

## AusSMC Media Briefing on the Science of Terrorism (21 Aug 06)

### Abstract

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Robert describes himself as a terrorism 'one-stop-shop'. He is a consultant in risk, intelligence, and crisis and emergency management. He has recently been invited to speak at the Counter Terrorist Summit organised by the AFR in Melbourne in October.

Robert will be discussing:

- **The UK Terrorist plot and the terrorist threat to Australia**
- **What makes a terrorist tick?** Success - from the terrorist perspective, it is almost always guaranteed due to disruption and inconveniencing the target population
- **How can one become a terrorist?** Sadly, any of us could move into behaviour that is terrorist in nature under the "right" conditions.
- **Reducing terrorist activity.** Two non-simple solutions: Either reduce the factors underlying impulse to terrorist actions or make the terrorist action not worth the undertaking.
- **What do we as the public need to do?**  
Realise that terror actions are media vivid but actually unlikely to ever directly impact on each and every one of us.  
  
Be more realistic about our expectations about what can be done by our governments and communities and ultimately by ourselves.  
  
Employ some simple, practical ways in which we as individuals, organisations communities and as a public can make ourselves safer
- **Home grown terrorists in Australia?**
- **The Nuclear terrorist threat**
- **Does Australia have the resources to keep us safe** or are we likely to find ourselves 'on our own'?

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