Task Force Operational Plan

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**Action and Timeframe**

The information available provides sketchy information related to the suspect’s purchases, which points to the possibility that he could be making a weapon of mass destruction at his house. From a speculative perspective, there are chances that he could be planning to detonate the weapon from his house. However, this is not sufficient information to act upon and proceed to make an arrest. In any case, it would be important to determine whether he could be working alone or with some accomplices. This would be critical in ensuring that the authorities do not close this case, to the extent of even incarcerating the suspect, only to later find out that he was only part of a larger group, and was distributing or training others on how they could launch an attack against the country. Therefore, an extensive research and intelligence gathering activity is important.

In particular, the activities necessary in intelligence gathering would help determine whether he was working alone, is influenced by another entity, or is collaborating with other individuals to destabilize the country. The first activity will include collection of evidence and the information available at the surface relating to the suspect’s purchase activities. This would take about a week or two, since there are different individuals who witnessed the purchases, in addition to the CCTV footage from the hardware store, which would collaborate that he indeed made the purchases.

Once this is complete, the next activity will extensively include gathering of intelligence to determine whether he was working alone, or with a group. This information will be critical to determining the security status in the country based on the level of threat herein. Notably, this activity could take about a month to complete with absolute surety. It will signify an end to the investigation part of dealing with the case.

For as long as the threat remains, it will be important to invest in measures that could provide appropriate response services to the public, to ensure the minimal levels of anxiety possible in the event that the suspect is successful. One of the most notable aspects about threats is that they are often based on an individual’s capability to cause harm to society (Norman, 2016). As long as information related to the threat remains unclear, then the most effective way through which to prevent, or at least reduce, casualties would be to prepare for a worst case scenario. In this case, working with local police departments to ensure that the security personnel remains as alert as possible would provide an efficient contingency plan. These contingency activities need to proceed for as long as the case is open, as the task force analyzes the threat level.

**Tools**

Based on the identified activities, some of the most essential tools for the investigation process will include the covert and overt intelligence activities. In this case, the intelligence activities will guarantee access to the necessary information that could ultimately determine the possibility of the suspect acting alone or with others in the terror activities. The covert activities will follow the information gathering process, in which case the task force will collect all the information gathered by the Bureau of Explosives and Weapons and use it as basis for further investigation. For instance, the Bureau already gathered that witnesses had observed the suspect make the purchases. Further covert investigations by the task force will include following up with the sources of such information to determine credibility and gain further insight that could ultimately be helpful with the case.

Alternatively, the overt activities will include efforts to get the suspect to give information about the purchases, the potential weapon of mass destruction, and the possibility of providing the team with another suspect involved in the case. Notably, this activity would include the potential turning of the suspect into an informant. Such success could help the team to not only solve the case at hand, but also the potential for access to other terrorism cells in the country. Nonetheless, the challenges associated with trusting information provided by the informant would open a whole new case, which would not only include data gathering efforts, but also an effort to confirm the provided information in relation to the case at hand. After all, the credibility of the information provided by the potential informant would be the basis of its application in court or conducting further investigations and apprehension of suspects.

**Resources**

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| **Resource** | **Cost** |
| Intelligence hardware | $2000 |
| Intelligence personnel upkeep for the case | $1500 |
| Transport | $1000 |

**Legal Considerations**

One of the primary legal issues of consideration in this case is the due process clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. The clause prevents the government from any form of malicious treatment of a case or suspect, irrespective of how glaring the evidence could appear to fall against him (Williams, 2010). For instance, it could be necessary for the task force to conduct a search inside the suspect’s residence, and gather evidence that could ultimately tie him to the potential involvement in terror activities. However, without a search warrant to access the house, then the task force could not use any evidence that it could potentially gather without having a warrant for the said search. Therefore, it would be integral for the task force to be thorough enough in its covert intelligence activities, to ensure that the team can convince a judge to sign a search warrant for such property as his area of residence, or storage unit, just in case the suspect owns one.

On the other hand, in the event that the intelligence gathering team determines there to be a potential confidential informant, who could provide information that could help improve the case, then it would be critical to present the informant with the privileges associated with such a high profile suit. For instance, it could be that exposing his or her identity could ultimately put his life in danger from the suspect’s acquaintances. Therefore, having a clear security framework that ensures the informant is well protected during the entire duration of the case could be critical to its success. As such, preparation of the necessary documents by the court to ensure that the informant is safe enough would be necessary prior to the prosecution process.

With these legal concerns and issues well addressed, then the team would be ready to take the case to court and have the suspect charged. Having followed the due process in all the stages of investigation and gathering of evidence would guarantee limited chances of the suspect arguing on the basis of violation of his constitutional rights. Ultimately, this increases the chances that the task force would not only have made the country safer by eliminating the source of threat to the citizen’s welfare through the WMD, but it would also have provided the suspect with an opportunity for reform once inside the correctional facility.

References

Norman, T. L. (2016). *Risk analysis and security countermeasure selection*. Boca Raton, FL: CRC Press.

Williams, R. C. (2010). The one and only substantive due process clause. *The Yale Law Journal*, 120(3), 408-512.