

Asymmetric warfare participants pose a threat to the very existence of the United States

(long-form/2,835 words)

by Stefan Skinner

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International gangs operating in the United States pose a threat to Homeland Security far greater than the simple importation and distribution of drugs. In spite of all the rhetoric about free enterprise, the United States has spent a fortune trying (no matter how futilely) to stop un-taxed drugs from entering into, and being distributed in, their country. In the old world, that effort may have actually seemed like something a government dead-set on keeping its citizens under mental control should spend its limited resources on. In the New World, however, Latin and Asian street gangs have the ability, instead of transporting drugs, to transport: fissile material, warhead components, or (less fantastically) heavy machine-guns, mines, and anti-tank weapons (e.g., RPG-29) into the United States. These are just the type of weapons that sleeper agents would need if they were activated prior to an all-out invasion. Perhaps the greatest deviation said invasion would have from previous invasions in world history would be the elongated timeline (figuring out exactly where the starting point of that timeline should be is another challenge).

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These are just the types of weapons that sleeper agents, spies, soldiers, or guerrillas might want if they were activated prior to, or during, an all-out invasion



ANTI PERSONNEL MINES



PROM-1



PMA-1A



PMA-2



PMA-3



PMR-2AS, PMR3



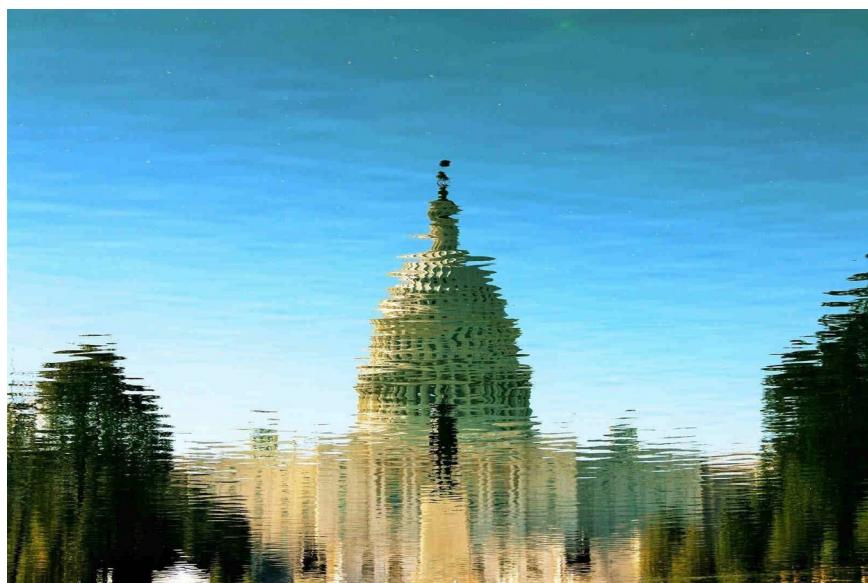
TM-100, TM-200, TM-500



MRUD

Say a terrorist organization, e.g., al Qaeda or LeT, were to receive a nuclear device in the U.S. and detonate it in a large city, this alone would not pose a threat to the United States as a whole. The threat to the continued existence of the U.S. is posed by the collusion of asymmetric warfare participants: international gang members inside and outside the U.S., outside leadership provided by *interested parties*, and force from co-opted locals in a multi-leveled attack upon the United States. As to the co-opted locals, if a shit-ton of cash supplied by *whomever* can buy locals in Afghanistan in the invasion lead-up 2001-2002¹, it can buy armed locals in the U.S. (a significant portion of whom feel abandoned by their own government at best, and flat-out betrayed at worst).

For such an attack to have a serious shot at success though, it would need to start with the decimation of leadership at the federal level. One possible, and straightforward, way of achieving that objective could be the sudden removal of the United States federal government's three branches (Judicial, Legislative, and Executive), in a variation of Tom Clancy's sub-plot in his novel *Debt of Honor*². Because conveniently (if not unbelievably), all three are in attendance at one time, in one place, during one event: The State of the Union Address. *We'll get back to that.*



Gangs: Let's start at the beginning

The history of gangs in the United States is nearly as old as the country itself. After the end of the America Revolution in 1783, relatively tame youth groups in New York City began having turf wars amongst themselves, but as immigration began to really pick up around 1820, a more serious criminal element came to town³.

