

# Shooting training of the CSI staff

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This article focuses on firearms training in the commercial security industry. The article is divided into three parts: in the first, the authors provide a description of firearms in the commercial security industry (hereinafter referred to as CSI). The second part presents and explores some general problems of training and orientation for the conditions of CSI. Analysis centres on target situations, types of targets, and the importance of stress and time elements. The final part of the article is aimed to the differences in the needs of the individual functions in the CSI and identifying common grounds with connecting elements, which are specific to each function in CSI.

*Keywords: the commercial security industry, firearms, targets, target situations*

## Introduction

Nowadays, more and more agencies providing protection of persons and property are forced to wear the defensive instruments, and also the strongest of them: the firearms. It is because of the increasingly aggressive behaviour of thieves and muggers. Actions that proved sufficient are now useless.

If we look at the conflict between the commercial security industry workers (CSI) and the offender, we can say that every CSI staff will be in a less favourable situation than the perpetrator. This is so for several reasons. These include self-preservation, when the CSI staffs have no interest in dying for client property, but the main reason is that the CSI staff must obey the law while providing protection. These of course the offender does not follow.

It is therefore necessary for the CSI staff working in this high-risk environment to have adequate means to prevent the attack. The most common are self defence tools which have the disadvantage of short



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distance action. Also the application of certain defence tools is limited by environment, such as the use of aerosol spray in the room.

Use of firearm then presents psychological advantage, when its mere presence can resolve or avert conflict situation. But the ability of carrying a firearm requires a comprehensive training and then subsequent repetition and retraining. The main disadvantages are the need to carry weapons concealed or the fact that CSI staff only has the same competence as an ordinary citizen. The firearm can be big advantage, but it also requires a high degree of responsibility and self-control.

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### Professions with option to carry firearm

Spread of Firearms in the commercial security industry is very low, since most jobs do not require a gun, and if so, it is only in exceptional cases. The other professions requiring the carrying of firearm can be divided according to how often the CSI staff wears them.

For professions that require carrying firearms only in exceptional situations, we need more intensive training. It is because of the lack of skills due to minimum time of carrying firearm and also for prevention of accidents.

### *Professions with firearm usage on daily basis*

These professions require firearm carrying on daily basis. The presence of weapons is here because of the great material or moral responsibility.

Bodyguard - the bodyguard usually wears two guns, the main and backup, when both arms are worn covertly. For this reason, there are preferred compact weapons that are smaller than standard models. The backup arm need to be small due to for example concealed carry on ankle case. Usually the subcompact smaller calibre weapons are used. Firearm can be used in situations in which the protected person or the bodyguard are attacked. The used of firearms then subject to section 29 of the required defence. At this stage, the most important thing is training and experience of defender. An important factor is the speed with which the defender is able to evaluate the possibility of an attack. These reactions may be improved by tactical exercises, training to deal with situations that may occur, gun handling, shooting and of course practice and experience.

Transporting money and valuables - This profession belongs to one of the riskiest in the CSI. Crew comprises three members, two of them armed – the protector and the courier. Weapons of standard size are used. The emphasis is mainly on stopping power, magazine capacity and comfortable wearing and also the immediate availability to draw the firearm. As an additional protection CSI staff used bullet-proof vests. They are strained by high demands on the professional competence and training. The course must be adapted to their needs, i.e. the priority is the training techniques of shooting in a car and its immediate surroundings. However, this increases the price of the services; it is often the case that due to cost reduction ordinary workers without the necessary training are employed.

Task Force – Task force crews are most often used in situations where the protected object is attacked. In combination with electronic security alarm, which is connected to the ARC, the task force team can respond flexibly and catch the perpetrator in the crime action. In this situation they may arrest him using a firearm, which is intended solely as a deterrent.

### *Professions with rare firearm usage*

CSI staff in this category carry firearms irregularly, decisions of the presence of firearms depends on the severity of the contract or the personal discretion of the CSI staff.

Private Detective - Detective operates primarily covertly. For this reason, it is a minimal chance of a situation where he had to use his weapon. This profession does not put special needs and training requirements on the gun owner. The weapon is a rather personal matter.

