Terrorism and Cyber: Singapore’s Security Futures

Shashi Jayakumar
6 Dec 16
“In my 50 plus years in the intelligence business I cannot recall a more diverse array of crises and challenges than we face today”
Most anti-US terrorism will be based on perceived ethnic, religious or cultural grievances. Terrorist groups will continue to find ways to attack US military and diplomatic facilities abroad."

JI arrests/Yishun MRT
Singapore Embassies Attack plot
Situation has evolved considerably

Singapore :
• Over 60 arrested/detained since Dec 2001; of which approx 40 JI or JI linked.

Malaysia :
• 2015 : Over 100 arrested, seven plots foiled
• 2016 : 204 arrested, nine plots foiled
• Over 400,000 persons cross land checkpoints in/out of Singapore daily

Indonesia :
• 2015: At least 74 arrests and nine plots foiled
• 2016 : 88 arrested, 12 plots foiled
• 4 killed in Jakarta attack Jan 2015
• 150 terror prisoners to be released this year
• At least 100 Syrian returnees
Self-Radicalisation

Ex-ISA detainee re-arrested: He planned for militant jihad

DPM Teo: Abdul Basheer is a timely reminder that Singapore must continue to invest efforts in the rehabilitation of our terrorist detainees. -TNP

Sun, Mar 10, 2013
The New Paper

SINGAPORE - Former Internal Security Act (ISA) detainee Abdul Basheer Abdul Kader was re-arrested last October after he was found to have reverted to his past interest - undertaking militant jihad abroad.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Home Affairs Teo Chee Hean said in his Committee of Supply speech on Thursday that the self-radicalised Abdul Basheer was re-arrested last year and placed under detention, "to prevent him from pursuing his violent agenda".

"Abdul Basheer is a timely reminder that Singapore must continue to invest efforts in the rehabilitation of our terrorist detainees," said DPM Teo.

The Singaporean law graduate was first detained in February 2007 as he had made specific plans to pursue militant jihad in Afghanistan. He was released three years later and initially made some progress in reintegrating into society.

But, while under the ISA post-release supervision regime, Abdul Basheer made inquiries as to how he could leave Singapore, illegally if necessary, to pursue his previous agenda. He had made plans to take up arms against foreign military presence in places including Afghanistan, Iraq, Palestine and Syria.
Self-radicalisation / DIY attacks

Radical teen’s terror plans

- M Arifil Azim Putra Norja'i became radicalised around 2013, when he started viewing terrorist propaganda online.
- He supported ISIS’ radical ideology and violent tactics, and befriended people online who he thought could help him join the terrorist group.
- He looked up travel routes to Syria on the Internet, as well as ways of making improvised explosive devices.
- If he was unable to join ISIS in Syria, he planned to carry out violent attacks in Singapore, such as attacking key facilities and assassinating government leaders.
- If he was unable to execute those plans, he planned to carry out attacks in public places with weapons such as knives.

“It (terrorism) is not just a problem that is ‘over there’ in some other countries. It is also a problem that is ‘over here’, in our region, and here in Singapore as well.”

– DPM Teo Chee Hean, on the detention of self-radicalised youth M Arifil Azim Putra Norja'i, 19
“Self-Radicalised” Foreign Workers (Jan + May 16)
Multi-[shooter] coordinated Urban Attacks
Today, the core of al Qaeda in Afghanistan and Pakistan is on the path to defeat. Their remaining operatives spend more time thinking about their own safety than plotting against us.... So that's the current threat -- lethal yet less capable al Qaeda affiliates; threats to diplomatic facilities and businesses abroad; homegrown extremists. This is the future of terrorism. We have to take these threats seriously, and do all that we can to confront them. But as we shape our response, we have to recognize that the scale of this threat closely resembles the types of attacks we faced before 9/11.