Life in New York City at that time bordered on anarchic, and the gangs were becoming a rather dangerous sort³. Gangs like the Forty Thieves Gang would be remembered as the first seriously dangerous gang in American history, with a focus on turf and money-making operations of all kinds²⁵. Groups of men in New York City in those days were so violently territorial that even the critical activity of fighting fires could involve fire units fighting each other at the scene of a fire before anyone even bothered to fight the fire⁴.

During the forty-year stretch of 1880-1920, “a second distinct period of gang activity” began in the slums of New York City³. The city’s housing was insufficient for the influx of immigrants over this period, so tenement houses were built as a temporary solution that then became permanent³.

1914 saw the “last major downtown gang fight” between gangs, and afterwards the gang situation in New York City “entered its decadent phase [where gangs] were splintering into tiny groups, while bands of juveniles and amateurs were coming up everywhere.”²⁵



Latin gangs in the U.S.

History

In the twenty-year period 1919-1939, the “first major wave of Mexican migration to Chicago” began as a result of the confluence of “the revolutionary period in Mexico and new employment opportunities in the city – particularly in the meat-packing and steel industries.”⁵ By 1960 the Mexican population in Chicago numbered 56,000, so it followed that the city became known as the “Mexico of the Midwest.”⁶

It is said that the “trail from Mexico to Los Angeles” was a fairly “well-traveled road,” and that the gangs that operated in states in Mexico, e.g., Jalisco and Michoacan, “[...]have] a generations-old tradition of migration **to and from**” the U.S.⁷. In fact, many “Mexican street gang members felt – and still feel – that the U.S. flat-out stole the whole of the southwestern region of the country⁸.

Back to point

Two of the best-known Latin street gangs are Mara Salvatrucha, aka MS-13, and the 18th Street gang, aka M-18³. The 18th Street Gang came up in the 60s and is now believed to: number in excess of 20,000 members, be involved in international drug trafficking, and be connected to both the Mexican and Colombian drug cartels⁸.

During the 1980s, the U.S. saw an influx of refugees arriving as a result of the Salvadoran civil war that took place from 1979 to 1992^{8,9}. When the refugees arrived in Los Angeles, they discovered an already strong 18th Street Gang presence and were basically told that they could join M-18 or f-off. They chose the latter option and set about forming Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13)^{8,9,3,24}.

Multinational gang

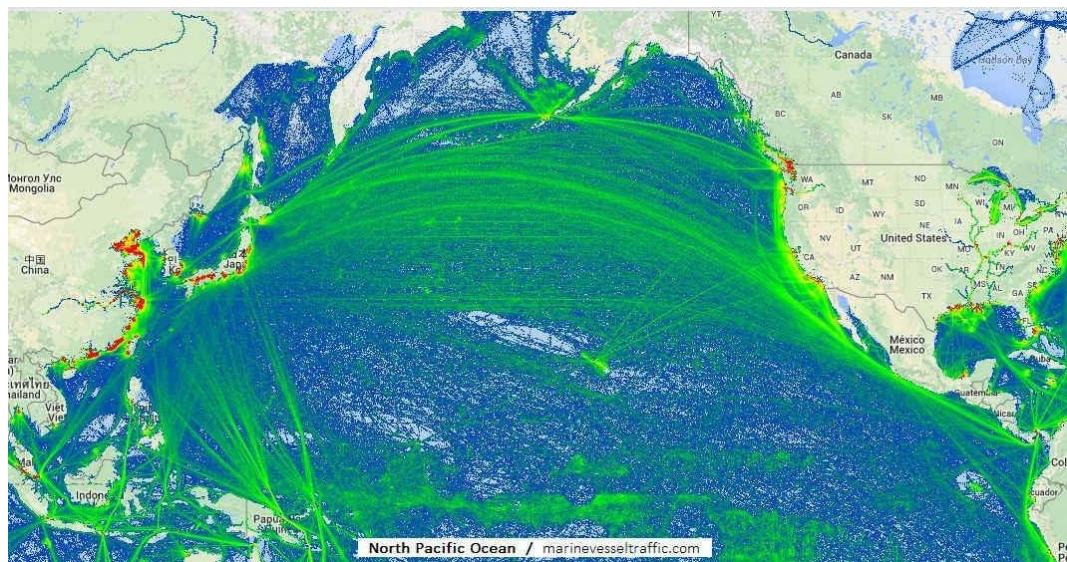
The Los Angeles-born street gang Mara Salvatrucha, or MS-13, operates in 34 states plus the District of Columbia and at least five other countries. States and countries with the largest concentrations (more than six cliques) of MS-13 are in yellow.



