Title: Terror queue staffing and the duration of terror plots

Abstract: How many good guys are needed to find the bad guys? Simple staffing formulas are developed to prevent a specified fraction of terror attacks (or satisfy related objectives) via the terror queue model of the detection of terror plots. Motivated by a recently published estimate of the probability distribution for the duration of Jihadi plots in the US (time from plot initiation until interdiction or an attempt attack, whichever comes first), the staffing formulas are shown to hold for terror queues with proportional hazards, that is, when the instantaneous probability of detecting a plot is proportional to the instantaneous chance of a terror attack.

Brief Bio: Edward H. Kaplan is the William N. and Marie A. Beach Professor of Management Sciences, Professor of Public Health, and Professor of Engineering at Yale University's School of Management. The author of more than 130 research articles, Kaplan received both the Lanchester Prize and the Edelman Award, two top honors in the operations research field, among other awards. An elected member of the National Academy of Engineering and the Institute of Medicine of the US National Academies, Kaplan’s past work addressed HIV prevention and other problems in public health, while his current research focuses on applications of operations research to problems in counterterrorism and homeland security. You can learn more about Prof. Kaplan and his research at http://faculty.som.yale.edu/EdKaplan/.