

Mumbai Combined Arms Operation

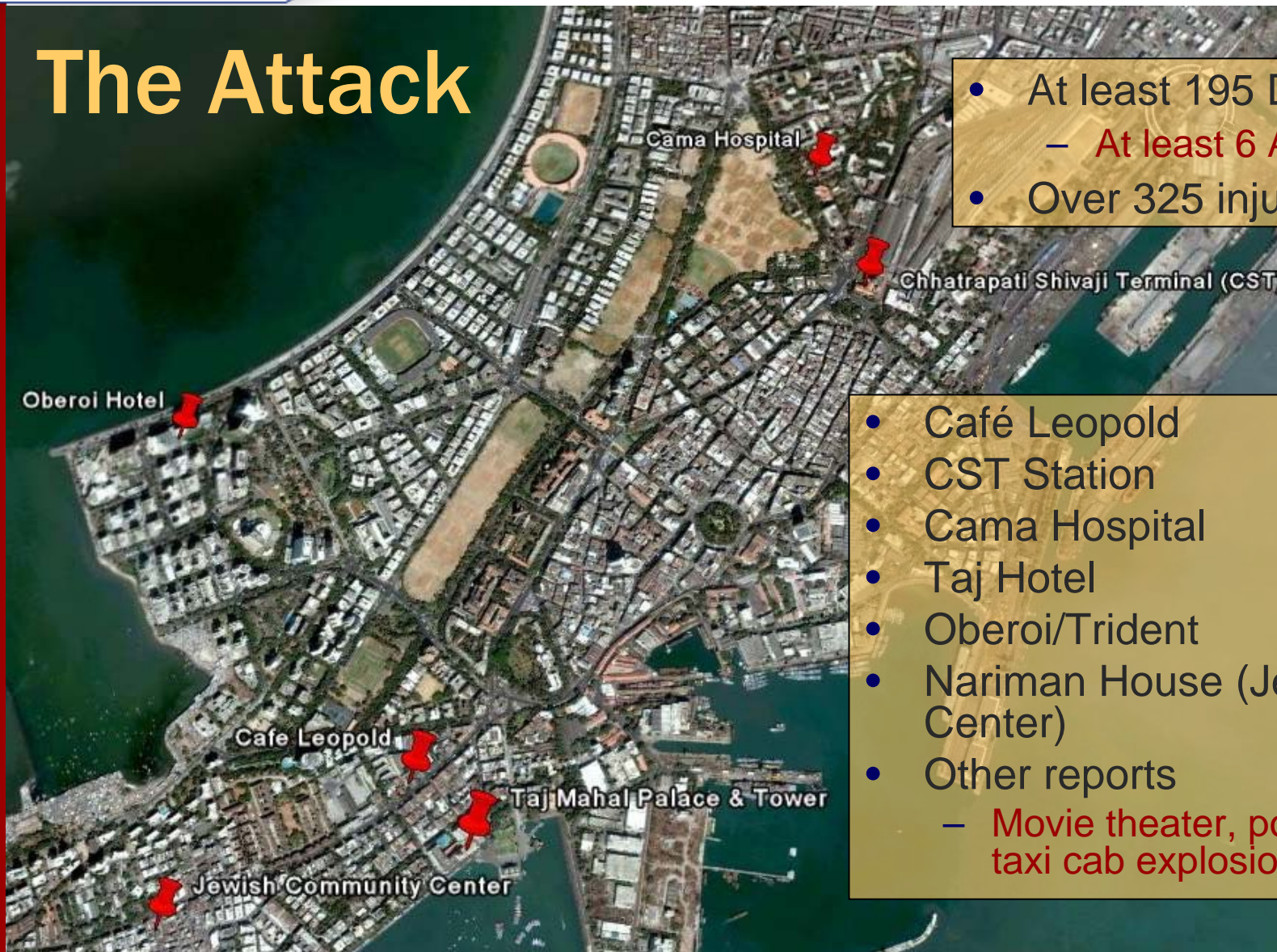
November 26-28, 2008

(Report Current as of December 1)

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The Attack



- At least 195 Dead
 - At least 6 Americans
- Over 325 injured

- Café Leopold
- CST Station
- Cama Hospital
- Taj Hotel
- Oberoi/Trident
- Nariman House (Jewish Center)
- Other reports
 - Movie theater, police station, taxi cab explosions

Tactics – Entering City

- 10-man team chartered the MV Alpha cargo ship out of Karachi (506nm from Mumbai)
- To avoid detection by Indian Coast Guard, hijacked a fishing trawler
- Inflatable rafts carried teams to India Gateway and/or Badhwar Park at 9 p.m. local
- 4 teams split off

Badhwar Park



India Gateway (note Taj in background)



Tactics – Continued

- Tactic 1: Hit and run
 - Terrorists quickly attacked with AK-47s, grenades
 - Taxis taken to destination
 - Grenades left inside after exiting
 - Aimed at large groups
 - Retreated from security, moved on to other targets
 - **Used at Cama hospital, CST, and Café Leopold**
- Tactic 2: Seize and hold
 - Terrorists gained entry and immediately started indiscriminate firing
 - Hostages taken
 - It appears that most were killed outright in short time
 - Used knowledge of facility layout to advantage
 - Established strong-points to defend against security
 - **Used at Oberoi/Trident, Taj, Nariman House**



Tactics – Hit and Run



- **Indiscriminate firing and grenade lobbing**
 - Main hall of the CST terminal targeted (pictured)
- **Terrorist team at CST retreated from security response**
 - Stole a police van that had responded to the CST
 - Continued on to hit Cama Hospital and a theater as a “drive-by” as police pursued
- **DIVERSION?**
 - Created panic and confusion while teams move into the hotels and the Jewish center