Guarding of buildings - Main activities of these workers is to protect the trust property against intrusion, theft, or vandalism. Whether the security staff has, or does not have weapon is mostly due to the value or importance of the protected object. The advantage of the firearm is the speed of response and its effect against unwanted persons. CSI staff can threaten with firearm or defend himself more effectively from a safer distance than by using for example a telescopic baton.

Couriers - Transport not only goods but also people. The presence of weapons is again given by the importance of transported property or person. High level of importance has the transport strategy, selection of track and so on. For couriers it is crucial the tactical firearm training in car.

## Professions with no need to carry firearm

This sector includes work as a detective in the supermarket, PCO staff, housekeeping, receptionists, etc. These activities have no reason to carry firearms at work.

The need to carry a weapon while on duty is questionable matter in the CSI environment. Since the guard cannot carry this weapon visible, the gun will not help him to initially deter potential offenders. In addition, the use of weapons is strictly limited by laws and shall be allowed only in cases of self-defence, arrest and sometimes in extreme danger.

But criminals do not respect the rules and laws and CSI staff must remember this fact. Similarly, you can use weapons as a deterrent, which can avert the attack of a larger group of attackers. When often simply a demonstration or show of force is enough to effectively protect the entrusted property, CSI staff must arouse respect and power that can discourage the attack.

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## Types of firearms spread in CSI and their psychological impact

Every CSI staff whether wearing a uniform or not is only a citizen of the Czech Republic who does not possess the power of a public official and therefore must comply with all the rights and obligations of ordinary citizens. The same applies to the carrying of weapons by CSI staff. Furthermore as has been said the CSI staff must carry a concealed weapon and cannot have automatic weapons. Therefore, in the commercial security industry we meet primarily with pistols and revolvers.

### *Pistols*

The typical feature for pistol is a movable slide and stack stored in the handle. For action it uses the energy of combustion of powder charge cartridges. Before the first shot, the slide must be manually pulled back. Return spring it then returns to its original position and at this step the first round is picked from the tray into the chamber. At the same time the firing mechanism and trigger mechanism is loaded. During fire the empty shell is pushing on the slide which moves backwards and this step takes the empty cartridge out of the gun. Forward movement is ensured by a return spring and the ammunition is re-charged into the chamber and the trigger mechanism and firing mechanism are loaded.<sup>8</sup>

## *Revolver*

Revolvers are characterized by a cylinder with chambers for bullets rotating around its own axis. Rotation of the cylinder by one position is caused by mechanical force of the shooter – by pushing the spring in the hammer by either stretching thumb pressure on the hammer or the pressure on the trigger. The chambers of cylinder, one after the other level with the barrel and play the role of the chamber. After firing, the cartridge remains in the cylinder.

According to the design of the striking and trigger mechanism revolvers are divided into:

SINGLE (single action - SA)

DOUBLE (double action - DA)

Only with trigger tension (double action only - DAO)

For single-action revolvers, the shooter must stretch the hammer before each shot as the hammer remains in the rear position. Simultaneously, the cylinder rotates in order to join the barrel to the following chamber. Widespread type is the double-action revolvers that allow use of both single-action system and trigger tension. Here the stretching of the hammer is happening in the first phase of the pressing of the trigger. There is a need to develop a much greater strength than in the single-action system. The hammer is moved to the rearmost position, while the drum rotates. The hammer does not stay in the rear position, but its movement is returned and the shot occurs (second stage of the trigger pressing). For the next shot it is needed to release the trigger to the starting position.<sup>8</sup>

## *Psychological impact*

The presence of weapons has a big psychological impact on both the defender and the attacker and can dramatically change the entire course of the conflict. By showing the firearm and by potential threat the defender can discourage the attack even of a larger group of aggressors. It is however necessary that the defender stays confident, keeps a cool head and does not let himself being provoked into uncontrolled action. Therefore, it is necessary to undergo training with the weapon so the gun will be his advantage and not his disadvantage. Anyone who has ever held a gun in his hand knows how it feels and how the confidence of the person rises. Self-confidence is a crucial element in self-defence situation, and it decides the outcome by eighty percent. Firearm in this

regard has a great effect on the psychic on both sides of the conflict. For defender the firearm is an encouraging element and on the contrary for the attacker its presence is a compelling reason for retreat.<sup>6</sup>

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## Target situations for firearm training

There is a plethora of training method. Each company and instructor has its methods, its procedures and emphasis on different details. But all use the same Target devices, and compile a similar target situation that the shooters have to deal with.

