
The New Face of Risk.

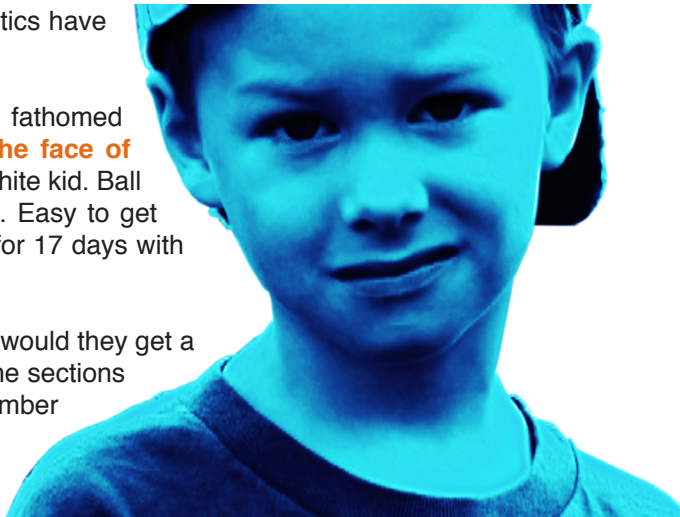
“...IS SCARIER THAN THE OLD FACE,
because the old face is the one you’ve already seen.”

The new face of risk will be more terrifying. That’s the name of the game for those who perpetrate war using terror tactics. It will not be something we’ve seen before. It will not be something we are planning for. It will not be something we expect. The new face of risk will not be wearing an AK-47 across his shoulders, he will not be unshaven and he will not be shouting “God is good” as he blows himself to bits in our local mall. These tactics have been tried, have succeeded, and frankly, our adversaries understand that the shock factor of these tactics have numbed us into expecting this type of attack.

No. The new face of risk is where we have fathomed the unthinkable; **The new face of risk is the face of risk that we cannot except as risk at all.** White kid. Ball cap. Wise smile. Easy to get past the TSA. Easy to get through customs. British passport. Infected for 17 days with weaponized small-pox. Body as weapon.

And maybe you’re saying to yourself, “where would they get a kid like this?” Flip back a few pages- read the sections on world poverty and inequality, look at the number of global refugees.

So if we’re basing our risk assessments on the probable and not the possible, are we really addressing risk at all? If we can’t look the new face of risk in the eye and accept that maybe, just *maybe* the new face of risk will look like the kid next-door, then we shouldn’t be writing disaster recovery and business continuity plans for anyone. **It all comes down to this:** To be really good in this profession we have to go beyond the probable and search for possible clues to an unforeseen future in which the plans that we create will protect the infrastructure, systems, people and communities we love.



“The next Jihadist will be a disenfranchised white kid who learned how to make a **fertiliser bomb** in Afghanistan.”
- Kevin Burton
as quoted in GQ Magazine Aug/Sept 08

The Commission on the Prevention of WMD Proliferation and Terrorism, who assess the nations current activities, initiatives and programs aimed at preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and terrorism while providing a clear, comprehensive strategy with concrete recommendations to achieve this crucial goal, announced the following:

1. NBC likely before 2013
 2. “Margin of safety is shrinking, not growing.”
 3. The commission is also encouraging the new White House to appoint one official on the National Security Council to exclusively coordinate U.S. intelligence and foreign policy on combating the spread of nuclear and biological weapons.
 4. The commission believes biological weapons are more likely to be obtained and used before nuclear or radioactive weapons because nuclear facilities are more carefully guarded.
 5. “The biological threat is greater than the nuclear; the acquisition of deadly pathogens, and their weaponization and dissemination in aerosol form, would entail fewer technical hurdles than the theft or production of weapons-grade uranium or plutonium and its assembly into an improvised nuclear device,” states the report.
 6. Al-Qaida remains the only terrorist group judged to be actively intent on conducting a nuclear attack against the United States, the report notes.
 7. The report says the potential nexus of terrorism, nuclear and biological weapons is especially acute in Pakistan.
 8. “Were one to map terrorism and weapons of mass destruction today, all roads would intersect in Pakistan,” the report states.
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Re:Think...

terror. The whole point of terror is to terrify. Are we thinking ahead in the game or just repeating stereotypes? Who will we be looking for when the next attack happens?

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