The Importance of Incident Command System during and after the Disaster

Introduction

Every day thousands of worldwide events are recorded when there is a disruption of normal living conditions for human activities that may cause or lead to loss of life and considerable material losses. Such events are called emergencies. Emergency tend to cause accidents, disasters, natural disasters and other things such as epidemics, terrorism, armed conflict and so on. Preventing disasters and maximum reduction of the loss extent and damage have become an international problem.

One of the international disasters that unite the whole world is terrorism. Today, terrorism became the global and serious threat to national and international security. It tends to increase. The current nature of terrorism, which increased its scale within the world, is associated with the brutal terrorist attacks that result in a great concern in the world. The terrorists` technical equipment has significantly increased. Now the terrorists have the latest arsenal of weapons, explosives destructive power tools, transport, and developed methods of communications. Terrorism has become a kind of industry. Today the world has almost 450 terroristic organizations and groups.

Therefore, in today`s developing terroristic tendencies, the victim of this disaster can become each person in the world. The terrorist attack happens everywhere: in the banks, supermarkets, airports, press agencies, on the streets and this list can be continued. An effective
incident command system is important before and after the accident.

Among the weapons of the mass destruction, nuclear power is considered to be the most dangerous. Nowadays it is regarded that the use of nuclear weapons is lower compared to other types of weapons. However, the consequences that may occur after its usage force the international community to consider the fight against nuclear terrorism as a priority on the global scale. This article discusses some problems of nuclear proliferation, nuclear terrorism, and the ways how to prevent and respond to the emergency situation that can be caused by terrorism. In addition, it analyzes the effective incident command systems around the world and gives recommendation on how to implement incident command system more effectively.

**Overview of Incident Command Systems in the World**

**Incident Command System in Australia**

Terrorism is the orderly utilization of fear, particularly as a method for pressure. In the worldwide group common meanings of terrorism allude just to those vicious demonstrations which are expected to make fear are executed for a political, religious, or ideological objective, and carelessness or target the wellbeing of non-warriors (regular folks). A few definitions now prohibit demonstrations of state terrorism and some likewise incorporate demonstrations of unlawful brutality and war. The utilization of comparable strategies by criminal associations for assurance rackets or to uphold a code of hush is typically not marked terrorism however these same activities may be named terrorism when done by a politically persuaded gathering.
Organizational response to the acts of catastrophic terrorism in Austria suggests that the overall responsibility for civil protection and security is laid on the Austrian Ministry of Interior (AMI). The AMI may act in accordance with its powers only using their personnel units. As for all other activities in this area the AMI should rely on the support of other organizations and institutions. Thus, each of the nine provinces of the country is responsible for the disaster in its areas. It is important to emphasize that the frame response (fire service and ambulance) and special services (such as mountain rescue service) are formed on a voluntary basis. These organizations set up to provide assistance in infrastructure of the national importance and usage of the different bases. For example, the firefighters are specially taught to respond the hazardous materials in each administrative and political region. In certain locations, such as in tunnels, it is important to take strategic positions. Such infrastructure is reinforced by the special mobile units. The resources of these organizations are mainly concentrated in the large urban areas (places for public events and hiking area, where the events that attract great public attention and facilities are the strategic importance). These strategic areas include alpine tunnels, rail stations and road bridges. These places can in priority become targets for terrorist attacks. Unfortunately, the lack of available financial resources makes it impossible to provide specialized equipment for all units in the country. This results in inadequate equipment transport and telecommunications, as well as the default setting for permanent isolation.

Currently, each organization in the Austrian community primary carries its independent training program. However, the growing importance of cooperation, particularly in relation to training of the Special Forces (SF), is crucial. The unresolved problem is that the current system of professional recruitment is based on the full employment positions, as well as on the voluntary and it virtually eliminates the possibility of preparing for all of
the team's primary responses. Particular attention is paid to the disability of the hospitals. These medical facilities are particularly vulnerable to the secondary pollution. The victims of the terrorist attack can transfer nuclear, biological and chemical materials. In addition, the country fails in a proper technical capacity. For example, there are only three hospitals properly equipped to carry out treatment of patients who were contaminated with such hazardous materials.

Since the transport infrastructure itself represents a potential target for the terrorists, the Austrian authorities should ensure that the primary response community has access to alternatives transportation, such as special equipment. It can be sent to the area by the air using air vehicles of Austrian armed forces (AAF) or the Ministry of the Interior (MI).