When talking about the target situation, it means the placement of targets during the exercise. Whether it is shooting at one target or multiple targets and they are placed according to the needs of the exercise. Target situations are the basis of any stay at the shooting range, whether in training, competition or free recreational shooting.

### *Static target situation*

The concept of static target situation is based on the static position of the shooter. The shooter can be asked to shoot at any number of targets, but he shoots from one place without moving. This is a simple shooting as the shooter does not have to think about the movement and about safety features while moving with weapon.

### *Dynamic target situation*

Dynamic situation requires the shooter to change his positions during shooting. In the initial position the shooter cannot see all targets, therefore, following the completion of visible targets the shooter has to move to a new position from which he can continue shooting at the hidden targets. This situation a bit more challenging and requires a higher level of shooter experience because he has to move and think not only on shooting but also on the safety of the movement.<sup>10</sup>

## Types of target device

The basis for each target device is the target itself. For the purpose of quality training it is not possible to use only one type of target, but it is necessary to use multiple types of targets according to the require-

ments and focus of the training. Sport shooters will be satisfied with standard pistol target, but the CSI staff needs to simulate during the training the most realistic conditions that he can meet while carrying out his profession.

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4/2014 In today's market we have a choice of many types of paper targets in random colour variations. The basic division of paper targets is on black and photo-targets.

Another type of target is the popper. It is a foldable metal target, which may have any shape. For this target is not evaluated place of hit, but only hit. It is mostly used for the practice of rapid fire.

### Basic types of target

The basic types of targets are international pistol target, zone target and metal folding targets – poppers. On these targets then are based all kinds and variations of targets used in various shootings, or training.

#### *International pistol target 50/20*

This is a classic pistol target representing the basic type of target that assesses the precision of the shooting at the centre. [1] This target is suitable for classic sports shooting and basic understanding of the gunfire.

#### *Zone target*

This target is divided into hit zones Alpha, Charlie and Delta. It is used for training of faster firing when there is no need to aim at a small target point, but just hit the zone. This type of target is the basis for the photo-targets and silhouette targets

#### *Metal foldable targets – poppers*

These are metal silhouette of figures, or parts of them, that will fall to the ground after being hit. For these targets it is not evaluated the place of hit. They are used for training fast shooting where it is necessary only to hit the target.

## Follow-up targets

These targets are based on the basic types and are always made for specific purpose of the training. The basic principle is still the same: to hit centre, zones, or fold targets.

### *Tactical target series*

These targets already have the photo-image of the possible offender. The key effort in the development of these targets is to maximize the experience of real engagement and they are used just for training shooters who need to learn to shoot a man. These targets have the ability to change the target so that the shooter has to first assess whether it is the offender or civilian. This series, however, are based on the basic zone target.

The criteria for the realization of this series have become:

1. colour and the most realistic appearance
2. Two scoring zones, vital centre “lethal hit” and marginal “hurtful”. Apart from these it was necessary to mark the “no-point border”, the area where the hit may mean a scratch, but not significant impulse to stop the opponent
3. Lines dividing zones. These lines should be hard to see from greater distance as they are meant only for final result assessment.
4. Anatomically rendered diagram of internal organs that gives at least a rough idea of effectiveness of hit according to its current location.
5. blurred “smears” background that would not “shine” at night or twilight and allows effective “night” training, in addition it does not create a clear outline of the figure in the terrain or from a distance.<sup>2</sup>

### *“Hostage and offender” targets*

They are used for practice shooting against a partly shrouded target. It is therefore a situation where the opponent is partially obstructed in his position. A variant of such target can also be an opponent overlaid or hiding behind a hostage. The usage of different types of targets again varies by the requirements of training. For the base training with a firearm the most basic types of targets are suitable as they serve to better understand the principles of shooting and aiming. The advanced

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training would use rather the photo-targets that are more challenging the perception of the shooter.<sup>7</sup>

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## Evaluation methods

Different types of targets are the result of different needs in training. Because of the diversity in types of basic targets, we need different evaluation methods for different types of targets.

