



Weekly News Update

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The RAPID Weekly News Update is a weekly collection of unclassified media and news bulletins focused on noteworthy improvised explosive attacks and trends in the EOD/C-IED community. To subscribe to this weekly publication and/or to receive additional IED-related reports, please request a RAPID login at <https://rapid.a-tolutions.com> using your government (.mil or .gov) email account.

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1. Car Bomb Kills Seven In Afghanistan

Thursday, 19 January 2012

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/asia/afghanistan/9025044/Car-bomb-kills-seven-in-Afghanistan.html>

Witnesses said the suicide bomber appeared to target a convoy of armoured cars close an entry checkpoint for Kandahar Airfield and two badly-damaged 4x4s could be seen among the wreckage.

Fuel tankers and a number of civilian cars were caught in the blast on the main Kandahar to Spin Boldak road and at least eight civilians were wounded.

A spokesman for the Taliban movement said a bomber had targeted "the bullet-proof vehicles of foreign forces", while General Hamid Wardak, Afghan army commander for the area, said those hit were "foreign special forces".

However there were no casualties among foreign troops according to a spokesman for the Nato coalition. Violence has continued unabated in Afghanistan in recent weeks despite the disclosure the Taliban have agreed to open a political office in Qatar as a prelude to talks with America and the Afghan government.

Casualties among civilians were last year at their highest level since the removal of the Taliban government in 2001, according to United Nations estimates.

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2. Car Bomb Targeting NATO Aid Team Kills Four Afghans

26 January 2012

<http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/afghanistan/story/2012-01-26/afghanistan-bomb/52799872/1>

A suicide car bomber targeting a NATO-sponsored reconstruction team killed four Afghan civilians, including a child, and wounded 31 on Thursday in southern Afghanistan, officials said.

Three civilian international members of the aid team — two men and one woman — were among the wounded, said Daud Ahmadi, a spokesman for the provincial governor. He said their injuries were not life threatening and did not know their nationalities.

The bomber detonated his explosives-laden vehicle Thursday morning as a convoy of a NATO Provincial Reconstruction Team passed by in Lashkar Gah, capital of Helmand province, Ahmadi said.

The blast ripped through the convoy of armored vehicles, knocking at least one over and charring others. The explosion also shredded nearby storefronts and damaged at least 17 civilian cars nearby, a provincial statement said.

Provincial Reconstruction Teams are joint international military-civilian units dedicated to aid projects to boost support for the Afghan government of President Hamid Karzai. They are sponsored by the NATO military coalition and there are 27 now operating in Afghanistan.

Afghan National Army soldier Dad Mohammad witnessed the attack while on patrol in the town.

"A car passed our vehicle and parked down the road," he said. "When the foreigners' vehicle was passing this road, it was targeted and there was an explosion."

A spokesman for NATO declined to comment on the attack, referring all questions to the Afghan provincial government.

A statement from the Ministry of Interior said the attack took place near an Education Department building, though Ahmadi initially described it as an aid office. The Ministry said the vehicles in the convoy were about 70% destroyed.

No one claimed responsibility for the car bomb, but Helmand has been one of the most volatile areas in the Taliban insurgency's pushback against a U.S.-led initiative to bring southern Afghanistan under greater control of the central Afghan government.

Karzai, who is on a trip meeting European leaders, condemned the attack. A statement from his office Thursday blamed "the enemy of the Afghan people" for the violence, which it called "un-Islamic and against humanity."

Elsewhere, officials said a rocket fired by Taliban insurgents killed a woman and her child in eastern Afghanistan.

Insurgents fired the mortar round during a battle Wednesday with Afghan army soldiers trying to clear militants from a stronghold in Kapisa province's Alasay district, said the provincial governor's chief of staff, Abdul Sabor Wafa.

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3. Roadside Bomb Injures Five Afghan Police

Saturday, 21 January 2012

<http://www.presstv.ir/detail/222586.html>

At least five Afghan policemen have been injured in a roadside bomb attack in Afghanistan's eastern province of Khost, officials say.

The blast took place on Monday morning when a police vehicle hit a roadside bomb in Mando Zayi district near the Khost city.

Official said that the injured policemen were transferred to a hospital in the city for treatment.

Taliban militants have claimed responsibility for the attack. Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid claimed that the five policemen were killed during the attack.

Roadside bombs and improvised explosive devices (IEDs) are by far the most lethal weapon Taliban militants use against Afghan forces, foreign troops, and civilians.

The homemade explosive devices accounted for half of the about 1,500 civilian deaths in Afghanistan in the first six months of 2011, according to the United Nations.

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4. Pentagon Looks To Sabotage Pakistan's Bomb Supply

Tuesday, 24 January 2012

<http://www.wired.com/dangerroom/2012/01/sabotage-pakistan-bomb-supply/>

The Pentagon's bomb squad has a new idea to thwart Afghan insurgents' weapon of choice: by adding chemicals that'd render its main ingredient non-explosive or even make it lethal to the bomb builders themselves.

The Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization, or JIEDDO, wants to tamper with the supplies of fertilizer, the primary component in the bombs that have killed 719 American soldiers in Afghanistan since 2001. One small problem: Most of the 480,000 pounds of fertilizer used in Afghanistan's bombs is smuggled out of Pakistan, and U.S. officials have hardly convinced that country to clamp down.

"We're not going to solve the IED problem inside Afghanistan," a senior U.S. military official told ABC News last week. "If we don't go after the supply, we're playing defense."

That's exactly what JIEDDO's looking to do. The agency's new call for research, first spotted by InsideDefense.com, asks for "additives and methods to disrupt or discourage [bomb] manufacturing from fertilizer."

A fertilizer bomb is little more than ammonium nitrate, fuel and a simple detonator, and it can be assembled in one of two ways: For the most potent explosives, bomb makers can boil the fertilizer to separate its constituent parts and score a supply of ammonium nitrate — the chemical they're actually after. Or, they can crush up the fertilizer's granules and use 'em as a quick-and-dirty bomb-building base.

JIEDDO is hoping to mess with that process. They're interested in compounds that'd make the fertilizer turn to foam or gel when mixed with water — rendering the boiling process futile (and rather messy). Or, JIEDDO wants some kind of "grinding inhibitor" that would keep the fertilizer granules in one piece, making them entirely useless to terrorists trying to dissolve or grind them.

But one of the most promising possibilities, floated during JIEDDO chief Lt. Gen. Michael D. Barbero's recent trip to Pakistan: "adding coated urea fertilizer granules to the bags of ammonium nitrate. The combination of urea and ammonium nitrate has a strong affinity for water and would be very difficult for insurgents to dry into an explosive powder," the Washington Post reported. "The urea additives would not stop the insurgents from processing the fertilizer into bombs, but it would complicate their task and potentially make the blast less potent."

The agency's also got more malevolent ideas. They're open to additives that would actually make bomb-building a lethal endeavor for insurgents, by "increasing the inherent risk when processing materials."

Of course, enhancing the safety of ammonium nitrate fertilizers is already a priority — largely a futile one — in military and law enforcement circles. Last year, U.S. manufacturer Honeywell debuted a new fertilizer meant to be less explosive by combining ammonium sulfate — a fertilizer and fire retardant — with ammonium nitrate. Company execs even pitched the U.S. government on the product, but tests concluded that the fertilizer's constituents could easily be pulled apart and the ammonium nitrate used in bombs.

Since 1995 — when a fertilizer bomb leveled the federal building in Oklahoma City — the American government has been partnering with The Fertilizer Institute, a U.S. trade organization, to study whether ammonium nitrate fertilizers could be rendered non-explosive. Sixteen years later, the answer remains a

resounding “no” — study after study has concluded that the fertilizer is essentially impossible to neutralize.

Those studies are hampered by an inevitable challenge: The fertilizer needs to be neutralized, but it’s still gotta work for farmers. Particularly those in Pakistan, where more than half the economy relies on agriculture and whose climate and soil conditions are ideally suited to ammonium nitrate fertilizer. ”A variety of requirements must be met to preserve the safety and effectiveness for agricultural use,” the solicitation notes. “New formulations must [also] provide nearly the same value...”.

JIEDDO also wants new compounds that could make fertilizer bombs easier to detect. Despite some progress — most notably the top secret Project Ursus – there’s no reliable way to detect a fertilizer bomb. The agency suggests that a few extra ingredients could ”alter the physical or chemical properties of [fertilizer bombs]” in such a way as to increase a signature that can be exploited.”

At least in that case, the agency might not have to sneak the chemicals into the fertilizer: Pakarab, the main supplier of ammonium nitrate fertilizer in Pakistan, has already indicated a willingness to add such chemicals to their product. Last year, the company tested pink dye that’d distinguish their fertilizer from non-explosive varieties at the nation’s border.

It’ll likely take years for JIEDDO to come up with an additive that can keep fertilizer out of a terrorist’s bomb-making arsenal. When they do, it’ll certainly be a boon for plenty of countries, many of which are already banning or tightly regulating ammonium nitrate fertilizers to prevent bomb attacks.

But tampering with a fertilizer supply that’s often stolen or smuggled — from a country that’s hardly offering much help — is hardly a trivial undertaking. Whatever wizardry the military’s bomb-stopping sleuths are able to muster, stopping Afghanistan’s bomb-makers (and saving American lives) will no doubt require plenty of political alchemy as well.

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5. Blast in Sui, No Damage Reported

Friday, 20 January 2012

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-31621-Blast-in-Sui,-no-damage-reported>

An explosion occurred near the building of the PPL in Sui area of Dera Bugti causing no damage, police said.

"Unknown men had planted explosive material near the building of PPL and exploded it with remote control", the police said.

The police reached the site soon after the incident and cordoned off the area to trace the suspects.

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6. Bomb In School Debris Kills Khasadar In Khyber

Tuesday, 24 January 2012

<http://www.dawn.com/2012/01/25/bomb-in-school-debris-kills-khasadar-in-khyber.html>

A security man was killed and two persons were injured when a bomb, buried under the debris of a destroyed school, went off in Landi Kotal tehsil of Khyber Agency on Tuesday.

Officials said that a team of khasadars was sent to Sheikhmal Khel area on Tuesday morning to assess the damage done to a government primary school, targeted by militants on the night between Monday and Tuesday.

During the inspection of the damaged building, an unexploded device buried under the debris went off, injuring three men including two khasadars.

One of the khasadars identified as Murtaza Khan succumbed to his injuries while his colleague Waliullah and a local resident Abdullah were treated for their injuries in Landi Kotal hospital.

Two rooms, a veranda and a portion of the boundary wall were damaged in the explosion. Nobody was present in the building at the time of the explosion as schools in Landi Kotal have been closed for winter vacations.

Officials said that they registered a case and started investigations. No one has so far claimed responsibility for targeting the school. The incident is second of its type in Landi Kotal in less than a week.

Four days ago, unidentified militants blew up a government primary school near the Torkham border.

Officials of the education department said that number of schools destroyed in Khyber Agency had reached 57. Out of these schools 32 were targeted in Bara, 22 in Landi Kotal and four in Jamrud, depriving 16,000 children of education only in Bara tehsil.

Meanwhile, the political administration paid cash compensation to the families of the two khasadars, who had lost their lives in an encounter with a gang of kidnappers in Jamrud on Monday. The families of Mir Mat and Yousaf were given Rs500,000 and Rs300,000 respectively. Other khasadars, who took part in the operation, were also awarded Rs200,000 by the political agent.

However, the compensation was awarded only after a protest demonstration by the relatives of the slain khasadars. Mir Mat's father Zar Mat Khan, also a khasadar, was killed in a suicide attack in Jamrud a year ago. In Swabi, unidentified militants blew up a CD shop in Razaar tehsil on Monday night.

The CD shop was destroyed completely when explosive went off in a market in Dagai village. Two other adjacent shops were also damaged. Police reached the area soon after the incident and collected evidence. Nobody was hurt in the incident.

In Lakki Marwat, a vehicle carrying workers of a project was partially damaged in a roadside blast on Tuesday evening.

An official said that an explosive device planted alongside Lakki-Mianwali Road went off when the bus carrying PAEC workers reached near Chowkijand. "The workers were coming to Lakki city from the project site as usual," an official said.

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He said that the explosion occurred after the bus crossed the place where the explosive device was planted. All the workers onboard remained safe.

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7. Militants Killed By Own Bomb, Authorities Seize Explosives

Monday, 23 January 2012

<http://www.dawn.com/2012/01/23/militants-killed-by-own-bomb.html>

Two militants were killed in a bomb blast in Zakakhel Banjwal area of Khyber Agency on Sunday, sources said.

They said that the militants were planting a bomb under a bridge at Zakakhel Banjwal on Landi Kotal Road when it went off, killing both of them instantly. The identity of the killed militants could not be ascertained immediately.

The political administration, when contacted, confirmed the incident and said that both the militants were killed by their own bomb.

In Bannu, police claimed to have arrested a terrorist and recovered two improvised explosive devices and other material from his house on Sunday.

District Police Officer Gul Said Khan Afridi told journalists that Asghar Maluk, an explosive expert, was arrested from his house during a raid. He said that two pressure cooker bombs containing 35 and 40 kilograms explosives were recovered from the compound.