- President Obama, speech at the National Defense University, 23 May 2013
Bruce Hoffman (Jan 16)

“[a] boomerang...a hard core of battle-hardened terrorists drawn from the thousands of foreign fighters trained and commanded by IS who may at this very moment be awaiting orders to deploy back to their homelands.”
The Next Generation
THINK AGAIN
TURN AWAY

Some truths about terrorism

A project of the U.S. Department of State
“Think Again Turn Away”

**ISIS** uses video games to play with your mind. Don’t let ISIS be your controller!
WASHINGTON — Maj. Gen. Michael K. Nagata, commander of American Special Operations forces in the Middle East, sought help this summer in solving an urgent problem for the American military: What makes the Islamic State so dangerous?

Trying to decipher this complex enemy — a hybrid terrorist organization and a conventional army — is such a conundrum that General Nagata assembled an unofficial brain trust outside the traditional realms of expertise within the Pentagon, State Department and intelligence agencies, in search of fresh ideas and inspiration. Business professors, for example, are examining the Islamic State’s marketing and branding strategies.

“We do not understand the movement, and until we do, we are not going to defeat it,” he said, according to the confidential minutes of a conference call he held with the experts. “We have not defeated the idea. We do not even understand the idea.”
“People executing a communication strategy are free to exercise decentralised, creative judgement about the messages they produce, but within constraints established by the narrative. This admittedly requires policymakers to relinquish considerable control to policy implementers”

- Prof Steven Corman
Welcome to RRG
(Religious Rehabilitation Group)

RRG is an acronym for the Religious Rehabilitation Group. The RRG is a voluntary group formed by individual ulama and asatizah (Islamic scholars and teachers) community in Singapore, primarily towards performing counseling works on the detained Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) members. The main objective of the RRG is towards countering the ideological misunderstanding of the JI members through counseling.

FAQs
1. What is the RRG?
RRG is the acronym for the Religious Rehabilitation Group.

2. Who are in the RRG?
The RRG consists of local Singaporean Ulama (religious scholars) and Asatizah (religious teachers) who volunteer their services to counsel detainees to assist them in understanding their religion correctly.

DPM and Home Affairs Minister Teo Chee Hean at the Religious Rehabilitation Group retreat lunch. (Photo: Olivia Siong)
4 radicalised Singaporeans dealt with under Internal Security Act

Two of them participated in the armed sectarian conflict in Yemen, with another carrying out sentry duties there. The last was arrested after trying to join a Kurdish militia in Syria, the Ministry of Home Affairs says.

Posted 16 Mar 2016 16:00    Updated 16 Mar 2016 23:42

SINGAPORE: Four radicalised Singaporeans have been dealt with under the Internal Security Act (ISA) for engaging in overseas armed conflict, or intending to do so, according to the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).

Mohammad Razif Yahya, 27, and Amiruddin Sawir, 53, were both detained under the ISA in August 2015 for voluntarily taking up arms and participating in the sectarian conflict in Yemen, the MHA said in its press release on Wednesday (Mar 16).

They started religious studies in an institution in Yemen in January 2010 and July 2013, respectively, and volunteered to take up armed sentry duties at the institution against any incursion by the Houthis, the ministry said.
6. Penyanyi Haddad Alwi

Dia adalah penyanyi yang cukup terkenal yang biasa berduet dengan biduanita Sulis. Salah satu lagunya yang berjudul Ya Thoybah, diubah liriknya dalam bahasa Arab dan berisi pujian pada Ali bin Abi Thalib secara berlebihan.

Haddad Alwi turut mengunjungi korban konflik sosial syiah di Sampang Madura 29 September 2012. Dia memberi motivasi dan dukungan kepada para pengungsi syiah.

