while the British soldiers suffered on the front line.

When done professionally, Psy-Ops has the ability to influence an entire population. For instance, in 1970, after Sultan Qaboos ousted his father in Oman, the SAS operated a full-scale Psy-Ops war. This included the setting up of a radio station and the distribution of thousands of free radios to the Jebel people. Millions of leaflets – informing the rebels of the recent coup and offering them amnesty – were dropped by Shyvan aircraft across enemy-held locations. SAS Psy-Ops teams would also distribute T-shirts and flags for the children prior to the new Sultan visiting many of the outlying towns and villages. One SAS soldier, Corporal John Ward, who arrived in the regiment via 21 SAS, became so professional at his work that he remained in Oman to continue his Psy-Ops work.



▲ Win the hearts of the people and their minds will follow. Water, education, food and medical aid are all appreciated. This picture shows the locals picking up air-dropped leaflets.

"Hearts and Minds"

"Hearts and Minds" is a tactic that is integral to the way the modern SAS fights. It was a term originally coined by General Sir Gerald Templar, the Military High Commissioner in Malaya, during the "Emergency". In June 1952, he was asked whether he had sufficient soldiers for the job. He replied: "The answer lies not in pouring more soldiers into the jungle, but rests in the hearts and minds of the Malayan people." Templar took measures to win over the Malayans, with policies such as building forts in the jungle and winning over the indigenous aboriginal tribes. From 1953, the SAS participated in the building of these forts and lived with the aborigines, learning their language, their customs and their way of life. It soon became clear that medical facilities, however primitive, were integral to winning the trust of the locals – it is important to note that aid of any kind had to be real and beneficial; in no way were locals treated patronisingly. Thus SAS soldiers started to acquire midwifery and veterinary skills. A simple aspirin could cure a toothache and would make a friend for life. However simple this may seem, it worked in the jungles of Malaya, Borneo and in the deserts of Oman. Among the benefits of "hearts and minds" was the intelligence gained from the locals. Of course, living with locals could be infuriating and SAS soldiers had to learn the qualities of patience and tact.

It is now common policy for the SAS to conduct a "hearts-and-minds" campaign in all theatres of war, as it provides "eyes and ears" intelligence that is otherwise unobtainable and the rewards of which are incalculable.

Basic Propaganda Principles an agent will use:

- ▶ They will get the attention of the people. Organize rallies, marches and meetings and get media-friendly attention.
- ▶ They will be wary of supporting a weak cause, as the people will not follow and the agent will not gain media interest.
- ▶ They will make their issues clear and factual, and keep their propaganda peaceful, on the surface at least.
- ▶ Clearly target and identify their adversaries – the government, the army or foreign invaders.
- ▶ Always have answers prepared. If they are asked a question, they will turn it around by saying, "Yes, but first let me explain this," and then go into a rehearsed answer that puts across their point of view. Politicians have been doing this for years.

- ▶ Always condemn the enemy. Name the leaders and hold them personally responsible.
- ▶ Use insiders to pass them secret government information and use this at any major international press interview. Anything that is true or half true and can be testified serves to weaken a government.
- ▶ Research examples of previous government follies. They will use these generalities to accuse the government of stupidity, corruption and nepotism.
- ▶ Use facts about the government that frighten people. e.g the number of people the state intelligence agency has taken into custody and have simply disappeared. Agents could unmask a mass grave – covert subversion unit can easily organize this – and they will then blame the current government for human-rights violations.

SUBVERSION

Subversion is a difficult word to define, but in the context of clandestine operations it means subverting the people against their own leadership. For the agent or Special Forces unit, clandestine operations can involve supporting a guerrilla movement in its quest to overthrow its own government. While military training and equipment provide the muscle, the war is propagated by the use of subversion and psychological warfare. In order to succeed, the subversive organization must adopt a policy that is relevant to the current political situation. To do this, it will establish an overt body, such as a political party that openly subverts the people against the present ruling government. At the same time, it will also opt to organize a covert apparatus that, although hidden, controls the real power. This organization may well be an armed subversive group that is distant from the overt organization. On the surface, both parties can publicly denounce each other; in reality, they act as one.

CASE HISTORY

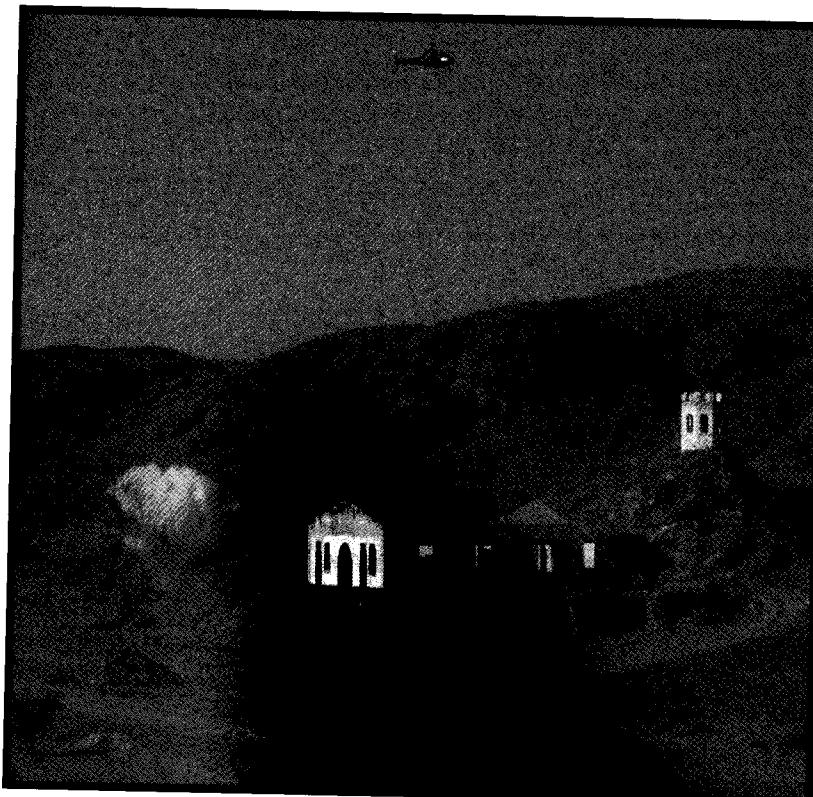
In 1997, the CIA released 1,400 pages of secret files on their first covert operation in Latin America. This operation had been such a success that it became the blueprint for similar CIA operations and many of the same techniques are used today. Today, in an atmosphere of openness, everyone is free to examine these documents and they should, for they expose the horrific details of what we would now call "acts of terrorism".

In 1952, Jacobo Arbenz Guzman became the second legally elected president of Guatemala. His first task was to change the rules under which a minority, select elite had previously governed the country. These changes included the recognition of the Guatemalan Communists and some serious land reforms that threatened US companies, such as the powerful United Fruit Co. The United States did not consider the democratically elected president to be an ally and set about organizing his downfall. This task was given to the CIA and a plan of action was developed that included assassination plots and sabotage. The CIA planned to attack Jacobo Arbenz Guzman from all angles, but the campaign was mainly aimed at undermining the backing of the Guatemalan military, which Arbenz needed in order to control the country. The CIA succeeded and, in 1954, Arbenz relinquished power to the military, the only power that the US deemed capable of maintaining order. The military leaders formed little more than a dictatorship. When a small insurgency developed, Guatemala's US-equipped-and-trained military would let loose a savage wave of repression that left thousands of peasants dead. The oppression lasted 40 years, totally destroying the fabric of Guatemalan society and causing the death or disappearance of almost a quarter of a million people. This type of story is not new. Ask any Special Forces soldier and he will tell you that they have all participated in similar scenarios.

"As a CIA operative, I trained Guatemalan exiles in Honduras to invade their own country and unseat the elected president... The coup I helped engineer in 1954 inaugurated an unprecedented era of intransigent military rule in Central America. Generals and colonels acted with impunity to wipe out dissent and garner wealth for themselves and their cronies... Later, I realized we weren't fighting communism at all, we were fighting the people." These are the words of Philip Roettinger, a retired US Marine Corps colonel and a CIA operative.