### *Classic target*

The classic pistol target is evaluated by the sum of all the numbers hit. The closer is the hit to the middle, the higher is the number. Achieved sum is then divided by the maximum possible number of achievable points and multiplied by one hundred to achieve percentage success of shooter.

### *Zone target*

This target is used mostly for shooting with time-limit. Hits are evaluated by awarding penalty seconds. For hit in the alpha zone there are no penalty seconds. For hit in the Charlie zone one second is added to the achieved time and for each hit in the delta zone two seconds are added to the achieved time.

### *Metal folding target (popper)*

Here we evaluate the number of hit (fallen) targets. The number of rounds fired is not usually taken into account here. It is then always possible to include into the evaluation the time factor, which is a time-limit or counted time required to meet the goal of shooting practice.

## Training with firearm and its evaluation

CS1 staff is forced to pull a gun only in threat to his own life. At that moment he is struggling with heavy stress, time pressure and with the knowledge that he must not endanger any bystanders. It does not help the peace of his mind that he is aware of that if he fails; he will be unable

to correct his mistake. For this reason, it is necessary to assemble the whole training much more complex than at sporting shooters training, who would not be in life-threatening situation if he miss. Therefore, the evaluation is aimed on several factors (speed of response, the correct assessment of the situation, precision shooting, safe handling, etc.). During the training it also needs to be taken into consideration that he will not be shooting in optimal shooting conditions with appropriate clothing, giving him comfort during shooting and all of these conditions must be taken into account when evaluating the results.

### **Basic problematic of the training**

During the training with a firearm it must be kept in mind that more factors than just the gun and the shooter have effect on the result of shooting. These are the two principal factors, to which it must be added five other factors and these are the ammunition, situation, the method of shooting, the environment and equipment.

The shooter - has a major impact on the outcome of the shooting. It is he who pulls the trigger and who decides at what moment he fires. During training is necessary to take into account his physical and mental condition, his previous habits and possible experiences.

Weapon - Firearm affects the outcome of shooting with its technical condition. If it is maintained, it is possible that even worse shooter can achieve good results. If the weapon is neglected, even the best shooter fails to achieve satisfactory results. Another parameter is the right choice of weapon according to the needs and physiology of the shooter. Here must comply with weight, grip, sights readability, etc.

Situation - reasons that forced the shooter pulled out a gun and shoot. Every situation is different and its evaluation is not simple. Also, methods of shooting and the behaviour of CSIO vary with weapon each time. Whether the shooter attacks a dog, one attacker or more attackers with multiple weapons.

Ammunition - Ammunition plays a significant role in influencing the outcome of the shooting. The main argument here is the power of bullet. Low power can cause malfunction of the weapon (insufficient pressure kickback for the ejection of empty cartridges and filing a new charge to charge chamber). High power makes difficulties to the shooter who must "fight the firearm".

Method of shooting - it is a way of shooting. Every time shooter will not have the opportunity to stand in the primary shooter's stance and aim carefully. Therefore it is necessary to train the shooter for other modes of shooting, such as shooting one-handed, kneeling, sitting, etc.

Environment - Environmental influences during training are often neglected, even though it has significant influence on the results of the shootings. It is different to shoot on a sunny day in open range and in the rain in an abandoned factory, where there can be bystanders. The shooter should be trained in different environmental conditions to be able to properly assess the situation and hit the target even in degraded conditions. A significant influence has the presence of the media. When the shooter knows he is being captured by the camera, the peace of his mind might be ruined.

Accessories – Many other things that affect the result of shooting here are included here. For example, what is the shooter wearing, which accessory to the weapon he has (Snap type holster, etc.). There is a difference in shooting wearing jacket or tactical vest. Personnel should be trained to such equipment, that they will be using so they can get used to it.

The number of factors influencing the outcome of shooting is much higher than is commonly stated or counted with. It is therefore necessary to adapt the training to all these factors, and count with them in the design of training and in the final evaluation.<sup>3</sup>

## Evaluation methods

The basic criteria for evaluation of firing are accuracy and time. When these terms are variously influencing each other and combining.

### *Selection of appropriate evaluation method*

The selection of an appropriate evaluation method is determined by the training objectives. The training and evaluation must be specialized to the needs of a given profession since diversity of functions in the commercial security industry requires training to be different as well as its final evaluation.

