

These are untold Stories. These are Real Threats.

TERRORISM CLOSE CALLS

From the producers of M.A.D. World, and Close Quarter Battle, comes the first series ever to explore the world's worst terror attacks that ALMOST happened.

10 x 48 min



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CLOSE CALLS

A six part series for television

The War on Terror is everywhere and anywhere. Its violence threatens everyone and anyone. And its outrages headline newspapers and news broadcasts all around the world. But the fact is that those who bring terror are not winning the war. Their successes are so lethal, so shocking that they dominate our understanding of what is happening in the world. Their failures receive far less attention. Partly, of course, because the defusing of a terror plot is not such a graphic news story. And partly because the details of how we defeat those who would spread terror are largely withheld from the media - "operational issues" and "national security" are given as reasons for secrecy.

This is the story of terror plots that failed - that were intercepted, disrupted, disarmed, ambushed and defeated. Some were foiled early - others with barely time to spare before the intended horror. This is the story of CLOSE CALLS.

In six episodes we learn about the terrorist schemes that military, intelligence and security service around the world brought down. The plots that failed because of surveillance, electronic interception, infiltration, courageous undercover operatives, skilled high technology experts, code breakers and spies.

Episode 1 - **"OPERATION HIGH-RISE": THE NY CITY SUBWAY PLOT**



2009 Three US Al Qaeda operatives had hatched an audacious terror plot to wreak maximum carnage - they planned to detonate homemade bombs hidden in backpacks simultaneously on various trains in the New York City subway system and in Grand Central Terminal. It would be up to the US Department of Homeland Security and the National Security Agency along with their counterparts around the world to stop the US Al-Qaeda cell before they could strike.

Episode 2- **THE STUDENT BOMB MAKER: KHALID ALDAWSARI**



2010 A 20-year-old Saudi on a student visa in America plotted to attack American targets - he procured chemicals for bombs and researched targets - among them the Dallas residence of former President George W. Bush, several dams in Colorado and California, and the homes of three former military guards at the Abu Ghraib prison. He also had plans to travel to New York and plant bombs in rental cars to blow them up at rush hour. An FBI sting-operation would uncover the plot and reveal that the Saudi student had both the technical knowledge and the political motivation to carry out his plans.

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Episode 3 - **CARGO PLOT: BOMBS ON THE PLANE**



2010 Once foiled the details of the plot were easy to find. Al Qaeda wrote about it in their online magazine going so far as to list the cost of the items used – in all they spent a little over US\$5000 in a plot to blow up a UPS cargo plane using a printer cartridge bomb. The device was sent by the Yemen-based al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) and timed to explode in mid-air over the eastern United States. The aim was to cause economic disruption and kill as many people as possible. Just three hours before the bomb was set to explode, British intelligence intervened. It is one of the most successful examples of international intelligence sharing between countries to date.

Episode 4 - **THE SAUDI AMBASSADOR, THE CAR SALESMAN, & THE MEXICAN CARTEL: MANSSOUR ARBABSIAR**



2011 This plot has all the makings of a Hollywood action film – only the story is real! Manssour Arbabsiar, an Iranian-born car salesman living in Texas planned to assassinate the Saudi Ambassador to the United States. Manssour would reach out to the Mexican Cartel for help – they would target the Ambassador at a popular restaurant in DC. What Manssour didn't know was the cartel member he had enlisted was undercover DEA. The resulting investigation would reveal a link between Manssour and the Iranian government and an attempted bombing that would not just kill an ambassador, but many others. DEA surveillance tapes reveal Manssour saying the killings of up to 200 people would be, "no big deal!" If successful it would have been catastrophic, it also marked the first known instance of Middle Eastern terrorists uniting with a Mexican cartel to spill blood on U.S. soil.

Episode 5 - **"OPERATION OVERT": SEVEN PLANES – SEVEN BOMBS**



2006 A terror cell made up of 25 predominantly British born men of Pakistani decent plotted to create another 9/11. The plan was to smuggle liquid explosives inside sports drinks to be detonated simultaneously by suicide bombers on at least 7 flights headed from London's Heathrow Airport to the US and Canada. This deadly threat would drive both the US and Britain to new levels of transatlantic security and intelligence sharing and forever change the way we travel today.

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Episode 6 - DANIEL PATRICK BOYD: ALL AMERICAN JIHAD



2009 Daniel Patrick Boyd is everything you wouldn't imagine a terrorist to be – a Caucasian, family man with a successful business who was well liked by his community. But, Boyd had become radicalized and behind closed doors preached an extremist point of view – he believed that violent jihad was an obligation of every good Muslim. He would recruit others willing to die as martyrs – including his own two sons. He stockpiled weapons and plotted to commit acts of terror overseas and in the United States – one of his targets was the Marine Base at Quantico, Virginia. A tip off from a mosque would launch a mutli-faceted FBI investigation to bring him down.

Episode 7- AUSTRALIAN ANZAC DAY PLOT: 2015



Anzac Day is a national day of remembrance to those who served and died in wars past and present in Australia, but it is also the day marked for a terror attack. When police arrested a 14-year-old boy in April, 2015 for threatening to behead his teachers, they would never have suspected they would also be trying to foil a terror plot on the other side of the world. A keyboard jihadi, the 14 year old had over 24,000 twitter followers, but it was what detectives found within encrypted messages that revealed Australia was just days away from experiencing a violent terrorist attack orchestrated by a schoolboy.

Episode 8 - TAGEL AIRPORT – BERLIN



2016 Jaber al-Bakr, a 22 year old Syrian Refugee was plotting a suicide attack in Germany in the name of ISIS. His initial target was a train, but then reported back to his contacts, "a big airport in Berlin" was "better than trains." Al-Bakr had scouted Taglen Airport and met an ISIS contact to finalize his plans. German secret service along with US intelligence would launch a massive manhunt to stop the attack, but it would be al-Bakr's fellow Syrian Refugees who would bring him to justice.

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Episode 9 - REEM RIYASHI – ISRAEL



After the much publicized story of a young Palestinian woman, Reem Riyashi, recording a martyrdom video to her daughter before blowing herself up at an Israeli checkpoint, Israeli intelligence thought that was the end of the story, but it was just the beginning. Riyashi wasn't just another willing suicide bomber, instead she had been given an ultimatum to save face. She had been caught in a tryst with a Hamas leader and in order to save her family from shame was forced into a martyrdom operation. Israeli forces retaliated by going after a Hamas top operative using a special forces female agent in a love triangle of their own to seduce the leader over the phone, pinpoint his location and eliminate their target.

Episode 10 - MASS TERROR PLOT – DUSSELDORF



They first believed an ISIS terror cell of four disguised as Syrian refugees were plotting a copycat Paris-style attack in popular areas in Dusseldorf visited by tens of thousands of tourists a day, but later found the plot was even worse - four suicide bombers were to blow themselves up while six more accomplices sprayed gunfire on innocent people before detonating their own suicide vests to cause even more casualties. The plot was revealed when one of the conspirators turned himself into French authorities, but the challenge for German intelligence and law enforcement would be to locate and stop the other three terror suspects from completing their deadly mission.

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