Implicit and Explicit Terror

Subversion uses both "implicit" and "explicit" terror in order to control the people. Implicit means the threat is unseen but always there. Explicit is when the subversive organization carries out an act of aggression to demonstrate its power. Both of these principles work hand in glove in any revolutionary war; control the people and you control the country. When supporting a revolutionary movement, it is always best for the agent to advise co-operation with the local people. For example, when a group of armed revolutionary soldiers enter a village, they can be viewed either as hostiles or as liberators, depending on their treatment of the villagers. Normal people live under constant threat of either collaboration with the revolutionaries or the government – the trick is to tip the balance in favour of the agent. This can be achieved through either armed propaganda or a hearts-and-minds campaign; inevitably, it finishes up with a mixture of both.



▲ A small South African village being overrun by armed subversive elements.

Agents' Armed Propaganda Techniques:

- ▶ Agents will initiate their arrival by arresting local police and any government officials before removing them to a safe place.
- ▶ They will release any political prisoners, but not criminals.
- ▶ They will cut the government lines of communication.
- ▶ They will ambush all roads in and out of the village.
- ▶ Establish the immediate needs of the people.
- ▶ Make friends with the local professionals, such as doctors, priests and teachers.
- ▶ Agents will use armed revolutionaries to help the people. They will mix with them and play with the children, giving them candy.
- ▶ Pay cash for anything they take from the village.
- ▶ If hospitality is offered, they will take it, thanking their hosts.
- ▶ Agents will not bombard the locals with too much propaganda.

Agents will let the people establish a local council and let them decide what should be done with any local police or government officials. They will hold a public trial, disperse their members among the people and encourage them to shout slogans. This is generally self-perpetuating. They will make enquiries about any government troops that have been seen: their numbers, the weapons they use, the routes they take and the frequency between visits to the village. Finally, they will encourage the young men and women of the village to join them in the struggle.

A good agent will explain to the people that the government is backed by foreign powers whose only interest is to steal their country's wealth. Also, they will explain that any foreign troops training and supporting the guerrillas are brothers in the fight for freedom. They'll use political, social, economic or religious differences to alienate the people from the government. They will highlight the scarcity of consumer goods for the general public and their availability to the privileged few. They will denounce the high cost of government polices and the tax burden that it places on the common people. They will express how powerless the people are without the revolution and their guerrilla army. Before leaving the village, they will congratulate the people on their strength in defying the government and reiterate that the agents are there for them.

Once the government learns of the agents' visit, it will dispatch troops to investigate. In reality, this will involve acts of reprisal, such as rapes,

pillage, destruction, captures and murder. These reprisals for providing hospitality to the guerrillas only serve to alienate the people from the government even more.

Agents will then wait until the government troops have done their dirty work, and plan an attack. Once they have enough numbers to overcome the troops it will be time to send some of the recently recruited villagers to establish troop dispositions. During the attack, the agents will kill as many troops as possible, but not the commanders. They will place any senior officers on trial and then execute them. They will inform surrounding villages of government troops' atrocities and know that timely intervention helped save many lives. Careful agents will apply this same strategy within



◀ A FARC guerilla group, well trained, well armed and experts in armed subversion.

a given area until they are strong enough in both manpower and equipment to do serious damage.

An agent may also decide to play the tit-for-tat reprisal game. If the government hits a village that is friendly to them, they will hit the government back where it hurts and make sure that they know the reason for it. This can be done by attacking the government's assets – such as the military and their main sources of revenue. The abduction and execution of selective government ministers, court judges, state security officials and senior military personnel will all intimidate the government. Agents will, however, make sure that any official political government opposition members are left untouched, as this affiliates them with the guerrillas.

The full support of the common people is vital to any resistance campaign. This can only be done by entwining the revolution with the people. Agents will recruit from the people; use their sons and daughters to fight for the cause as family ties are always strong. Live, eat, and work with the people; find out what the people really want. Positively identify the revolution with the people, so that they feel part of it. Here are some dos and don'ts that agents use.

- ▶ Win hearts and minds.
- ▶ Show respect for human rights.
- ▶ Help protect families and homes.
- ▶ Respect religious beliefs and customs.
- ▶ Help the people in community projects.
- ▶ Protect the people from government attacks.
- ▶ In poor areas, set up schools for the people's children.
- ▶ Develop animal husbandry techniques in rural areas.
- ▶ Develop better hygiene to prevent diseases.
- ▶ Hold regular clinics.
- ▶ Never touch their women (other than for medical reasons).
- ▶ Never discuss military operations with the common people.
- ▶ Recruit trustees to act as spies in the towns and villages.

Subversive Tactics

Although most subversive groups work with only a minority support from the people, their existence will always be termed as representative of the people. For example, if a paramilitary group accidentally killed and maimed

several people by mistake, the people would be against them. A political wing would endorse the people's feelings in order to gain public support for their movement. On the other hand, the political wing may request the paramilitaries to plant a bomb just prior to a crucial meeting with the government to improve their bargaining position. This approach encapsulates the benefits of an overt and covert subversive campaign.

One of the basic forms of subversion is agitation. The agitator picks on a subject and seeks to exploit it with the people in support of the overt movement. In Northern Ireland, this was a simple matter of asking the Catholic people, "Why are your lives controlled by the British government?" or "Why are there armed British soldiers on our streets in Belfast?" These are both comprehensible and irrefutable facts that the agitator will seize on in order to whip up support. They are facts that people can relate to; they create a mood of doubt, fear or hatred and awaken feelings of rebellion.

Once the seeds of rebellion have been planted, the next subversive stage is propaganda. Propaganda capitalizes on the fears of the people and seeks to convert a peaceful population into a controllable mob. The principle behind propaganda is to convince people that they are acting in self-defence, while in reality these actions are being dictated to them by the subversive group. People will often see these actions as a means of protecting their own society.

An example of this could be seen in Northern Ireland during the early 1970s. When an IRA gunman had taken a pot shot at a British patrol, he would then run for cover. Any chase by the British would be hampered by the local women, who would bang dustbin lids against the walls of their houses. Once started, almost every house in the area would take up the call. This allowed the gunman to run through the houses, dispose of his weapon and make good his escape. This simple system also brought the local people together in support of their armed resistance.

The above example highlights the definitive goal of the subversive group: to undermine the government and to demonstrate the solidarity of the people. This type of propaganda is commonly referred to as "white" propaganda – it is suggested and controlled by the overt group. "Grey" propaganda generally comes from the media. All instances of violence are classified as prime news, and while the some people may look on in horror at what they call an atrocity, those people subjected to the subversive group will hail the perpetrators as heroes.



OVERT SUBVERSION

Whenever a prisoner was taken during the Oman War, he was provided with the opportunity to join the ranks of the local militia; his other option was a bullet in the back of the head. The next stage in the process was to persuade the defector into showing the intelligence personnel his last-known location, when he was with the rebels. This was simply done by flying over the mountain area in a helicopter and letting the defector point to the location on the ground. Unbeknown to the defector, several attack aircraft would be quietly following the helicopter, ready to strike once the enemy location was known. This type of operation was known as the "flying finger". The technique was very successful when it came to locating and destroying enemy strongholds.

Russians Accuse Americans

Subversion comes in many disguises. For example, it would have been easy for the Russians to accuse the United States of using body parts reaped from street children in South America. What constitutes good subversion is a modicum of truth. For example, the bodies of many homeless children in Bogota, Colombia, have been found with their eyes surgically removed. One four-year-old child, who had had her eyes removed after being abducted, was found alive with a 500 peso note pinned to her dress and a note saying: "Thanks for your gift." There is a huge demand in the richer nations, such as the United States, for body parts paid for with ready cash. It is easy, therefore, to accuse the Americans as a whole of dealing in such a despicable trade. Where this may be true in a few cases, it serves to taint the whole nation. These and many other similar tactics have been used over the years to discredit an enemy.

FORGERY

Note: Forgery of documents is illegal and a criminal offence. Some spies do it but it should not be undertaken by members of the public. Spies and agents engaged in subversive operations are often obliged to use false documents. These include passports, identity cards and birth certificates. Counterfeit money is also produced in large quantities and is used by many agents, often as a means of subversion. Most agencies have

their own department of "artists" who acquire documents that can be tailored to fit the agent for any special operation. Of these, by far the most important document is the passport.