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8. State Department Issues Travel Warning For Iraq
Friday, 20 January 2012
<http://www.rttnews.com/Story.aspx?type=gn&Id=1801711&SM=1>

The U.S. State Department has warned its citizens against all but essential travel to Iraq citing the dangerous security situation in that country.

Civilian air and road travel within Iraq remains dangerous, it said in a Travel Warning update on Thursday.

As violence and threats against U.S. citizens persist, no region should be considered safe from dangerous conditions, it warned. Threats of attack against U.S. citizen targets throughout Iraq continue, including in the International (Green) Zone of Baghdad.

Militant groups targeting U.S. interests have carried out attacks using roadside improvised explosive devices (IEDs), including Explosively Formed Penetrators (EFPs); magnetic IEDs placed on vehicles; human and vehicle-borne IEDs, mines placed on or concealed near roads; mortars and rockets, and shootings using various direct fire weapons.

The United States completed its withdrawal of military forces from Iraq on December 31.

Numerous insurgent groups remain active throughout Iraq. Although Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) operations against these groups continue, attacks against U.S. citizens persist in many areas of the country. U.S. citizens in Iraq remain at a high risk for kidnapping. While sectarian and terrorist violence occurs at levels lower than in previous years, it occurs often, particularly in the provinces of Baghdad, Ninewa, Salahad Din, Anbar, and Diyala.

Security situation in the Iraqi Kurdistan Region (IKR), which includes the provinces of Sulymaniya, Erbil, and Dohuk, has been more stable relative to the rest of Iraq in recent years, but threats remain.

U.S. citizens have been advised to avoid areas near Iraq's northern border along Turkey and Iran because of the ongoing Turkish and Iranian military operations against insurgent groups in the mountain regions there.

Borders in these areas are not always clearly defined. The State Department cited the detention of three U.S. citizens by Iranian authorities while hiking in the vicinity of the Iranian border in the Kurdistan region in 2009.

The resources available to the U.S. Embassy to assist U.S. citizens who venture close to or cross the border with Iran are extremely limited. The Department of State discouraged travel in close proximity to the Iranian border.

It told travelers to be aware that a potential threat of attack still exists when using commercial carriers to enter or depart Iraq, even though there have been no recent attacks on civilian aircraft. International carriers are routinely flying into Erbil and increasingly, into Baghdad. Infrequent indirect fire attacks have impacted on or near the Baghdad and Basrah airports.

Individuals residing and traveling within the International Zone in Baghdad, where the U.S. Embassy is located, should continue to exercise good personal safety precautions. Some terrorist or extremist groups continue to target U.S. citizens for kidnapping, including within the International Zone.

The U.S. government considers the potential threat to U.S. government personnel in Iraq to be serious enough to require them to live and work under strict security guidelines. All U.S. government employees

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under the authority of the U.S. Ambassador have been urged to follow strict safety procedures when traveling outside the Embassy.

The ability of the U.S. Embassy to provide services to U.S. citizens throughout Iraq, including Baghdad, is particularly limited given the security environment. U.S. citizens who choose to visit or reside in Iraq despite this Travel Warning are urged to take responsibility for their own personal security and belongings and to avoid crowds, especially rallies or demonstrations.

The Embassy highly recommended that all U.S. citizens in Iraq carefully review the status of their government documents and any necessary licenses and government authorizations to ensure that they are current and valid, as the Iraqi Government is strictly enforcing requirements regarding visas and stamps for entry and exit; vehicle registration; authorizations for weapons and movements through checkpoints, as well as other matters.

All U.S. citizens in Iraq, including those working on contract for the U.S. government, are urged to inform the U.S. Embassy of their presence in Iraq by enrolling in the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP), making it easier for the Embassy to provide updated security information or to contact them in emergencies.

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9. Iraq Bomb Attacks Kill At Least Seventeen

Thursday, 26 January 2012

http://edition.cnn.com/2012/01/26/world/meast/iraq-violence/?hpt=hp_t2

At least 17 people were killed Thursday in bomb attacks in a city near Baghdad and the northern Iraqi city of Kirkuk, police officials said.

Police in Baghdad said 10 people were killed, including two women and three children, when insurgents placed bombs around a house in Musayyeb, a city about 43 miles (70 kilometers) south of the capital.

Two police officers, who were brothers, were among those killed in the explosion early Thursday, police said. The house was severely damaged.

Later Thursday, armed men shot four civilians to death in western Baghdad's al-Yarmouk neighborhood, police said. A fifth civilian died and another 18 were wounded when two bombs exploded in a coffee shop in al-Saydiya, on the south side of the capital.

A roadside bomb wounded two people in Baghdad's Abu Dasheer neighborhood Thursday evening, but no fatalities were immediately reported, according to police.

Meanwhile, two civilians were killed and three others wounded when a motorcycle rigged with explosives detonated in a mixed neighborhood in southwestern Kirkuk on Thursday morning, police there said. The ethnically mixed, oil-rich city is about 150 miles (240 kilometers) north of Baghdad.

Since the beginning of the year, a wave of attacks in Iraq has killed about 200 people. The violence has raised concerns about the ability of Iraqi security forces to ensure order, particularly after the United States withdrew troops at the end of 2011.

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10. Eighteen Civilians Killed, 36 Wounded In Baghdad Explosion

Friday, 27 January 2012

http://en.aswataliraq.info/%28S%28b5hdjr45ure2rdvxeyyxg245%29%29/Default1.aspx?page=article_page&id=146661&l=1

Security sources announced today that 18 civilians were killed and more than 36 wounded in bomb explosion south east Baghdad, security sources said today.

The source told Aswat al-Iraq that these figures are the preliminary toll.

The explosion damaged nearby stores and cars.

Security sources surrounded the area, civilians removed from the vicinity, but no other details were given.

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11. Four Iraqis, One Cop Inured In Northern Baghdad

Monday, 23 January 2012

http://en.aswataliraq.info/%28S%28b5hdjr45ure2rdvxeyyxg245%29%29/Default1.aspx?page=article_page&id=146603&l=1

An Iraqi policeman and 3 civilians have been injured in an explosive charge blast in northern Baghdad's Taji district on Monday, a security source reported.

"An explosive charge blew up close to a policeman's house, while on his way to work in northern Baghdad's Taji district on Monday morning, seriously injuring the policeman along with 3 civilians, who were close to the venue of the blast," the security source, who requested anonymity, told Aswat al-Iraq news agency.

"All the injured persons were driven to hospital for treatment," the source elaborated.

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12. Five Civilians Killed, 28 Injured In Baghdad Explosion

Tuesday, 24 January 2012

http://en.aswataliraq.info/%28S%28b5hdjr45ure2rdvxeyyxg245%29%29/Default1.aspx?page=article_page&id=146617&l=1

At least 5 civilians have been killed and 28 others injured in a twin booby-trapped car explosion close to a primary school in Baghdad's Shu'ala district on Tuesday, a Baghdad police source reported.

"A booby-trapped car blew up close to al-Andalus Primary school in Baghdad's Shu'ala district, on Tuesday, killing 5 civilians and injuring 28 others," the police source told Aswat al-Iraq news agency.

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13. Civilian Killed, Two Injured In Explosive Blast

Tuesday, 24 January 2012

http://en.aswataliraq.info/%28S%28b5hdjr45ure2rdvxeyyxg245%29%29/Default1.aspx?page=article_page&id=146620&l=1

An Iraqi civilian has been killed and two others injured in an explosive charge blast under their car north of Iraq's Salah al-Din Province on Tuesday, a police source reported.

"An explosive charge blew off on Tuesday afternoon under a civilian car in central Shirgat, north of Salah al-Din Province, killing a civilian and wounding two others," the police source told Aswat al-Iraq news agency.

He said the security forces began an investigation about the incident and gave no further details.

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14. Armed Men Blow Up Officer's House In Mosul

Sunday, 22 January 2012

http://en.aswataliraq.info/%28S%28b5hdjr45ure2rdvxeyyxg245%29%29/Default1.aspx?page=article_page&id=146591&l=1

A group of unknown gunmen have blown up the house of an Iraqi Army officer under construction, south of Mosul, the center of northern Iraq's Ninewa Province on Sunday, a Ninewa security source reported.

"A group of unknown armed men have blow up the house of Iraqi Army Officer, Col. Farhan al-Namis, in Qayara township, 60 km to the south of Mosul," the security source told Aswat al-Iraq news agency on Sunday, adding that the house was under construction and its destruction by explosive charges did not cause any human casualties.

Mosul, the center of Ninewa Province, is 405 km to the north of Baghdad.

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15. Algeria Foils Al-Qaeda Attempt To Attack Foreign Ships Sailing In the Mediterranean
Thursday, 24 January 2012
<http://english.alarabiya.net/articles/2012/01/24/190303.html>

Algerian security foiled a terrorist al-Qaeda plot to carry out suicidal attacks on U.S. and European ships in the Mediterranean from the eastern coasts of Algeria.

The aborted plan, which was to be implemented by al-Qaeda Organization in the Islamic Maghreb, aimed at destabilizing Algerian national economy as well as attracting expansive media coverage, sources told the Algerian newspaper Echorouk.

According to the sources, a cell working under the leadership of the spokesman of al-Qaeda's wing in the Maghreb Qassemi Salah al-Din, also known as Mohamed Abu Salah, is behind the plot. The cell, sources add, purchased a boat with a powerful engine and was planning to load it with explosives. A suicidal operative was to sail with the boat towards the targeted foreign ships. The terrorist who was to carry out the operation was granted the right to choose the target.

Available information denotes that one of the suspects, called H. Rabeh and currently detained by Algerian authorities, got in touch with a man nicknamed Abbie, wanted by authorities, and who is known for his activities in illegal immigration.

Abbie provided Rabeh with detailed information about prices of boats and locations from which they can carry out the operation and which are basically centered around the Algerian east coast.

The abortion of the terrorist plot dealt a severe blow to al-Qaeda in the Maghreb especially that the suspects' confessions confirmed that they dealt directly with Abu Mohamed Salah, judicial sources told Echorouk.

The cell involved in the plot was made up of three members — H. Rabeh, T. Belal, and M. Tarek — who all hail from the city of Annaba in northeastern Algeria.

Investigations revealed that the three cell members used to frequent internet cafes and browse Jihadist websites and used fake names. After arousing suspicion with their strange behavior, electronic crime authorities started tracking them down.

According to the investigations, members of the now disbanded cell were originally recruited by now detained terrorist A. Soufian, also known as Abu Muslim al-Jazaeiri and who also hails from Annaba.

Soufian was in touch with terrorist Daghdagh Ahmed, also known as Abdel Illah, the head of the political and foreign relations committee in al-Qaeda.

Based on the detainees' confessions, Soufian is trusted in all Jihadist forums for the inciting articles he posts on websites popular among Jihadists especially Menbar al-Tawhid and al-Jihad, run by Abu Mohamed al-Maqdissi, one of the most prominent jihadists known for inciting terrorist activists.

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16. Youths Overrun Bombed North Nigeria Police Station

Wednesday, 25 January 2012

<http://indepthafrica.com/news/westafrica/youths-overrun-bombed-north-nigeria-police-station/#.TyCAI4HDuAj>

Suspected members of a radical Islamist sect attacked a police station in this north Nigeria city where its coordinated assaults last week killed at least 185 people. Youths overran the bombed station Wednesday and blood and investigative files covered the floor.

Gunmen likely from the sect known as Boko Haram surrounded the police station Tuesday night in the Sheka neighborhood of the sprawling city of Kano, witnesses said. The gunmen then ordered civilians at shops and homes surrounding the station to get off the street, then began chanting "God is great" as they threw locally made bombs into the station, and sprayed assault weapon fire into the building, witnesses said.

Wednesday morning, the jail cells of the station stood open, as blood coated the floor of the local commander's private bathroom. Investigative files apparently rifled through covered the floors, as youths outside waved an officer's uniform.

A crowd of cheering youths jumped up and down on top of a burned-out police truck, with one wearing a police ballistic helmet, smiling. Others in the crowd said in the local Hausa language they would kill any police officer who returned, as some asked journalists visiting the site if they were Christians.

"We are not satisfied with what is happening now," said 26-year-old Abubakar Muawuya. Our leaders "have to call this Boko Haram and sit down with them."

Kano state police spokesman Magaji Musa Majiya did not immediately respond to a request for comment Wednesday morning. No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack, though it followed the pattern of others carried out by Boko Haram, including the use of improvised explosives.

The sect, whose name means "Western education is sacrilege" in Hausa, claimed the attack Friday in Kano that killed at least 185 people in the country's second-largest city.

Boko Haram wants to implement strict Shariah law and avenge the deaths of Muslims in communal violence across Nigeria, a multiethnic nation of more than 160 million people split largely into a Christian south and Muslim north.

While the sect has begun targeting Christians in the north, the majority of those killed Friday appeared to be Muslim, officials said.

Nigeria's weak central government has been unable to stop Boko Haram's increasingly bloody attacks.

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17. Boko Haram Trained In Al-Qaeda Camps Says Niger

Wednesday, 25 January 2012

<http://www.rnw.nl/africa/article/boko-haram-trained-al-qaeda-camps-says-niger>

According to Niger's foreign minister, members of the Islamist militant group Boko Haram have received explosives training at al-Qaeda camps in the Sahel region of northern Africa.