Sementara, kalau nyanyiannya itu seperti Ya Thoybah, tidak mudah diidentifikasi oleh orang awam kebanyakan, sehingga orang tidak mudah untuk menyalahkannya. Karena dia berbahasa Arab, menyebut nama Nabi shallallahu ‘alaihi wa sallam, sahabat Ali radhiyallahu ‘anhu menyebut Al-Quran dan sebagainya. Padahal, nyanyian Ya Thoybah itu justru isinya berbahaya bagi Islam, karena ghuluw (berlebih-lebihan) dalam memuji
Man who attacked madrasah students faces 3 charges including 'racial aggravation'

April 2016
...now that we live in a globalised age, everyone, even if you are a member of the majority community in your own home state, you are aware that you are a minority in the global stage. ...And with a minority complex comes all the insecurities, all the imagined hurts, and this desperate need to find that identity or define that identity, even to manufacture that identity sometimes. And very often, this search for identity also has a violent edge to it. So the point I am making is that we now live in a world where no matter how crazy you are, you can find someone crazier than you to affirm your views on the Internet. So it should not surprise us that in fact it has led to a sharpening of radicalism, a sharpening of exclusive identities, and a reaffirmation of the temptation to resort to violence, both physical violence or even political violence, as people search, emphasise and reaffirm identities, imagined or real.

Min Vivian Balakrishnan, opening speech, Asia-Pacific Programme for Senior National Security Officers (APPSNO), 11 Apr 16
....we may be reaching the end of the age of the mass media and instead, entering the age of narrow-casting. Many people, especially young people, have stopped reading the newspapers or listening to radios. (...) if I were to ask you to turn to your newsfeed on your Facebook account, every one of us has a unique newsfeed. Of course it depends on the algorithm that Facebook implements. But each one’s newsfeed is unique because it supposedly filters and provides what they think you are interested in. In other words, we now live in a world of fragmented echo chambers – we hear what we want to hear, we ignore what we don’t want to hear or inconvenient truths are not heard. And in fact from an academic point of view, this leads to a ‘shallowing’ of discourse, a world in which there is a dearth of deep thought and cogent discussion across diverse perspectives. You get a more monochromatic world and a narrowing of minds.

Min Vivian Balakrishnan, opening speech, Asia-Pacific Programme for Senior National Security Officers (APPSNO), 11 Apr 16
SG SECURE

STAY ALERT • STAY UNITED • STAY STRONG

RISING THREAT ROBUST RESPONSE

GREATER VIGILANCE
- Beefing up of CCTV coverage
- New rules for tighter security at buildings, major events

SWIFT RESPONSE
- Dedicated police Emergency Response Teams across island
- Special forces to react faster

COMMUNITY EFFORT
- SG Secure national movement to be launched
- Citizens to be organised, trained to stay alert against threats

The Home Team will enhance its counter-terrorism strategy in three areas:

- Security Protection & Vigilance
  - Enhance protective security measures for buildings and premises
  - Expand CCTV coverage and data analytical capabilities

- Security Response
  - Set up Emergency Response Teams
  - Enhance response of specialist forces

Community Response

STAY ALERT STAY UNITED STAY STRONG

- Develop and launch SG Secure to sensitise, organise, train and exercise Singaporeans to better protect ourselves.

A community response plan enhancing vigilance, cohesion and resilience across whole of society.

Everyone must participate to keep Singapore safe and secure.
PARANOIA V SECURITY?
CYBER
MFA’s IT system was breached last year, reveals Yaacob

Cyber Security Agency, IDA work to ‘ensure readiness to respond to any incident’

SINGAPORE — With the Government’s IT network constantly under siege from cyber attacks, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs’ (MFA) IT system was breached last year in one of the more recent cases, Communications and Information Minister Yaacob Ibrahim revealed today (May 11) in a written Parliamentary response.

Responding to TODAY’s queries on the MFA system breach, the Cyber Security Agency (CSA), which was established by the Government last month, said that immediate steps were taken to “isolate the affected devices and appropriate security measures were implemented to further strengthen the network”.

MFA also brought forward plans to refresh its IT equipment as an added precautionary measure to ensure the integrity of its systems, the agency added.