"All of a sudden, there was automatic gunfire. The whole place fell apart. It was tremendously loud. My husband and I were hit, as were lots of people. Everybody was down on the ground. The gunfire stopped for a few seconds then started again. We had to wait – it seemed like an age – for police to arrive." – Café Leopold survivor

Tactics – Seize and Hold



Image of attacker from CST

- Attackers came through back entrances and shot indiscriminately
 - AK47s, grenades, reports of presence of RDX
- Rounded up hostages to take to defensible locations
 - Some reports indicate that hostages were quickly executed
- Room-to-room battles with security forces
- Police: Attackers very familiar with layout
 - May have checked into rooms prior to get lay of land
 - May have pre-positioned supplies and weapons in rented rooms

Tactics - Analysis



- This style of frontal attack and assault designed for maximum casualties seen before
 - Serena Hotel attack in Kabul (large picture)
 - Virginia Tech attack (far left)
 - Indian Parliament attack Dec. 2001
- Soft targeting not new
- Innovative amphibious infiltration

Targets – Anti-Western?

- Five-star hotels that cater to international businesses (Taj, Oberoi/Trident)
- Popular restaurant for backpackers and Western travelers (Café Leopold)
- Jewish community compound
- Still, at least 138 of deaths were Indian
 - CST mostly Indian



UK AND US PASSPORT HOLDERS REPORTEDLY TARGETED, BUT SOME REPORTS CONTRADICT

Ajmal Amir Kasab

- Only attacker to be captured
- Trained by Lashkar-e-Tayyiba according to press reports
 - Camps located in Mansera and Muzzarafabad in Pakistani administered Kashmir
- One year focusing on small arms tactics, marine assault, close quarter fighting Team of 10 given false identifications
- Reconnaissance done earlier in the year
- Fellow team members spoke Punjabi
 - Likely Pakistani origin as well
- Booked a room and stocked with supplies days in advance with a Mauritius ID
 - Unclear if he did this and then went to back to Pakistan

Lashkar-e-Tayyiba

- Lashkar-e-Tayyiba (linked to al-Qa'ida and Pakistani terror groups) has history of offering training, money, supplies, etc. for front groups
- Suspected of conducting Mumbai subway bombings on July 11, 2006
- Implicated in armed assault on Indian parliament Dec. 13, 2001
 - **Similar small arms assault**



LeT recruiting poster

Lashkar-e-Tayyiba: Motives



Hindu rioter in Gujarat, 2002

- Terror attacks in India typically aim to incite Hindu violence against Indian Muslims
- Aim for a repeat of Gujarat riots of 2002, which swelled Islamic militant ranks with angry recruits
- While Westerners were targeted, most of those dead were locals

Government Response



- Police blocked all roads and prevented travelers from leaving airports
- Surrounded the Taj Hotel, the Oberoi/Trident, and the Nariman house
- Army brought in to clear the hotels/houses room-by-room, floor-by-floor
- Cautious approach taken due to fear of injuring hostages, many people hiding in rooms.
- Security elevated nationwide, including at tourist sites, transportation hubs, beaches, etc.
- U.S. Government: “Americans should defer travel to Mumbai for at least 48-72 hours”

Private Sector Response

- **U.S. Hotel Response**
 - Locked down properties in Mumbai
 - Physically blocked vehicle entrances in order to intercept all taxis, delivery trucks, and public vehicles
 - Security managers had employees shelter in place and inspected properties for possible latent threats
 - Most U.S. hotels have put their assets throughout India on high security alert and implemented similar security postures as in Mumbai
- **Other U.S. private sector response**
 - Followed similar security plans
 - Most have shut down facilities in Mumbai until the situation stabilizes
 - Some constituents with large expatriate populations implemented mandatory check-in times for employees to call headquarters
 - At least one OSAC constituent ordered employees to evacuate Mumbai and move into residential areas outside the city

Recent Major Terror Attacks in India

- **March 13, 2003** - A bomb attack on a commuter train in Mumbai killed 11 people; Mumbai commuter train bomb killed 11
- **Aug. 25, 2003** - Mumbai car bomb killed 60
- **Oct. 29, 2005** - Three New Delhi market blasts killed 66
- **March 7, 2006** - Three blasts in Varanasi killed 15
- **July 11, 2006** - 180+ people killed after seven bombs exploded in railway stations and trains in Mumbai
- **Sept. 8, 2006** - 32 people killed in serial blasts in Malegaon
- **Feb. 19, 2007** - 66 train passengers killed after two bombs exploded on a route between India and Pakistan
- **May 18, 2007** - 11 worshippers at a mosque killed by a bomb explosion in Hyderabad
- **Aug. 25, 2007** - Three serial blasts at a road-side stand and amusement park killed 40 in Hyderabad.
- **May 13, 2008** - Seven bombs in Jaipur, outside of Hindu temples and markets killed 63
- **July 25, 2008** - One killed and 15 wounded after eight small bombs exploded in Bangalore
- **July 26, 2008** - 45 people killed and more than 150 wounded after 16 small IEDs exploded in Ahmedabad.
- **Sept. 13, 2008** - Five bombs in New Delhi killed 18

All India OSAC Country Council Meeting

- 13th Annual General Meeting of the India Country Council
- December 8, 2008 in New Delhi
- Log-on to www.osac.gov for more information on time and place and to register

Topics to be discussed include:

- International terror trends
- Security situation update
- Document fraud trends
- Corporate security



For Further Information

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Reports:

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- [INDIA 2008 CRIME & SAFETY REPORT: MUMBAI](#)
- [SERENA HOTEL ATTACK REPORT](#)

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