
Richard Gonzalez

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Richard Gonzalez*

This book deals with the protection of landward facilities against terrorist attacks. The authors approach the issue of protection mostly from a preventive approach, spending much of their time discussing planning and vulnerability assessments. Unfortunately, the information in this book is now somewhat dated, especially after the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. The book does succeed in providing a clear, and to the point, overview of the security planning process, useful to any person preparing a basic security plan for a landward facility (i.e. non-vessels).

Not surprisingly, the authors' claim that incidents of international terrorism have decreased in the past years. (p. 3). Such statement demonstrates the datedness of this book, especially in view of the more recent terrorist incidents taking place (i.e. World Trade Center, Anthrax, Shoe bomber, etc.). Nonetheless, their discussion of terrorist objectives (i.e. recognition, coercion, intimidation, provocation, and insurgency support), organization, tactics, etc. is very interesting and informative. (p. 17-29).

This book also provides very comprehensive and complete guidance as to how to conduct facility security surveys; their need, objectives, planning process, and elements. The authors correctly note that a properly prepared security survey, in the wrong hands, will be a liability for any facility. (p. 42). The survey checklists provided in this book, as guidance, are excellent tools for anyone preparing or evaluating security of any facility. (p. 55-67).

Very few publications/articles recognize hospitals and educational institutions as terrorist targets. In this book, Jane's points out that these types of facilities are very susceptible to terrorist attacks, and outlines means for reducing their vulnerability as terrorist targets. The authors' approach is enlightening, while at the same time being a little

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disturbing. It is difficult to rationally believe that anyone would attack a hospital or a school, in order to advance his or her means or ideology. However, prior to 9-11, few people would have thought of using commercial aircrafts to destroy buildings. Jane’s guidance in this book will be very useful for anyone planning security or response relating to these types of facilities.

The rest of this book is dedicated to planning security measures to address the more traditional terrorist targets, namely trains, buses, airport terminals, utility companies, etc. Security planners and response personnel dealing with these more traditional terrorist targets will find this book very useful.

Overall, Jane’s have produced a very comprehensive and interesting book dealing with overall Facility Security. Their approach is more “hands-on”, and serves more as a planning guide, than just discussing the issue in an academic book. Anyone interested in security, even non-planners, will benefit from reviewing this book. And, those wanting a quick read on terrorist organizations, structures, motives, etc. will also find this book interesting. This book is easy to read, clearly written, and very user-friendly. This is a good reference book, and is highly recommended for anyone involved in the security planning, prevention, and improvement of overall facility security.