The group, which has killed more than 200 people this year in increasingly sophisticated attacks that include bombings, may have also received training from Somalia's al-Shabaab insurgents, Foreign Minister Mohamed Bazoum said.

"There is no doubt that there is confirmed information that shows a link between Boko Haram and AQIM (al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb), and it consists primarily of the training given to elements of Boko Haram," Bazoum said at a regional security summit in Mauritania's capital.

"One group has been received in AQIM bases here in the Sahel and another group got training, based on information we've gotten, with the Shabaabs in Somalia," he said.

Security analysts have said Boko Haram, which means "Western education is sinful" in the Hausa language spoken in northern Nigeria, is unlikely to expand its focus beyond Nigeria, and has only limited ties to other insurgent groups.

But Bazoum said the evidence of training links between al-Qaeda's North African wing and Boko Haram required a unified regional security approach to combat the threat.

"Some of the bombers in Nigeria received training here in the Sahel. That's why it seems important that we are with Nigeria and act together and share information," he said.

Nigeria was represented at the summit alongside Mauritania, Mali, Niger, and Algeria - parts of Africa where al-Qaeda cells are known to operate. Nine western hostages are believed to be held by al-Qaeda in the Sahara.

Boko Haram is loosely modelled on Afghanistan's Taliban. It has claimed responsibility for bombing churches, police stations, military facilities, banks and beer parlours in the mainly Muslim north of Nigeria.

The sect focuses its attacks mostly on the police, military and government but has also increased attacks on Christian institutions. It says it is fighting enemies who have wronged its members through violence, arrests, economic neglect and corruption.

Bomb attacks and gun battles in Nigeria's second largest city, Kano, killed 186 people on January 20, in Boko Haram's most deadly attack to date. Gunfire was heard in Kano early on Tuesday, witnesses said.

In July 2009 the sect launched an uprising in the northeast in which more than 800 people were killed in five days of fighting with security forces.

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18. Nigerian Police Show Unexploded Bombs From Kano Attack

Tuesday, 24 January 2012

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/africaandindianocean/nigeria/9036893/Nigerian-police-show-unexploded-bombs-from-Kano-attack.html>

Nigerian police have unveiled a cache of seized explosives that they claim were intended to be used during Friday's attack on the northern city of Kano. Police showed the media a collection of the explosives it claims were to be used by the radical Islamist sect, known as Boko Haram, during the attack that killed at least 185 people.

It's believed much of Friday's bloodshed occurred when Boko Haram gunmen threw improvised bombs made of aluminium cans and a white powder explosive, likely fertiliser.

Stuffed with cotton at the top, each can held a simple detonator.

Police say they found 10 car bombs and about 300 of those explosive cans after the attack.

The devices had failed to detonate.

It was not clear if the car bombs had been planted before Friday's attack and had not gone off, or had been planted after the attack.

The latter possibility has raised fears that Boko Haram could strike again in the city of more than nine million people.

Friday's attack in Kano saw Boko Haram members spread through the city, attacking police stations, immigration offices and the local headquarters of the secret police.

Kano Police Commissioner Ibrahim Idris acknowledged that some Boko Haram members wore uniforms resembling those of the Mobile Police, the paramilitary arm of the nation's federal police, to take control of the streets.

Others wore camouflage uniforms like those worn by soldiers in the country, the commissioner said.

"They used that to deceive the members of the public and in the process shot some of this civilians and some of our police officers. In fact, I can say most of the casualties of the police are not killed at the police station but they were killed on the street," he said.

The assault killed at least 150 civilians, 29 police officers, three secret police officers, two immigration officers and one customs official, police said, bringing the death toll to 185 dead.

Medical workers and emergency officials say they still expect the toll to rise even further.

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19. Militants Strike Fear Across Africa: UN

Thursday, 26 January 2012

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5i0za4ec-ssM9ARt-COLwQaz5REwA?docId=CNG.08e433d11d9885da75e883365c1ae613.11>

Boko Haram militants from Nigeria are bolstering links with Al-Qaeda and other hardline groups in West Africa, according to a UN report released which highlighted the growing concerns of the region's governments.

Attacks, detentions of accused militants, seizures of explosives and arms -- many smuggled out of Libya -- have all added to the worries of Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria and their neighbors, according to a UN mission which went to the Sahel region to report on security fallout after the downfall of Moamer Kadhafi.

Fears of terrorism and poor security dominated concerns raised. The UN report said Niger had increased its defense budget by 65 percent and reduced health and education spending because of the threat.

Governments reaffirmed suspicions that weapons accumulated by Kadhafi had been smuggled into other countries by former Libyan soldiers and mercenaries.

The report said Niger authorities recently intercepted a convoy carrying 645 kilograms (1,420 pounds) of Semtex plastic explosive and 445 detonators. Niger authorities "alleged that the explosives were meant for Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb camps in northern Mali.

"This seizure may indicate that terrorist groups have been acquiring arms, weapons and explosives from Libyan military stockpiles."

"Some of the weapons may be hidden in the desert and could be sold to terrorist groups like Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, Boko Haram or other criminal organizations," said the group, which was led by the UN representative for West Africa, Said Djinnit.

The mission said Boko Haram, blamed for 185 deaths in the Nigerian city of Kano last weekend, a suicide bomb strike against the UN headquarters in Abuja last August and countless other attacks, was considered a growing threat outside Nigeria.

"Its presence was mentioned as a source of concern by most countries in the region." In Niger, "the radicalization of youth was a particular concern in the south, where interlocutors said that Boko Haram was already active in spreading its ideology and propaganda and, in some cases, had succeeded in closing down public schools," said the report.

"The mission representatives were also informed that Boko Haram had established links with Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb and that some of its members from Nigeria and Chad had received training in Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb camps in Mali during the summer of 2011."

Seven Boko Haram members were detained going through Niger to Mali carrying material on making explosives and contact details of Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb members they were to meet, said the UN mission.

Ministers from Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Algeria met in the Mauritania capital, Nouakchott, this week in a bid to strengthen cooperation.

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The deteriorating security has already hit humanitarian efforts in Sahel countries. Aid agencies have suspended immunization and food programs for many "vulnerable communities," the UN report said.

In some areas "the humanitarian vacuum is being filled by Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb and/or criminal elements who are reportedly providing services and humanitarian assistance in remote areas where state presence is reduced or non-existent," said the report.

This helps Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb to recruit followers and form networks to gather information and arms, said the UN.

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20. Nigeria Puts \$310,000 Bounty On Escaped Bomb Suspect
Thursday, 19 January 2012

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/01/19/us-nigeria-escape-bounty-idUSTRE80I27Y20120119>

Nigeria's police are offering a 50 million naira (\$309,600) reward for information leading to the recapture of the main suspect in a Christmas Day bomb attack, who escaped within 24 hours of his arrest this week.

Police arrested Kabiru Sokoto on Tuesday and while they were taking him from police headquarters to search his house outside Abuja, their vehicle came under fire.
Taking Sokoto with them was risky and unusual, security sources said.

The commissioner of police in charge of the operation has been suspended and the inspector general, Nigeria's most senior police officer, has been told to explain the circumstances that led to Sokoto's escape.

Islamist sect Boko Haram claimed responsibility for the bombing of St. Theresa Catholic Church in Madalla, on the outskirts of Abuja, which killed 37 people and wounded 57, the deadliest of a series of attacks at Christmas.

"The Police High Command has declared Kabiru Umar (a.k.a. Kabiru Sokoto) wanted in connection with cases of bombing and terrorism across the northern states of the Federation, especially the Christmas-Day bombing of a Church at Madalla," a police statement said on Thursday.

"He is aged 28 years, fair in complexion and speaks English, Hausa and Arabic languages fluently," the statement said.

Last year was the second in a row that Boko Haram has attacked churches at Christmas. Its strikes are becoming deadlier and more sophisticated, and have raised fears that the militants are trying to ignite sectarian strife between Nigeria's largely Muslim north and Christian south.
Boko Haram, meaning "Western education is sinful" in Hausa, has also been blamed for a campaign of shootings and bombings against security forces and authorities in the north.

Attacks in and around the capital - including one on the U.N. headquarters in August that killed at least 24 people - suggest the group is trying to raise its profile and spread out from its heartland in the northeast.
(\$1 = 161.4900 Nigerian nairas)

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21. Nigeria Seizes Bomb Factory

Sunday, 18 December 2012

<http://indepthafrica.com/news/westafrica/nigeria-seizes-bomb-factory/#.TyLMvIHDuAi>

Nigerian authorities raided a bomb making factory on Saturday belonging to suspected members of an Islamist sect in the northeast, the military said, after gun and bomb attacks across northern Nigeria over four days killed at least seven people.

Militant group Boko Haram is waging a low level insurgency against Nigeria's government. It used to be largely confined to its remote northeast Borno state, but this year has struck other provinces in the mostly Muslim north and the capital, Abuja.

Lieutenant Colonel Mohammed Hassan, spokesperson for the joint military task force (JTF) for Borno state, said the factory was discovered in a house in the Bolori ward of the state's main city of Maiduguri.

"A major factory for the production of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), large quantities of unused IED materials, AK 47 rifles, ammunition and other vital items have been discovered by the JTF," he told a late Saturday news briefing.

The find came after several attacks mostly targeting security forces across northern Nigeria left a trail of dead.

Boko Haram did not claim responsibility for any of the attacks, but all bore their hallmarks, security officials said.

A bomb blast in a residential compound in Maiduguri killed at least one person and seriously wounded four others on Saturday morning, Hassan told Reuters by telephone.

Further west, in northern Kano state, gunmen opened fire on a police checkpoint in the village of Gaida on Saturday, killing one policeman and wounding another, who was rushed to hospital.

On Friday morning, a policeman on patrol was shot dead in Kano city, and on Thursday militants attacked Kano's airforce secondary school, killing three air force officers and badly wounding a fourth, Air Commodore Ahmed Sani told Reuters.

Nigerian security forces have seemed powerless to contain the growing threat of Islamist militants in the north, who this year struck the capital twice, including a suicide car bomb against the UN Nigeria headquarters that killed 26 people.

A wave of crackdowns has achieved little and in some cases their heavy handedness has radicalised the mostly poor, unemployed youths targeted for recruitment by Boko Haram.

Witnesses said a group of around 17 militants drove up in three jeeps during Thursday's attack on the air force school.

"The attackers were chased away by our men. I cannot (say) who are responsible for the attack ... They are criminals carrying arms against their fellow countrymen," Sani said.

Armed men attacked a group playing a boardgames outside in Maiduguri on Wednesday, leaving two dead, said witness Simon Bzigu, who escaped the raid which killed his brother.

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Boko Haram, whose name translates as “Western education is forbidden” from the local Hausa language, has been blamed for dozens of shootings and attacks with improvised explosive this year.

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22. Security Forces Kill Two In Nigeria

Tuesday, 24 January 2012

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/multimedia/collection/witnesses-security-forces-kill-2-in-nigeria/>

(photo)

An anti bomb police officer collect undetonated soft drink can bombs recovery from Islamic militants in Kano, Nigeria, on Tuesday, Jan. 24, 2012. Police said Tuesday that members of the radical Islamist group Boko Haram dressed in uniforms resembling those of soldiers and police officers when they launched their attack Friday in Kano. At least 185 people died in the attacks.

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23. Shabaab Suicide Bomber Targets Ethiopian Troops

Tuesday, 24 January 2012

http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2012/01/shabaab_suicide_bomb_3.php?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+LongWarJournalSiteWide+%28The+Long+War+Journal+%28Site-Wide%29%29

A Shabaab suicide bomber attacked an Ethiopian military compound in western Somalia today, killing an unknown number of troops. Shabaab claimed credit for the attack.

The attack took place in the city of Beledweyne near the border of Ethiopia. Shabaab said the suicide bomber from the "Martyrdom Brigade" targeted "a building known as the Regional Headquarters which housed the Ethiopian army," and claimed more than 200 Ethiopian troops and their officers were stationed there, according to a statement provided by the SITE Intelligence Group.

A local security official told the BBC that Ethiopian soldiers shot and killed the suicide bomber at the gate of the compound. The blast was sufficiently large enough to cause most of the building to collapse, however.

Ethiopian officials have not disclosed the number of casualties. African countries such as Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, and Burundi, which have forces in Somalia, often underreport their casualties.

Shabaab claimed that "33 Ethiopian soldiers, including 4 senior commanders" were killed "and up to 72 injured and the number is steadily increasing." The figures provided by Shabaab could not be confirmed, and the terror group is known to exaggerate the results of its operations.

Shabaab said that today's suicide attack "is part of the new strategy adopted by the Mujahideen as a bold response to the increasingly hostile enemies that have invaded Somalia." Shabaab withdrew from Beledweyne weeks ago after Ethiopian forces reentered Somalia in force. Shabaab has also withdrawn from most of the capital of Mogadishu after African Union forces went on the offensive last summer. Shabaab has launched suicide attacks, and conducted ambushes and assassinations in the capital.

Today's suicide attack in Somalia is the second in the war-torn country in the past week. On Jan. 19, a suicide bomber killed six people at a refugee camp in Mogadishu.

Shabaab, which has close ties to al Qaeda and serves as its affiliate in East Africa, and its predecessor, the Islamic Courts Union, have carried out more than 30 suicide attacks in Somalia since they sought to control the country in 2006. At least two of those suicide attacks were carried out by American citizens.

