

# SECURITY REPORT

## Terror Attack in Florida: Lessons for India



The terror attack at a gay night club in Orlando, Florida on 12 June 2016, once again brought to the centre the key issue of threats that emanate from individuals radicalized through the internet and apparently does not have any direct link with any sleeper cell of any terror organization. This attack comes six months after the deadly terror attack at the Inland Regional Centre, at St. Bernardino, California in which the two perpetrators namely Syed Rizwan Farook and his wife Tashfeen Malik killed 14 people and injured 24 others, in a mass shooting.

The Orlando terror attack was executed by Omar Mateen, a US citizen of Afghan Origin whose social media pages displayed his unabashed love for Pakistan. As per media reports, the terrorist before killing 50 people and injuring 53 others, had called up the 911 emergency number and stated his allegiance to ISIS. While the terrorist was neutralized eventually by a SWAT team, questions related to changing patterns of terrorism and its worrisome new trends are unanswered.

Incidentally this terror attack at Orlando literally coincided with the death of Abu Bakr Al Baghdadi, chief of ISIS and with another ISIS inspired lone wolf terror attack in France where a French citizen of Moroccan origin named Larossi Abballa stabbed a French police officer and his partner in Magnanville. These attacks in the US come three months after similar an ISIS inspired terror attack in Brussels and seven months after the Paris terror attack.

The Orlando terror attack took place amidst a heightened state of alert in Europe and US, especially in France that is hosting the Euro Cup football 2016. Thus, two key questions that need deliberations are related to the measures needed to prevent such lone wolf terror attacks and whether the killing of top terror leaders like Al Baghdadi does have any real impact on the possibility of future attacks. The answer to the second issue is perhaps in the negative. Not much is changed by the killing of such terror leaders and it does not impact the ideological inspiration. Even when Osama Bin Laden was killed, it was presumed that it would be the end of Al Qaeda. But that was not evident and AL Qaeda remains a potent terror organization and wherever it weakened, the void gave rise to numerous other radical Islamist terror groups such as Al Nusra and ISIS in the Middle East.

Possibility of lone wolf attacks have been persistently increasing and even massive surveillance of the internet would perhaps not be enough to prevent all the attacks. It has to be remembered that such threats remain potent for India as well and need not be a characteristic of terror attacks in Europe or US alone. Both Al Qaeda and ISIS have been trying to increase their footprint in India. Recent security reports have indicated that almost



30,000 people in India have been in touch with ISIS through the internet and are ready to wage war in India. One should not forget that both ISIS and Al Qaeda have India in their larger game plan and both have attempted to create footprints in South Asia. Henceforth better risk management and crisis planning needs to be undertaken across the world to prevent such terror attacks.

So, what India should ideally do is a challenging task in this security scenario. There is no other option for the intelligence agencies other than increase surveillance of the internet and keep a constant hawk eye on what is happening in there and subsequently profile all those suspicious elements visiting suspected terror web-pages. Further, India would necessarily have to improve the ability of the local level police stations across states to be an efficient first respondent. This will prevent and reduce the time loss in waiting for the elite Special Forces or SWAT Teams to arrive. Capacity building of the District and Local Police station and Local Intelligence Units is a must. Hence, the public and private sector can partner with the government to improve threat assessment and disaster response.

## The Indian Drone Market: Major Opportunities await Global and Indian Players Today



Applications of drones are increasing phenomenally among India's armed forces, central and state police forces as well among PSUs which now realize the immense utility and efficacy of drones. Drones of different dimensions, capabilities and caliber are already in use by the armed forces of India. While the Indian Army and Air Force operate a large number of Israeli made Heron and Searcher Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) primarily for surveillance purpose, it also has in its possession a small but potent arsenal of Unmanned Combat Aerial Vehicle (UCAV) such as Harop and Harpy. However, amidst worsening border situation, relentless transgressions by Pakistan based terror groups and massive military build-up in the Tibetan region by China, the Government of India has firmed up plans to buy a large array of combat drones like the Predator Drones and the HAROP TP.

