

Ground Truth: Multi-Vector Domestic Attack

Infrastructure Categories: Communications, Dam, Emergency Services, Energy, Information Technology, Water

Threat Details: A series of carefully planned attacks on strategic locations would present an existential threat to the United States. This scenario begins with fire.

The U.S. is flammable. We've recently seen how devastating a single wildfire can be. A relatively small army could set many hundreds of great fires at once, then disappear. Large areas would be barricaded, and emergency services would be occupied while the country is covered in smoke.

In the next phase, explosives are used on electrical hubs that are still operational, shutting down power for most of the country. With law enforcement vulnerable, the attacks by an unknown, unseen enemy continue with poisoning of food and water supplies and explosives in fuel depots, dams, airports, nuclear reactors and power stations.

Origin of the Threat: Political and social emotions are driving the formation of extremist groups by the thousands, incarnating into various kinds of "freedom militias" and bonding together in nationwide networks of the like-minded. Many are fervent, religious-based and organized. While their justifications vary, they have in common a resolve of violent intent and a belief that the end justifies their means. Their numbers and formidable resources cannot be underestimated.

According to CNN, experts estimate that 100,000 foreign spies live in the U.S. Even if that figure is off by 1000%, it's conceivable that a hundred or more foreign operators could be activated to execute a complex multi-pronged attack plan refined over decades.

If these otherwise unrelated forces view United States as a common enemy, they could unite or assist each other, cooperatively or through subterfuge.

Other Impacting Factors: Civilization in the United States is fragile, dependent on electrical systems for all other systems to operate. If power was shut down throughout most of the country for even a week, panic and chaos would ensue. Combined with widespread, unpredictable attacks by unknown forces... anarchy.

Unfolding Response: Few people are prepared to live without cell phones and internet, much less without electricity. Unable to buy food or gas, the public's panic reaches fever pitch as the crisis worsens with nationwide power outages, continued fires and explosions, reports of food contamination, and rumors of every sort.

With many dead and desperate, emergency services and law enforcement are strained beyond limits. Martial law is enacted. Militia groups and marauders assemble. Domestic insurgents and foreign adversaries perceive an opportunity.