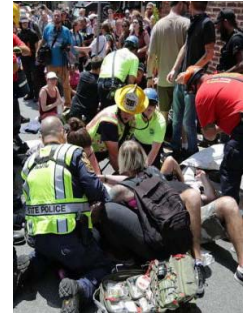




Charlottesville Violence: from Rally to Clashes to ‘Get this Race War Started’ – A major rally by various white nationalist groups planned for noon last Saturday in Charlottesville, Virginia got ugly early and culminated in the death of one woman (see below) and scores injured. Operating under the banner, “Unite the Right,” multiple white supremacist and neo-Nazi groups came from as far as Alaska to participate in a protest ostensibly over the planned removal of a Robert E. Lee statue from Emancipation Park in the bucolic city, and they kicked off their movement with a (KKK-evoking) torch march through the campus of the University of Virginia after dark on Friday night. Violent clashes began mid-morning on Saturday between the well-armed and armored “alt-right” protesters, who squared off against a large and disparate group of counter-protesters, which continued through the weekend. One woman was killed and 19 injured when a white nationalist rammed his car into a crowd of counter-protesters. And, two Virginia State troopers assigned to surveillance of the event from a helicopter were tragically killed when their aircraft crashed.



Chaotic street scene as responders tend to injured

Assessment: A torchlight march involving far fewer white supremacists took place in Emancipation (formerly Lee) Park in mid-May and last month, when about two dozen Klansmen gathered in protest of the statue removal, but were met, and were well outnumbered, by hundreds of anti-racists; police were able to break up the groups within a half hour. Last weekend, the numbers and passions increased on both sides. Amid the clashes, one young man carrying the [Odinism](#) flag [shouted](#), “Let’s get this race war started! Shoot me!” This time, the large numbers were [predicted](#), and given the theme and high-emotions, were also predictable.

Pedestrians Killed in Terrorist Vehicle Ramming on Busy Barcelona Promenade – In yet another terrorist ramming [attack](#), a van mowed down people for at least 1,000 feet (2-3 city blocks) Thursday afternoon on one of Barcelona’s busiest pedestrian walkways, La Rambla street. Based on early reporting, 12 people are dead and 80 are injured (at least 10 are reported in serious condition). Police have arrested two men, including Driss Oukabir, a Moroccan citizen, who rented the van and is believed to be the driver. ISIS supporters immediately celebrated the attack on social media, and ISIS later called the perpetrators their “soldiers,” though a direct link to the terror group has yet to be substantiated.

Assessment: Barcelona police instructed many people to shelter-in-place in their buildings as they searched for the attackers. Many subway stations were shut down, partly to keep people out of the area, and to limit escape routes for the suspects (a second van, possibly a getaway vehicle, was found in small town outside of the city). Also, the stampede of people fleeing the scene could also have led to injuries, though that would be more of a concern in interior spaces. Area hospitals have called for blood donations, an issue at any large, mass-casualty incident, as donated blood is perishable, and only so much is stored at any given time. Lastly, many witnesses assumed the role of first-care providers, giving immediate, potentially life-saving treatment to some of the trauma victims before pre-hospital care professionals could make it to the scene.

‘Three Percenter’ Attempted Oklahoma City Bombing – In an FBI-infiltrated plot, a 23-year-old man attempted to detonate an (inert) explosive outside an Oklahoma City bank building on Saturday night, just blocks from the site of the 1995 bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building. The young man, who subscribes to the “Three Percenter” ideology, planned the attack for months, watched the assembly of the 1,000-pound bomb, drove it in a van to an alley next to the BancFirst building, and twice dialed a cell-phone number in order to detonate it shortly after midnight, before being arrested. In addition to hatred for the government, the bomber was inspired by both Timothy McVeigh and the movie *Fight Club* (bombs are featured at the end).

Assessment: Though he wanted to send a message to the government “that says, ‘You are a target,’” the plot widely diverged from McVeigh’s bombing in intended casualty count. It was reported that he was originally “out for blood,” but had a change of heart and decided to minimize casualties (similar to the bomb-diffusing scene in *Fight Club*). “Three Perceners,” who were counted among attendees at the “Unite the Right” rally in Charlottesville, are a group whose name derives from a belief that only three percent of the American colonies’ population participated militarily in the War of Independence. They believe that, as patriots, they must protect against a tyrannical government, particularly regarding infringement on Second Amendment rights.



Cover Photo of Inspire No. 17

AQAP Details Derailments in latest Inspire – Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) has issued a special call for attacks on modes and nodes of transportation, with particular emphasis on railways, including a detailed 18-page guide on making and employing train derailment devices, in the latest installment (no. 17) of *Inspire* magazine. Derailment operations are the centerpiece approach, which also included directly attacking the train (from inside or outside), and targeting crowded stations. Emphasis on rail lines stems from (perceived) vulnerability based on a cited GAO report that [attests](#) that the over 100,000 miles of rail in the U.S. “creates an infinite number of targets for terrorists.”

Assessment: The author (of the “AQ Chef” section) touts the derailment tools as economical, untraceable, and without the need for “martyrdom.” Other AQ leaders support the call for targeted, lone jihadist operations, which “Target America,” throughout *Inspire* 17. It is important to note that cargo trains are offered as valuable targets as well as those carrying passengers, due to both the psychological and economic impact (a photo of derailed and burning oil cars is included).

Car Ramming Strikes Note of Terror Among Charlottesville Counter-Protesters – A 32-year-old woman was killed and 19 injured when a car accelerated down a narrow, crowded street lined with counter-protesters in Charlottesville, Va. Saturday afternoon. The 20-year-old Ohio man behind the wheel was arrested almost immediately, though it appeared he tried to flee the scene. The incident occurred after the white nationalists were cleared by police from the nearby city park to a street partly occupied by counter-protesters. It was reported that emergency responders had difficulty making their way to the site of the ramming because of the crowded streets. Photos, however, reveal members of multiple agencies working together to aid the injured.

Assessment: The attack is reminiscent of many vehicle ramming attacks that have occurred abroad in recent months. Charges against the driver include murder and other lesser violations. If it was not terror, it certainly looked like it. And it was clearly politically-motivated violence, just as what occurred throughout the day and weekend. It is crucial first responders train on, and prepare for, protest violence, including mass-casualty incidents within such rallies.

Café Targeted in Burkina Faso Capital Attack – A Turkish restaurant in Ouagadougou, the capital of Burkina Faso, was [attacked](#) Monday evening (local time) by two assailants with AK-47s, who barricaded themselves inside for about eight hours before security forces were able to neutralize the attackers and free the hostages. At the conclusion of the incident at the Aziz Istanbul eatery, 18 people were dead (including the attackers), 22 people were injured, and 40 people were freed. Those killed in the attack came from a variety of countries, including France, Canada, Libya, Senegal, Nigeria and Turkey.

Assessment: Terrorists in West Africa, affiliated with AQIM, have increased their attacks on hotels, restaurants and tourist sites frequented by foreigners, especially Westerners, in the past two years. In January, 2016, 30 people were killed in Ouagadougou when the Splendid hotel and Cappuccino café was targeted; In that strike, they also stormed buildings with assault rifles (and they lit fires that complicated the security response). And similar to this week’s attack, many foreign visitors were killed, representing 11 countries, including one American and six Canadians. One trend, according to terrorism experts, is that attacks are increasing homegrown, as opposed to those carried out by visiting jihadists, but regional groups, such as Al Mourabitoun and Ansar Dine, have pledged allegiance to AQ under the coalition Jama’a Nusrat ul-Islam wa al-Muslimin (JNIM).