Asian gangs in the U.S.

Tong is a word that literally means “meeting hall”¹¹. Tongs started among Chinese immigrants who had migrated to the U.S. in the early 1800s as “associations that provided legal, monetary, and protective services to a wave of laborers excluded from mainstream American institutions,” and as such were seen as “benevolence associations” of a sort¹⁰. “By the early twentieth century, Tongs were found in nearly every major American city,” eventually becoming the premier “Asian organized crime network in the country.”¹⁰ The Tongs lacked muscle (of the ruthless sort at any rate) up until the 1950s & 60s, because most of its members were born in America, and were not generally as tough as some folks born in rougher parts of the world¹⁰. It was in the mid-60s that, as a result of relaxed immigration rules, a more serious type of people became available for the Tongs to utilize¹⁰.

An LA Times article written by Richard Cole said that Asian gangs tend to be less bound by tradition than the mafia, are craftier than Columbia's drug cartels, and are probably the future of



organized crime in the U.S.¹¹. The article went on to say that Chinese Triads are smuggling specialists extraordinaire,

whether the “product” being moved is heroin, people, or “military weapons out of China, Vietnam and the former Soviet Union, with the help of the Russian mafia.”¹¹ Taking the point further, Triads frequently work “as a **loose network of independent contractors** who **team up** for specific crimes.”^{11,23}

Many of the gang members being mentioned here are U.S. citizens, but whose loyalty is often to the gang, and the gang's loyalty, more often than not, is to their country of origin and not their country of residence! Thus, with reasonably large numbers of seriously armed gang members/soldiers, whose loyalty is ultimately not to the U.S., already in the U.S. with citizen rights and protections, and with a proven ability to smuggle and move items into and around the U.S., the idea of protecting the U.S. by looking outward from its borders, with the country at one's back, seems quaint.

A gang or a bunch of terrorists: a question of motive, money, and wardrobe

Lashkar-e-Taiba – Mumbai attack - Terrorism's watershed event

Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) translates to “army of the pure”, and it has been active since 1993¹² and serves as “the military wing” of an Islamist organization in Pakistan called Markaz-ad-Dawa-wal-Irshad that was created in ‘89 to recruit “volunteers to fight alongside the Taliban.”¹² LeT received money and training, beginning in the 1990s, from Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence unit (ISI) after



agreeing to go after Hindus in both Jammu and Kashmir¹². LeT is funded by Saudi Arabian money, is protected by the ISI, and has declared in a pamphlet titled “Why are we waging jihad” that the U.S., Israel, and India are all mortal threats to Islam as a whole¹².

Ten guys, y'all



Mumbai, India, a city with 20 million people, was halted in its tracks for over 60 hours in November 2008 by ten, yes ten, LeT operatives¹³. The operatives came into Mumbai from the sea, initially leaving from Karachi, then on November 22 or 23, boarded and commandeered an Indian fishing boat, killed its crew, but not the captain, and headed for Mumbai¹³. Traveling by boat instead of land, they avoided any checkpoints, and by coming in on an Indian fishing boat, they never attracted the attention of the Indian Coast Guard¹³. The attackers were generally well-armed for

their task: they each had AK's, pistols, plenty of magazines and ammunition, 8-10 grenades, and some had IEDs (incendiary & anti-personnel) two of which were left in taxis to detonate far from the operative's actual location¹³.