The scientists and technicians are working in various national and sectoral research institutions. Their purpose is to support the rescue teams activities. The scientific approach should be identified and included in the centralized database created, for example, to provide support. The communication between members of rescue team may be mined by strengthening of mobile phones use on request or through the deployment of mobile equipment bases.

**Incident Command System in Israel**

Israel, apparently, is a country which has a "rich" experience of terrorism attracts supported by using hazardous materials and agents. The first primitive attempts of Palestinian terrorists to use chemical and biological agents were recorded in 1965. The literature repeatedly mentioned incidents, which were permanently associated with these attempts. We can\’t but mention the poisoning of Israeli oranges in 1978. However, the most unusual species of interest for the weapons escalated after
September 11, 2001, perhaps because the terrorist attacks in the United States and "wave" of letters with anthrax spores were regarded to be a "taboo destruction" which influenced on the terrorist attacks that aimed to perform mass casualties. In 2002, Hamas website published the "Handbook of poison", the plans of poisoning the water system of the hospital in Jerusalem and even entire water supply system of the country.

In countering the terrorist attacks, Israel relies on its current system of civil protection which was designed during the war. Unlike other states, Israel has not built up a separate system to combat terrorism, including response to such acts of terrorism and liquidation consequences of their possible implementation. In its decision in 1974 the Israel government made the police responsible for combating terrorist incidents inside Israel. This decision was also set responsibility of the Israel Defense Forces (IDF). Thus, IDF aims to respond the incidents in the areas at a distance of 5 km from the border in the Negev desert. However, the defense minister may declare "Limited state of emergency" as a result of what military department takes responsibility for management in the incident.

The announcement of the emergency gives the possibility for a military department to carry out actions. The military department aims at ensuring the national security and continuous provision of essential services to the public. This military have the right to force people to stay in bomb shelters and receive protection and defense from the specified units by ministry volume. According to Israel law the announcement of the emergency needs to be published as soon as possible via radio, television and newspapers. In ordinary acts of terrorism police this specified units have the power to take over full responsibility. However, this will not be possible in unusual weapons cases such as NWE (nuclear weapon emergency). By October 2000, the Israel police had no
opportunity to be equipped in case of NWE incidents. After September 11, 2001 the Israel government decided that the police would be responsible for countering terrorist attacks using chemical weapons; together with the Ministry of Defense. The defense team will counter the terrorist attacks using biological weapons and special units of the Israel Defense Forces will be responsible for countering attacks and radiological decontamination after such attacks. The Israel police coordinates all activities related to combating attacks using chemical weapons regardless of whether result they have: the combined use of explosives and chemical agents or covert use only chemical weapons14). The representatives of the local or regional police force are those people who arrive in place of a terrorist attack first, but they are not equipped with the necessary equipment to detect chemical substances. This task is performed by the special police unit (YAMAM), an elite unit of the Israel rescue civilian’s hostages and counter of catastrophic terrorism. This unit belongs to the Israel Border Service (MAGAV). This small but highly skilled and highly professional unit receives the tools and devices for detection of chemical agents.

In the field of health care, Magen David Adom organization (MADA) with national Red Cross societies are aimed to perform rescue car services with medical staff volunteer to the place where terrorist act is performed. This organization is responsible for the first aid at the area and the delivery victims to the hospitals.

In the event of a large-scale attack using biological weapons responsibility is transferred to a special unit of the Defense Ministry. Their staffs have necessary knowledge and tools to identify incident management and national scale. Just like other elements of preparedness and response it is based on the complex medical procedures designed to the larger-scale threat of unusual weapons. It is carried out by regular armies and does
not support special readiness for the terrorist attacks. Thus, the doctrine and management of initial response in Israel for terrorist attacks using chemical and biological agents are sufficiently complex structure which is largely determined by the main military threats. Yet, the Front National defense is the main element of the preparedness to fight against these threats.

Fatherland Front protection acts in accordance with legislation on civil defense and serves as the main professional body in part of the IDF on civil defense. The Fatherland Front responsibilities include: management and coordination of all forces involved in the incident response for the purpose op-response optimization nationally; development of joint doctrine for all levels management; information and instruction the civilian population on issues of personal and collective protection; planning and deployment of notification; maintain clock readiness to assist the police in case of terrorist incidents.

