



Manchester Arena Device Triggered Outside Security Perimeter – A man wearing a backpack [detonated](#) his homemade-explosive device Tuesday evening in the publically-accessible foyer area (outside security checkpoints) as concertgoers, mostly young girls, were leaving an Ariana Grande show at U.K.'s Manchester Arena, the largest indoor performance venue in Europe. Evidence includes backpack cloth, nuts and screws, a 12-volt battery (larger than usual for these weapons), and possibly the initiator. The blast left 22 dead, including an eight-year-old girl, and left over 100 injured, some very seriously. The device is considered sophisticated for its kind, and the bomb maker is still [at large](#), owing to the theory that the attacker was [part of a network](#).

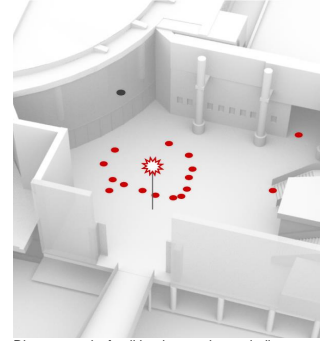


Diagram marks fatalities (gap at the top indicates that bomber's body absorbed some of the force).

Assessment: As Memorial Day weekend is set to begin in the U.S., there is currently no credible threat to the homeland, as per federal guidance, but a new ISIS video shows [Las Vegas](#), most prominently, as a target, as well as Times Square. The Manchester attacker chose the area right outside security to conduct his peripheral attack, providing access to a "soft," dense target while still gaining notoriety for hitting the hardened venue. Similar terrorist incidents, where attackers struck outside security, include the following airport attacks: Ataturk (shooting started just outside checkpoint) and Brussels (near departure area) in 2016; and the 2011 Frankfurt shootings of U.S. personnel on a bus outside the terminal. Also, during the Paris attacks in Nov. 2015, a suicide bomber detonated his vest immediately outside of a security checkpoint at the Stade de France, and this year's Palm Sunday attack on a Coptic church in Tanta, Egypt was conducted at the security station.

Martial Law Declared in Philippines after Islamists Storm City – Islamic militants are rampaging the southern island of Mindanao, as a group known as Maute, a.k.a. IS Ranao, has thousands of people fleeing the city of Marawi as gunmen rage throughout the city streets. During the latest insurgency, Muslim separatists [beheaded](#) a police chief, killed at least three other security force members, and [stormed](#) a catholic church taking the priest and worshippers as hostages. President Rodrigo Duterte has declared martial law across the island for the next 60 days. The president has [stated](#) he is prepared to spread martial law across the entire nation, if necessary.

Assessment: During the siege in the city of Marawi, Islamic extremists [targeted](#) a hospital where 20 gunmen raised the black flag of ISIS. In addition, [fire](#) was used as a weapon to destroy a Catholic church, a jail, a college, and homes in the area. According to the Philippines defense [secretary](#), power was cut to the city, leaving Marawi in complete darkness while Maute snipers were perched all around the city. An attack on a city's power grid creates a chaotic environment leading responders to contend with other types of emergencies in addition to the current threat. Using fire as a weapon is a cheap, viable way for terrorists to effectively achieve their mission without committing extensive manpower or resources.

Muslim Convert Kills Neo-Nazi Roommates, Explosive Materiel Found – Last Friday, an 18-year-old man took three people hostage at a head shop in Tampa in an apparent act of desperation, after killing two of his roommates. The young man told police negotiators that his act was one of anger at American bombings of Muslim countries—that he was a convert (from white supremacy), and that he killed in order to prevent acts of domestic terror by his 18- and 22-year-old roommates. When police searched the residence, they not only found the bodies of the two victims, but bomb materiel, including a "white cake-like substance" in a cooler in the garage, leading to the arrest of a fourth roommate, a Florida National Guardsman and a member of AtomWaffen Division. Also, the surviving roommate had a picture of Timothy McVeigh on his dresser.

