

Threat Levels 16-3.03-K

KNOW the following levels of terrorist threat, as presented in the E-PME Study Guide.

- Severe
- High
- Significant
- Moderate
- Low

***Five Levels of
Terrorist Threats***

Terrorists are unpredictable – that’s what makes them “effective” at instilling fear. But while Americans were stunned by the events of September 11 because of its shock value and surprise, we have since learned how to listen to terrorist network “chatter” for clues regarding possible future attacks.

We’ve also developed increased intelligence-gathering techniques that allow us to gauge the level of threat posed by the terrorist network.

Terrorist threat levels are a five-step scale of standardized terms used to describe the severity of threats based upon intelligence community judgments on the likelihood of terrorist attack.

The new terrorism threat levels were developed to reduce uncertainty and misinterpretation at the operational level by clearly describing the terrorist threat.

Terrorist Threat Levels

Armed with our increased intelligence data, five levels of terrorist threat have been established. These five levels are:

- **Severe - Red:** A Severe Condition reflects a severe risk of terrorist attacks. Under most circumstances, the Protective Measures for a Severe Condition are not intended to be sustained for substantial periods of time.
 - **High - Orange:** Anti-U.S. terrorist group is operationally active and uses large casualty producing attacks as their preferred method of operation. There is a substantial DoD presence and the operating environment favors the terrorist.
 - **Elevated - Yellow:** Anti-U.S. terrorist group is operationally active and attack personnel as their preferred method of operation. Or a group uses large casualty producing attacks as their preferred method and has limited operational activity. The operating environment is neutral.
 - **Guarded - Blue:** Terrorist groups are present but there is no indication of anti-U.S. activity. The operating environment favors the host nation/U.S.
 - **Low - Green:** No terrorist group is detected or the group activity is non-threatening.
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