What Will Keep Me Up at Night:
Evolving Terrorist Threats and Implications for Prehospital Providers

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In 2005 after Madrid and London bombings the multisite multi modal terrorist attacks plan kept me awake ...

13 November 2015 the Camembert plan worked well...

3 more scenarios that will keep us up tonight
Beslan school
2004

- North Ossetia
- School party
- More than 1000 hostages

- Assault by army special forces
- 186 young children killed
- 150 others injured
Pediatric mass casualties

• Many pediatric victims requiring emergency surgery
• Specific triage and prehospital care
• Special pediatric plan
  – Pediatric facilities are limited
  – Inter hospital transports
  – Mobilization of all the resources
  – Back up of adult hospitals by pediatric teams
• In Paris AMAVI PED: A regional evacuation and care plan
Gas released by Police to neutralize terrorists
170 hostages killed by asphyxiation 700 injured
The “gas chamber” scenario

• Release of toxic gaz (chlorine) in a confined space: theater, shopping mall...
• Mass intoxication with acute asphyxia
• How to provide respiratory care to hundreds of victims suffocating at the same time?
  – Mouth to mouth impossible
• A challenge for prehospital and hospital care
• In Paris: the “rescue breathing plan”
“Zombi attack” scenario
The “Zombi attack” scenario

• Spreading of a small amount of nerve gas (sarin) or NR
• Few dead on scene but many symptomatic victims
• A huge panic within a contaminated and contaminating crowd
• Fleeing the site and rushing on the rescue teams any nearby hospitals
The “Zombi attack” scenario

• On scene: Not enough time
  – to protect the EMS teams
  – to decontaminate victims

• In hospitals:
  – ER overwhelmed by contaminated victims
  – Panic effect leading to irrational reactions of victims and care givers

• In Paris:
  – The “Damage control decontamination” plan
Everyday chemical terrorist attacks in Syria

- Chlorine
- Sarin
- Mustard gaz

Syria’s chemical weapons

The White House said for the first time that it has some evidence that Syria has used chemical weapons in its civil war. A look at Syria’s chemical weapons facilities:

- Production sites
- Storage sites
- Missile production
- Launch sites

- Chlorine
- Sarin
- Mustard gaz

Isopropyl alcohol (rubbing alcohol) or isopropylamine, a nonlethal chemical

Artillery shells for delivering the toxic chemical sarin were common in Cold War armies until a 1992 treaty banned them; Iraq also had them.

Methylphosphonyldifluoride, nonlethal precursor

- When mixed by the detonation of an explosive charge, lethal sarin is produced

Sarin and its effects

Colorless, odorless, dispersed as droplets or mist; runny nose, lung congestion, tightness in chest, dimming of vision, drooling, excessive perspiration, nausea, muscle tremors, coma, death

Terrorism is not a natural or technological disaster

Terrorists have a strategy with precise targets to
- injure, kill
- spread fear and panic

Impossible scenarios?
We must prepare to be surprised!