



WORDS OF VISIONARIES

Module: Thrilling Operations February 07, 2021



Dreamers & Innovators is a knowledge and skill-building platform for 21st century learners. We aspire, design and execute interactive learning experiences where global knowledge relevant to today and tomorrow is brought to young Dreamers. At D&I, 21st century skills are honed, confident communication is developed and independent, informed opinions are nourished.

January 2021 is hallmarked at D&I with the module: **Thrilling Missions**. This module focuses on the epic missions carried out by the forces of nations of global significance. In the second session, on the **Kandahar Hijacking** we took the opportunity to study the unforgettable crisis and brainstorm alternatives available to India at the time...



EVERY MINUTE COUNTS

By Rohina Mehra

In moments of crisis when prompt decisions followed by seamless execution need to be taken, negligence and undue importance to protocols often results in outcomes that we later wish were different. The event 21 years ago - Kandahar Hijacking - could have had a different ending. There were many opportunities missed, resulting in us being at the weak spot of negotiation. Besides, the importance of keeping good relationships with thy neighbor also gained momentum thereafter. The release of three hard core terrorists has costed the world a heavy price. As we reflect upon this event with some regret and remorse, we continue to learn and move ahead with better preparedness.



THE DOMINO EFFECT

By Keith Gomes

Humankind often mistakes only active actions as part of the cause-effect chain. But, what about those actions that aren't taken? What about those actions which were never desired to be taken? The Kandahar Hijacking crisis left quite the impression having had not only the element of surprise but also of having timed it so dramatically: the end of the 20th century. But, the true ripple of its impact has been felt for years after.

The actions we did not take at the time have left an indelible mark on the history we leave for posterity.



OUTCOMES OF A HIJACKING:

by Samaira Kalra, 12yrs

Kandahar Hijacking is considered as one of the most horrendous hijackings in human history which shook the world. An incident which left people traumatized for years.

It also resulted in the forceful release of three global terrorists, which led to many assassinations and murders, these included the attack on the Parliament in 2001 and the most recent attack in 2019, the Pulwama Attack.

Not only in India but these terrorists have also wreaked havoc in other countries. Many countries are desperately trying to catch them again as they, except for one, currently roam around freely.



LOST OPPORTUNITIES

by Asmi Chawla, 12yrs

We lost some of the biggest opportunities for leverage during the Kandahar hijacking which could have nullified the hijacking and we would not have had to release the three dangerous terrorists.

The first opportunity was when the pilot fooled the hijackers to land in Amritsar and said that they had no fuel. The plane was there for about an hour and a rescue team could have halted the hijacking right then and there.

The second opportunity was the meeting with the prime minister, which sadly was delayed for more than an hour if it could have happened earlier they could have made a better plan and would not have had to release the three terrorists in exchange.



FOREGONE POSSIBILITIES

by Poorna Tewari, 12 yrs

On 24th December 1999, flight IC 814 was en-route from Tribhuvan International Airport in Kathmandu, Nepal to Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi with 171 passengers and 15 crew members aboard. Little did these people know that there were 5 hijackers on board too and that their lives were going to change forever.

Many opportunities to rescue the hostages were wasted because of not taking assertive action and untimely decision making. For instance, we missed an opportunity in Dubai, when 27 passengers were let off. Detailed interrogation of them could have helped them gather some more information about the five terrorists so they could plan to storm the plane then. Had we acted on these opportunities on time, maybe we would not have had to release the dreaded terrorists who went on to mastermind many national and international terror attacks.



LESSONS LEARNT

by Aashravya Mehra, 12 yrs

The Kandahar hijacking of 24th December 1999 was indeed a very dangerous and terrorizing moment in Indian history. There was a lot that could have been done to prevent the loss caused during the hijacking but unfortunately our then Prime Minister was in a different flight which led to a delay.

The crisis management group could've done something when the plane had arrived in Amritsar but due to a lot of delays an opportunity was unfortunately missed. There was one more way that we could have done something but due to diplomatic relations with Pakistan and the UAE, we couldn't do much.

Today we have learnt our lesson and in crisis we can do much better with preparedness of a plan for everything.