The US has been targeting senior al Qaeda and Shabaab leaders in drone strikes and special operations raids. Just last weekend, US drones killed Bilal al Berjawi, a senior al Qaeda leader who also served as a top commander for Shabaab, in a strike near Mogadishu.

African Union forces have launched offensives against Shabaab on three fronts over the past year, but Shabaab still holds much of central and southern Somalia [see map from BBC]. Ugandan and Burundian troops control of much of Mogadishu after battling Shabaab forces starting last summer. In the fall, Kenyan troops invaded southern Somalia, and took over some border areas. Later in 2011, Ethiopian troops entered Somalia and seized Beledweyne and the surrounding areas.

For more information on Americans and foreigners who are fighting for Shabaab, see LWJ report, American Shabaab fighter and commander pictured together. For more information on Shabaab's links to

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al Qaeda, see LWJ reports, Somalia's Shabaab vows allegiance to new al Qaeda emir Zawahiri, and Al Qaeda leaders play significant role in Shabaab.

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24. Accidental Bomb Blast Kills four In Manila

Thursday, 26 January 2012

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/breaking-news/accidental-bomb-blast-kills-four-in-manila/story-fn3dxity-1226253951015>

An artillery round has accidentally exploded while a welder and police commandos tinkered with it with an acetylene torch, killing four people, including two policemen, in the Philippine capital.

Ten other people, including another policeman, was wounded in yesterday's powerful blast in an ironworks shop in suburban Taguig city in the capital where the policemen brought the explosive apparently to have it defused and opened, police Senior Superintendent Tomas Apolinario Jr said.

Investigators were trying to determine where the policemen got the artillery round and why they brought it to an ironworks shop outside a police camp in Taguig instead of handing it to ordnance experts, who can safely defuse it, said Apolinario, who heads the Taguig police force.

"There was a procedural lapse in the way they handled this artillery round," Apolinario said.

The full digital experience

The sprawling police camp in Taguig, southeast of Manila, used to have a depot for unexploded munitions and vintage bombs but a huge, accidental explosion at the site forced authorities to close it years ago.

Apolinario said the policemen failed to defuse and open the artillery round with a wrench, prompting them to bring it to a welder.

Police officer Salvador Bassig, who went to the scene shortly after the blast, said a police commando and the welder died at the ironworks shop while another policeman and a civilian died while being brought to a hospital.

A wounded police officer was in serious condition in a hospital, Bassig said.

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25. NPA: Six Soldiers Killed In Bukidnon Attacks

Saturday, 21 January 2012

<http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/story/245260/news/regions/npa-6-soldiers-killed-in-bukidnon-attacks?ref=latest>

Six soldiers were killed while 16 others were wounded when the New Peoples' Army launched simultaneous attacks on soldiers in a town in Bukidnon early this week, an NPA spokesman said on Friday.

In a press statement issued Friday, Rigoberto Sanchez, spokesperson for the Merardo Arce Command of the NPA, said the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) suffered heavy toll in the two separate attacks the guerrillas launched in Kitaotao town.

Also, Sanchez claimed the AFP had tried to conceal the fatalities it suffered.

Meanwhile, the 10th Infantry Division, in a statement it issued to media last Tuesday, said the division only suffered four casualties during the attacks led by two NPA Fronts based in the provinces of North Cotabato, Bukidnon, and Davao del Sur in Northern and Southern Mindanao regions.

At around 630 a.m., the rebels ambushed a private vehicle with soldiers from the 23rd Infantry Battalion along the highway in Barangay Sinuda, Kitaotao, the Sanchez said.

Two died on the spot, while four others were injured, he added.

Three hours later, an NPA commando belonging to Front 53 ambushed a convoy of the 8th Infantry Battalion on a road in Barangay Palakapaw, also in Kitaotao.

The rebels set off a command-detonated explosive that blasted the military vehicle, killing four soldiers and wounding 12 others, the NPA statement said.

Few hours after the attack, the NPA set up a roadblock until 2 p.m., on that day, while the AFP had air and ground reinforcement from the regional headquarters in Davao City.

The AFP sent two Huey helicopters and two bomber planes to rescue the soldiers under fire.

Communist guerillas in the Philippines has been waging war against the government since 1968.

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26. Suspicious Briefcase Alarms Senate

Friday, 20 January 2012

<http://www.philippinewsdaily.com/2012/01/15460/suspicious-briefcase-alarms-senate.html>

(Please copy/paste the link above into your browser to view full article text.)

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27. Hawala Money From Dubai Funded July 13 Triple Blasts

Friday, 20 January 2012

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/India-news/Mumbai/Hawala-money-from-Dubai-funded-July-13-triple-blasts/Article1-799620.aspx>

In a major breakthrough, counter-terrorism agencies have narrowed down on the terror-financing module that is operating out of New Delhi, and is believed to have aided Indian Mujahideen (IM) operatives in executing the July 13 triple blasts in Mumbai and the Delhi blast. Sources in counter-terrorism agencies said that they had identified the recipient of the money illegally channeled from Dubai to a 'hawala' operator in Delhi. The money was laundered through an old Lashkar-e-Taiba conduit identified as Wali Aziz alias Rehan, who operates out of Dubai.

The tip-off about the 'hawala' trader was obtained after the arrest of six IM operatives and with the arrest of Naquee Ahmed, who reportedly helped the plotters of the 13/7 blasts find a safe-house in Byculla. Waqqas and Tabrez, both residents of Darbhanga in Bihar, had given a sum of Rs1 lakh to Rubina Qureshi as deposit for the rented flat. The money, investigators say, came from the illegally laundered money, which was handed to Yasin Bhatkal alias Shahrukh in Delhi.

Waqqas and Tabrez are suspected to have planted bombs at Opera House and Zaveri Bazaar, while Yasin and another yet-to-be-identified IM operative planted the bomb at Dadar, said sources in the police.

Sources said the money laundered was in excess of Rs5 lakh, which allowed Yasin to finance his stay in Delhi, and travel to various locations in Bihar, Chennai and Mumbai.

Even when the Indian Mujahideen module comprising 21 operatives was busted in 2008, the Mumbai crime branch had frozen two accounts in nationalised banks belonging to non-resident Indians who used to park money for Riyaz Bhatkal to withdraw, and had seized Rs 27 lakh from those accounts.

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28. Two Bomb Attacks In Imphal

Thursday, 19 January 2012

<http://kanglaonline.com/2012/01/bomb-attacks/>

A bomb blast occurred at 7.20 pm on Jan 18th at Wangjing Tentha Block Congress office, Wangjing Bazaar. No casualties were reported. Another bomb blast took place inside the residential complex of M. Herojit of Bamon Kampu, a Congress worker, today around 3.30 am. In another incident, a bomb was lobbed at the residence of Nangbam Roshan at Taret Khun, Khundrakpam at 6.30 am today. However, the bomb did not go off. Roshan is said to be a worker of Deputy Speaker Thokchom Lokeshor. An IED was recovered near the residence of Speaker Irengbam Hemochandra, at Maibam Leirak Machin Singjmei Chingna Makha at 11.30 am today. Singjamei police officials and Manipur police bomb squad later collected the bomb safely.

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29. Reds Damage Phone Towers In Bihar

Thursday, 19 January 2012

http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2012-01-19/patna/30642555_1_mobile-towers-24-hour-bandh-maoists

Armed cadres of the CPI(Maoist) blew up two mobile towers under the Kutumba police station in Aurangabad district on late Tuesday evening. The rebels also beat up the guard before fleeing from the spot.

The Maoists' action was the fallout of the 24-hour bandh call given by them in protest against the killing of their colleagues in a recent encounter with police in Rohtas district. Sources said the incident occurred around 10pm on Tuesday night when around 100 armed Maoists swooped on village Sanda under the Maoist-hit Kutumba police station of the district. Some Maoists had come in jeeps and motorcycles while others reached there on foot. They also carried petrol.

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30. Bomb Attack Spree Remains Unabated

Friday, 20 January 2012

<http://kanglaonline.com/2012/01/bomb-attack-spree-remains-unabated/>

Following the series of bomb related incidents happening in the state with regard to the forthcoming Assembly Elections, an IED was found near the residence of National People Party candidate, A. R. Khan (Kshetrigao AC) on Jan 19th, at 11.30 pm. A team of Porompat police and Manipur bomb squad later took away the IED.

A bomb blast took place at 12.10 am today at Khongman Zone 5, after unidentified persons lobbed a bomb at the residence of Kshetrimayum Aken. The blast left some partial damage to the roof of his residence and other parts of the house but no casualties took place. Aken is said to be Congress worker for the INC Thongju AC. Later, an unexploded grenade was found after a subsequent search within his residential complex.

Other incidences of bombs being found happened at the residences of Wangjam Premjit (35) s/o Koba of Ucheckon Takhok Mapan of Thongju constituency; Thokchom Kala of Sawombung Thongkhong Awang Leikai of Lamalai AC and Yanglem Bismo of Khurai Chingambam Leikai, Khurai AC. On the other hand, hand grenades were lobbed into the residence areas of Md. Haji Ayaj, said to be Congress worker of Lilong Turel Ahanbi of Khellakhong; Telem Kirankumar of Khurai Chaithabi Leikai a worker of INC Ng. Bijoy (Khurai AC); Ngairangbam Meghachandra of Khurai Konsam Leikai; Chandam Manimohon of Khurai Konsam Leikai; Takhellambam Kenedy (25) s/o Buddha of Khurai Chingambam Leikai and Soibam Ibomcha of Sagolband Khamnam Leirak. residence hand grenade lobbed. S. Ibomcha is said to be a Congress worker of Patsoi AC. All the bombs were collected safely by the respective police station teams.

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31. One Man Killed In Manipur Explosion

Sunday, 22 January 2012

http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2012-01-22/india/30652638_1_grenade-attack-unidentified-militants-lobbed-manipur

At least one person was killed and three others injured in a powerful explosion on Sunday evening outside the residence of a Congress party candidate in election-bound Manipur, the third attack in the past two weeks, an officer said.

A police spokesperson said the explosion took place outside the residence of Congress party candidate I. Hemochandra Singh on the outskirts of Imphal at around 6.15 p.m. Singh was the speaker of the outgoing assembly.

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32. Blast At Manipur Speaker's Residence

Monday, 23 January 2012

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/audio-news-video/AV-News/Blast-at-Manipur-speaker-s-residence/Article2-800849.aspx>

(video)

An IED blast at the Manipur speaker I Hemochandra's residence rocked Imphal this evening. One person was killed in the blast. The Improvised Explosive Device (IED) was thrown at the Speaker's residence. However, the Speaker was not at home when the bomb exploded. The police recovered another unexploded IED device at the same venue. Police have cordoned off the area.

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33. PLA Sets Off Twin Bomb Blast In Kakwa Bazar

Wednesday, 25 January 2012

<http://kanglaonline.com/2012/01/vegetable-vendor-hurt-as-pla-sets-off-twin-bomb-blasts-in-10-minutes-at-kakwa/>

On the eve of Republic Day celebration, two powerful bombs suspected to be Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) exploded at Kakwa Bazar near Singjamei Police Station this evening at around 7 pm.

The first bomb went off at around 7 pm just 100 meters away from the police station injuring a vegetable vendor indentified as one Laishram Ongbi Shanti Devi, 48, w/o Chaoba of Singjamei Makha Thokchom Leikai. She sustained splinter injury on her head.

The second blast took place after 10 minutes of the first explosion near Kakwa Community Hall. Meanwhile, the proscribed PLA has claimed responsibility for the twin bomb blasts at Kakwa Bazar as a part of its strike to thwart Republic Day celebration.

The PLA, in a statement, further appealed to the general public to remain indoors to boycott the Republic Day celebration of January 26.

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34. Five Bombs Found, Two Kidnapped

Tuesday, 17 January 2012

<http://kanglaonline.com/2012/01/5-bombs-found-2-kidnapped/>

The daily incidents of political intimidation on Congress candidates and party workers shows no let down with 5 bombs being recovered from different locations today. A hand grenade was recovered from the residence of Moirangthem (O) Inakhunbi w/o Jiten. Inakhunbi is Chairperson of Kakching Municipal Council and is said to be an active worker for the INC candidate for Kakching constituency and sitting MLA Y. Surchandra.

The bomb, detected by family members was taken away safely by a team of Kakching police. Another bomb was recovered from the residence of Takhellambam Koshi(67), aid to be a Congress worker from Ngaikhong Khullen bazaar in Bishnupur district. The bomb was found within his residential complex this morning by family members and was taken away by Bishnupur police.

A hand grenade was also found at the residence of Chingkhram Tomba (63) of Bishnupur Ward no 3 in the early morning hours today. He is also said to be a congress worker.

In yet another incident, a hand grenade was found in the courtyard of Moirangthem Borajaoba from Lamlai Makha Leikai, who is said to be a congress worker. A hand written note with a caution not to get involved in the forthcoming election was found near the grenade. Another grenade was also found opposite to the Manipur University gate this morning. The Singjamei police took away the grenade.

Two persons identified as Thoi and Lamkhai said to be party workers of DD Thaisi, INC candidate and sitting MLA for Karong AC (Senapati) have been reportedly kidnapped by unidentified armed persons yesterday evening from Karong.

