Philippine IED Update

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Introduction

- Increased prevalence and effectiveness of IED incidents in Afghanistan and Iraq
- In SE Asia – Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) and allies use IEDs, including in Southern Thailand
- In the Philippines, incidents are growing in notoriety – for sowing of terror, extortion, political or personal vendettas
- Used by Communist Party of the Philippines-New People’s Army-National Democratic Front (CPP-NPA-NDF), the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG), Rajah Solaiman Movement (RSM) and the renegade members of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF).
- JI providing financing and training.
- Causes most deaths in the Philippines of all CCW weapons.
AOAV EVMP Dataset 2011: Philippines

- 13th Highest in Explosive Violence Incidents
- 55 Incidents, 366 Casualties – 242 Civilians, 66% total
- 43 Civilian Deaths, 199 Injured
- 46 in Populated Areas – 80% Civilian Casualties
- 23 IED Incidents, 55% of Civilian Casualties
- IEDs created from manufactured components, *ie* mortars
Philippine IED Trends

- 2000: MILF targeted buses, stores, govt buildings and other civilian concentrations. Used time-triggered detonators with commercial TNT, C-4, some mortar duds, mobile phones as triggers.
- 2002: Mortar duds predominant charge, ASG used more sophisticated electromagnetic detonators.
- 2003: Increased attacks at air and sea ports.
- 2004: Superferry – 14 incident in Manila Bay, 123 casualties.
- 2005: Intensified HUMINT thwarted attacks, IEDs and components seized (ammonium & sodium nitrate, aluminum pipes, canisters), sophisticated electronic devices found. Schematics similar to JI Indonesia plans.
Philippine IED Trends
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• 2006: Seizures of improvised landmines. Handheld radio as remote-controlled switch, simple homemade pressure switches and complex circuitry. IEDs with a mix of TNT powder, picric acid and ammonium nitrate fuel oil (ANFO) as main charges, improvised bridge wire to convert non-electric blasting cap, silicon controlled rectifiers, rebar and ball bearings.

• 2006-7: Recovery of Vehicle-borne IEDs (VEBEIDs), Congressman killed.

• 2008: Sharp rise in incidents after MOA-AD: power line towers, cell sites, bus transport companies, public markets and small business establishments.

• 2009: Explosive ambushes, extortion attacks, targeting of infrastructure. Use of pressure-type IED, 2 US servicemen killed
Philippine IED Trends
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NPA IEDs

- Violates 1998 Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (CARHRIHL), APLMC.
- Anti-Tank IEDs w shaped charge, Anti-Personnel IEDs
- Part of NPA Doctrine, deployed roadside to ambush and demoralize govt troops.
- From 2009-2011, 49 IED attacks against govt troops, 26 govt and 4 civilian fatalities.
Central & Western Mindanao IEDs

- Pre-2002: Simple initiators: victim activated (simple booby traps), victim activated (electro mechanical) timer run down (using alarm clocks).
- 2002-onwards: Complex initiators: cellphones, hand-held radios, radio controlled devices and remote doorbell chimes as well as electronic timer arming system integrated circuits.
- 2006-onwards: Vehicle-borne IEDs (VBEIDs), motorcycles, old cars.
- 2010-onwards: Unwitting couriers?
- Charges include UXOs, projectiles including rocket-propelled grenades (RPG). For additional blast effect, nails, ball bearings and marbles are used. Different disguise containers include fruit baskets, fruits, thermos, water jugs, lunch boxes, loaf of bread, infant milk can and civilian back packs.
- So far, no use of suicide bombers.
IED Components:
Triggers, C4, Mortar Duds
UXO with Electronic Switches
UXO w Handheld Radio Trigger
Improvised Shaped Charges
Doorbell-Activated IED
Vehicle-Borne IED
Observations

- Similarities in IED Construction among Mindano Groups – common IED training with JI.
- Electronic devices easily available in any electronic shop.
- Main source of charges from government dud artillery UXOs.
- Misfired UXOs tend to be improperly disposed of, buried. ANSAs recover.
- IEDs effective counter-mobility tool against government forces.
- Military personnel in the field fall victim to IEDs because of limited knowledge about their hazards.
- IED incidents are not properly reported and documented, complicating counter-IED efforts.
Government Response

- Enhancement of intelligence/information-sharing with other agencies and foreign counterparts on terrorists and their activities in the region.

- AFP and PNP training on explosive incident countermeasures, post-blast investigation, advanced computer forensics, and cellphone forensics, support from US (JSOTF-P).

- Philippine Law enforcement agencies enhanced capacity building on bomb investigation techniques, crime scene management, strategic reporting, forensic evidence gathering and IED “signature track” analysis.

- Establishment of the Anti-Terrorism Council, Philippine Bomb Data Center, Rewards System, Coast Watch South (cooperation with Australia, Indonesia, Malaysia, US), Inter-Agency Protocol for Explosives-Related Incidents Investigation (handling, documentation and preservation of IEDs).

- Conduct of public awareness and education efforts.
Civil Society-ANSA Engagement

- Civil Society and Armed Non-State Actor (ANSA) engagement an important factor
- CSOs / NGOs and Local Authorities condemnation of IED usage
Challenges

• Control of sales of commercially available IED materials and components.

• Increase equipment and manpower resources to perform bomb detection, bomb investigation techniques and forensic capacity.

• Enhancement of port security, border management and patrol, international cooperation and coordination.

• Work with all stakeholders to draw attention to and stigmatize IED usage, synergy with APLMC, CCM and other related humanitarian disarmament advocacies.
Maraming Salamat Po!