Each training and the final evaluation can have several stages. In the first instance it is evaluated the accuracy of fire in unlimited time. The

next stage then evaluates the accuracy again, but with a given time limit. There is then the possibility to distinguish whether the evaluation will count only shooting accuracy or achieved time needed to hit all targets.

Other possibilities of evaluation arise with use of metal pitfall targets. Where the main evaluation variable achieved is time and as other the number of shots required to hit all targets. When again, these two criteria can be combined according to the required focus of the training and assessment.

To select an appropriate method of evaluation is often more difficult than to design the actual training. Therefore it is needed to set priorities, requirements and target training, according to which suitable final evaluation is then selected.

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### *Time vs. accuracy*

Time and accuracy of fire; at first glance it might seem that these are two contradictory and incompatible requirements. Since that for high accuracy of fire, you need time and tranquillity in the shooting. Conversely, when it comes to time it is required to shoot at targets as soon as possible, at that moment, accuracy plays a minor role. If it is given to the shooter an unlimited amount of time to shoot, he always achieves better results. As an element of stress acting on the shooter even the mere presence of the timeout (albeit very exaggerated) affects the accuracy of fire. Even if the shooter knows he can handle the situation without problems in 5 seconds once this limit was officially specified, he gets to stress that has quite significant impact on accuracy.

Therefore, it is necessary to combine these elements and the training to ensure their consistency. CSI staff who perform their activities with weapon must be trained and prepared for a situation where it will have to be used. In that moment, he will not have enough time to rest and carefully aim, as is the case of the shooting range.

During training is necessary to take account of these conditions and to adjust them to the content and concept of training. Training should prepare staff to best of the situation when they will be under time pressure, the stress and the fire must not endanger bystanders. Therefore, the training must include situations that must be resolved in a decreasingly smaller time. If it we will put the shooter developed to

too much pressure, it is a big risk that he can not handle the situation. By gradually reducing the time that is allowed for an action shooter learns to deal with this kind of stress gradually and thus achieves better results.

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## **Training levels and their needs**

Training activities can be divided into basic and follow-up. Basic activities that are common to each type of training consist of weapons familiarization and basic activities. These activities must the shooter have rooted deep in his consciousness at the end of training in order to perform them without hesitation and almost automatically, without thinking. Follow-up activities will then vary according to the focus of training. Every profession in the commercial security industry requires a slightly different orientation of the training which is setup to its requirements. Porter will not need intensive shooting training in the car and vice versa for the member of the intervention group it will not be sufficient to be able only to shoot from the basic attitudes. Therefore, it is necessary to carefully study the requirements of individual professions, their needs and ways. Then, according to the draft set top portion of the training. Despite all this, you can create a universal training model, the output of which would be called shooting class. Training system would then lay in the tiered rankings skills when higher level characterized by deepening knowledge from previous levels and adds more skills in dealing with firearm.

## **What should be the basic**

The basic element of any training course shall be strictly the principles of safe gun handling. This means essentially only directing to the destination (safe) area. And both shooting and handling a weapon (gun grip, charging, etc.). Because what would we have from shooting results when the shooter threatened everyone in the vicinity. Therefore, safe handling is one of the basic pillars of the treatment arms.

Another essential element is the mastering of aimed shooting from a fixed position in the two-handed weapons possession. Here the shooter learns proper stance and grip of the arms to be able to smooth aim and shoot at the target. Shooter must not be unbalanced by kickback of weapons, or any uneven terrain at the position.

The third and final essential element of the training is to eliminate defects caused by the weapon during firing. This may be a cartridge “jammed” in the ejection port, unfired cartridge in the chamber, dropped tray from the storage pits, etc. The shooter must know his weapon and in the case of this kind of defect repair it safely to continue shooting. During the removing these defects it is of course necessary to maintain the safe handling of weapons. These elements are the very basics of shooting a firearm. Their ignorance may cause danger to shooter himself and all the people around.

### **Following elements of the training**

Follow continuation of training after mastering basic skills may differ slightly. It depends on the needs of the individual focus in the job functions of commercial security industry. Common features include follow-up training movements with weapons, shooting one-handed, or using of covers. Other elements of training are already different, there are already included in the training elements, among them the use of a car, training in clothes, that the CSI staff will be wearing, use of a backup weapon, etc. These are just some of the options with which we can meet.

