CARVER ASSESSMENT WORKSHEET

Community Challenge | Light Fighter Manifesto

TASK: Conduct a CARVER target analysis on one key building or piece of critical infrastructure in your community.

CONDITION: Given this worksheet, open-source information (maps, public records, visual observation), and the scoring reference below. No special tools or access required.

STANDARD: Identify a minimum of 4 sub-systems of the target. Score each sub-system across all 6 CARVER criteria using the 1-5 scale. Rank sub-systems by total score. Document justification for each score in the notes section.

ASSESSOR: _____   DATE: _____   TARGET BUILDING / INFRASTRUCTURE: _____

HOW TO CONDUCT A CARVER ASSESSMENT

CARVER is a target analysis methodology developed by U.S. Army Special Forces (FM 34-36) for systematically evaluating targets and infrastructure. When used defensively, it identifies which assets are most critical and vulnerable, allowing you to prioritize protection and preparedness.

The six criteria:

1. **Criticality** -- How important is this sub-system to the overall function of the target? If it stops working, how fast and how severely is the target affected?
2. **Accessibility** -- How easy is it to physically reach the sub-system? Consider barriers, perimeters, locks, elevation, and exposure.
3. **Recuperability** -- How long would it take to repair, replace, or bypass the sub-system if it were damaged or destroyed?
4. **Vulnerability** -- How susceptible is the sub-system to disruption? Consider physical hardness, redundancy, and what it would take to degrade it.
5. **Effect** -- What are the second- and third-order consequences if this sub-system is disrupted? Consider impact on the surrounding community, not just the target.

6. **Recognizability** -- How easily can the sub-system be identified? Consider visibility, signage, concealment, and whether a non-expert could locate it.

Steps:

1. Select a building or piece of infrastructure (e.g., water treatment plant, power substation, communications tower, bridge).
2. Break it into sub-systems. A water plant has intake, treatment, pumping, distribution mains, and storage tanks. A cell tower has the antenna array, power supply, fiber backhaul, and ground equipment.
3. Score each sub-system 1-5 for each CARVER criterion using the reference table below. Higher = more critical, accessible, longer recovery, more vulnerable, greater effect, more recognizable.
4. Sum each row. The highest totals are the most critical vulnerabilities -- the sub-systems that should receive priority for protection, hardening, or redundancy planning.
5. Document your reasoning in the notes section. Scores without justification are not useful.

SCORING REFERENCE (1-5 SCALE)

Derived from FM 34-36, Appendix D: Target Analysis Process. Higher score = higher priority.

CRITERION	1	2	3	4	5
C - Criticality	No significant effect on output or service	Degradation in 10+ days or <10% curtailment	Degradation in 1 week or ~33% curtailment	Halt within 1 day or ~66% curtailment	Immediate halt in output, production, or service
A - Accessibility	Inaccessible without extreme difficulty	Difficult; interior upper floors, secured areas	Moderate; inside building, ground floor	Accessible; inside perimeter but outdoors	Easily accessible; no barriers, standoff possible
R - Recuperability	Same-day replacement, repair, or workaround	Repair within 24-72 hours	Repair within 72 hours to 1 week	Repair within 1 week to 1 month	Repair or replacement requires 1+ months
V - Vulnerability	Invulnerable to all but extreme measures	Vulnerable only to heavy equipment or large charges	Vulnerable to medium weapons or moderate effort	Vulnerable to light weapons or small charges	Vulnerable to small arms, hand tools, or minimal effort
E - Effect	Overwhelmingly negative consequences	Mostly negative; few positive results	Neutral; no significant impact either way	Mostly positive operational effects	Overwhelmingly positive effects; no negatives
R - Recognizability	Unrecognizable except by specialists	Difficult to recognize even at close range	Recognizable only in good conditions at close range	Easily recognizable at close range in any conditions	Clearly recognizable under all conditions from distance

CARVER MATRIX

Target Sub-System	C	A	R	V	E	R	Total

PRIORITY RANKING (HIGHEST TOTAL FIRST)

1. ....
2. ....
3. ....
4. ....
5. ....

NOTES & SCORE JUSTIFICATION