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35. Explosives Recovered In Lumding

Wednesday, 18 January 2012

<http://www.assamtribune.com/scripts/detailsnew.asp?id=jan1912/state07>

Security has been beefed up by the Northeast Frontier Railway in parts of Assam, following the discovery of a sizeable quantity of explosive materials at Lumding station this morning and also because of threat perceptions in the run-up to the Republic Day.

Today around 9.30 in the morning, a patrol party of the GRP came across four unclaimed bags at platform number 2 of Lumding Railway Station. With no attendants in sight, the personnel opened the bags, and found 600 gelatin sticks, 600 detonators and 360 feet of fuse wire. Soon after, the station was sealed off and security personnel put on alert. The Up Janashatabdi had left for Dimapur some time before the recovery was made.

It is suspected that the consignment could have been brought to Lumding for transshipment to some other place. According to sources in the NFR at Maligaon, no arrests have been made till the time of filing this report.

Soon after the discovery, the NFR sounded the alarm and raised the level of security in all the major stations across the State.

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36. Odisha: Cops Bust Maoist Camp In Kalimela

Sunday, 22 January 2012

<http://orissadiary.com/CurrentNews.asp?id=31580>

While intensifying its anti-Maoist operation, police has busted a rebel camp in Tekguda forest under Kalimela police limits in the wee hours today. Acting on pinpointed information about the existence of a Maoist camp and movement of rebels in and around the area, Special Operation Group commandos and Kalimela police launched a well-coordinated operation and recovered explosives from there.

A lot arms & ammunitions like, two country made gunsm, three detonators, 24 live bullets, 50 meters wire, kit bags and other goods have been recovered from the spot, Kalimela police sources said.

Earlier on Friday, acting on a tip off a joint team of BSF, SOG & DVF were launched combing operation near village Old Niliguda under Podia Police limits in the wee hours and recovered 10 Jilletin sticks, 25 Electric Detonators, 1 bundle CORDEX, One tiffin Bomb, One bundle electric wire, One solar panel, one pair of Maoist uniform, banner, poster, medicines from the spot. However, the Maoist cadres were managed to flee away from the camp.

"Looking at the recoveries, it appears that Maoists were planning a major attack during the ongoing panchyat election process or attack police pickets or a camp of security forces," a police official said.

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37. Police Arrest Maoists In Bokaro, Seize Explosives

Wednesday, 18 January 2012

VIDEO: <http://aninews.in/videogallery4/1985-police-arrest-maoists-seize-explosives.html>

(video)

Police officials on Tuesday arrested Maoist ultras and seized explosives in Bokaro, as part of their anti-Maoist operations to combat the menace in the state. The operation was launched by the police in collaboration with the Central Reserve Police Force. The forces kept a close eye on the Maoist activities for days in several districts and nabbed two hardcore Maoist Janaki Mahato and Moti Mahato from villages situated near the Jhumra foothills with cane bombs, a double-barrel gun, wires, gunpowder, ammonium nitrate and other ammunitions.

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38. Bomb Recovered Near R-Day Function Venue In Sonari

Thursday, 26 January 2012

<http://www.newslivetv.com/topnews/index.php?aID=25055&cat=4>

The Republic Day flag hoisting ceremony in Sonari town in Sivsagar district of Assam Thursday was marred by the discovery of a bomb near the venue. It was diffused later.

“The bomb was diffused by experts from a nearby army camp,” a police officer said.

The discovery created panic for some time. Militant groups, including the anti-talk faction of the United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA), had called for a boycott of Republic Day celebrations.

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39. One IED, Three Bombs Recovered In Dhubri

Tuesday, 24 January 2012

<http://www.dy365.in/news/news.php?aID=15504>

Two persons were held along with three bombs and one improvised explosive device (IED), weighing almost two kilogram at Kacharighat in Dhubri on Tuesday. The explosives were recovered by a BSF group during a search operation prior to the Republic day.

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40. Police Recover Ammunition And Explosives In Imphal

Thursday, 19 January 2012

<http://www.newstrackindia.com/newsdetails/2012/01/19/261015-Police-recover-ammunition-and-explosives-in-Imphal.html>

Police have killed two unidentified persons and recovered seven Chinese hand grenades, two detonators, pistol with live ammunition, battery and three circuit boards.

A suspected van coming from a village area was stopped for checking but tried to escape.

"We received information over telephone around 2:35 pm that encounter was going on in the area and when we arrived here and saw the situation, we saw two unknown dead bodies and a demolished Maruti van," said Mohammad Abdul Gaffar, a police officer.

Security officials said they had warned the driver of the vehicle before firing at it.

Manipur is one of the five Indian states, going for assembly polls between January 28 and March 3.

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41. Authorities Recover 2,450 Detonators, 100 Kg. Explosives In Dhanbad
Wednesday, 18 January 2012

<http://translate.google.com/translate?sl=hi&tl=en&js=n&prev=t&hl=en&ie=UTF-8&layout=2&eof=1&u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.thepunjabkesari.com%2Fnational%2Fnews%2F17189>
<http://translate.google.com/translate?hl=en&sl=auto&tl=en&u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.jagran.com%2Fnews%2Fnational-8782878.html>

[Approximate Translation]

Sheohar district of Bihar under Triani Triani Chapra police raided a house in the village, security forces today arrested a woman Naxalite and recovered huge quantity of explosives. Police sources said CRPF, Sheohar, East Champaran and Muzaffarpur district, the joint operation of the police raid on a house in the village of Chapra Triani Anjali Devi, alias Bengali Woman Maoist arrested aunt. Rajepur of East Champaran and Muzaffarpur Meenapur was yesterday after the arrest of 10 Maoists on his spotter Sheohar has succeeded in arresting the woman Maoist.

He accused the two Ken bombs, carbine and a magazine, a large amount of potassium nitrate and ammonium nitrate, Maoist literature and posters, bombs have been recovered binder twine. Commandant PC in Nashville raid campaign urea, Assistant Commandant DS Negi, Nitasha Gudiya Sheohar SP, East Champaran and Muzaffarpur in the Madhuban police station officer joined the DSP's Numani.

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42. Authorities Seize Explosives, Weapons In Raipur

Monday, 23 January 2012

<http://translate.google.com/translate?hl=en&sl=auto&tl=en&u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.bhaskar.com%2Farticle%2FCHH-RAI-could-there-be-such-a-big-cache-of-weapons-destruction-2778832.html>

Curia on Sunday from the forests of the district police and ITBP team 350 live cartridges, a dozen hand grenades, 255 detonators, batteries, American carbine magazine, base plugs and Maoist literature were recovered. Even before the police had also seized a large quantity of explosives.

SP BN Meena Gwaldnd morning around 11.30 am the police party was rushed to the woods where explosives were taken to the dump. The Jadhikarry 11 grenade was found in the forest. Giving police the forests of the Curia to the Maoists have made explosives dumping point.

The first 20 May and 11 November Srcig team also had recovered arms and ammunition from these forests. Seizures of arms and explosives have also suffered attacks by the Naxalites.

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43. Bomb Recovered In Northern India

Sunday, 15 January 2012

<http://translate.google.com/translate?sl=bn&tl=en&js=n&prev=t&hl=en&ie=UTF-8&layout=2&eotf=1&u=http%3A%2F%2Fbnnews.co%2Fbnnews%2F%3Fp%3D8949>

(Please copy/paste link above into your browser to view an approximate translation of the article.)

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44. Detonators, Explosive Material Seized In MP

Sunday, 22 January 2012

http://zeenews.india.com/news/madhya-pradesh/detonators-explosive-material-seized-in-mp_754228.html

Police on Sunday seized detonators, grenade and explosive material from the Naxal-affected forest area near Balaghat.

Acting on a tip-off, a police team reached the forest area under Sulsuli Police Post and recovered two hand-grenades, two detonators, four pencil cell and 2.5 kg high grade explosive hidden inside a pit, IG UR Netam and SP Sachin Atulkar told reporters.

It appears the Naxals were planning to execute a blast in the district, he said, adding the police have intensified search operation in the area and keeping a tight vigil.

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45. Cops Bust Six Red Bunkers In Rohtas Village

Sunday, 22 January 2012

http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2012-01-22/patna/30652316_1_maoist-area-commander-rohtas-sp-manu-maharaj-kaimur-hills

Bihar police on Saturday destroyed six Maoist bunkers and recovered a huge quantity of explosives and detonators at Harpetta village under the Nauhatta police station during a combing operation on Kaimur Hills in Rohtas district. The operation was carried out by a joint team of CRPF's Cobra battalion and district police.

Rohtas SP Manu Maharaj said the security forces came across the six bunkers at the village which were immediately destroyed. A search, thereafter, led to the recovery of a large cache of ammunition comprising 80 detonators, 12 powerful can bombs and a huge quantity of explosives, besides Maoist uniforms.

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46. Authorities Seize FARC Explosive Devices

Thursday, 19 January 2012

<http://translate.google.com/translate?sl=es&tl=en&js=n&prev=t&hl=en&ie=UTF-8&layout=2&eotf=1&u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.rcnradio.com%2Fnoticias%2Feditor%2Fhallan-caleta-de-la-farc-en-zona-rural-de-car-131439>

[Approximate Translation]

Superanfo ½ Ton, grenade launchers, rifles, pump cylinders, and other explosive devices were found in a creek by the army in rural area of Cartagena del Chaira.

According to Colonel Henry Ballestero Plata, commander of the Mobile Brigade No. 22, in the cove was also found rifles, grenade launchers, 35 Ramplas gas cylinders, 10 cylinders, 100-pound Chinese hats, homemade grenades and other materials for the manufacture of artifacts explosives.

The officer said the operations were developed for 5 days accompanied by bombing and ground operations, the arsenal of war were destroyed by the army.

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47. In Cauca, Authorities Seize Russian Missiles From FARC

Sunday, 15 January 2012

http://translate.google.com/translate?sl=es&tl=en&js=n&prev=t&hl=en&ie=UTF-8&layout=2&eotf=1&u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.google.com.co%2Fimgres%3Fq%3DFarc%2Barsenal%2BCaquet%25C3%25A1%26um%3D1%26hl%3Des%26biw%3D1600%26bih%3D733%26tbs%3Dqdr%3Am%26tbnid%3D-nsDjJxqWkK8NM%3A%26imgrefurl%3Dhttp%3A%2F%2Fwww.rcn.com.co%2Fnoticias%2Feditor%2Fen-cauca-incautan-misiles-rusos-que-pertenece-130653%26docid%3DhZ20a8tmxA8_nM%26imgurl%3Dhttp%3A%2F%2Frcnradio.s3.amazonaws.com%2Fsites%2Fdefault%2Ffiles%2Fimagecache%2F294x223%2Fimagenes%2Fmisilesincautados_1326634128.jpg%26w%3D294%26h%3D223%26ei%3DIKkdT7OsBYKKsgL2p5moCw%26zoom%3D1

[Approximate Translation]

Russian missiles capable of passing through tanks, were seized by the authorities of Cauca. Officials say the guerrillas belonging to FARC and would be used to advance large-scale attack against the security forces.

Colonel Ricardo Alarcon, Chief of Police in Cauca, said the seizure of this arsenal is the dismantling of a plan whereby guerrillas sought to advance large-scale attack against the security forces.

He also noted that from this time began an investigation using all intelligence efforts to establish where these missiles entered M72A2, findings that may point to a neighboring country even as it was known unofficially.

During the procedure for disarming the missiles anti-explosive experts participated. At operation there was no catch.

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48. Three Air Missiles Seized From FARC

Monday, 16 January 2012

(video) <http://translate.google.com/translate?sl=es&tl=en&js=n&prev=t&hl=en&ie=UTF-8&layout=2&eof=1&u=http%3A%2F%2Fnoticiascaracol.com%2Fnacion%2Fvideo-255162-decomisados-tres-misiles-tierra-aire-de-farc>

(video only)

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49. FARC Uses "Horse-Bomb" Attack, Soldier Dies

Sunday, 22 January 2012

<http://translate.google.com/translate?sl=es&tl=en&js=n&prev=t&hl=en&ie=UTF-8&layout=2&eotf=1&u=http%3A%2F%2Finforme21.com%2Factualidad%2F12%2F01%2F22%2Ffarc-usan-%25E2%2580%259Ccaballo-bomba%25E2%2580%259D-en-ataque-un-militar-muere>

A soldier was killed and another wounded in a remote town in the northwest of the country after guerrillas from the FARC sent a horse laden with explosives that were activated against them, on Sunday officially reported elnuevoherald.com.

The Fourth Army Brigade based in Medellin, 250 kilometers northwest of Bogota, said through a press release that the incident occurred on Saturday night in rural area of Toledo, Department of Antioquia , 320 miles northwest of Bogota.

Brigadier General Jesus Martinez Espinel, commander of the Fourth Brigade, said in the report that to perpetrate the attack "was loaded with explosives on a horse (y) was killed on a regular soldier Camilo Perez Montoya ... of 23 years."

The official attributed the attack to the front 36 guerrillas of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC).

"This deplorable attack injures the criminal ... Sebastian Morales Tangarife regular soldier of 19 years," he added.

By way of Martinez, "this heinous crime is a clear violation of international humanitarian law."

