



Jurisprudence Section – 2007

E18 Terrorism and Police Policy in the 21st Century: Are We Ready for Suicide Bombers?

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After attending this presentation, attendees will understand the problems that local law enforcement faces in confronting suicide bombers, rooted in traditional notions of deadly force, First Amendment rights, search & seizure and racial profiling.

This presentation will impact the forensic community and/or humanity by demonstrating how the forensic community must begin to think about the impact of suicide bombers expanding into the Western World and how is this threat going to be addressed in light of today's laws and policing policies.

This presentation will address the threat of suicide bombers in the United States from a local law enforcement perspective, including how local law enforcement's current training, policies and thinking will have to be adapted in order to prevent and confront suicide bombers on U.S. soil in the future. Although suicide bombers appear to be a tactic common to another part of the world, there is some recent history of suicide bombers in the Western World, as well as indications that a future of suicide bombers on U.S. soil may be inevitable. Suicide bombers are often categorized as a terror threat to be dealt with by the federal government, but the history shows that local law enforcement is most likely to be at the forefront of addressing the threat of suicide bombers in the future. There is much to be learned from the suicide bomber incidents which already have confronted local law enforcement, both here and abroad. This presentation will review how local law enforcement will have to address that threat and how local law enforcement's current policies and the applicable law compares with the best way to detect, confront and respond to suicide bombers. The presentation will discuss how the current use of deadly force policies followed by most local law enforcement in the United States are likely to make the confrontation with a suicide bomber more dangerous. The presentation will discuss how new policies and, particularly, training on deadly force will have to be developed for confronting suicide bombers and how these policies and training will be influenced by public acceptance and politics. The presentation also will discuss how local law enforcement policies on intelligence gathering, First Amendment rights, search & seizure and racial profiling may have to be adapted to address the threat of suicide bombers, but any necessary adaptations may be inhibited by local politics and community acceptance. The presentation will review the lessons learned for local law enforcement from the Madrid and London suicide bombing incidents. Finally, the presentation will propose policy changes that local law enforcement must make to successfully address the threat of suicide bombers.

Police, Law, Suicide Bombers