Passports

It is fairly easy for an agency to obtain blank passports in their own country; it is even possible to build a complete identity for the agent. However, this is not so easy to achieve when the agent is forced to operate with a foreign passport. Outside of the intelligence agency's specialized staff, it is not easy to make a forged foreign passport; the best method is to obtain a legitimate one.

A New Passport

The ideal way, and one that a spy will try to use on order to obtain a new identify, is to "steal" one from someone who is dead. The more recent the death, the better a spy's chances are of accomplishing this. They will scour the obituaries and look for someone of the same race, age and gender as themselves. They will try to look in a large city, where the death rate is greater than in, say, a country village. Once a spy has located a match, they will attempt to gather as much information about the deceased as they possibly can, and, if possible, obtain a photograph. The deceased's address can normally be gleaned from a newspaper, and if the death is very recent there is nothing to stop a spy from going along to the house and pretending to be an old friend. Once there, they will simply ask for a recent photograph as a keepsake. If a spy discovers that the deceased lived alone, they might try a little burglary; if they are lucky they might even turn up the passport or birth certificate (relatives normally dig these out when someone has died). But a spy will be careful not to steal anything else. Another scam that a spy will use is to pretend to be a representative of the local coroner's office – they will have a fake ID – and make an appointment to visit the family. If a spy does this, they will make sure that their telephone call is made just after the coroner's office closing time, so that no one can check up on them. They will mention that they will need to see any relevant documents the family can find, such as the social security number, passport or birth certificate etc. As most people rarely deal with the coroner's office, they will think that this is a normal procedure.

If neither a burglary nor a scam produce a birth certificate or a passport,

then a spy will have to think about making and obtaining false documents. This is not as big a problem as it might seem. Once a spy has obtained a photograph of the deceased and has established their details it is a fairly simple matter; it is a task that comes with risks, however. They will need to obtain a legitimate copy of the deceased's birth certificate and then apply for a new passport, this time using their own photographs.

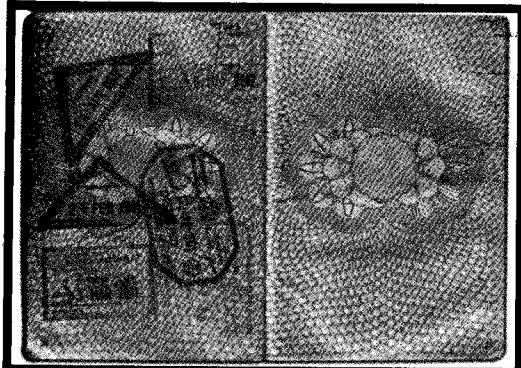
In many cases, the deceased may not look anything like the spy, but this is not a real problem. The spy will use a computer-morphing graphics programme. They will scan a facial picture of both themselves and the deceased, then, using the morphing programme, merge them halfway. The final result should look something like the spy. They will then print out passport photographs using photographic quality paper and include these with their new passport application.

CASE HISTORY

In March 2004, two Mossad agents, Uriel Kelman, 30, and Eli Cara, 50, were jailed for six months in New Zealand for trying to obtain false passports. The plot was discovered when a passport officer noticed that a passport applicant was speaking with a Canadian or American accent. The clue led to an investigation that uncovered a complex conspiracy involving up to four Israeli agents. Using a fraudulent birth certificate, they were attempting to create a false identity for 36-year-old Zev Barkan, another suspected Israeli spy. Officers planned to arrest the spies as they picked up the completed passport. However, Cara had preempted this by having it sent by courier to an apartment block, where it was to be collected by a taxi driver and taken to a rendezvous with Kelman. Police surveillance caught Cara acting suspiciously close to the central Auckland apartment block, while Kelman was arrested after fleeing the other rendezvous and throwing his mobile phone into a hedge. Both men were sentenced to six months in prison for their involvement in the plot.

Mossad has frequently been accused of using fake passports to launch its operations. An incident in 1997, in which Mossad agents used fake Canadian passports in an attempt to assassinate the Hamas leader, Sheikh Khaled Mashal, resulted in the expulsion of the Israeli ambassador from Canada until Israel promised to cease the practice.

If they managed to get a copy of the deceased's passport, they can change the identity by requesting a second one from the passport office. Many countries will issue a second passport for business purposes, but the spy will need to prove this. One way is to update their present passport with lots of fake travel visas. A spy will copy foreign visa stamps from one passport to another using simple copying methods.



Using a block of gelatine, the visas have been copied from one passport to another.

A spy will assume the identity of the deceased. Providing they use their new identity in a foreign country, the chances of discovery are minimal. The spy will be able to easily open bank accounts, buy a home and so on.

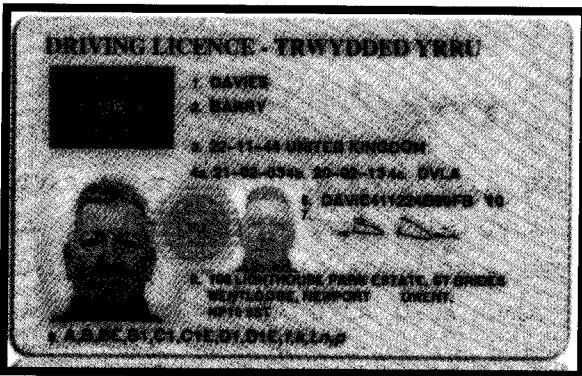
There are many other methods that a spy has of obtaining a false passport. Stealing one while abroad is probably the easiest way, although this will be reported and cancelled and is, of course, illegal. Another way they may try is to purchase a flight ticket under a false name, and have some form of ID – but not a passport – with them. This is best done through a travel agent. The spy will then claim to have had their passport and wallet stolen. They will go to the local embassy with four photographs of themselves and ask for a new one, stating that they are leaving the country the next day. They will go so far as to explain that their flight ticket is all the proof they have. With a little luck, they will get a new passport issued without too much hassle.

ID Cards

Identity cards, such as a driving licence, do not pose such a serious problem for spies, as they are easier to forge. There are many Internet sites offering a whole range of identity cards. Few of these are any good, and fewer are legal. A spy will no doubt be better off making their own, and all

they require is a modern computer set-up with a scanner.

A spy will use roughly the same principle to make a fake copy of just about any paper object.



◀ A driving licence picture could be changed using a simple graphics program.

They will scan, using a high resolution, and in colour. This will create a large file. Once a spy has made a decent digital copy, they will manipulate it to suit their needs. This may mean removing the other person's photographs, name or address and replacing it with their own details.

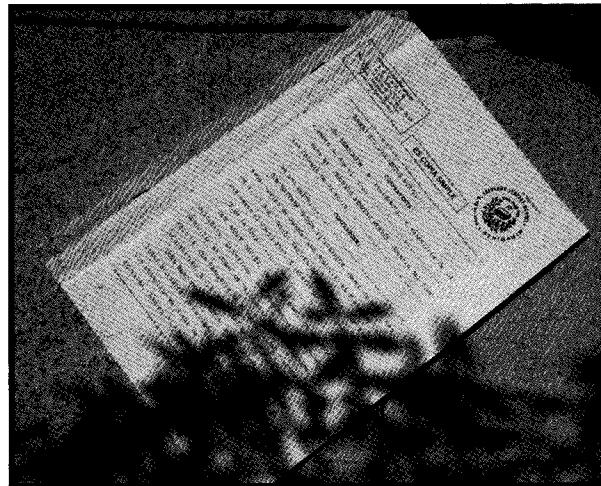
A spy will always ensure that they have the correct type of paper to print on. ID cards are normally printed on thick card, whereas birth certificates are on fine paper. Ideally, the paper used will be the correct weight, white and with no watermarks.

If the fake copy contains a watermark the spy will need to prepare the paper by embedding a watermark picture to the same density as that of the original.

The problem that the spy has now is to process their new fake so that it looks like an original. If it is an ID card type, it will need trimming with a scalpel and sealing in a plastic protective jacket. Machines for doing this can be found in most major office supply stores. Once completed, however, a spy will always check their fake copy against a real one.

A spy can age documents by placing a damp – not wet – cloth over the paper and iron over it several times. Next, they will place their document in the sun for several days. Once it has faded to their satisfaction, they will fold it several times then dust a little cigarette ash over the surface. They will then fold the paper several more times so that the ash falls into the creases. The document is now ready; and a spy will check their forgery against a real one once more.