Assessment: According to the Southern Poverty Law Center, AtomWaffen is an active neo-Nazi hate group that is particularly active on college campuses. Apparently, the murder suspect was taking heat from others for his conversion to Islam—an extreme Salafist version—which occurred about a year ago. The jump from neo-Nazi to ultra-conservative Sunni Islam is [not unprecedented](#), and in fact German police arrested a man trying to lure cops and soldiers into a trap with explosives in February who made the same jump. These individuals become more dangerous when ascribing an ideology to their hate.



Jakarta Suicide Bombers Targets Police – A pair of suicide bombers with [links](#) to ISIS detonated explosives five minutes apart near a bus station in the Indonesian capital of Jakarta. At least three police officers were [killed](#) in the attack, and the two blasts left an additional six members of law enforcement and six civilians injured. Police [believe](#) they were specifically targeted in the bombing as they prepared to provide security for a parade near a bus terminal.

Assessment: Militants supporting ISIS have been behind a [series](#) of recent plots and attacks throughout Indonesia. The national police spokesman [believes](#) this attack might have been [inspired](#) by recent attacks in the U.K. and the Philippines. Access provided through routine emergencies and inspection activities may allow responders to uncover potential threats. Members should be aware of the different types of precursors used to make improvised explosive devices; the bombs used in this attack were made from pressure cookers. Upon discovery of such material, do not touch anything, remove members from the occupancy, and notify superiors, fire marshals, and law enforcement as per agency protocols.

Ramadan 2017 to Begin, Follows ISIS 'Month of Pain' from Last Year – Ramadan, the Muslim holy month of prayer and daytime fasting that begins Friday, May 26th for 2017 has increasingly become a lightning rod for global terror attacks, spurred on al Qaeda and ISIS, especially during last year's holy month. At the urging of jihadist propagandists, such as the spokesman for Islamic State who called for "a month of pain for infidels everywhere," the June-July holy month in 2016 was the bloodiest ever, punctuated by the Baghdad suicide bombing which killed nearly 300, and brought home by the Orlando nightclub massacre where 49 were killed.

Assessment: To date, the calls for Ramadan attacks this year have not received much open-source attention, however, indications already point to increased bloodshed. In [Tunisia](#), for example, security forces raided a terror cell purportedly planning Ramadan attacks and killed a senior commander, and in Afghanistan, [Taliban](#) militants killed dozens of police, executed a German aid worker, and decapitated her Afghan guard in what one senior commander said was done in anticipation of the holy month. In the wake of the Manchester bombing, the U.K. raised its threat profile to the highest level for only the third time, which [may be related](#) to the commencement of Ramadan, among other factors. "Infidels" are not the only targets, as it is noteworthy that most of the overseas victims last year were [Muslims](#). However, the urging toward homegrown jihadists certainly focuses on non-Muslims.

'Magic Roundabout' Will Make You Want to Disappear...Fast – About 80 miles west of London sits a large town called Swindon that is not well known to most Americans, but has one of the scariest traffic circles in the world (for the non-initiated), called the "Magic Roundabout." Motorists must contend with not just one large inner circle, but five smaller circles that combine to make up the outer circle. The two primary circles move in the opposite direction (counter-clockwise versus clockwise), and drivers can take [multiple routes](#) depending the level of traffic and their familiarity with its complexities.



Assessment: As traffic circles minimize perpendicular collisions ("T-bone" crashes) and overall speed through intersections, they actually minimize serious accidents [by 30 percent](#). NYC responders are no strangers to traffic circles, such as Columbus Circle at the southwest corner of Central Park, and Brooklyn's Grand Army Plaza and Bartel-Pritchard Square along Prospect Park. Officers, chauffeurs, and drivers of other emergency vehicles should study their response areas, and pay particular attention to intersections or areas that pose a traffic hazard, such as multi-lane intersections, the likely route of other responders, and areas with blind spots.

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