



THREAT OBJECTIVES

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For [Airmen](#) to fully understand the threats and hazards previously discussed, it is important to discuss possible intended threat objectives.

Threat Objectives

Threat incidents over the years show a trend toward ever-increasing numbers of attacks and sophistication in methods. [Terrorism](#) makes up the most prominent type of threat. Terrorism methods include threats, bombing, kidnapping, hostage taking, hijacking, assassination, sabotage, arson, armed raids or attacks, and other measures to disrupt daily activities. Such actions occur rather routinely in some parts of the world, and almost anyone is a potential victim.¹ A militant group in Somalia attacked a mall in Nairobi, Kenya, leaving 67 dead; suicide bombers killed 81 people at a church in Pakistan. The bombing in April 2013 near the finish line of the Boston Marathon in Massachusetts show that these attacks can occur within the United States as well. DOD installations remain targets for terrorist organizations, as demonstrated by plots against locations such as the Los Angeles National Guard base in August 2005, Fort Dix in May 2007, and Stewart Air National Guard base in May 2009.

The persistence of threats reflects the number and intensity of conflicts around the world and the inherent difficulties of facing, assessing, and overcoming the threat objectives. There are multiple methods of attack with threat objectives designed to cause one or more of the following harmful results:

- ✦ Injure or kill personnel to create a tactical, operational, or strategic event.
- ✦ Destroy warfighting or war-supporting capabilities.
- ✦ Deny use of warfighting or war-supporting capabilities through damage or contamination.
- ✦ Deny or disrupt military operations through the threat of attack.

¹Information derived from terrorist information located at:
<http://www.dm.usda.gov/ocpm/Security%20Guide/T5terror/Intro.htm>.

- ✦ Influence public opinion or governmental policies to comply with competing ideologies.
- ✦ Force nations deployed on foreign soil to end operations and depart the deployed location.
- ✦ Thrust a nation into civil unrest resulting in civil war.
- ✦ Force a government agency or corporation to alter its policies.
- ✦ Reduce military advantage through theft, destruction, or fraud involving military information or technology.
- ✦ Increase criminal activity such as kidnapping, robbery, and extortion likely to be used to finance enemy operations.
- ✦ Isolate and exploit real or perceived weaknesses to demonstrate a group's capability and reduce US credibility.
- ✦ Bring favorable attention to a terrorist organization and serve as a recruiting tool.

All Airmen involved in [force protection](#) (FP) benefit from a thorough understanding of these types of threat objectives. This understanding enhances planning to counter FP threats, thereby improving the FP status of organizations and personnel.