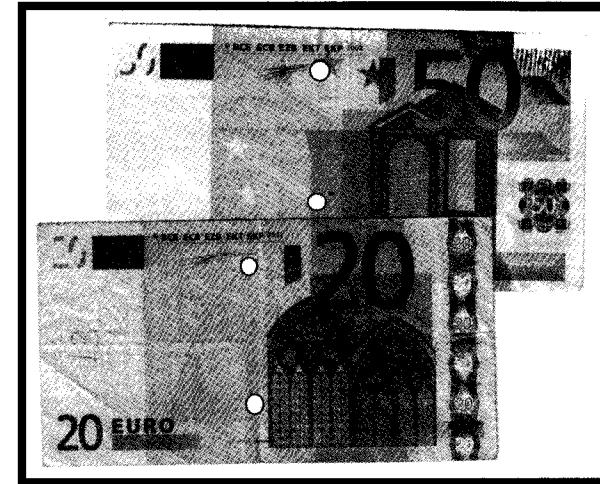
Money can be made in the same way and while every effort is made to protect paper currency, it remains one of the easiest objects to copy. However, to make an undetectable copy requires a great deal of skill and very advanced machinery. One of the major problems that a spy who wants to indulge in counterfeiting, especially bank notes, is the use of Radio Frequency Identification (RFID).



◀ Leaving paper in the sun causes it to age rapidly.

Radio Frequency Identification

RFID tags are regarded as either active or passive. Active RFID tags are powered by an internal battery and are typically used to track anything from pallets to dogs.



◀ The white spots indicate the RFID. These passive devices prevent people from copying bank notes. Most modern computer graphics programs will not allow you to scan a bank note if it is tagged with an RFID, and will refer you to the appropriate country for authorization.

Passive RFID tags operate without a separate external power source and obtain operating power generated from the reader. Passive tags are consequently much lighter than active tags, are much cheaper to produce and offer an unlimited operational lifetime. One of their new uses is tracking bank notes around the world. The new European euro notes have the traditional metal strip, into which are placed two RFID tags. Each tag can trace its whereabouts from its origin to the present day. The absence of a tag means that the money is counterfeit. Similar tags can be found in ID cards, driving licences and credit cards.

CHAPTER

7

Sabotage can be a necessary evil that may pave the way for resistance and the deterioration of government.



SABOTAGE

Sabotage can be carried out by any member of an intelligence agency. It can be a single act carried out by an agent or it can involve the destruction of major facilities by Special Forces. Operations that require demolitions or sabotage are commonly known as "bang-and-burn" operations. Although not always necessary, the use of explosives increases the effectiveness of sabotage, and, providing the user has the imagination and training, almost anything is possible.

Many sabotage techniques have been gleaned from low-intensity wars, where guerrillas have been forced to improvise in order to defeat an organized and well-equipped army. If manufactured landmines were unavailable, the guerrillas would make "punji pits". While these punji pits lacked the power of a landmine, anyone stepping onto the sharpened spikes would still be hospitalized, as many an American soldier discovered during the Vietnam War.

Sabotage was used very effectively by the French Resistance during the Second World War. The felling of telephone poles and the placing of sugar or sand in fuel tanks were just a few of the tricks used by the Resistance. They also discovered that adding carborundum powder to the axle grease of French trains soon brought the German's supply system to a halt. Nonetheless, most of the damage was achieved by the use of explosives. This allowed them to destroy bridges and railway lines, as well as blowing up troop convoys.

Finding and recruiting people to carry out sabotage depends on the individual situation. If a country is in rebellion and if Special Forces personnel are assisting the guerrillas with training, it is often best to get civilians to carry out small, non-explosive acts of sabotage. Students are particularly good for this. With a few exceptions, the students of most countries are at odds with the government over one issue or another; it is simply a matter of infiltration and organization to get them to work. The best method is to use an agent who is compatible with the student fraternity and to task them with defining the militant elements within the student movement. Once this is done, it is simply a matter of organizing student riots into which guerrillas can be infiltrated. Once the latter start the

ball rolling, the riot will be self-perpetuating. The government will react predictably with over-zealous violence that will lead to an escalation of the riots and the use of petrol bombs etc.

TRUE STORY

At 8.37 pm on 28 December 1968, several helicopters loaded with paratroopers took off – their destination was Beirut airport. As Beirut International Airport is situated to the south of the city some three kilometres from the sea, and is approximately 90 kms (55 Miles) north of the Israeli-Lebanon border, the flying time was estimated at 45 minutes. In 1968, the airport comprised of two runways crisscrossing in scissor-like fashion, in a north-south direction. The passenger terminal lay between the two lanes and there was an open area in front of it. Hangars and parking and maintenance areas for the planes were at the north-eastern and south-western edges of the runways. South of the terminal was the standby emergency services pavilion of the airport, where fire and first-aid stations were located.

Each of the helicopters carried a team of highly trained explosive experts; their objective was to destroy as many civilian aircraft as possible. Security for the airport consisted of some 90 security men, armed mainly with handguns. Back-up for a real emergency came from a Lebanese Army commando company situated some three kilometres away. Extra help was also available from the police in Beirut city, but it would take them a minimum of 30 minutes to reach the airport.

The aim was to confront the on-duty security officers and hold them while the bulk of the military and police would be prevented from

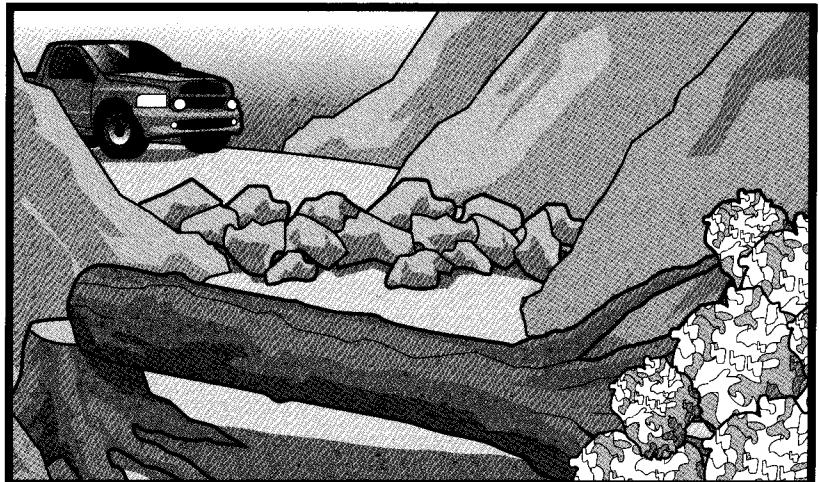
approaching the airport by the helicopters, which, once they had deposited the soldiers on the airfield, would proceed to the approach roads, where they would drop nails and smoke. Several military vehicles tried to force their way through this barrier, only to be fired on by the helicopters.

As serious resistance was kept at bay, the disembarked troops set about fixing explosive devices to the aircraft parked on the airfield. Intermittent gunfire could be heard throughout the airfield, much of which were warning shots to frighten away the civilian maintenance workers. A total of 14 planes – mostly belonging to Middle East Airlines (MEA) – were destroyed at an estimated cost of \$42 million. Those responsible for this assault – or act of terrorism, as it was claimed by many Western governments at the time) – were the Israeli military. This was their retaliation for an assault by PFLP on an El AL aircraft at Athens airport earlier in the year.

SABOTAGE TECHNIQUES (AS FEATURED IN THE CIA HANDBOOK)

Note: These acts are all used by spies. As they are illegal acts, however, they should not be used by civilians.

Felling Trees in Road: Felling a large tree in the right place can cause long

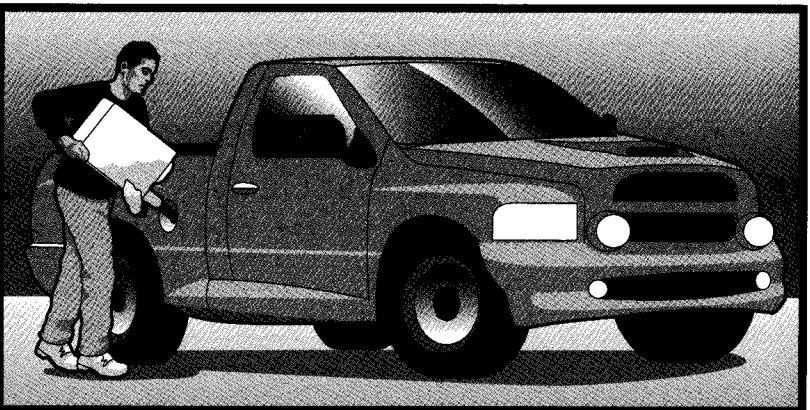


▲ Rocks or trees on the road are effective.

delays and hold-ups. If these hold-ups include enemy troops, then a perfect ambush area is created by the spy.