### *The differences in follow-up elements for different CSI specializations*

Intervention group – This specialization requires very large follow-up of basic training. Since the intervention unit leaves for guarded objects, where an armed offender must be expect. Training must then contain the shooting in tactical clothing, use of car movement with drawn weapons, cover skills, especially communication and coordinated cooperation between members of the response team.

Bodyguard – The most difficult profession falling under the commercial security industry. Bodyguard is constantly moving between people, of which anyone can be a potential offender. Therefore, the need to focus training on defensive shooting skills, art of rapid assessment of the situation, the use of backup weapons, communication and manipulation of the protected person.

Cash and valuables transport – These workers are mostly at risk while travelling by car or when moving in its close proximity when handling

valuables. Hence there is a need to focus and to adapt the training to the usage of the car. Shooting from the car; the use of the car as cover; moving in close proximity and safe gun handling in confined spaces and coordination of individual members.

Object guarding – Security staff is moving within the trust building or campus. There is sufficient basic training follow-up that focuses on the move with drawn weapons and the use of covers.

Courier – Courier services, are again on the move, as well as the transport of valuables are at risk in the ambush of a car or near the transmission of shipment. Training should then be focused and adjusted to this fact and therefore designed for maximum handling and shooting the car and its close.

Private detective – Private detective in his work will not appear in a situation when he has to use the weapon of their duties. In his case the use weapons is acceptable only in self-defence. For this reason, the investigator is not obliged to carry a gun and the extent of any training is his decision.

### *Shooting classes*

Shooting classes are based on the outcome of the universal model training. This is a set of five stages, starting from the fifth grade, which is the basic knowledge and skills for the use of firearms. Each higher class then extends the knowledge of previous classes and adds the new element. The highest is the first class that contains elements of movement, cover and shooting from awkward positions. Training of each class then concludes the practical examination, which will test the knowledge of the elements practiced in the classroom. Following table contains the overview of the knowledge required for particular shooting class.

Because of the diversity of functions in CSI and system requirements the shooting classes cannot cover all the knowledge required for each function. The system of shooting classes is therefore designed as a basic level, which then follows the specifications required for each function.<sup>10</sup>

### **Conclusion**

The CSI staff is moving around in environment that not only includes many other people but simultaneously it contains many side effects that are affecting the shooter.

<i>Class</i>	<i>Required knowledge</i>
V class	Gun handling, two-hand shooting at a static target
IV class	Gun handling, two-hand shooting + one-handed at a static target
III class	Gun handling, two-hand shooting + one-handed at a static target, movement with arms
II class	Gun handling, two-hand shooting + one-handed at a static target, movement with arms, two-hand shooting at a dynamic target, use of covers, non-standard shooting positions
I class	Gun handling, two-hand shooting + one-handed at a static target, movement with arms, two-hand shooting at a dynamic target, use of covers, non-standard shooting positions, shooting on the move, non-standard charging, shooting in worse lighting conditions

*Table 1.  
Shooting  
class<sup>10</sup>*

The basis is that the CS1 staff is able to keep track of the situation, is able to assess the situation quickly enough and follow safety rules. Real environment has little to do with the shooting at the shooting range where shooters are not affected by so many factors. Therefore, it is necessary to focus the shooting training of CS1 staff on multiple factors in order to make him adequately prepared for the situation. Also it should not be forgotten that the CS1 staff during their work does not move in a sport shooter's clothing so that his clothes will not provide the kind of comfort and freedom while shooting. Hence it is needed for the training to be suitably adapted to all conditions and take account of them in the evaluation of the results.

During the final evaluation it is often forgotten the impact of time factor or its impact is taken very lightly. As the CS1 employ carries a firearm, he needs to be trained to deal with situations he will need to use it. However in such situation there will be not enough time to aim as it is on the shooting range. For this reason it is necessary to integrate the time limitations into the training and its evaluation in such way that the CS1 staff will learn to deal with the stress.

