

Tracking brutish 21 years of Black Tigers

The LTTE will celebrate their 21st Black Tiger day on July 5. Security forces stepped up their alert and called on the people to be vigilant of any suspicious persons, unattended parcels, bags and containers in public places.

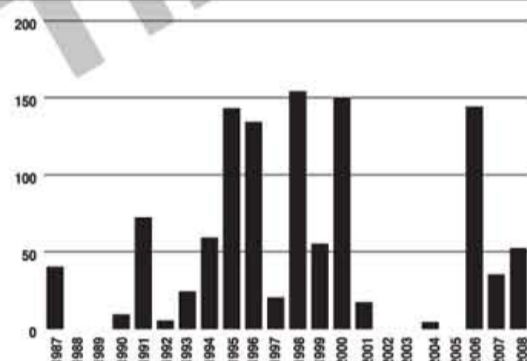
The LTTE has staged 91 suicide (Black Tiger) attacks killing 1200 and wounding over 3,500 civilians, politicians and military personnel both on land and sea, since July 5, 1987, and has lost 351 Black Tigers since July 1987.

The Black Tigers are special suicide cadres of the LTTE, considered to be one of the most lethal and effective suicide groups in the world.

FIRST SUICIDE ATTACK

Vallipuram Vasanthan, alias 'Captain Miller', was the first LTTE Black Tiger suicide bomber, driving an explosives laden truck into an Army camp in Nelliady Central College, Jaffna, on July 5, 1987, killing himself and 39 soldiers. Since then, every year, the LTTE commemorates July 5 as Black Tigers' day.

DEATHS FROM LTTE SUICIDE ATTACK 1987 -2008



BLACK SEA TIGERS

There are also maritime Black Tigers, who use small fiberglass boats laden with explosives that ram Sri Lanka Navy vessels. Suicide attacks have also been executed by divers. Statistics show that most of the suicide attacks were staged at sea in naval engagements.



BLACK AIR TIGERS

The LTTE may also have airborne Black Tigers; it is believed that the five microplanes at Iranamadu may belong to such a force. No airborne Black Tiger suicide attack has yet been attempted.

TYPES OF SUICIDE EXPLOSIVE DEVICES

There are six types of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) used in suicide attacks.

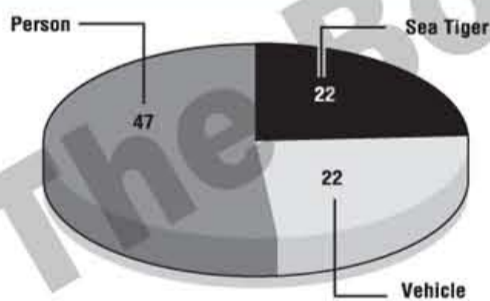
1. Human IED, also known as the suicide bodysuit.
2. Vehicle IED
3. Motorcycle IED
4. Naval craft IED
5. Scuba diver IED
6. Aerial (microlight, glider, mini-helicopter) IED (not used as yet).

Type's of suicide bodysuit such as the suicide belts, jackets, breast bombs and those placed inside under garments. The largest number of suicide IEDs used is the suicide bodysuit.



The large disk that rests under the breast area is filled with a mass of 3-mm steel balls, and behind that, next to the skin, sits a C-4 plastic explosive. Two detonators, one on either side of her body, require just a gentle tug, for the human bomb to kill or maim dozens of people within a 100-foot radius.

LTTE SUICIDE DELIVERY METHODS 1987 - 2008



POLITICAL VIPs KILLED BY BLACK TIGERS

- May 21, 1991 Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi
- May 01, 1992 President R. Premadasa
- Oct 24, 1994 Presidential candidate Gamini Disnayake
- July 29, 1999 Tamil Politician Dr Neelam Thiruchelvam
- June 07, 2000 Minister C.V. Gunarathne
- Apr 06, 2008 Minister Jeyaraj Fernandopulle

BLACK TIGER ATTEMPTS TO KILL POLITICAL VIPs

- July 04, 1996 Minister Nimal Siripala de Silva
- Dec 18, 1999 President Chandrika Kumaratunga
- Nov 28, 2007 Minister Douglas Devananda

MILITARY VIPs KILLED BY BLACK TIGERS

- Nov 16, 1992 Navy Commander Vice Admiral Clancy Fernando
- July 04, 1996 Jaffna Military Commander Brig. Ananda Hamangoda
- May 14, 1998 Brig. Larry Wijeyaratne
- Dec 18, 1999 Maj. Gen. Lakshman Algama
- June 26, 2006 Deputy Chief of Staff, Maj. Gen. Parami Kulatunga

