



Hostile Intent and Counter-Terrorism: Human Factors Theory and Application (Human Factors in Defence)

By Glyn Lawson

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This volume brings together research from around the world to explore a range of topics within the project of detecting terrorist activities. It is divided into six key themes: conceptualising terrorism, deception and decision making, social and cultural factors in terrorism, modelling hostile intent, strategies for counter-terrorism, and future directions. Twenty four chapters explore the spectrum of detecting terrorist activities, hostile intent, crowded public spaces and suspicious behaviour. A variety of disciplines are represented, including ergonomics/human factors, psychology, criminology, cognitive science, sociology, political theory, engineering and computer science.

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Editorial Review

Review

'This book has an important contribution to make to those seeking to develop counter-terrorism policy and practices informed by evidence-based scholarship. It contains a diverse set of reflections from around the world, inspired by a group of researchers who initially came together to consider ways of developing robust, reliable and ethical ways of detecting the covert activities of terrorists in crowded places. This book illustrates, in its scale and scope, the size and complexity of the challenge.' Tristram Riley-Smith, University of Cambridge, UK 'The essays in this book provide an original set of insights into the genesis of terrorism and its actors. The exploration of terrorist psychology goes well beyond any legal textbook. Historical analysis is combined with demographic examination. Those who detect, disrupt and research terrorism on behalf of the public will find new and revealing material that provides important background for their work.' Lord Carlile of Berriew CBE QC, former independent reviewer of terrorism legislation 'In this insightful and incisive text, Stedmon, Lawson and their many colleagues and co-contributors grapple with one of the most pressing issues for our species and our survival on this planet. They undertake to show how the integration of people and technology is at once the genesis of and potential solution to the vexed problems of contemporary asymmetric conflict, expressed through terrorism. But more than this, their crucial collective deliberations mandate that we consider what our future society can and should look like. These are issues at the very heart of the human enterprise. Thus, while both a timely and important text for the declared central concern for counter-terrorism and the place of human factors and ergonomics in that struggle, their work forces us to examine the inherent sub-text which asks and addresses persistent and perennial questions about the individual and their place in a communal and technologically-driven society. Accessible to the general reader, yet of great value to the involved professional, this text is one that must be widely read in order that we understand what threats surround us and what avenues we all possess to resolve them.' Peter A. Hancock, University of Central Florida, USA

About the Author

Dr Alex W Stedmon FIEHF CPsychol CSci FRSA is a Chartered Psychologist, Fellow of the Institute of Ergonomics and Human Factors and Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts. He is a Reader in Human Factors at Coventry University. He worked for the Ministry of Defence before moving into academia and explores human factors issues of technology use in security applications as well as contextual methods for investigating suspicious behaviours in various security related domains. Alex was one of the technical leads for a strategic security consortium (EPSRC project: 'Shades of Grey') and received Centre for Defence Enterprise funding for projects on: human factors of automated CCTV; identifying human pheromones associated with deception; and collaborative intelligence information gathering. Alex has co-edited special issues of 'Applied Ergonomics' (44/2013: 'Detecting terrorist activities: Hostile intent and suspicious behaviours') and 'The Journal of Police & Criminal Psychology' (28(2)/2013: 'Terrorism psychology: Theory and application'). Dr Glyn Lawson FIEHF - is a Lecturer within the Faculty of Engineering and a member of the Human Factors Research Group at The University of Nottingham. His research expertise includes the human-centred development of new technologies in design and engineering applications. Glyn has particular expertise in the evaluation of methods for predicting behaviour in emergency situations. He has also conducted research on deception detection and worked on requirements capture within the Security domain. Glyn is a Fellow of the Institute of Ergonomics and Human Factors and sits on the Education and Training panel. Glyn also co-edited the special issues of 'Applied Ergonomics' and 'The Journal of Police & Criminal Psychology' focusing on detecting terrorist activities and terrorism psychology.

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