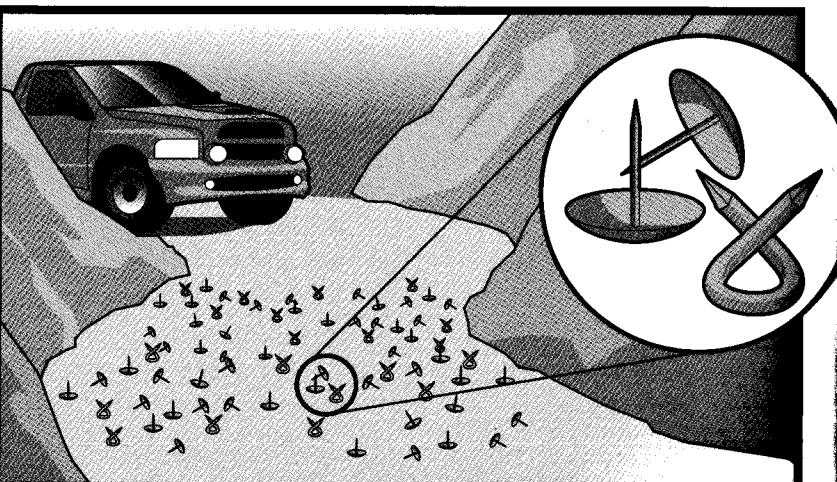
A Potato up the Exhaust: A potato rammed into an exhaust will stop any vehicle after a few metres.

Sand or Sugar in Fuel: Placing sugar or sand in the fuel tank will stop a vehicle, although it will not do too much damage to the engine.



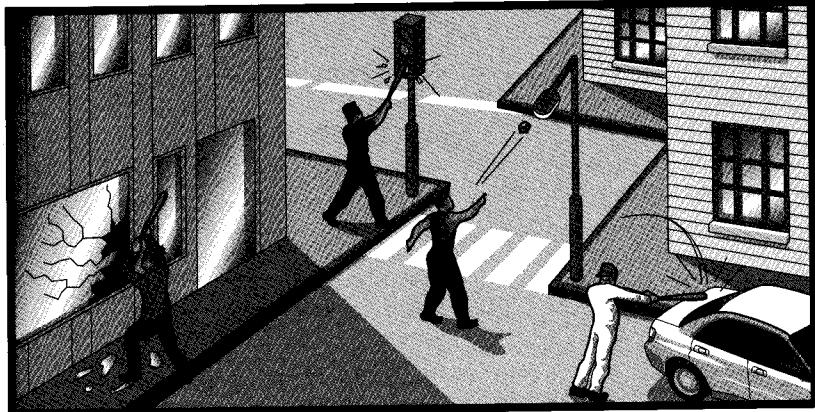
▲ Sand or sugar in a petrol tank will "kill" a car.

Tyre traps: Old nails, twisted in such a manner that they fall spike up when dropped onto the ground (known as "jacks"), are ideal for bursting a vehicle's tyres. A well-planned ambush site can stop a military convoy – the jacks are placed at night by the spy.

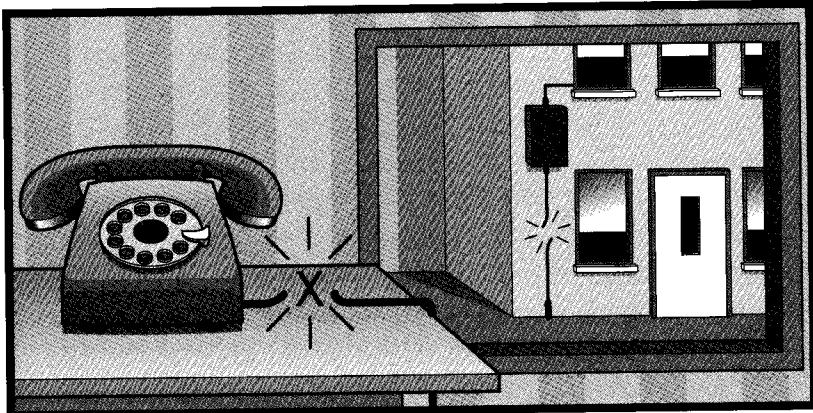


▲ Bent-up nails and heavy-duty tacks.

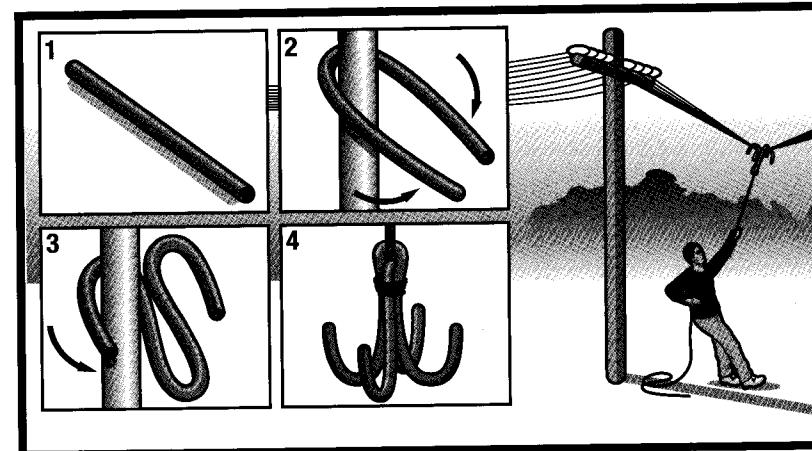
Create Waste and Drain Capital: In guerrilla warfare, locals can help the spy by draining the government's resources: leaving taps running, smashing and bursting water pipes, bringing down telephone lines, knocking out the local electricity substations, burning vehicles in the street, creating no-go areas for government troops etc.



▲ Civil insurrection.



▲ Spies can cut main and exchange telephone lines.



▲ Telephone lines can be pulled down by the spy with a makeshift hook.

SPECIALIST SABOTAGE MISSIONS

Specialist sabotage missions normally take place in a war situation, with the intention to hit the enemy's war production capacity. Weapons and ammunitions factories, power stations, railroads, and MSR (Main Supply Routes) are prime targets. In order to ensure that the enemy facility is completely destroyed, a good knowledge of explosives and their placement is required. For example, the destruction of an enemy oil refinery that occupies a square kilometre plot may seem like an impossible task. For a well-trained Special Forces team, however, it is relatively easy.

A reconnaissance would take place during which the team would look for the Horton Sphere; this is a huge metal ball that can be found in every oil refinery. Once the sphere has been located, it is a simple matter of fixing two charges: the first is a basic, high-explosive cutting charge, and the second is an incendiary. The Horton Sphere contains thousands of litres of liquid gas and the idea is to utilize this by converting it into a bomb. The cutting charge punches a hole that releases the gas; an instant later, the incendiary ignites the gas. If this is done correctly there would be little left of the oil refinery, as the Horton Sphere would take out everything within a square mile with no difficulty.

Telephone communications also play a major role in any conflict. While the military will have their own radios, the civilian population rely totally on the phone system. This makes it a high-priority target. It is traditional for telephone exchanges to be destroyed by fire; the problem lies in the

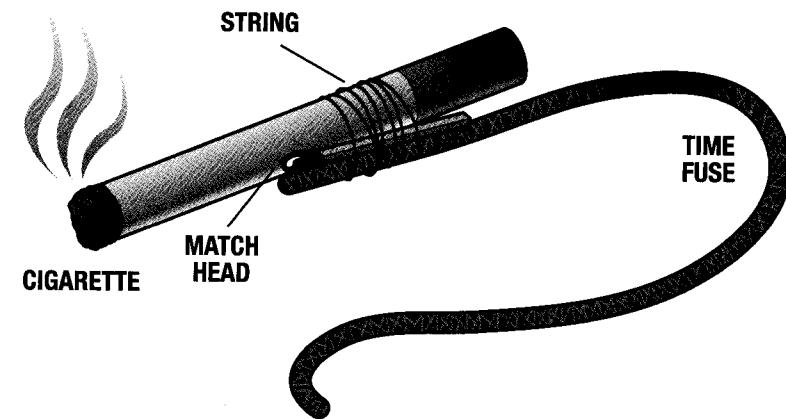
fact that the sabotage team has to guarantee that all the computer frames inside the exchange are destroyed. Even if only one is left intact, the engineers can quickly lash up an emergency service. One unique way of knocking out a telephone exchange is to destroy the ringing equipment. On older systems, these are two small generators; on newer ones, the sounds are created by computers and all that is necessary is to locate and destroy them. While the telephone system may remain intact, no one knows that there is a call. Both of the above examples are typical of specialist sabotage.

