

December 2004

Know Your Enemy

By Pat Bond McLane, Master Gunnery Sergeant (Retired), United States Marine Corps

The military leader is educated in the well-known doctrine of “know your enemy”, whereas the average American has only in recent years begun to realize how important it is for them too also value and act upon the phrase “know your enemy.” It is to our advantage to take the opportunity to seek knowledge that was once taken for granted as unimportant and for the military to deal with. In this article, you will learn about your enemy by looking into the mind of the Jihadi; the mind of the man or woman who is willing to die for what they believe to be just and right.

Jihad is defined in the dictionary as a war by Muslims against unbelievers or enemies of Islam, carried out as a religious duty. That duty is well defined in numerous passages delivered by God in the Qur’an. Just as with other biblical inspirations of other faiths, there are numerous interpretations of the Qur’an. The ones that we hear of and fear the most are the ones who we have titled terrorists, and rightly so because of their actions. They fear nothing and care of nothing except to exterminate the world of people who do not believe as they do.

So where do these people come from? How do they come to believe that what they do is right? One could argue that they are people who have no other purpose in life except an inert need to be accepted somewhere. Others may see them as weak people who have stumbled onto an unequivocal path to do something that will lead them to greatness, even if it is only a figment of their imagination. It is their way of having some control over their destiny. It is brainwashing in its purest form.

Once indoctrinated, they dare not attempt to get out for surely death from within the “family” will be without honor. And it does; it becomes a family of sorts, and who wants to disappoint the family and become a member of the “out group” to be no longer accepted into the only thing that you have ever truly succeeded? And hence, that is why they are so dangerous and why we have come to know them as terrorists. They use force to demoralize and intimidate.

So what can you do to protect your organization? A few basic ideas would be to educate your employees on being observant. Train your workforce on self-protective measures for both work and home. Put a plan in effect in case of emergency and rehearse the plan so that everyone knows what do to and where to go for accountability of personnel. Be vigilant in all that you do. Do not allow fear to monopolize your organization. As they say in Texas, take the bull by the horns. The VonFrederick Group uses foolproof methods in its training, to circumvent and protect terror and criminal assaults on corporate and organization assets.

“If you know yourself but do not know your enemy, you will sometimes meet with victory, sometimes with defeat. If you know your enemy but do not know yourself, you will

sometimes meet with victory, sometimes meet with defeat. But if you know yourself and you know your enemy, you will be victorious on a hundred occasions.” (Sun-Tsu: The Art of War)

Your choice is simple. Be victorious against the threat of terrorism. Prepare and save your organization and the people that make up your workforce.

NOTE: Not all people of the Islamic faith, Muslims, are to be suspected unjustly of jihad. Just as there are many interpretations of the Bible by Christians to make our many Christian denominations, such is also the case with the Islamic faith. If you suspect someone of criminal activity or if you are suspicious of someone’s actions contact the local police. **DO NOT TAKE ACTION ON YOUR OWN**

*By: Pat Bond McLane
Master Gunnery Sergeant (Retired)
United States Marine Corps*