It is not the first time that the FARC used animals loaded with explosives for attacks on previous occasions donkeys used for this purpose.

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50. WWII Bombs Destroyed In Galapagos Islands

Wednesday, 18 January 2012

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-latin-america-16615945>

(video)

WWII bombs found by local fishermen in the Galapagos Islands were destroyed in a controlled explosion by Ecuadorian military.

The bombs were used for exercises in a US army base set in the archipelago during the conflict due to its strategic location.

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51. Two Mailbox Bombs Recovered In Kansas

Tuesday, 17 January 2012

<http://edgarcountywatchdogs.com/2012/01/checking-your-mail-beware/>

According to reports there has been two separate incidents in which an explosive device was placed in mail boxes in both Edgar and Clark Counties.

Two nights in a row there have been mail boxes blown up by what appears to be homemade bombs. Sunday night just north of Kansas Township and then again Monday night south of Kansas Township just across the county line into Clark County.

Watchdogs discovered potential evidence left at the scene of the southern explosion in the form of shredded duct tape at the scene and reported it to authorities.

Contact with the Edgar County Sheriff's office confirmed they were not notified on the Clark County explosion, which is where the shredded duct tape was found at the base of the mail box post.

North of town a new mail box has already been installed.

Speaking with the rural carrier we confirmed that no one contacted the post office to let them know what was happening on their postal route.

I don't know about others but if I was the mailman I would appreciate knowing about a potential risk from explosive devices placed in the mail box, as did our rural carrier when we informed him of the events.

Destroying a mailbox, with or without mail in it, is a federal crime. Additionally, a perpetrator may also be charged under both state and federal laws concerning the illegal possession and use of explosive devices.

Is this a common occurrence across the country????

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52. Bomb Squad Blows Up Suspicious Package

Sunday, 22 January 2012

<http://www.kirotv.com/news/news/bomb-squad-blows-suspicious-package/nG59L/>

A suspicious device appeared at a storage area near Chinook's Restaurant in Seattle on West Nickerson Street and 19th Avenue West, and was blown up by a bomb squad crew Saturday evening.

Seattle police blocked the entire area at Fisherman's terminal for a bomb tech, from the Port of Seattle's bomb squad, to destroy the suspicious metal-like suitcase.

According to POS police, they X-rayed the device and saw wires, tubes and batteries, then blew up the device. POS said the device was a Samsonite like case.

After the device was blown up, police looked at what was left of the device and it was not intended to be a bomb.

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53. Thief Claims Possession Of Explosive Device

Friday, 20 January 2012

<http://www2.wspa.com/news/2012/jan/20/2/greenville-deputies-search-robber-claimed-he-had-e-ar-3081924/>

Greenville Sheriff's deputies need your help to find a man who they say robbed a store claiming he had an explosive device. The Greenville County Sheriff's Office released photos of a suspect Friday from a robbery on January 17 at a Citgo gas station at 2608 Woodruff Road.

Investigators say a man came into the store at 12:00 a.m. and demanded money from the clerk. The man indicated he had some sort of explosive device, but that has not been confirmed.

He removed the cash register from the counter and left the store on foot.

The suspect is a white man in his late teens to mid 20s who was wearing a black jacket and blue jeans with white shoes and a black scarf around his face at the time.

He's approximately 5'10" to 6'0" and weighs 150-160 pounds.

Anyone with information is asked to contact the Sheriff's Office or Crime Stoppers at 23-CRIME.

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54. Bomb Making Materials Found At York Farmhouse

Thursday, 26 January 2012

http://www.yorknewstimes.com/news/article_21f4b7e8-4765-11e1-b3c2-0019bb2963f4.html

Two people were arrested on numerous charges after a York County SWAT team discovered bomb making materials, guns and drugs at a farmhouse south of Henderson.

York County Sheriff Dale Radcliff said his department obtained a search warrant after receiving information that illegal activity was taking place in a rental house at 120 Road 2.

“Because we knew the components of making bombs, explosives, were likely at the site, and the information indicated the person in question was likely using methamphetamine and was in possession of multiple firearms, we decided to use a SWAT team procedure,” Sheriff Radcliff said. “If someone is using methamphetamine and is armed, it could be a very dangerous situation.”

Radcliff said he already had deputies in place, staking out the property, when Melvin Lear was seen leaving the residence.

“That was fortunate, because he wasn’t near the firearms and explosives when we went in,” Sheriff Radcliff said. “We were able to stop him and take him into custody about a half mile from the property, which cut down some of the risk to officers. However, there were still multiple vehicles at the property, so we really didn’t know who was still inside.”

Once deputies went inside the residence, they were able to arrest Jennifer Lear. They also confiscated a large amount of evidence, including six standard rifles, three handguns, one assault-style rifle, a computer, cash, numerous pieces of drug paraphernalia containing methamphetamine, scales and bomb-making materials.

Three children were at the property, Sheriff Radcliff said, and they were taken into immediate protective custody by Nebraska Health and Human Services.

“Because of the nature of the paraphernalia and items found, we believe that not only was Melvin Lear using methamphetamine, there are absolutely indications that he was also likely dealing the drug,” Sheriff Radcliff continued. As to Lear’s alleged intentions with making bombs, Lt. Paul Vrbka said that is unclear and that aspect remains under investigation. “But these materials are very indicative with assembling bombs, we just don’t know what they were intended for, at this point.”

Sheriff Radcliff said he wanted to thank the Nebraska State Patrol for providing assistance, as well as an outside law enforcement agency which provided the initial information — however, he did refrain from identifying that agency as the investigation is ongoing.

“You know, several years ago, we had a lot of meth in the county and people manufacturing it,” Sheriff Radcliff said. “Because we, along with the county attorney’s office, went after the problem and the people doing it, we made a good dent in the situation, so it’s been awhile since we’ve seen this. We don’t believe this was the location of a meth lab, but again, it remains under investigation.

“We encourage anyone with information regarding this case or other cases to contact us,” Sheriff Radcliff said. “When we get information like this, we will actively work the case because there are too many people getting hurt with this stuff.”

UNCLASSIFIED

Radcliff said Melvin Lear is being held at the county jail on charges of possession of methamphetamine with the intent to deliver, possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of materials for making explosives.

Jennifer Lear is being held on felony charges of child abuse, “as there were children present when this type of activity was taking place.”

Other charges could be pending with the York County Attorney’s office, the sheriff indicated.

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55. Pipe Bomb Recovered Near Primary School

Tuesday, 17 January 2012

<http://news.uk.msn.com/pipe-bomb-left-near-primary-school>

A pipe bomb with the capacity to kill has been left close to a primary school in Northern Ireland. Police said the device was designed to murder and its discovery before it exploded had averted a potential tragedy.

Firefighters and police officers were called to the scene near St Teresa's primary school in west Belfast in the early hours of Tuesday after a report of a fire at a business premises.

During an examination of the scene on the nationalist Glen Road, police found the bomb.

A number of homes in the area were evacuated and St Teresa's was forced to close for the day. Army bomb disposal experts attended the scene and the device was removed.

Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) Chief Superintendent Mark Hamilton condemned those responsible.

"At around 3am this morning, police and Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service attended a report of a fire at business premises at the Glen Road area," he said.

"After re-examining the scene, police discovered a suspicious object in the area. A number of homes were evacuated whilst Army technical officers attended.

"The device has been taken away for further examination but we can confirm that it was a viable pipe bomb which had the capacity to kill or maim."

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56. Viable Explosive Device Made Safe By Army Team

Thursday, 26 January 2012

<http://www.thejournal.ie/viable-explosive-device-made-safe-by-army-team-337617-Jan2012/>

An Army bomb disposal team made safe a viable explosive device in Dublin last night.

The Defence Forces deployed the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Team to Killinarden in Tallaght following a request from the Gardaí.

The improvised explosive device was found near a vehicle outside a private residence and removed to a secure military installation for further technical examination. No controlled explosion was carried out.

Following forensic exploitation, the device was handed over to Gardaí.

The team arrived to Killinarden at 8.25pm and the scene was declared safe at 9.05pm.

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57. Bomb Shells Found In Van On Middlesbrough Road

Friday, 20 January 2012

<http://www.gazettelive.co.uk/news/teesside-news/2012/01/20/bomb-shells-found-in-van-on-middlesbrough-road-84229-30163538/>

A haul of bomb shells was discovered in a van believed to be on its way to the scrapyards. Police officers pulled over a van on Forty Foot Road in Middlesbrough and on inspection found about 25 spent bomb shells in the rear.

It is believed they may have been stolen and were being transported due to their scrap metal value.

Four people - three men aged 29, 30 and 31 and a 35-year-old woman - were arrested on suspicion of theft and carrying a dangerous load.

Nobody was evacuated in the area and no roads were closed as a result of the find, but army bomb disposal experts were called to check the shells over.

One of the shells was removed by bomb disposal experts from Catterick Garrison for a controlled explosion as a precaution.

Police said it is not yet known where the shells, which were all spent, had come from. But it is believed they may have been used for Army training.

A 45-year-old man, who works for steel stockholder Parson and Crosland on the road, said: "The police stopped them right outside our gates.

"I had to ask them to move because we had to get wagons in and out.

"The van was low at the back you could see there was a lot of weight.

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58. Fewer Killed In North Caucasus Last Year, Overall Situation Remains Unchanged

Thursday, 19 January 2012

[http://www.jamestown.org/single/?no_cache=1&tx_ttnews\[tt_news\]=38901&tx_ttnews\[backPid\]=7&Hash=66b5682c6a1dff65f94ba38c50ee7658](http://www.jamestown.org/single/?no_cache=1&tx_ttnews[tt_news]=38901&tx_ttnews[backPid]=7&Hash=66b5682c6a1dff65f94ba38c50ee7658)

The Kavkazsky Uzel (Caucasian Knot) website has published the statistics for casualties in the North Caucasus in 2011. The figures, compiled using open sources, allow us to draw a range of interesting conclusions. First of all, it is peculiar that the number of those wounded in armed clashes and bombings was lower than the number of those killed. Thus in Kabardino-Balkaria there were 129 killed but only 44 wounded. Second, it is odd that in Chechnya, advertised by the Russian authorities as a peaceful and prosperous republic, there were 201 victims last year, of whom 95 were killed and 106 injured.

In 2010, the overall figure for victims of the conflict in the North Caucasus was 1,710 - 754 people killed and 956 wounded. Among those killed were 354 rebels, 180 police officers and 180 civilians. While the overall number of victims decreased by one-third in 2011, the number of those killed – 733 – stayed at about the same level in 2011. The lower percentage of victims does not indicate a lowering of tensions in the region, nor does it reflect the real picture of the past year. Throughout the year, Russian officials were forced to admit on numerous occasions that the situation in the North Caucasus is dire (www.novoteka.ru/sevent/10885354). The Russian people agree with the government on this: nearly a third of the respondents surveyed by the Levada Center stated that the situation in the region remained tense and one in four of those surveyed expected the situation to worsen (www.levada.ru/27-10-2011/nord-ost-i-obstanovka-na-severnom-kavkaze).

The overall decrease in the number of casualties in the North Caucasus was a result of developments in Kabardino-Balkaria and Ingushetia, where the killing of almost all of the leaders of the jamaats led to a decrease in the number of casualties. The Ingush jamaat has essentially failed to regain the levels of strength that it enjoyed under its long-time leader, Emir Magas (aka Yevloev-Taziev). Under the current leader of the Ingushetia's Sharia Jamaat, Emir Daud, there have been practically no significant attacks since the spring of 2010. Most likely, this jamaat is still undergoing reorganization and revival in the wake of Emir Magas' arrest and the killings and arrests of several other leading commanders of the Ingush jamaat.

The Kabardino-Balkarian jamaat also markedly reduced its activities. The republic ranked third in terms of casualties in 2011, yielding second place to Chechnya. An abrupt decrease in rebel attacks in Kabardino-Balkaria took place during the period May to October 2011. Despite the decrease, there were still 173 victims of militant attacks, most of which occurred in the first months of 2011, before the Russian security services wiped out nearly the entire leadership of the jamaat between March and May. In the second half of 2011, the Kabardino-Balkarian jamaat was busy with reorganization and self-preservation, given that all its top leaders could not have been killed without treachery in the rebels' own ranks. This resulted in a lengthy process to select the new emir of Kabardino-Balkaria. On September 9, in coordination with Doku Umarov, Alim Zankishiev (aka Ubaidallah) became the new leader of the rebels in Kabardino-Balkaria. An ethnic Balkar, Zankishiev is 30 years old and comes from the village of Verkhnyaya Zhemala (www.djamaattakbir.com/2011/09/blog-post_6867.html). Emir Ubaidallah is on the Russian federal wanted list on charges of attacking police officers (<http://pravitelstvokbr.ru/k-br%5Ckbr-main.nsf/html/ZAUCHASTIEVRYADAHNVF>). Even the name of the jamaat was changed: formerly known as the United Jamaat of Kabarda, Balkaria and Karachay, it is now called Jamaat Takbir.

