

SUICIDE BOMBER TAKEDOWN

⊕ The second Arab uprising or intifada was a very tense time in Israel. On average, there were two bombings per week, and 50 attempts per day. Albert Timen was in charge of a small security and interdiction unit to prevent attacks and had already seen 18 to 20 incidents. Good information was vital to preventing most attacks, and intelligence gathering was part of the unit's mission.

MISSION BRIEFING: The unit that Albert headed up was on alert for bombers in their area of operations. They received a tip that a bomber had crossed from the West Bank into Israel to collect a suicide belt from a local bomb maker. The team was briefed that the bomber would be driven by taxi to a nightclub/disco in Haifa, and that the taxi



Ken MeeSwan Illustration

driver was an accomplice. They also knew the bomber had made his goodbye video to his family. Suicide bombers are assigned a handler who brainwashes them into the suicide bomber mindset by telling them their family will have an elevated social status, and that the bomber will have his reward of 72 virgins.

PLAN OF ACTION: Israeli security set up surveillance on the bomb maker. Albert's team was assigned to arrest the bomber. They had to wait until he had picked up the suicide belt so that they would have evidence to arrest him. The surveillance team watched the bomber enter the area where the belt was left for him, but had to relocate to avoid being detected. They lost track of the bomber, and couldn't be sure if he had the vest. The decision was made to set up an ambush at a location on the route from the bomb maker to the target. It had to be a location where collateral damage and injuries would be kept to a minimum if the bomb went off.

THE ARREST: Security forces along the route quietly slowed down the flow of traffic to give the arresting team time to get into position. Albert was in a car 50 yards behind the target vehicle, which had become stuck in traffic. He knew the bomber was in the left side backseat of the taxi and that the windows were up. If they waited too long, the bomber would become suspicious and may detonate the

bomb. Albert made the decision to arrest the man. He left his car and sprinted to the taxi, running up to the left rear door. Albert smashed the window, leaned inside the vehicle, and grabbed the man's hand. He snapped the bomber's fingers and dragged the man out of the taxi and proned him out on the pavement rendering him unconscious. After taking control of the man, Albert saw the suicide bomber's vest of 12 pounds of military grade TNT, studded with steel ball bearings. A wire ran from the detonator to a switch taped to the inside of the man's wrist.

MANY LIVES SAVED: When I interviewed Albert Timen he told me the arrest was, "One of the most important things that I could accomplish in my life. Lucky for me, when I broke the window his mental processes shut down. It gave me those precious seconds to act before he could operate the switch... We take our training seriously. We cannot repeat our mistakes, as in these types of situations you only have one chance. Real people paid with real blood to teach us those lessons."

REAL-WORLD ROOTS

Point shooting has its roots in the street work and officer training conducted by British police officers W.E. Fairbairn and E.A. Sykes while officers of the Shanghai, China police force between World Wars I and II. In a 12-year period, the department accounted for 260 street thugs killed and 193 wounded—and that is just the shootings with pistols!

ICPS is Albert Timen's updated version of the Israeli method of combat point shooting and is based on his personal experiences in Israel using the method in live CQC/CQB circumstances. It isn't a theoretical system because, like Fairbairn and Sykes, he has used it in live gunfights and he's still around to tell about it. Fairbairn and Sykes fought in dark alleys at close distances. They developed and taught a system based on

pistol in condition three (full magazine, hammer down on an empty chamber). "Often, people overlook the need to understand context," Albert Timen explained to me. When Israel was still a fledgling nation it procured arms from any source it could. Consequently, many different firearms of varying condition and quality were fielded, often with minimal training. In an effort to standardize procedures, all semi-auto pistols, regardless of design, were carried in condition three. Today, Israel still fields various firearms with different operating systems from Glock to Browning Hi Power, Beretta and more.

There is another reason the Israelis keep condition three as a carry condition in certain parts of the security forces and police. In Israel a lot of police officers get attacked. Walking through a crowd is a very real danger for uniformed cops, and terrorists have taken the officer's gun out of the holster and then killed the officer with it. Here in the USA, many holsters have a built-in retention device that is incorporated into training. In Israel, they adapt training and methods to the equipment. They carry in condition three so that the officer has a moment or two to recover the pistol while the bad guy



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