BOOBY TRAPS

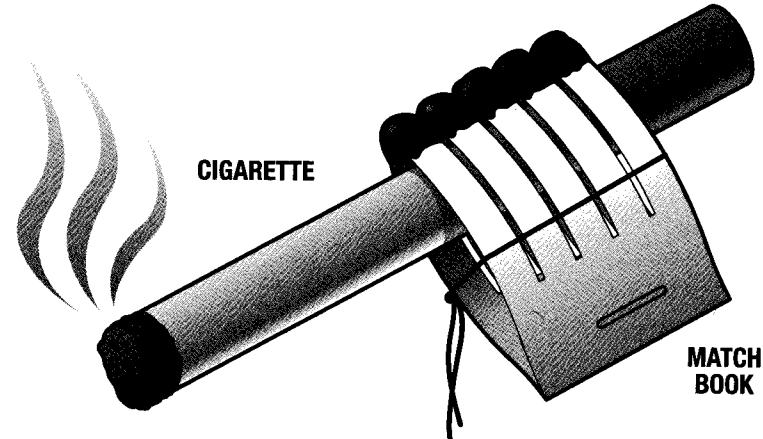
Explosive booby traps are used extensively by both Special Forces and guerrillas in order to create panic and disorder among the enemy. They range from complicated manufactured devices to the plain opportunist variety. They can be triggered by pull, pressure, pressure release, trip, contact, motion sensor and heat. In many cases, booby traps are designed not to kill but to maim, thus placing an extra strain on the enemy's logistics. Most booby traps require some form of triggering device; these are best kept simple, as the following examples will demonstrate.

A pressure plate switch can be made from a catering-size can of baked beans or a similar product which can be found in the garbage bins of any hotel. The top and the bottom lids are removed by the spy using a can opener. On a flat wooden surface, using a hammer and a large nail, the entire surface of both is punctured with holes. A wire is fixed to each of the lids, and then one of the lids is wrapped in clingfilm – two layers are enough. Finally, both of the lids are placed together, with the serrated edges facing each other. The clingfilm will stop moisture contact and prevent the plates from touching. This is placed on the ground and covered by a small amount of soil for camouflage. When someone steps on the plates, the pressure causes the serrated edges of the punched holes to penetrate the cling film and create a contact.

A cigarette is often as a timer for igniting the fuse. The cigarette will burn slowly enough to provide anything between a one- and ten-minute delay. The cigarette is simply attached to the fuse at the required position. As most cigarettes smoulder, rather than burn, a match will be attached by the spy, near to the point of ignition.



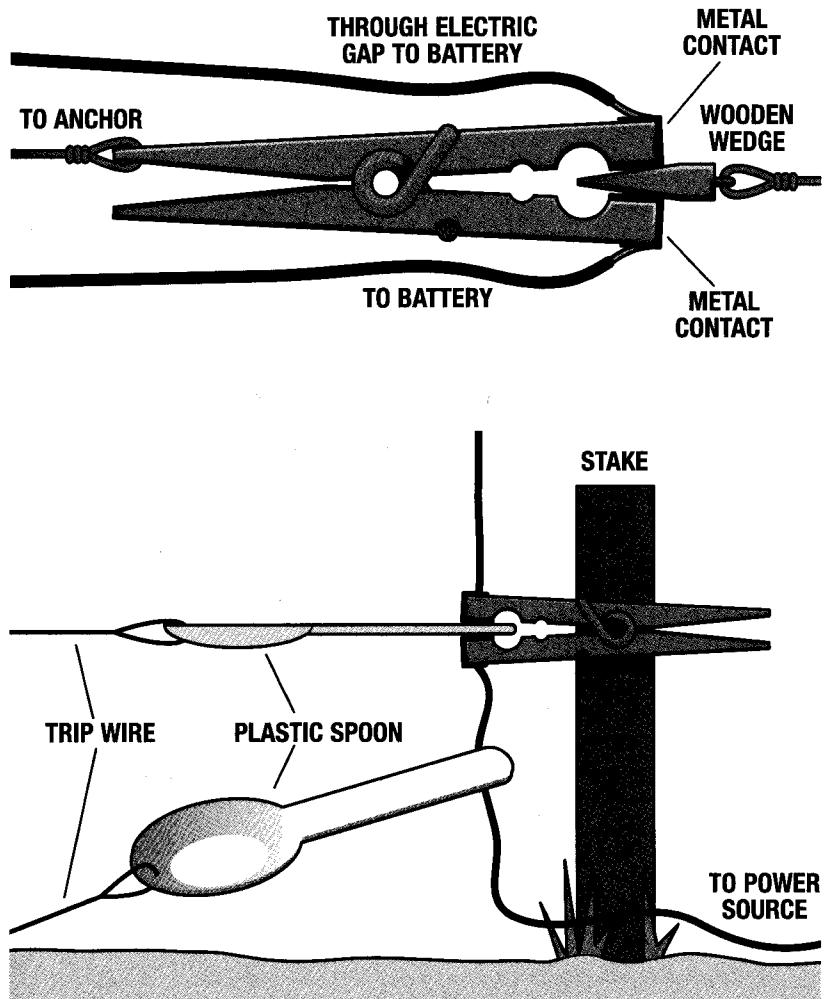
▲ A cigarette timer is one of the oldest methods of making a delayed fuse.



▲ Book matches can be converted into a delayed fuse or used as a friction fuse igniter.

A book of matches can also be used by the spy as pull-switch igniters. A strip of striking board is placed over the match heads and a piece of trip wire is attached in the path of the intruder.

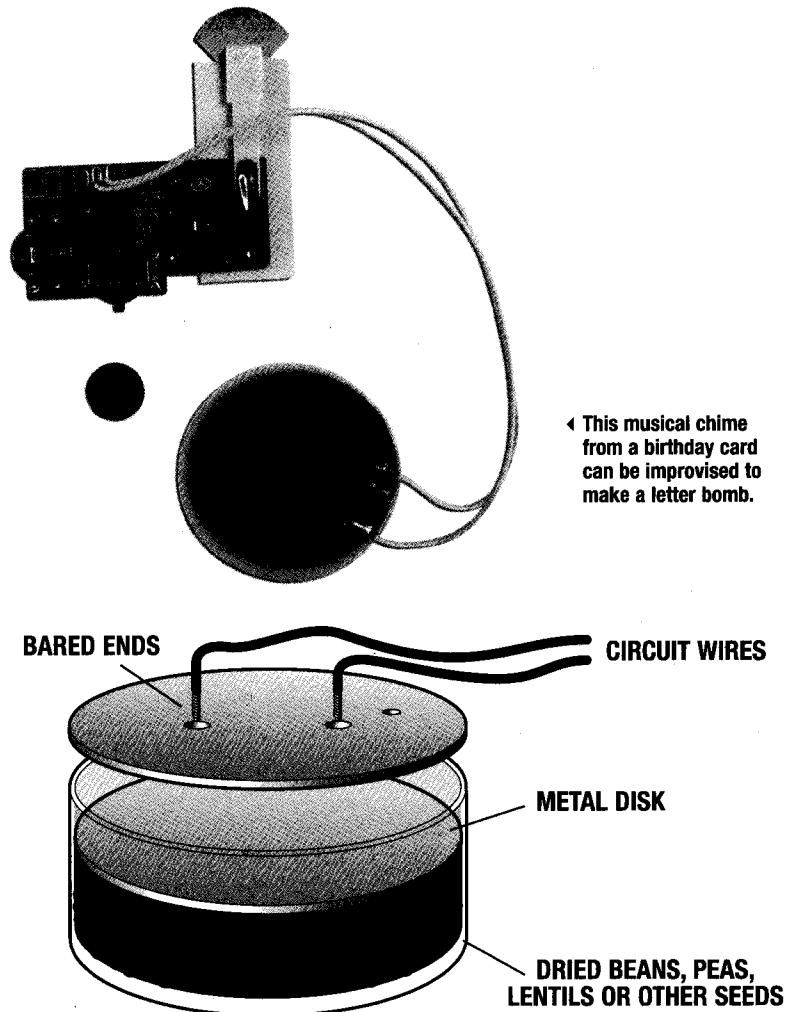
One of the simplest triggers for any form of bomb is the clothes peg. This can easily be converted into a pull switch or a pressure-release switch. Most DIY stores offer a complete range of switches, all of which can



▲ The common clothes peg offers the explosive expert the means of constructing a very effective means of initiation. A string has been attached to a plastic spoon, which when tripped will allow the peg to close and cause a circuit to form. When the weight is lifted the peg will close and cause a circuit to form.

easily be adapted for sabotage by the spy. A simple magnetic door or window magnetic contact can quickly be wired into a booby-trapped room.