Emir Ubaidallah was not unknown among the rebels: he led the Nalchik sector of the jamaat prior to his appointment. In the several weeks following his appointment, the new emir appointed new people to all sectors of the jamaat. This signaled that the reorganization period was quick and painless and the jamaat retained the bulk of its personnel. Arguably, the December 17 assassination of Vadim Sultanov, a police

colonel from the center “E”, was the most notorious killing of the year in Kabardino-Balkaria. Rebel websites declared that Sultanov was the masked person who had made videotaped statements against the militants on behalf of Kabardino-Balkaria’s civilians. The colonel claimed he represented an organization called Chernye Yastreby (the Black Hawks), which would hunt down the militants and members of their families (<http://kavpolit.com/padenie-chernogo-yastreba/>). However, officials tried to reject this explanation (http://rss.novostimira.com/n_1971821.html).

But the fact that this mythical organization did not carry out a single action in a year confirms that it likely originated in the police structures. The group gave frequent interviews to Moscow TV channels, and reporters rather easily found and conducted interviews with its members, but it increasingly looked like publicity for a non-existent organization (www.kasparov.ru/material.php?id=4D75FB569D76E). If it is confirmed that the authorities were behind the Black Hawks, it will mark the first confirmed case of the government carrying out extralegal executions under the guise of nationalism. The Black Hawks did not hide their antipathy toward non-Kabardins, alleging that Balkars bore all the responsibility for the Kabardino-Balkarian jamaat’s activities and were the primary driving force in the movement. In fact, the Kabardin component of the Yarmuk jamaat (aka Takbir) is hardly any smaller than the Balkar component. We should not forget that for several years, an ethnic Kabardin, Anzor Astemirov (aka Emir Seifullah), was the primary ideologue of Kabardino-Balkarian jamaat and of the entire North Caucasian armed underground. Astemirov was killed in Nalchik on March 24, 2010. He was the initiator of the North Caucasian resistance movement’s reorganization into an Islamic organization - the Caucasus Emirate.

Thus the 2011 statistics indicate that although it was a successful year for the Russian security services, little changed in the general picture of the armed resistance, except in Kabardino-Balkaria. Even in the latter, however, the latest trend appears to be going against Russian interests.

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59. Bomb Recovered In Dnepropetrovsk

Sunday, 22 January 2012

<http://translate.google.com/translate?sl=ru&tl=en&js=n&prev=t&hl=en&ie=UTF-8&layout=2&eotf=1&u=http%3A%2F%2Fgazetavv.com%2Fincidents%2F43209-v-dnepropetrovske-vozle-cuma-rasstrelyali-bombu.html>

[Approximate Translation]

January 20 in the center of Dnepropetrovsk again vzryvotchniki disarm a suspicious finding. Maid Trade tsetra "Rotonda" (near the Central Department Store) found in an urn next to the strange package.

Alert woman reported it to police.

At 16.30 the territory around the building cordoned off by police. Arrived at the emergency vzryvotchniki shot content urn water gun.

As we told the head of the press service of the State Ministry of the Interior in the Dnepropetrovsk region Alexei Shcherbatov, fortunately, found a package was not explosive. "Inside the package were CDs and other household items that will not jeopardize," - said Alexei Shcherbatov.

Itself is a cleaner shop explained that, having found a suspicious package, and she had no doubt that it is necessary to call the police, because November 16 at a hundred meters away, there was a terrorist attack. The explosion of a device that is embedded in the trash killed a 27-year-old man. A criminal case on this fact still investigating, said Segodnya.ua

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60. Detonators, Grenades, & TNT Recovered In Tomsk

Wednesday, 18 January 2012

<http://translate.google.com/translate?sl=ru&tl=en&js=n&prev=t&hl=en&ie=UTF-8&layout=2&eotf=1&u=http%3A%2F%2Ftomsk-novosti.ru%2Fognestrel-ny-e-meshki%2F>

(Video: <http://www.vesti.tvtomsk.ru/news-16100.html>)

The siloviki FSB and UFSKN during a joint operation was found in a field near a village in the Tomsk region cache of weapons, and, as characterized by their own investigators, it is with heavy weapons. There were three bulk bag, two hand grenades, 20 detonators, about 3.5 kg of TNT, 14 hand grenades, 200 cartridges and parcel of marijuana.

According to UFSKN in the near future planned supply in the region particularly large consignment of drugs and those munitions criminals planned to pay.

According to this criminal case in accordance with Art. 228 (illegal possession of drugs on a large scale) and Art. 222 (illegal possession of ammunition and explosives) of the Criminal Code. The investigators (while engaged in the investigation UFSKN, but soon the process will be attended by employees of the regional TFR) has information about the suspects.

The sanction provided for up to eight and six years' imprisonment respectively.

Grenade launchers, detonators, TNT, ammunition, grenades - Tomsk office of Drug Control as a large shipment of weapons seized for the first time

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61. Grenade Found Under Car In Moscow

Monday, 23 January 2012

<http://translate.google.com/translate?sl=ru&tl=en&js=n&prev=t&hl=en&ie=UTF-8&layout=2&eotf=1&u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.ria.ru%2Fincidents%2F20120123%2F546580045.html>

[Approximate Translation]

The investigation opened a criminal case of attempted murder on the fact of detection of combat grenades attached to the vehicle a resident of Moscow , told RIA Novosti on Monday a law enforcement source of capital.

On Sunday afternoon at the Bratsk Street man working security guard at ORR LLC "Gazprom protection" found a suspicious object resembling a grenade, mounted in the exhaust pipe of his car Chevrolet Lanos. RGN grenade was secured with fishing line and clamp mount between silencing machinery and fencing the lawn. Experts of demining engineers in Moscow dismantled GUMVD ammunition.

"In this criminal case under part 3 of article 30, chasti1 Article 105 (attempted murder), Part 1 of Article 222 (illegal trafficking of arms and ammunition) of the Criminal Code," - said the source.

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62. Third Grader Brings Live WWII Mortar To School

Tuesday, 24 January 2012

<http://translate.google.com/translate?sl=ru&tl=en&js=n&prev=t&hl=en&ie=UTF-8&layout=2&eof=1&u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.gazeta.spb.ru%2F638635-0%2F>

[Approximate Translation]

Polukurezny case, which could result in a tragedy occurred on the eve of a school in the Red Village. Disciple of the third class of school № 380, decided to surprise his friends, brought early in the morning for a lesson ... WWII mortar bomb.

It is terrible even to imagine what would happen if the projectile detonated directly in the classroom, said Piter.TV. If you find such finds in the woods, in the field exhibited a cordon and cause vzryvotchnikov because foresee how to behave lain in the ground over half a century ammo is almost impossible.

School teacher, seeing a dangerous "toy" in the hands of rebyatni, did, of course, be a hero, but rather impulsively and thoughtlessly, he took the shell in children and myself took it to the nearest police station.

The police of this "gift" to the delight they came and immediately summoned vzryvotchnikov. Around noon, OMON forces ill-fated mine was taken to the landfill for disposal.

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63. Belarus MIA Denies Claims Re: 2011 Subway Bombing

Wednesday, 18 January 2012

<http://telegraf.by/en/2012/01/mvd-opravdivaetsya-za-foto-chetverki-v-shtatskom>

The Ministry of Internal Affairs of Belarus denies the theory that explosion in Minsk subway in April 2011 was carried out by four men in civilian clothes, focused by the cameras directly after the attack. As explained by the Head of Information and Public Relations of MIA, Konstantin Shalkevich, these people are technical experts of the internal forces center on explosions.

Konstantin Shalkevich said that the de-miners had all the equipment with them, which theoretically could be necessary, as it had been initially reported by the MIA operational duty service that just a clap had been audible in the subway. According to the Interior Ministry spokesman, employees of sapper-pyrotechnic calculations were totally unaware of what had happened in the subway, TUT.by.

Konstantin Shalkevich also explained that the engineers on the photo and video were carrying a reel of sapper cable, some wire and the sapper's armored protective clothing with the helmet in a big bag.

"One de-miner holds an inspection mirror to look for explosive devices in remote places. One had to be ready for anything in such a situation - there could be several devices. Naturally, the experts took the maximum amount of equipment," said the representative of the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

The fact that one of the engineers in plain clothes was also carrying a condensing blasting unit (CBU) has repeatedly caused surprise and bewilderment in the blogosphere. However, according to Konstantin Shalkevich, it's not surprising at all, since the unit is often used by engineers to neutralize an explosive device if it's impossible to safely remove it from the place where it's been found.

"In such cases, the sappers must have it with them! The unit and an explosive device get connected by the wire," said Konstantin Shalkevich.

The very photographs, which caused heated discussion from the public, were taken after the demining team had inspected all the carriages and was coming out of the subway. "These shots have been freely available since April. So, I can't understand why these speculations have only recently emerged," said the representative of the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

"Moreover, all of them are current employees of the internal troops. They are free to talk with press and explain everything themselves," assured Konstantin Shalkevich.

As Telegraf previously reported, Belarusian blogger Maxim Cherniavski questioned the official version of the terrorist attack in Minsk subway. According to him, the last seconds of the video, released in March, demonstrate four men in civilian clothes with a disruptive technology coming out of "Kastrychnitskaya" subway station right after the explosion. According to the blogger, they were carrying a reel of sapper cable, a condensing blasting unit (CBU) and a big heavy bag.

The blogger claims that they are not de-miners, since the specialists, who arrived on the scene, were not in plain clothes, but in uniform. The author of a new version also argues that these same men can be seen in the video, made in the subway and used by prosecutors for the prosecution of Dmitri Konovalov.

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64. WWII Bomb Disrupts Innsbruck 2012

Thursday, 19 January 2012

<http://www.insidethegames.biz/olympics/youth-olympics/2012/15562-world-war-two-bomb-disrupts-innsbruck-2012>

The Winter Youth Olympics were briefly plunged into chaos here with the daily Victory Ceremony postponed and the scheduled concert cancelled after a bomb was discovered in Innsbruck city centre.

The discovery was of an aerial bomb from World War Two and it was made during construction works at Bozner Platz here.

The 250kg (550lb) bomb was found just a few yards away from the Medals Plaza in Maria-Theresien-Straße, where every night the medal winners aged between 15 and 18-years-old have been presented with their medals.

However, the panic was quickly over as shortly after releasing a statement saying that the Victory Ceremony was postponed and that the scheduled concert cancelled, Innsbruck revealed that the bomb had been "defused".

The Victory Ceremony is still postponed until tomorrow but the concert set for tonight, featuring Tanz Baby! and Kommando Elefant, is back on.

Shortly after the announcement, bomb disposal squads went on site to address the issue but the closing off of the area and the postponement of events at the Medal Plaza was a precaution rather than because there was a major threat to the security and safety situation in Innsbruck.

The disposal squads managed to diffuse the bomb in four hours while there were a total of 65 police staff in attendance.

It began in December 1943 and lasted until April 1945 because Innsbruck was a main transport hub where four rail lines converged.

A key function as a railroad supply centre for Italy made Innsbruck an important strategic target for the Allies, who carried out a total of 22 raids in 16 months.

There were more than 450 casualties and over 3,000 buildings were damaged.

Mark Adams, head of communications at the International Olympic Committee (IOC), admitted that the incident was a surprise to everyone.

"It's a shame, obviously," he said.

"It's the first Winter Youth Olympic Games and it's really important to celebrate the medals but we thought it best to cancel.

"Safety, particularly of the athletes is at the core of everything we do.

"I must admit we weren't expecting to have a Second World War bomb."

Despite today's short drama, the incident certainly will not overshadow what has so far been a very successful inaugural edition of the Winter Youth Olympic Games.

The nine-day event has now passed the halfway mark and just yesterday, IOC President Jacques Rogge was full of praise for the organisation of the event.

"After the success of Singapore, it is heart-warming to witness a city come alive once again with the spirit of the Youth Olympic Games," Rogge said.

"The local communities have come out in force to enjoy the high-level sports competition on offer, while international spectators have travelled from far and wide to show their support."

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65. Germany's Explosive Legacy

Friday, 20 January 2012

<http://www.theepochtimes.com/n2/world/germanys-explosive-legacy-177740.html>

Unexploded munitions from World War II are a constant lurking threat in Germany, and some of the buried remnants are now becoming increasingly unstable, said the head of a German bomb disposal squad.

UXO, short for unexploded ordnance, are munitions like bombs, mines, or grenades that failed to detonate as intended, either due to malfunction, design, or other causes. Without removal, the UXOs remain in their original place for decades, revealing themselves over time, sometimes with deadly results.

While there are no reliable national figures, some experts estimate that 10 percent of the 1.6 million bombs that were dropped on Germany by Allied Forces during World War II did not detonate. More than 65 years after the war most of them still lay buried in the ground.

Horst Lenz, head of the regional bomb disposal squad in the state of Rhineland-Palatinate says the most dangerous ones are the British UXOs with a so-called long-delay pistol, also called delay-action bombs. These are bombs that were designed to go off hours or days after they have been dropped. Their goal was to maintain fear and impede rescue operations after a bombing raid.

In one case last year, Lenz defused a delay-action bomb hardly got media attention since "only" 1,000 meters (3,280 feet) needed to be cordoned off. However, compared to conventional bombs, "the risk of defusing this kind was much higher," he said.

What makes many UXOs, especially British-made, more dangerous over time is that the fuses become increasingly unstable, particular in a moist environment. Therefore the trigger can more easily go off by itself, so that even a slight tremor can set it off.