Related to this issue is the problematic of shooting instructors, as many companies in the CS1 are hiring the shooting instructors from



other companies. These companies specialized on shooting training do fulfil their contract but previous experience of the instructors from practice have significant impact on the quality of the training. Instructors with long practice in state sector may lack the view of civil CSI staff and this may lead to that, important abilities for the civil sector e.g. the communication or threatening with uncovered firearm may be omitted from the training. It is therefore important that the instructors are able to use their previous experience from practice but in the same time not to forget the specification of the CSI environment and that the training must be adjusted to specific needs of CSI sector.

It is also very important not to forget that CSI employee that carries a firearm during his profession duties does not have equal right as state sector employee but only as a civilian. This must be taken into account when the CSI employee is making the decision to carry a firearm. The firearm can be big advantage, but it also requires a high degree of responsibility and self-control.



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# The Hybridity of Terrorism

*Reviewed by Michael Becker (Northeastern University)*

In recent decades, as the incidence and deadliness of terrorism have grown, so too has the academic literature on the causes, nature, and consequences of the phenomenon. In *The Hybridity of Terrorism*, Sebastian Wojciechowski proposes a new lens through which to understand terrorism. Breaking it down into several constituent parts (subject, actors, forms, causes, spaces, and features), each of which is the subject of one chapter, Wojciechowski argues persuasively that terrorism cannot be explained or understood – and therefore combated – without appreciating its complexity, and the extent to which it is driven by interactions between diverse forces, milieus and actors.

Wojciechowski's work draws significantly on that of other authors who have remarked that one-dimensional analyses of terrorism – including terrorist actor “profiles,” mono-causal theories of the roots of terrorism, and even the various proposed definitions of terrorism – fail individually to cover more than a fraction of its actual incidence. Martha Crenshaw, Audrey Cronin, Bruce Hoffman, and David Rapoport, among others, have made arguments to this effect. However, while these authors tended to emphasise the complexity of one aspect of terrorism in particular—its causes, say – Wojciechowski sets himself a much more ambitious task. He aims to elucidate the complexity of terrorism along a whole multitude of dimensions, a task manifestly too big for one book. Take two chapters as an illustration. Chapter II represents terrorism as a manifestation of relations between actors and their environment, and proposes chaos theory, decision theory, spatial competition theory, salience theory, exchange theory, black box theory, theory of disaster, expected utility theory, and topology methods, among others, as possible methods of understanding these relations (pp. 75-81). Chapter VI, by contrast,

considers terrorism as a series of “features” that can exhibit positive and negative traits, horizontal and vertical dimensions, calculated and spontaneous aspects, broad and narrow features, and an evolutionary as well as a constant character (pp. 153-156).

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The reader cannot help but wonder how these rather disparate ideas are connected. In total throughout the six chapters (plus an introduction and a conclusion) the author proposes dozens of ways of interpreting, classifying and understanding terrorism, without developing clear links between them, or explaining when, or if, the theories he outlines obtain empirically. As a result, the overly ambitious scope of the project generates confusion and a lack of clarity with respect to the most salient aspects of terrorism as a research subject. It is uncertain whether, and in what ways, the various schemas proposed throughout the seven chapters relate to each other.

This lack of clarity, fortunately, does not negate the book’s many positive aspects. One of the book’s most important contributions is its excellent compilation of the literature in each domain of the study of terrorism, from the nature of its practitioners, to its historical evolution, to its very definition. The author provides in each chapter a quite thorough review of the relevant literature, including useful perspectives other than those written by the usual British and American suspects (though he does not neglect the latter). Another positive feature of Wojciechowski’s work is his ability to see innovative possibilities for future research projects, such as exploring the distinct integrational and disintegrational aspects of terrorism (p. 158).

In general, this book is most valuable when read as a roadmap for the study of terrorism. It provides a meticulous treatment of the main theories and methodologies used in terrorism studies, and proposes novel ways of bringing together approaches, including some from other disciplines, in order to generate (future) insights about the phenomenon. Yet despite claiming to make progress toward a better understanding of what terrorism is and what drives it, the author largely leaves this task to others. Perhaps as a consequence of the enormity of the project he takes on, Wojciechowski’s book largely consists of summations of past research, peppered with interesting ideas for future research, but few original substantive conclusions. Nevertheless, a broad audience, including laypersons as well as policymakers and scholars, will find Wojciechowski’s book useful both as a primer on the topic of terrorism, and as a source of promising ideas for future research projects.

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