CSA said it would not provide further details of the breach, as revealing the operational details could “affect the continuing effectiveness of our defensive measures”.

TODAY, 11 May 15
2013 Singapore Cyberattacks
A bug in the Domino's Pizza app meant that tech-savvy individuals could hack their way into getting free pizza.

"I called the store and they confirm they have received my order and it will be delivered within the next 20 minutes.

My first thought: awesome. My second thought: s--t."
“We believe it is only matter of time before the sort of sophisticated tools developed by well-funded state actors find their way to groups or even individuals who in their zeal to make some political statement do not know or do not care about the collateral damage they inflict on bystanders and critical infrastructure.”

NSA Director Gen Keith B. Alexander, Senate Committee on Appropriations, 12 Jun 13
German Steel Mill Cyber Attack (2014?)
New York Bowman Dam Hack (2013)
Internet ‘was not designed for safety’: Cyber Security Agency chief

It is a matter of time before Singapore sees a major cyberattack, and the onus is on the Government to make sure the networks are resilient and ensure information on the attack is disseminated as quickly as possible, says CSA chief executive David Koh.

By Kevin Kwang

File photo of Cyber Security Agency Chief Executive David Koh. (Photo: CSA)
“Singapore’s systems are constantly probed, regularly attacked and from time to time, penetrated. Fortunately, our critical functions have not been disrupted by cyberattacks...”

- Wong Yu Han, Cyber Security Agency
The aggressive side will be first to use nonmilitary actions and measures as it plans to attack its victim in a new-generation war. With powerful information technologies at its disposal, the aggressor will make an effort to involve all public institutions in the country it intends to attack, primarily the mass media and religious organizations, cultural institutions, non-governmental organizations, public movements financed from abroad, and scholars engaged in research on foreign grants. All these institutions and individuals may be involved in a distributed attack and strike damaging point blows at the country’s social system with the purported aims of promoting democracy and respect for human rights.

Chekinov and Bodganov, ‘The Nature and Content of a New-Generation War’ (Dec 2013)
The aim is to bring a country to its knees without ever touching it, by using very aggressive media economic blackmail, subversion, infiltration. Within this doctrine, information is viewed as a weapon to shape reality by controlling or dividing the information space, i.e. ‘the weaponization of information (...)”

- Peter Pomerantsev
Singapore’s SMART NATION
“Our vision is for Singapore to be a Smart Nation. A nation where people live meaningful and fulfilled lives, enabled seamlessly by technology, offering exciting opportunities for all.”

– PM Lee Hsien Loong, Smart Nation Nation launch, 24 Nov 2014
BETTER HOME@ YUHUA

- Regenerative Lift
- New Community Garden
- Cycling and Pedestrian Network
- Solar PV Systems
- Vertical Greenery
- Green Roof
- Outdoor LED Street Lightings
- Secured Bicycle Parking Facilities
- Rainwater Harvesting System
- Motion Sensors for Existing LED Lightings
- Community Programmes
“You call it Internet of Things; I call it Internet of Threats.”

- Eugene Kaspersky
BYOD

52 percent of information workers across 17 countries report using three or more devices for work*

90 percent of enterprises will have two or more mobile operating systems to support in 2017**

>80 percent of employees admit to using non-approved software-as-a-service (SaaS) applications in their jobs***

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“SECURE (?) SMART NATION”
SO?
What should we drill for?
Citizens on Patrol
History, Attitudes, Resilience
“Strawberry Generation” Fears
Vulnerability vs Resilience (?)
Grassroots Reactions?
“The goal of national security strategy is increasingly seen as the maintenance of conditions of normality, providing confidence to the public that the many major risks – threats and hazards – can be managed so normal every life can continue, against a backdrop of market stability, trade, innovation and the flourishing of industries ...”

- Professor Sir David Omand
  Former Director, GCHQ
THANK YOU