This became a deadly reality in June 2010 for a bomb disposal team in the northern German city of Göttingen. Even before removal preparations were completed, the bomb, most likely a delay action-bomb, exploded, killing three members of the experienced team, while several were left severely wounded.

Lenz was responsible for successfully defusing the 1.8-ton bomb found in the Rhine River last month that caused Germany's "biggest evacuation since World War II," according to authorities.

In the West-German city of Koblenz, a so-called blockbuster bomb, dropped by the British Air Force in 1944, revealed itself on the banks of the river due to particularly low water levels. Nearly half the population of the city, about 45,000 people, had to be evacuated outside a one-mile-radius of the bomb.

Lenz was quite subdued about this one. For him, it was "simply a big bomb."

Lenz and his team have been lucky so far. There have been no casualties in Rhineland-Palatinate since the 1950s. Similarly, injuries involving civilians in the state are rare as well, which mostly happen when UXO are actively tampered with.

Low by German standards, Lenz's team found "only" 80 bombs last year while some states, particular in eastern Germany, remove thousands of explosives each year, mostly from former military training areas.

UNCLASSIFIED

While most UXOs are discovered by chance during construction work and are reported to the authorities, German bomb removal experts also actively search for explosives. After having identified an area by studying World War II-era aerial photographs, teams with the help metal detectors try to locate UXOs.

Experts see it a particular risk with UXOs that self-detonate. It is estimated that every year at least one explodes in Germany. Some industrial areas that were strategic targets during World War II are especially affected. For example, in the town of Oranienburg, north of Berlin, more than 300 UXOs are suspected to be buried in the ground. Since 1991, three have exploded by themselves.

Europe, having been the main battleground over two world wars, particularly Germany, Britain, France, and Belgium, is still littered with unexploded remnants of war.

Unexploded ordnances globally affect millions of people in 84 countries and have contaminated a landmass of about 5 million acres (200,000 square km), said the Center for International Stabilization and Recovery.

Besides injuring or killing civilians, UXOs regularly interfere with farming, construction work, and can, in developing countries, threaten basic survival

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66. Syria Bomb Kills 14
Saturday, 21 January 2012

http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/world_now/2012/01/syria-bus-explosion-american-citizen-arrest-bashar-assad-arab-spring.html

In the latest violence in Syria, more than a dozen people were killed Saturday when a bus carrying prisoners in Syria's northwestern province of Idlib exploded, activist reports and government-controlled media said.

Syria's official SANA news agency said 14 people were killed and 26 others wounded when "an armed terrorist group" attacked a police truck with a string of explosives as it was traveling in the Mastouma area between the towns of Ariha and Idlib. Six police guards accompanying the transport were also wounded, the report added.

The Syrian activist network, the Local Coordination Committees in Syria, said 13 people died "when a bus carrying prisoners exploded." It did not elaborate.

No group has claimed responsibility for the attack.

The activist network also reported the discovery of 30 unidentified corpses in Idlib's National Hospital. Security forces opened fire inside and outside the hospital, the group said, as activists and residents found the bodies. A mass arrest campaign was underway in the area, the report added.

In addition, six other people were killed across the country Saturday, the activist group said, including three in the protest stronghold of Homs and one in the Damascus suburb of Duma, where security forces reportedly fired on mourners near a mosque and clashes erupted between members of the rebel group the Free Syrian Army and government troops.

As fighting raged, the U.S was looking into reports about the arrest of an American citizen in Syria earlier this month. Media reports say Abdelkader Chaar, 22, from Syracuse, N.Y., was arrested Jan. 8 in the northern city of Aleppo, where he is a medical student at Aleppo University.

State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland said in a Friday news briefing that the U.S was looking into the matter.

"We are aware of the reports," she said. "We've been in contact with Syrian authorities and have requested confirmation of the arrest and requested consular access. We have not yet had a response to those requests."

Reports have also surfaced about the U.S. contemplating closing its embassy in Syria, reportedly citing concerns for its embassy staff there due to a deteriorating security situation.

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67. Two Inert Grenades Found In Cyprus Home

Thursday, 19 January 2012

<http://www.ocregister.com/news/device-336374-bomb-squad.html>

The Orange County Sheriff's Bomb Squad determined that two hand grenades found in a single-story home Thursday morning were inert.

About 7 a.m., the narcotics unit was serving a search warrant at a home on the 5300 block of Bishop Street when they found what appeared to be an explosive device, Cypress police Sgt. Robert Cote said. Article Tab: bomb-sheriff-squad-device

The bomb squad was called and found two inert hand grenades inside the home, Cote said.

During the search of the home, a loaded semi-automatic handgun and evidence of drug sales were also found.

Dale Smith Sr., 62, of Cypress was arrested and booked on suspicion of felony narcotics sale, police said. Two other people were questioned and released.

Smith told police he believed he had three hand grenades in the home, but members of the bomb squad did not find a third.

Bishop Street was closed between Grindlay and Watson streets until about 11 a.m., while members of the bomb squad and officers conducted the investigation.

No evacuations were ordered.

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Nigeria's Boko Haram Militants Remain a Regional Threat (STRATFOR)

By Scott Stewart
January 26, 2012

The Nigerian militant group Boko Haram conducted a series of bombing attacks and armed assaults Jan. 20 in the northern city of Kano, the capital of Kano state and second-largest city in Nigeria. The attacks, which reportedly included the employment of at least two suicide vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices (VBIEDs), targeted a series of police facilities in Kano. These included the regional police headquarters, which directs police operations in Kano, Katsina and Jigawa states, as well as the State Security Service office and the Nigerian Immigration Service office. At least 211 people died in the Kano attacks, according to media reports.

The group carried out a second wave of attacks in Bauchi state on Jan. 22, bombing two unoccupied churches in the Bauchi metropolitan area and attacking a police station in the Tafawa Balewa local government area. Militants reportedly also tried to rob a bank in Tafawa Balewa the same day. Though security forces thwarted the robbery attempt, 10 people reportedly died in the clash, including two soldiers and a deputy police superintendent.

In a third attack, Boko Haram militants attacked a police sub-station in Kano on Jan. 24 with small arms and improvised hand grenades. A tally of casualties in the assault, which reportedly lasted some 25 minutes, was not available. This armed assault stands out tactically from the Jan. 20 suicide attacks against police stations in Kano. The operation could have been an attempt to liberate some of the Boko Haram militants the government arrested following the Jan. 20 and Jan. 22 attacks.

Stratfor has followed Boko Haram carefully to assess its intent -- and ability -- to become more transnational. As we noted after the U.S. State Department issued warnings in early November 2011 about Boko Haram's alleged plans to strike Western-owned hotels in Abuja, Nigeria's capital, the group made significant leaps in its operational capability during 2011. During that time, it transitioned from very simple attacks to successfully employing suicide VBIEDS. An examination of the recent attacks in Kano and Bauchi states, however, does not reveal further advances in the group's operational tradecraft and does not display any new ability or intent to project power beyond its traditional areas of operation.

Boko Haram's Tactical Evolution

Boko Haram, Hausa for "Western Education is Sinful," is an Islamist militant group established in 2002 in Maiduguri, the capital of Nigeria's Borno state. It has since spread to several other northern and central Nigerian states. It is officially known as "Jama'atu Ahlis Sunna Lidda'awati wal-Jihad," Arabic for "Group Committed to Propagating the Prophet's Teachings and Jihad."

At first, Boko Haram was involved mostly in fomenting sectarian violence. Its adherents participated in simple attacks on Christians using clubs, machetes and small arms. Boko Haram came to international attention following serious outbreaks of inter-communal violence in 2008 and 2009 that resulted in thousands of deaths.

By late 2010, Boko Haram had added Molotov cocktails and simple improvised explosive devices (IEDs) to its tactical repertoire. This tactical advancement was reflected in the series of small IEDs deployed against Christian targets in Jos, Plateau state, on Christmas Eve 2010.

Boko Haram conducted a number of other armed assaults and small IED attacks in early 2011. The IEDs involved in these attacks were either improvised hand grenades constructed by filling soft drink cans with

explosives -- which were frequently thrown from motorcycles -- or slightly larger devices left at the target.

This attack paradigm was shattered June 16, 2011, when Boko Haram launched a suicide VBIED attack against the headquarters of the Nigerian national police in Abuja. Though not overly spectacular (security measures kept the device away from the headquarters building and it exploded in a parking lot), the successful deployment of a large VBIED and a suicide operative represented a dramatic leap in Boko Haram's capability. An organization does not normally develop such a capability internally without some signs of progressive advancement in its bombmaking capability. For example, a group would be expected to employ medium-sized IEDs before it employed large VBIEDS. That it skipped a step prompted us to believe reports of Boko Haram members receiving training from al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb in northern Africa or from al Shabaab in Somalia (or some other outside group).

Boko Haram conducted its second suicide VBIED attack in Abuja on Aug. 26, 2011, this time targeting a U.N. compound in the city's diplomatic district. This attack proved far more deadly because the driver was able to enter the compound and reach a parking garage before detonating his device near the building's entrance. The attack against the U.N. compound also marked a break from Boko Haram's traditional target set of government and Christian facilities.

If the intelligence that triggered the warnings of hotel attacks in November 2011 is accurate, it appears the group may also have considered transnational targets -- at least to the extent of seeking to eliminate involvement by the international community in Nigeria in order to undercut Abuja. This shift in targeting raised concerns that the group's contacts with al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb and/or al Shabaab had influenced it. It also raised fears that due to its rapidly evolving attack capability, Boko Haram now was on a trajectory to become the next jihadist franchise group to become a transnational terrorist threat, following in the steps of al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, the Yemen-based al Qaeda franchise group. The January attacks provide us an opportunity to evaluate this theory.

What the January Attacks Tell Us

First, the group appears to have no shortage of explosive material. In addition to the devices the group employed in the attacks, the police reportedly seized some 300 improvised grenades and 10 VBIEDs. It also appears Boko Haram has access to large quantities of commercial explosives, rather than being forced to rely on less reliable and less stable improvised explosive mixtures. A good deal of mining occurs in central Nigeria, and it seems that the group is either stealing commercial explosives from mining companies, extorting mining companies for explosives or has somehow been able to purchase commercial explosives using a front company or companies. The Nigerian government has sought to tighten controls on commercial explosives in response, but its efforts so far do not seem to have affected the group's ability to procure large quantities of explosives.

Boko Haram also appears to have competent bombmakers. While the improvised hand grenades the group is issuing are quite rudimentary, being made by inserting a non-electric detonator with a short piece of time fuse in a soda can filled with high explosives, their devices are functioning as designed. The same can be said for their suicide vests and VBIEDS: They are simple yet functional. This stands out, since IEDs commonly malfunction. Bombmaking is an art that normally follows a significant learning curve absent outside instruction from a more experienced bombmaker. Boko Haram's proficiency suggests the group's bombmaker(s) indeed received training from experienced militants elsewhere.

The group also appears to have had no problems recruiting militants, including suicide bombers. The Jan. 20 attacks alone involved dozens of militants. Two people served as suicide bombers for the VBIEDs while perhaps two other suicide bombers worked on foot; others threw IEDs from motorcycles and conducted armed assaults.

That said, the group's operational planners do not appear to be as advanced as their bombmakers and recruiters. Though they have proved fairly successful in attacking soft targets, they have not had much success in their attacks against harder targets. For example, the attacker in the Jan. 20 strike on the State Security Service office in Kano was shot and killed before he could approach the building. Likewise, security forces were able to repel the attackers in the Jan. 22 attempted bank robbery in Tafawa Balewa.

All three January attacks also occurred in Boko Haram's traditional area of operations in the northern and central regions of Nigeria. These areas are both familiar and accessible to the group and it has strong support there. (It also has significant support in the area around Abuja.) The group has yet to display an ability to project power outside its traditional operational area into less familiar and more hostile environments.

Some ask whether Boko Haram is merely a political tool used by northern politicians to pressure the Nigerian federal government in much the same way politicians from the Niger Delta have used militant groups such as the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta to ensure what they believe is their fair share of Nigeria's oil revenue. While undoubtedly some connections between some northern politicians and Boko Haram exist, it would be simplistic to suggest such politicians completely control Boko Haram. Indeed, the Nigerian newspaper Vanguard reported Jan. 24 that senior Boko Haram figures said Jan. 21 that they were retaliating against northern governors who had refused to pay the group previously agreed-upon monthly sums of cash not to conduct operations in their state and for allowing security forces to arrest groups of their members, as they did Jan. 18 when six Boko Haram leaders were detained in Maiduguri. (One of the arrested leaders, Kabiru Sokoto, escaped later when gunmen likely affiliated with Boko Haram attacked the police vehicles transporting him.)

At the very least, however, these recent attacks tell us that before the group can become an existential threat to the Nigerian government -- or a legitimate transnational threat -- it will need to develop the ability to deploy its IEDs and suicide operatives to the point that it successfully can attack hardened targets. It will also need to develop the ability to work beyond its traditional areas of operation. Until it can master those skills (and display an intent to use such skills), it will remain a regional, albeit deadly, threat.

http://www.stratfor.com/weekly/nigerias-boko-haram-militants-remain-regional-threat?utm_source=freelist-f&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=20120126&utm_term=sweekly&utm_content=title&elq=6d291ebc04744a7eb358530b70631733

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