Terrorist Modus Operandi

IRAQ
Key

- Terrorist vehicle
- Friendly vehicle
- Terrorist - Dicker
- Neutral vehicle
- Terrorist - gunman
- Neutral person
- Terrorist - explosion
- Victim vehicle (crime)
- Hostile gunfire
- Victim (crime)
- Bandit
1. Gun team initiate ambush bringing front vehicle to a halt

Recent multiple IED ambushes have exploited the spacing disciplines of military convoys. The ambush is initiated by a gun team, bringing the convoy to a halt. The terrorists draw the fire to their side of the road, then a second team initiates the IED/IED’s. There have also been cases where the ‘tail’ vehicle has been attacked by RPG.

2. Multiple IED’s initiated

3. Rear of convoy attacked by RPG, from opposite side of road
Convoy Ambush – IED Initiation

1. IED initiates ambush halting convoy

2. Gun team engage convoy, drawing attention to ‘their’ side of the road.

3. Rear of convoy attacked by RPG, from opposite side of road

This type of ambush has exploited the convoy security details tendency to fix their attention on the direction of the shooting. On the opposite side of the road, an RPG team waits under cover before firing a rocket-grenade at the rear vehicle and then escaping.
Alley Way Ambush

1. Dicker gives warning of approaching vehicles to gunman

2. Gunman fires at passing vehicle before escaping to waiting car

‘Shoot and Scoot’ style ambush. Dicker warns gun team of approaching target. The gun team fire a burst at the target before escaping to waiting get-away vehicle parked nearby. This tactic has been used in both rural and urban areas.
Staged Accident Ambush

1. Car accident is staged and a crowd gathers.

2. Crowd controlled by activist

3. When ordered by the controller, the crowd parts, allowing gunman to fire, before escaping to waiting car.

The target vehicle is forced to stop by a staged accident. A crowd gathers, hemming in the target vehicle - the crowd controlled by an activist. On command, the crowd parts, allowing a gunman to fire, before escaping to a waiting vehicle. This tactic has also been used against security forces vehicles/personnel responding to the accident.
Roadside IED is hidden at a choke point where target vehicle is likely to be forced to stop. Dicker, or terrorist who is to initiate the device placed in line of site of ambush site. Initiation may be by command wire (more suited to rural areas), or by remote (recent IED’s have used mobile telephones).

IED’s may be hidden by a variety of methods. Recent examples have included boxes, bags, drink cans, dead animals, MRE packs, hollowed out breeze blocks, and broken down vehicles.
Drive-by Shooting

The terrorist follow the target vehicle, then at an opportune moment overtake, firing at the target vehicle as they pass.

A variation of this approach has been to attack the target vehicle as it passes a slip road. This allows the terrorist to approach on the front passenger side, timing the ambush to coincide with their (terrorist) entry onto the exit lane.
Overhead IED

As target vehicle enters underpass, terrorist waiting on the overhead parapet drop an IED onto roof of vehicle.

As an alternative, a dicker on the entry parapet signals that a target vehicle is approaching to a terrorist waiting at the exit parapet.
Rolling Ambush (choke point) - Assassination

1. Gunmen on overlooking vantage point initiate ambush.
2. Blocking vehicle moves behind convoy
3. Roadside gunmen rake vehicles as they pass.
4. Blocking vehicle moves in front of convoy to prevent escape from killing area.
Linear Ambush - Assassination

1. Dicking vehicle follows convoy in order to identify it and call forward to rest of assassination team.
2. Blocking vehicle moves into inside lane and brakes – slowing down traffic, allowing convoy to overtake (3) move into clear space (4).
3. Convoy moves into clear space.
4. Convoy moves into killing area, gunmen on side of road rake convoy – concentrating on ‘principles’ in second vehicle.
5. Blocking vehicle moves into middle lane preventing escape.
1. Dickers posing as road sweepers warn gun-group in pick up truck that entourage is leaving residence.

2. Ambush initiated by RPG (misses target)

3. Pick-up overtakes convoy, rakes second vehicle with Dr Hashimi, fatally wounding her.

4. Overtakes second vehicle and rakes with gunfire before speeding away
Highway Robbery – Single Vehicle Victim

The target vehicle is forced to slow down by the vehicle in front (1a), usually a heavy vehicle. This allows the bandits in the vehicle behind (2a) to overtake, shooting out the target vehicle’s tyres to force it to stop. The occupants of the target vehicle are then robbed at gunpoint and abandoned.

The target vehicle is forced to stop by a large vehicle blocking the road (1b). The bandits in the vehicle behind (2b) then block any escape, and the occupants of the target vehicle are robbed at gunpoint and abandoned. High possibility of kidnap.