Current and Future Anti-Terrorism Measures in Japan

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1. Terrorist Threats against Japan
2. Current Anti-Terrorism Measures
3. Future Anti-Terrorism Measures
1. Terrorist Threats against Japan

(1) Al-Qaeda and Islamic State (IS) have listed Japan as a target

- Al-Qaeda
  - Osama bin Laden: October 18, 2003; May 6, 2004
  - Ayman al-Zawahiri: October 1, 2004; April 22, 2008

- Islamic State (IS)
  - Jihadi John: February 1, 2015
  - DABIQ: Issues 7 and 11
1. Terrorist Threats against Japan

(2) Terrorist suspect linked to Al Qaeda hidden in Japan

○ French national terrorist suspect
  • Got in and out of Japan 6 times from 1999 to 2003, using forged passport, with impunity

(3) Many US interests in Japan
  • Japan, as an ally of the US, hosts many US interests including military facilities
1. Terrorist Threats against Japan

(4) Upcoming special security events
○ 2016 G7 Summit Meeting
○ 2019 Rugby World Cup
○ 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games

Q: Is Japan a target of terrorist networks?
A: Japan, as a host nation, could be a likely target of terrorist networks
Major attacks on special security events

- 1972 Terrorist attack during the 1972 Summer Olympics in Munich
- 1996 Bomb attack during the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta
- 2005 Bomb attacks in London during G8 Summit in Scotland
- 2013 Bomb attacks in Volgograd during 2013 Winter Olympics in Sochi
- 2013 Bomb attacks on Boston Marathon
2. Current Anti-Terrorism Measures

(1) Highest priority - Prevention

(2) 3 principles to prevent terrorist attacks

○ Deny terrorists entry into Japan
  • Enhancement of immigration control
  • International cooperation

○ Deny terrorists safe haven
  • Detection of terrorist infrastructure used to stage terrorist attacks
  • Identification of suspected terrorists

○ Deny terrorist attacks
  • Tightened security
  • Control of bomb making materials
2. Current Anti-Terrorism Measures (3) Anti-Terrorism Strategies

○ Action Plan for Prevention of Terrorism (December 2004)


○ Strategy to Make “Japan the Safest Country in the World” (December 2013)
2. Current Anti-Terrorism Measures

(4) Gaining public support

○ Public support is essential to advance anti-terrorism measures
○ Protect against terrorism with “public eyes”
○ Public-Private Partnership “Japanese-style Anti-Terrorism Measures”
  • Metropolitan Police
    “Anti-Terrorism Partnership, Tokyo”
    “Tokyo Station Anti-Terrorism Partnership”
3. Future Anti-Terrorism Measures

(1) Terrorism Prevention Measures Requiring Continued Study in the Action Plan 2004

① Legislation on a basic policy for terrorism prevention measures

② System to designate terrorists and terrorist organizations

③ Further measures to freeze terrorist assets
3. Future Anti-Terrorism Measures

(2) Increasing security agencies’ anti-terrorism capabilities
- Increased authority to intercept communications
- Allowing body searches in certain times and places
- Creation of a foreign intelligence agency

(3) Measures for mass-casualty incidents
- Limiting casualties with rapid treatment as soon as the incident occurs
- Lessons from the Boston Marathon bombing
* Produced by the briefer based on the map used for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games Bid Plan
3. Future Anti-Terrorism Measures

(4) National Center for anti-terrorism
   ○ Assessing terrorist threats
     Assess threats and create specific measures to deal with them
   ○ Develop/review anti-terrorism strategies
     Continual evaluation and review of anti-terrorism measures
   ○ Raise awareness with white paper
     Comprehensive evaluation of national anti-terrorism measures
3. Future Anti-Terrorism Measures

(5) Measures to prevent youth radicalization
- Threat of home-grown terrorists
- Labor shortage and immigration policy
- Support for youth that feel alienated from society

(6) Security Clearance system
- Security Clearance for employees of high security areas, such as nuclear power plants, international airports.
Thank you for listening.