The trigger for a letter bomb can be made from any musical birthday or Christmas card. These are found in most card shops and are purpose-made for use by the spy. The music mechanism is replaced with a detonator and a small amount of explosive.

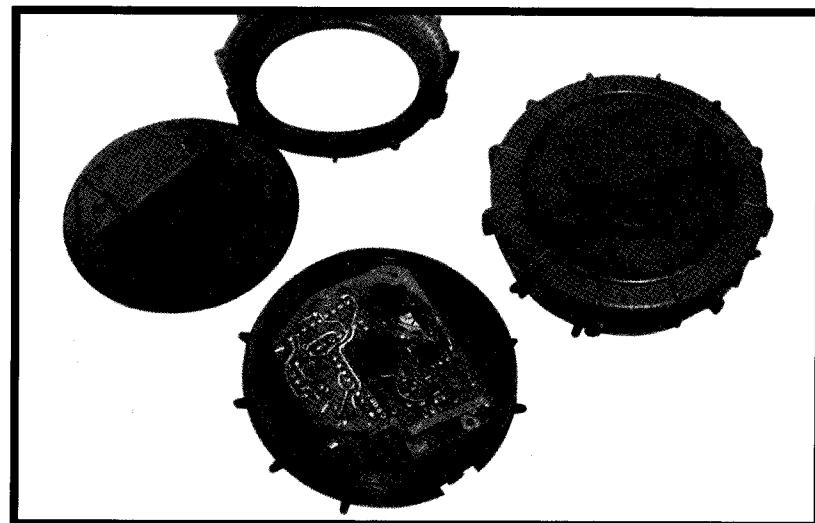


▲ When water is poured over dried vegetables it causes them to expand; this can be used to create a delayed action igniter.

A makeshift timer can be constructed out of a tin and some dried beans, peas or lentils. Timers can be made by first placing the dried vegetables in a jar, adding a set amount of water and waiting to see how much they swell over a given time span. Once the expansion rate of the dried vegetables is established, it is a simple matter of wiring everything up.

Radio-controlled toys offer the spy the possibility of wireless controlled explosions. The receiver is removed from the toy and the wires that control

the drive motor are used to fire the detonator in the explosive. One of the ways an agent will use such a device is to place both the receiver and explosives on the target's car and then hide the transmitter by the side of the road, on a sharp bend – a steep drop, bridges and tunnels provide further opportunities. The transmitter will be wired so that it is permanently on and provided that there is a good battery supply and if the timing is right, when the target passes the chosen point, the explosive will not only destroy the car, but will also send it off the road. By this time, the agent can be many miles away.

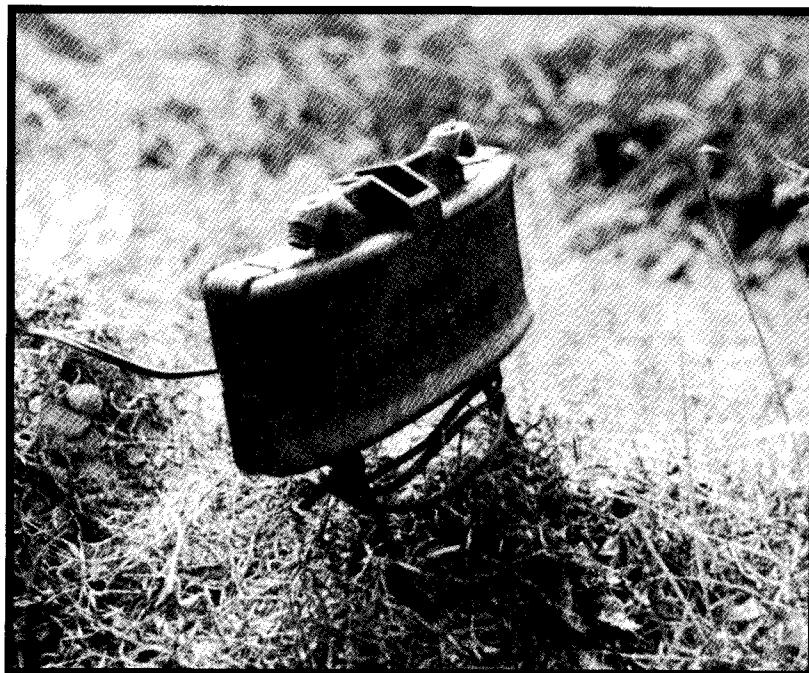


▲ Modern anti-personnel mines are highly sophisticated.

ANTI-PERSONNEL MINES

When operating in the field, especially in a war zone, it is always a good idea for any agent to have a working knowledge of mines. Mines are extremely dangerous and for the most part they are placed by inexperienced people who make no record of their location – the end result is often the loss of innocent life. In an emergency, however, they can provide a good defence or delaying tactic. While there are many forms of mine available, the agent is only required to concentrate on one type, the anti-personnel mine. If the agent is being pursued for any reason, either on foot or in a vehicle, the careful placement of anti-personnel mines will slow down any pursuers. The mines can be set in a dirt road or on a desert

track. They are activated by any number of means, from straightforward pressure, to trip, pull, movement and vibration. Some mines can be set to disarm after a given period.



▲ The highly effective Claymore can be set up and removed many times. It is lethal.

The American-made Claymore mine is still widely used by many countries. It can be used by the agent to form a perfect perimeter defence or to ambush the enemy. The mine is easily deployed and, if not used, can be quickly disarmed for re-use at a later date. The mine itself is a moulded plastic case measuring some 7.5 cm high by 20 cm wide. The whole case is slightly curved with the words "Front Towards Enemy" embossed on the crest face. The mine is packed with a solid explosive into which thousands of small ball bearings are set. The base of the mine has two sets of spiked legs that can be adjusted for angle; the top contains two screw-cap detonator wells. The mine is exploded by command detonation, when a half-wave, handheld generator is depressed. One in five mines contains a testing device to show continuity along the command wire. The whole mine, including the wire and detonator, is housed in a lightweight carry satchel.

A-TYPE AMBUSH

An "A-Type" ambush is a series of unmanned explosive devices that are set up and left for the enemy to walk into. The explosive can vary from WP (white phosphorus) to hand grenades and Claymore mines, all linked by detonating cord into a single triggering device. They are mainly used on set routes used by the enemy for ferrying weapons. A-Type ambushes were laid by the American forces in Vietnam and by the British SAS during Borneo operations and during the Oman War. They are always clearly recorded and are removed if they have not been triggered.

LASER TARGET DESIGNATOR

This device is at the top end of sabotage and is only generally used by Special Forces or agents to destroy large targets. The development of the laser target designator enables the operator to "paint" a target so that an aircraft or a missile can destroy it. This eliminates the need to expose yourself on the target, and thus avoids compromise. The unit looks like a large pair of box-shaped binoculars and weighs less than six kilograms, yet it enables an agent to destroy a target from a considerable distance. Laser target designators allow agents to deliver airborne ordnance – such as Paveway or Pavetack Laser-Guided Bombs (LGBs) – onto ground targets with a high degree of accuracy. The agent will move into a position where he has an unobstructed view of the target. Once the sight has acquired the target, the agent can either call for an immediate air strike or he can programme the designator to activate at a predetermined time. The pilot will release his ordnance once the signal has been "locked", this can be up to 20 kilometres (13 miles) from the target. Provided that the laser target designator continues to paint the target, the ordnance simply homes in on the signal.