To perform these complex tasks the Fatherland Front has to rescue battalions, provide safety, chemical and biological protection, and surveillance and medical units. It includes also providing the fire brigade (both military and civilian), warning systems and alarm systems and management (department) to inform, instruct and protect. The police are responsible for managing the situation in the case of a terrorist incident in peacetime and, in case of war front protection, assume responsibility for the management situation at the request of the police.

**Analysis and Recommendations**

Management and control is particularly important when a terrorist incident (or even its threat) occurred because a number of agencies
involved in the response to it, liquidation its consequences and criminal investigation the fact of his commission. In the United States the primary Response Incident Management System (ICS) is used. In the incidents involving many agencies or multilateral jurisdiction the concept of unified command (UC), and incident management system are effectively used for managing and control events in 50 US states. The coordination should begin long before an incident occurs. The majority of the US territories with large and medium-sized cities formed a working group on the terrorism countermeasures, which included representatives of local and federal civilian bodies on the crisis response in response. The aim of creating such groups is to provide opportunities for communication, conduct joint training and exercises, and for the exchange of relevant information.

However, the serious challenges in the future are quite likely. Regarding this, the United States has been in the significant progress of the initial response to the terrorist attacks.

Italy suffered a number of incidents and accidents hazardous materials throughout its modern history. In addition, the country is in the zone of seismic activity. It has areas where volcanic activity is manifested and regions are in the danger of flooding. This necessitates provide a number of natural and technological techniques on how to prevent the hazards events, including those with weapons and materials of mass destruction. The Italian Government has chosen event with the most dangerous chemical enterprises in technological processes in the formation of harmful materials, and this system is believed to Italian experts, are suited for the cases with other chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear materials. Based on the fact that accidents with the hazardous materials and CBRN events have much in common, Italian fire service made assess to ensure the rapid and effective response, which in this case is to protect
members of the impact of the hazards regardless of the reasons that caused emergency.

In additionally, Italy adopted a national standard for management and control in the case of emergencies. Specialized training courses tailored to the command level force response to the CBRN events were developed at the National fire protection case. Unified Command, which is based on the principles of operation of emergency situations, will be introduced in the large-scale incidents to coordinate activities of members of rescue teams with different powers and different levels. The organizational structure of the system response is one of the consequences of their uniform equipment across the country. Each region was given the same set of equipment and vehicles to provide technical capacity to respond appropriately to the serious incidents. At least 9 vehicles may arrive on the scene within 1 hour because the identical equipment is used in each province.

The national approach to respond is reflected in the fact that each unit does not necessarily have all the available types of the equipment and devices. Specialized devices can be located a strategically important place, which gives provides its usage in many regions of the country. The baseline responses are provided by available resources and opportunities of the fire station in the area of responsibility. An intermediate level of response is response across the province (this included, for example, the activity of the technical experts). The coordination of the internal resources with external forces and means within the responsibilities of the chief provincial fire service, provide clear division of the authority and the chain of command on any scene. Communications equipment is essential. Each province has 101 cars. These cars can be combined in order to link a large scale incident.
Italy has not yet adopted a unified European telephone number for emergencies 112. In order to improve communication in some provinces where emergency services have their own rooms, control centers are in common usage.

**Conclusions**

The greatest progress towards creating the effective systems to counter terrorism, including the system of response, of a terrorist act, reached those countries that were fighting against terrorism for the decades. These countries include Israel, Italy, USA, and Russia. Terrorist attack in the Tokyo subway showed that even developed countries (In this case Japan) are not prepared adequately to respond to an act of terrorism using weapons of mass destruction. However, September 11, 2001 became the crucial date around the world in establishing effective incident management systems in the countries. We can`t disagree with the US experts who believe that there can be a fundamental difference in the approaches used in different countries for readiness of the teams highest primary response for the terroristic attack. The differences are arising from various financial and technical capabilities of the different countries.

Common to almost all of the countries which are concerned with the problems of combating terrorism is that at present weapons of mass destruction terrorism. It is often regarded as one type of so-called catastrophic terrorist target which is usually considered the critical infrastructure of the state or objects and system damage. This leads to existential threat to the state as a whole.

Enough common approach is used when the effective systems for
responding to catastrophic terrorism use already existing systems of quick response. This results in providing readiness for all time (fire services in Austria, Police in Slovenia, etc.). In European countries such as Italy and Slovenia, there is a tendency to unify the procedures and equipment from other Member States in order to use the best practices which can save money on the equipment and training. Thus, all countries consider dealing with the preparation of the population for appropriate behavior during acts of catastrophic terrorism and training for the system to respond to such acts.