



Public Building Security

Public building security continues to be a major problem for anyone involved in securing our public buildings and infrastructure.

Buildings such as airports, ports, hotels, government offices, police stations etc. are seen by the terrorist as high value soft targets. The terrorist knows that because of the nature of these buildings and their usage, it's not possible to make them totally secure, so they are always at risk!

So the challenge is not to eliminate risk but to manage it. That is, to allow the lawful movement of people, vehicles, goods and services, whilst reducing the risk of the terrorist using that same freedom to mount some form of attack.

Where vehicles have direct access to public buildings it poses an even higher risk, because the vehicle bomb is the weapon of choice of the modern international terrorist.

Why? Because a vehicle allows the terrorist to drive a large quantity of explosives direct to the target. This means less time on target and therefore less time for security personnel to identify the perpetrators or the risk. The vehicle can be driven at speed if necessary to crash conventional barriers, cordons, etc.

Acquisition of both vehicle and explosives are less likely to attract the attention of the security forces during the planning and preparation stage of the terrorist operation, which may be hundreds of miles from the intended target.





Truck bombs in particular have key benefits to the terrorist; the larger load capacity means they are able to use less sophisticated explosives, like the infamous fertiliser bomb, the key component of which is cheap, readily available and less traceable than other explosives.

Truck bombs can either be used as a 'parked bomb' or as a 'suicide bomb'. Either way, they are used to devastating effect almost weekly in terrorist hotspots around the world and even here in the UK, as when a 4 x 4 vehicle packed with explosives was driven into the Terminal Building at Glasgow's Prestwick Airport. Luckily on that occasion no one, other than the perpetrators, were injured. It could so easily have been a different story.

So how does the security officer allow as much free movement of people and vehicles as

possible but still be able to respond to raised threat or risk levels quickly and effectively?

To do this it is necessary to have a variety of flexible tools available to respond to the different threat levels.

One such tool is a product called DefenCell, it is a rapidly deployable temporary vehicle barrier and blast wall designed by UK companies J & S Franklin and Terram.

DefenCell is made of a geotextile material which, when stored lays flat, but when deployed opens out into a cellular or honeycomb shape, which gives it strength and structural integrity. Each cellular section is then filled with locally available aggregate type material, including sand, ballast or earth.

Additional layers of cells can be placed on top of one another and filled to create a barrier or wall to the required

height and length. In Afghanistan the British Army have used the system to create 1000m of walls or berms 4m high to protect vulnerable ammunition dumps. Once deployed and filled it is even strong enough for you to drive heavy vehicles like JCB's along the top of it.

DefenCell can also be used for temporary deployments and it can be used as a vehicle barrier on the key approaches to a building to slow and control traffic or directly outside a building as a vehicle and blast mitigation barrier. It is ideal for rapid deployment during times of raised threat levels but is also ideal for more medium term use when threat levels are uncertain but do not warrant more expensive permanent barriers.

DefenCell Profile is the latest version and is designed to provide discreet perimeter security in visually or environmentally sensitive locations. The cells are filled and the resultant berm is covered with earth and grass to provide a long term solution which will provide PAS 68 protection. DefenCell has been installed at Gatwick Airport in the UK for some time and other unspecified secure locations.

The deployment process is quick

and simple and requires minimal training. A small team using a small digger can do it in a matter of minutes – a 5m long barrier, 1.5m high can be deployed in less than an hour, but if necessary it can even be carried and deployed by a lone individual using nothing more than a shovel and a wheel-barrow. A similar size wall would take over 900 sandbags.

Once threat levels have again reduced, the barriers and walls can be quickly removed and the aggregate or ballast re-used elsewhere.

It terms of storage, a room with a floor space of only 10sqm with DefenCell stacked up to 2m high could hold enough DefenCell to build a wall 1.5m high x 1.35m wide x 500m long.

It also provides a number of significant logistical advantages over other comparable systems having up to 5 times less weight and transport volume and is man portable. DefenCell is non metallic, with no cages or hinges, so there is no risk of secondary shrapnel or communications interference.

Jeremy Milton of distributors J&S Franklin said, "DefenCell is ideal for the protection of public buildings because it combines strength and stopping power with simplicity, versatility, ease

and speed of deployment and a very low logistic footprint. The same system can be deployed in a wide variety of roles including flood barriers, force protection, construction and can be filled with locally and cheaply available materials such as sand or earth".

He goes on to say that "DefenCell has undergone crash and blast testing and is compliant to US Department of State K12 anti-ram certification, where it stopped a 15,000lb truck at 50mph with no penetration. It also successfully completed vehicle crash tests by the UK's Transport Research Laboratory, stopping a 7.5-ton truck as well as blast mitigation and ballistic tests with Advantica and HP White".

The latest development in the range is the Profile 300, which has been designed specifically for inconspicuous deployment at public buildings. It is ideally suited for use in environmentally and visually sensitive locations, where it can be easily grassed or planted, and quickly blends into the surroundings, whilst still providing a proven protection from terrorist attack and environmental threats.

Tony Kingham, Defence & Security Journalist



FREE SUBSCRIPTION

YOU CAN SUBSCRIBE TO
G2 DEFENCE ONLINE AT
WWW.G2DEFENCE.CO.UK

What is G2?

G2 is the staff appointment within NATO for officers who provide timely, relevant, accurate, and synchronized intelligence about the enemy from a wide range of sources and sensors for tactical, operational and strategic-level commanders.

The end of the Cold War and the changing character of the threat to national and international security has broadened the scope of intelligence. It is now a multi-agency function that embraces not only the Armed Forces, but Police and Customs and Immigration as well as national counter intelligence and terrorism organisations like MI5, and the FBI. Just as crucial are the intelligence collecting agencies like GCHG, the CIA and MI6 that can allow the plans and plots of hostile groups to be monitored and neutralised.

The threat is global – the terrorists who have targeted the United States and Europe had received their training in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Modern communications allow images, information and ideas to be transmitted in seconds around the world. Just as the threat is global – so too is the need for accurate and timely intelligence that is speedily disseminated.

What is G2 DEFENCE?

G2 DEFENCE addresses this multi-agency approach to intelligence gathering and counter-intelligence. While operational techniques remain classified, the magazine covers equipment, operations that are in the public domain and the strategic overview. It will be a useful supplement to the information available to the professional and give

the general reader an insight into a world that is both fascinating and little known.

Distribution

The magazine is in hard format for distribution at shows/exhibitions, those in intelligence and security, those agencies responsible for the homeland and borders security. The magazine is also distributed in a digital format and accessible by the internet. It offers benefits to readers, contributors and advertisers by enabling a product to be showcased using video, or a company's advertisement to be enhanced with a piece of music, jingle or narration.

- Ministers, Chiefs of Staff, Senior Officials, Procurement Teams,
- Defence Agencies, Home Office, Immigration, Customs and Excise, Police,
- Armed Forces, NATO – All G2 branches of NATO partners, Universities and think tanks, Defence Industry

Editorial

The editorial comes from a variety of sources including interviews with key people, articles written and submitted externally, articles produced internally and analysis from a wide range of specialists.

If you have any queries relating to editorial please contact the editor at editor@g2defence.co.uk

Advertising

The magazine is standard A4 (297mm X 210mm) and full colour throughout.

To discuss any advertising opportunities please contact the sales team at sales@g2defence.co.uk