The attackers "divided into four attack teams," and these teams began attacking their targets simultaneously, utilizing armed assaults, carjackings, drive-by's, and IEDs¹³. The dispersed nature of the teams, and the nearly constant state of motion gave the impression that there were many more attackers than there actually were¹³.

Perhaps Tom Clancy should be more widely read

It has been said that before September 11, 2001, most Americans could not conceive of "the idea that international terrorists [would] mount and attack on their homeland and kill thousands."¹⁴ Of course, that line flies in the face of the fact that Tom Clancy's book² with a similar plot line was published nine years prior to the event, and Clancy's books outnumber insects inside the beltway. Never-the-less, for some reason the American public thought the rules of the world did not apply to

them, and that no one would pull off such a large-scale attack in the States¹⁴. The 9/11 Commission's foundational conclusion was that "the principal failure to act to prevent the September 11 attack was a 'failure of imagination,'" and that this failure "leads many today to discount the risk of a nuclear 9/11."¹⁴

The only thing missing is...

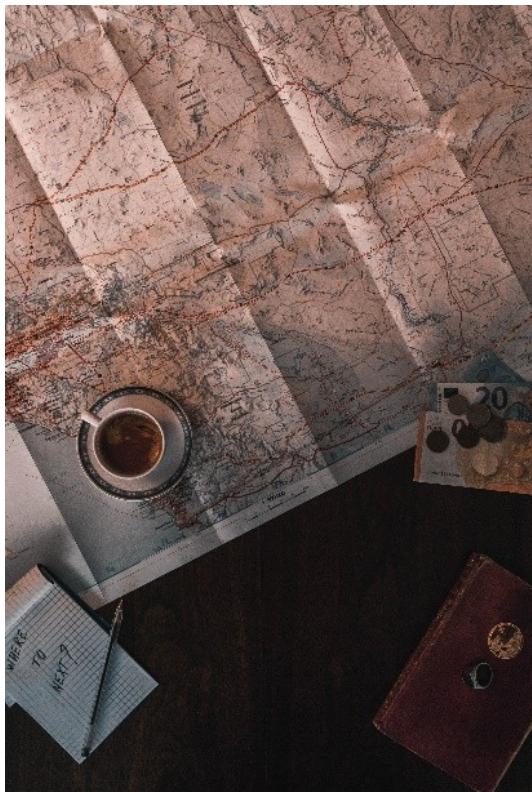
Before Covid-19, on any given workday, some half-million people were within a half-mile radius of Times Square in New York City. If a 10-kiloton nuclear weapon were detonated in the middle of that zone, it would kill everyone there¹⁴. A former director of Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, John Foster, once wrote that the open literature contains all the info anyone needs to construct a nuclear device; at the end of the day, all that is needed, outside of what is freely available in any large city, is fissile material¹⁴.

Those in the market for fissile material would make Russia a first stop as "Russia's 11-time-zone expanse contains more nuclear weapons and materials than any other country in the world, [with] much of it still vulnerable to theft."¹⁴ The second stop would be North Korea, where, better than fissile material, one might be able to purchase ready-made, and radio-shielded, nuclear warheads. "North Korea's deputy director general for American affairs Li Gun told Assistant Secretary of State James Kelly that Pyongyang not only possessed nuclear weapons[,] but might also export them."¹⁴

Part of what Warren Buffett does, or oversees, is the hardcore actuarial work that goes into "pricing insurance policies for unlikely catastrophic events like earthquakes," and his reckoning is that the detonation of a nuclear weapon on American soil is "[...] inevitable. I don't see any way that it won't happen."¹⁴

Assistance

It is true that the 18th Street Gang and MS-13 are: numerous, violent to an excess, and able to transport underground goods across the U.S southern border with only moderate effort. Similarly,



Asian gangs operating in Seattle, San Francisco, and Los Angeles use those ports, and the water lanes leading to them, as ideal importation points for underground goods of all kinds. In fact, it is this ability to reliably bring black market goods across U.S. borders, virtually at will, that makes these gangs so potentially dangerous in a grand sense.

