



## CTM-SIG Newsletter #2 - January 2022

Dear friends, colleagues, and fellow WADEM members,

While the ongoing pandemic continues to strain health care systems and occupy most of the world's attention, disaster and counter-terrorism medicine (CTM) specialists remain on edge. The pandemic has had a profound impact on trends in both international and domestic terrorism and security experts are predicting a surge in terrorist attacks in the near future and around the world.

Covid-19 has created unanticipated consequences. Debates around personal rights, masks, vaccines, and social isolation due to prolonged lockdowns have given rise to anti-government sentiments around the world, something that terrorist and extremist groups have exploited. The resulting societal unrest and polarization have become more visible, vocal, and brazen and helped to recruit those more susceptible to radical groups.

Home-grown extremism is an escalating threat and the increasing availability of technologies such as drones, 3D printing, and other non-conventional modalities like vehicle rammings and chemical weapons are changing the face of terrorism. The cyberattacks on water supplies in Florida, the increasing use of drone warfare by both state and non-state actors, and other novel attack methodologies once discussed as theoretical risks have now surfaced as real-world events and our counter-terrorism colleagues are predicting a surge in terrorist events in the near future.

CTM aims to address these changes, discuss the health care impacts of novel attack methodologies, and mitigate the risks posed by asymmetric terrorist attacks. We have been reaching out to our counter-terrorism and tactical medicine colleagues to discuss these new threats and continue to collaborate in a wide array of subspecialized areas to develop and research the field of CTM.

Through our [WADEM CTM-SIG](#), we hope to give you all a platform to learn, discuss, and collaborate with one another so we can be better prepared for the inevitability of another terrorist attack.



Image Credits: Israeli MFA (left), Courtesy of Matt Pepper (center), Jimmy Baikovicus (right)

In addition, we aim to use these updates to present the latest research and discussions in the field of CTM and hope you find these recent CTM articles from our colleagues interesting:

- Cavaliere GA, Alfalasi R, Jasani GN, Ciottone GR, Lawner BJ. [Terrorist attacks against healthcare facilities: A review](#). *Health Secur.* 2021 Sep-Oct;19(5):546-550. doi: 10.1089/hs.2021.0004.
- Beale SL, Zolnikov TR, Firebaugh CM. [A scoping review on Category A agents as bioweapons](#). *Prehosp Disaster Med.* 2021 Dec;36(6):767-773. doi: 10.1017/S1049023X21001072.

*Prehospital and Disaster Medicine* (PDM) recently launched a [special collection on CTM](#) featuring 21 articles. For more than two decades, PDM has published papers that explore the consequences of terrorist events on the global community and individual health. The collection is freely accessible until **31 March**.

Lastly, check out the first two podcasts from the CTM-SIG series:

- <https://soundcloud.com/wadem-pdm/ctm-podcast-1> - Guest: *Matt Pepper*
- <https://soundcloud.com/wadem-pdm/ctm-podcast-2> - Guests: *Zak Kallenborn & Derrick Tin*

We'll keep you posted about new content coming from the CTM-SIG!

Best regards,



Dr. Derrick Tin

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**Prehospital and Disaster Medicine**  
**Counter-Terrorism Medicine Collection**

*The CTM collection is freely available until 31 March and always free for WADDEM members.*