▲ A sophisticated laser target designator in action.

SPECIAL ATOMIC DEMOLITION MUNITIONS (SADM)

The Special Atomic Demolition Munitions was a nuclear landmine with a yield of between one and 15 kilotons. It was designed primarily for deployment behind enemy lines and to destroy harbours, airfields, bridges, dams – or to effectively disrupt enemy troop movements. The complete unit (including the warhead) weighed less than 200 kgs and was deployed between 1965 and 1986. Delivery was normally by a specialist two-man team who would place the weapon package in an acceptable location. They would then set the timer and make good their escape. The timer delay could be set between one and twenty-four hours. For this reason, the insertion teams – some of which were parachute-trained – practised placement and retrieval procedures extensively. Most of the deployments took place in the former Soviet Union or in Europe.



▲ Special atomic munitions look deceptively simple.

The SADM used a gun-type principle, whereby two sub-critical masses of U-238 were fired through a precisely machined "doughnut" of uranium. The mine used a mechanical permissive action link to prevent unauthorized detonation. The basic philosophy behind the SADM programme was to attain predetermined targets that the USAF planes were unable to reach. Both the Russians and the Chinese had their own SADM programmes, and it is widely believed that the latter still does.

TERRORIST SABOTAGE TACTICS

Many terrorist attacks are similar in design to those carried out by Special Forces; the only differences between the two are motivation and target acquisition. Any sabotage causes damage to both human life and property, but when it comes to terrorist attacks, it seems as though the supporting necessity is for each new atrocity to raise the death toll in order to secure media attention. This escalating trend causes terrorist organizations to look to more powerful weapons and it is only a matter of time before they start using weapons of mass destruction. For the moment, however, they have many other sources of sabotage at their disposal.

To ascertain what and where the terrorist organizations will strike next, we must not only look to the past, but also at what is achievable. Remember the basic philosophy of war: who has the means and who has the intent. Nuclear bombs, nerve gas, suicide bombers, assassinations and even conventional warfare are all possibilities that are open to terrorist groups. In reality, most of these possibilities are restricted by governing factors. While it may be possible, in theory, to construct a nuclear bomb, in practice, it is almost impossible. Therefore, it will be a long time before we see a terrorist organization carry out this scenario. Unfortunately, the same cannot be said for biological or chemical weapons, some of which, although highly dangerous, are extremely simple to produce.

CYBER SABOTAGE

Many nations rely heavily on their economic infrastructure, much of which is entirely computer-based. It is hard to imagine everyday life without computers; it would almost be impossible to go back to the old days of paper business. The demands on a modern society are so high that it requires machines to control its functions. However, this very reliance on computers also makes them vulnerable.

Computers support the delivery of goods and services, aid manufacturing, governance, banking and finance. What would happen, say, if the stock exchange computers were put offline for several days, or if the banks could not issue money to their customers because all of the accounts had been wiped out? While both would have a continuous back-up system, it is feasible that someone in the know could, after years of research, also find ways of destroying those as well.

All political, military and economic interests depend on information

technology. This includes critical infrastructures such as electric power, telecommunications and transportation. The information technology infrastructure is at risk not only from disruptions and intrusions, but also from serious attacks.

The military, in particular, rely heavily on computerized weaponry. Smart bombs and cruise missiles are guided to their target via GPS (Global Positioning System), as are many of the ground troops. If you could find a way of shutting down the 27 or so satellites the system uses, the US military would be blind in one eye. What if someone could get both access to and control of the nuclear missile system?

The type of people capable of hacking into military computer networks are already out there. Several have penetrated the American Department of Defence, as well as the CIA. True, these people have been tracked down and sentenced accordingly, but only after the event. For the most part, cyber warfare offers a cloak of obscurity to potential attackers. In addition, all they need is access to a computer and a telephone line.

CASE HISTORY

In March 2001, Japan's Metropolitan Police Department disclosed that a software system had been acquired with the ability to track 150 police vehicles, including unmarked cars. It had been developed by the Aum Shinrikyo cult – the same cult that gassed the Tokyo subway in 1995, killing 12 people and injuring 6,000 more. At the time of the discovery, the cult had received classified tracking data on 115 vehicles. Furthermore, the cult had developed software for at least 80 Japanese firms and ten government agencies. They had worked as subcontractors to other firms, making it almost impossible for the organizations to know who was developing the software. As subcontractors, the cult could have installed "Trojan horses" to launch or facilitate cyber-terrorist attacks at a later date.

THE INTERNET

The invention of the Internet and email has, in general, advanced mankind in a huge way. Information and basic knowledge on just about any subject is now available. Simply booking your holiday or sending flowers to your

girlfriend can now be done with a few strokes of the keyboard. Billions of emails a week speed up conversation, save telephone charges and enable us to communicate rapidly around the world. This is why the Internet and email were designed. Unfortunately, the price we must pay for this service is high, not in monetary cost, but in the way in which both the Internet and email can be abused.

The Internet offers unlimited facilities to the saboteur: the knowledge on how to make home-made explosives or how to construct a bomb and any amount of information on a potential target. Email can be encrypted in such a way that no government agency can crack the code, thus allowing terrorist organizations secure communications on a worldwide basis. The same system allows them to contact other groups and to prepare joint operations. Business and bank accounts can be established over the Internet which provide money for weaponry and operations; if done properly, almost all these activities are untraceable.

BIO-TERRORISM

There is a perceivable threat from bio-terrorism, as both extremist nations and terrorist organizations have access to the skills required to cultivate some of the most dangerous pathogens and to deploy them as agents in acts of terror. In 1995, the Japanese cult, Aum Shinrikyo, released the nerve gas Sarin in the Tokyo subway. The Sarin had been manufactured by the cult's own chemists. Members of this group are also known to have travelled to Zaire in 1992 to obtain samples of the Ebola virus. However, the main causes of concern are anthrax and smallpox.

Anthrax is an organism that is easy to produce in large quantity and is extremely stable in its dried form. The effect of aerosolized anthrax on humans is highly lethal. In 1979, an anthrax epidemic broke out in Sverdlovsk in the Soviet Union. Sverdlovsk was also the home of a military bio-weapons facility. Some 66 people died, all of who lived within four kilometres of the facility. Sheep and cattle also died along the same wind axis, some as far away as 50 km. Anthrax also reared its head shortly after the 9/11 attacks in the United States. A strange white powder was concealed in the mail system that was later confirmed as weapons grade anthrax – as a result several people became contaminated and some even died. However, even anthrax slips into insignificance when compared to diseases such as smallpox.



◀ The effectiveness of explosive sabotage fades into insignificance when compared to bio-terrorism.

Smallpox is caused by a virus spread from person to person; those infected develop a characteristic fever and rash. After an incubation period of ten to 12 days, the patient has high fever and pain. Then a rash begins, with small papules developing into pustules on days seven to eight and finally changing to scabs around day 12. Between 25 and 30 per cent of all unvaccinated patients die of the disease. The terrorist potential of aerosolized smallpox is demonstrated by the outbreak in Germany in 1970. A German who had been working in Pakistan became ill with high fever and diarrhoea. He was admitted to a local hospital on the 11 January where he was isolated due to the fact that they thought he might have typhoid fever. Three days later, a rash appeared and by 16 January he was diagnosed with smallpox. He was immediately transported to one of Germany's special isolation hospitals, and more than 100,000 persons were swiftly vaccinated. However, the smallpox patient had had a cough and the coughing acted as a large-volume, small-particle aerosol. Consequently, 19 cases of smallpox occurred in the hospital – resulting in the death of one of the cases.

Two years later, in February 1972, a similar outbreak went undetected in the former country of Yugoslavia. It was four weeks before a correct diagnosis was discovered, by which time the original carrier had already died. Twenty million people were vaccinated. Some 10,000 people spent several weeks in isolation, while neighbouring countries closed their borders. By the time the situation was under control, 175 patients had contracted smallpox, and 35 had died.

CHAPTER 8

When working in a hostile environment,
a spy may need to live by one basic law:
kill or be killed.