In a thorough paper entitled “Exploitation of Border Security by MS-13 in Aiding Al Qaeda's Agenda for Domestic Terrorism in the United States,” written by Cynthia Lynn Starita, Starita stated that when she was

doing research for the paper, “virtually all extant literature on MS-13 was presented in an intellectual vacuum.”¹⁵ Her research results indicated that: MS-13 is “capable of providing the assistance necessary” to transport nuclear weapons and/or nuclear weapons components into the U.S.; “said assistance could [best] be provided [...] by the oldest and most sophisticated cliques of MS-13 operating in southern California;” and that others, e.g., Tongs and Triads, are also capable of offering that assistance¹⁵.

Borders?

Then again, crossing borders is a bit relative. In Ecuador, 2010, “authorities seized a fully functional, completely submersible submarine” in...wait for it...the friggin jungle near Columbia¹⁶! The sub was a diesel electric type with: a fiberglass and Kevlar hull 31 meters long, a three-meter-high conning tower with a periscope, a load capacity of nearly ten tons, room for a crew of five to six, the ability to function at a depth of 20m, long-range underwater operation capabilities, and fully functioning air conditioning¹⁶.

A submarine of that type could be built to carry a Chinese, Russian, or North Korean made nuclear warhead, and if one were to think about the prime target of a nuclear attack in the U.S., with only had one warhead to use, the State of the Union address just might fit the bill. A submarine could carry the

warhead to a
suitable waterway
inlet somewhere
relatively rural
but still within a
couple hundred
miles of the
target, far enough
in advance so that



subs loitering off the DC coast during the address do not intercept them. As for the Deep Reliable Acoustic Path Exploitation System (DRAPEs) or Surveillance Towed Array Sensor System (SURTASS)¹⁷, remember that these are electric diesel subs and can likely evade passive detection, particularly if they shadow a larger boat so that the larger boat's engine and propeller mask any sounds the sub may inadvertently make. Or perhaps the small sub could attach itself to a cargo ship,

limpet style, while the ship is out at sea, and simply ride the ship as close to the intended destination as possible, then use a hired boat (as large as is practical) to cover its sound the last mile.

State-made nuclear weapons are shielded with lead and/or a lead bismuth alloy, but the sensors in DC can be expected to be numerous and of high quality (particularly during such a high-profile event), thus the best way to shield nuclear material, like highly enriched uranium or assembled nuclear warheads, is in water, allowing the radiation to be converted to heat¹⁸. The excess heat could be managed by a refrigeration truck with a large water tank built into it as follows: the warhead goes in an airtight container in the center of the tank, suspended in place by fiberglass cables; the tank is then filled with water; and the refrigeration system continuously cools the water and exhausts the



heat. Just to be on the safe side, the truck's entire container area could be lined with sheets of both lead bismuth alloy¹⁹ and Boron²⁰, including a layer of Caulder's[®] brand lead wool lightly sandwiched in-between the sheets. As for

the transfer from the sub to the truck, the transfer could take place during a rainstorm, using the rain to help prevent any escaping neutrinos from being detected by sensors, and the cloud cover to shield the operatives from being detected by most satellites²¹.

Conclusion

After cutting off the “head” of the U.S. federal government (the visible part at any rate), LeT/Mumbai style attacks led by trained personnel with outstanding leadership and local muscle, working with Triad/Tong/MS-13 weapons conduits, if planned properly, could then attack key objectives (major ports, the Bakken Shale region and its pipelines, refineries, etc.) without attribution to any particular country, and the attendant direct military/nuclear retaliation. These actions could conceivably pave the way for a larger invasion, where the invading forces could very well be seen by the locals as a welcome, stabilizing force, particularly if the invading parties bring humanitarian aid with them for distribution to the baffled and hungry locals.

Those who say the U.S. military would swiftly return ‘order’ to the situation would be well served to remember that many officers and enlisted in the U.S. military are active/former/sleeper gang members²², many of whom feel that parts of the U.S. are theirs by birthright, and whose loyalty to the U.S. military may be **far more** fluid than military planners expect.

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