### Segmentation of the Drone Market

In terms of market segmentations, the drone or the UAV market can be divided into four categories. They are:

1. **Micro UAVs**- These weigh up to 1 Kg and have endurance time of 1 hour
2. **Small UAVs** – These weigh up to 15 Kg and have endurance of a minimum of 2 hours
3. **Medium UAVs** – These have ability to fly at around 4000 ft of altitude for 5-10 hours and with payloads varying from 5- 100 Kg
4. **Large UAVs** – These have unique ability to fly at around 50,000 ft for several hours (sometimes more than 24 hours) and with ability to carry precision guided munitions.

### Where the Demand Lies

As the large and medium UAVs have more applications with the Indian Armed Forces and possibly with some Central Police Forces, the micro and small UAVs may have more demand from the state police forces as also with disaster management authorities and PSUs.

As per media reports India had given sanctions for the purchase of 10 Heron TP drones for Indian Air Force from Israel, in September 2015, which can be armed with precision weapon systems. In the same league, India's entry into the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) club now paves the way for its acquisition of Predator C Challenger combat drones from General

Atomics of US. According to Reuters, India is planning to acquire 40 Predator C combat drones.

Likewise, the demand for drones is also increasing among the Central Police Forces for operations in the Maoist zones as well as in the border areas. The CRPF may also be planning to buy a new generation of drones in 2016-17. DRDO's quadcopter named NETRA has been in use with CRPF and many state level police forces too. Media reports state that BSF has also deployed drones for surveillance purpose.



### **The Rising Demand among State Police Forces and other Government Agencies**

The demand for quadcopters has been high among the state police forces that are deploying drones during festive seasons as well as during incidents of mob violence. Recently Karnataka Police became the first police force of India to have its own dedicated drone fleet. It acquired 12 Phantom 4 series of drones from Korea. Equipped with 18.2 megapixels camera, the drones have air endurance of 30 minutes and can track movement and objects up till 5 kilometres away.

Many other states have also drawn up plans to acquire drones while many use drones for special occasions. For example, the Delhi Police too have firmed up plans to buy two Netra Drones from DRDO. In 2015, Andhra Pradesh Police had acquired drones fitted with HD cameras to keep a check on the smuggling of red sanders. It has also firmed up plans to acquire 10 drones, sanctions for which have already been given by the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister. The Gujarat Police has also started using drones. Moreover, apart from the law enforcement agencies, the National Disaster Response Force or the NDRF has been using drones during natural disasters to locate victims and trapped people.

Additionally, application of drones has now found favours with Indian Railways and PSUs like Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) as well. The Indian Railways, with one of the largest networks of rail tracks and stations across the country and with thousands of Crores of on-going rail projects, have started using drones for inspection of progress of mega projects like that of Dedicated Freight Corridor. GAIL has started using drones for surveillance of its vast network of gas transmission pipelines.

### **The Potential of the Market**

Even though there are still major restrictions on the civilian use drones and justifiably so because of possibility of misuse, the Indian market for drones is now a promising one and there is immense opportunity for Indian companies. Given India's vast repository of electronic and software companies, it is not difficult for it to become a major hub for manufacturing of drones. While India may still rely on global companies for purchase of large UAVs and Combat drones, there is considerable potential for innovation in the market for small and mini UAVs where Indian companies can play a critical role in both making of drones as well as in data analytics of the data collected by drones. There is also a strong potential of Indian companies availing the opportunities of the 'Make in India' program and setting up joint ventures in India for making large drones.

- Key Global Players in this market include, General Atomics, Boeing Company, Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman, AeroVironment, Prox Dynamics AS, Israeli Aerospace Industries and SAIC. (Source- International Business Times)
- Key Indian Players in this market are Tata Advanced Systems, Om UAV Systems, DRDO, Aurora Integrated Systems, Edall Systems, Dynamatic Technologies, Ashok Leyland, Taneja Aerospace and Aviation, Avaana Software and Services, Basant Aerospace and SasMos HET Tech. (Source- Hindu Business Line and The Economic Times)

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