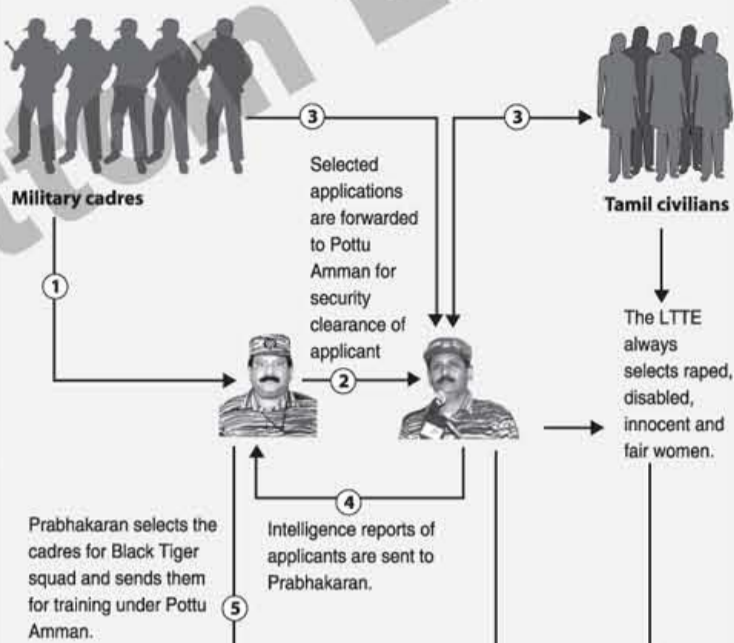
BLACK TIGER ATTEMPTS TO KILL MILITARY VIPs

- Mar 18, 1999 Head of the Terrorism Investigation Unit, Ci Mohamed Nilabdeen
- Mar 02, 2000 Col. Piyal Abeysekera
- Apr 26, 2006 Army Commander Lt. Gen. Sarath Fonseka
- Dec 01, 2006 Defence Secretary Gotabhaya Rajapaksa

RECRUITMENT OF BLACK TIGERS

The suicide cadres are carefully chosen on the basis of their commitment to the cause, intelligence, and the ability to penetrate an alien society and stay put under hostile and sensitive conditions till the right moment to strike comes.

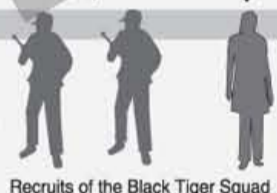
- Applications to join the Black Tiger squad are sent to Prabhakaran, who personally selects recruits to the Black Tigers. He, normally, chooses young people aged between 14 and 16, and about three females for every two males.



Rape victims as female suicide bombers are very common. Considered 'spoiled goods' and unmarried in their patriarchal cultures, their choice of becoming human bombs is a form of purification by fire. Dhanu, Rajiv Gandhi's assassin, was also allegedly raped by soldiers from the Indian Peacekeeping Force while posted in Sri Lanka.

TRAINING AND CHOICE OF MISSIONS

It is both psychological training and physical training, and that is what increases the endurance of the suicide bomber. As a result, the bomber can go to a hostile area, where he may stay for two or three years, living with the people, associating with the people, eating good food, and still when the order comes he/she will carry out his/her mission.

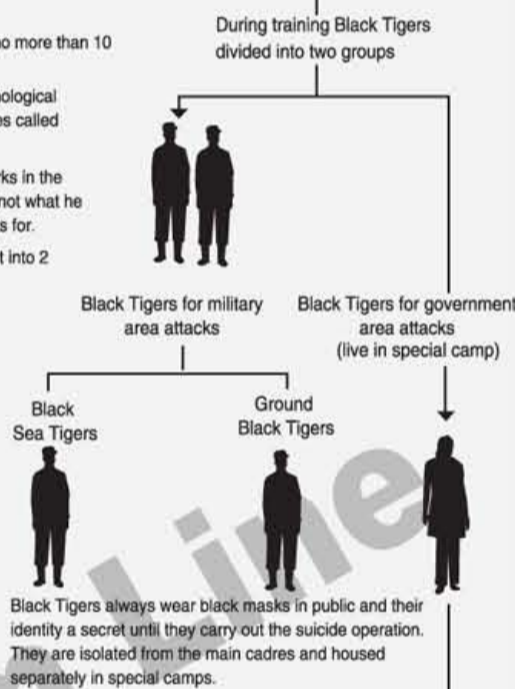


- Small Intakes, averaging no more than 10 cadres at a time
- Training begins with psychological and motivational techniques called 'brainwashing'.
- At the end, what really works in the mind of a suicide cadre is not what he opposes but, what he fights for.
- Duration, nine months split into 2 phases

I - Focuses on honing physical/mental fitness and developing a baseline set of skills (e.g. bomb construction, vehicle driving, counter-surveillance)

II - Emphasizes special mission-oriented training developed through simulations and test runs

- Their skills are developed for nearly one year.



BLACK TIGER MISSIONS

Furthermore, in suicide attacks, there is no need to provide an escape route, or for the extraction of the attacker/attacking force. The group does not have to concern itself with developing an escape plan, often the most difficult phase of an operation. Therefore, a suicide terrorist could enter a high security zone and accomplish his/her mission without worrying about escape or evasion.

