



Weekly News Update

Volume 1, Issue 14

7 OCT 2011

The RAPID Weekly News Update is a weekly collection of unclassified news bulletins focused on noteworthy improvised explosive attacks and trends in the IED/C-IED community. For additional information or to be added to the RAPID network, please request a RAPID login at <https://rapid.trancite.com> using your government (.mil or .gov) email account.



People mill around the scene where a suicide attack took place in Somalia's capital Mogadishu on October 4, 2011. A suicide bomb blast claimed by Somalia's Al Qaeda-allied rebels killed nearly 100 people in Mogadishu. (AFP/Getty Images)

[See [Shabaab Suicide Bomber Kills Scores in Mogadishu](#)]

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1. [Trend] **Majority of IEDs are traced to Pakistan** (USA Today)

Sunday, 25 September 2011

<http://www.globalpost.com/photo-galleries/planet-pic/5676055/the-meadows-afghanistan-endless-search-ieds>

Pakistan is the source of explosives in the vast majority of makeshift bombs insurgents in Afghanistan planted this summer to attack U.S. troops, according to U.S. military commanders.

From June through August, U.S. troops detected or were hit by 5,088 improvised explosive devices (IEDs), the most for any three-month period since the war began in 2001.

Those bombs killed 63 troops and wounded 1,234, Defense Department records show.

More than 80% of the IEDs are homemade explosives using calcium ammonium nitrate fertilizer produced in Pakistan, said Navy Capt. Douglas Borrebach, deputy director for resources and requirements at the Pentagon's Joint IED Defeat Organization.

"The border is a sieve," Borrebach said. "You can do your checkpoints, but that's not going to help stem the supply."

The military is working with the State Department, other U.S. agencies and Pakistan's government to prevent fertilizer from reaching the insurgents' bomb factories.

The U.S. government increasingly has been blaming Pakistan for failing to corral insurgents. Two weeks ago, Adm. Michael Mullen, then the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said the Haqqani terror network linked to attacks in Afghanistan had ties to Pakistan's spy agency.

A Senate bill includes funds to train border guards and customs officials in Pakistan and Afghanistan. It also supports agricultural extension programs that encourage Pakistani farmers to use alternative fertilizers. Sen. Robert Casey, D-Pa., met with top civilian and military leaders in Pakistan in August to urge them to stop the flow of bomb-making materials into Afghanistan. They promised to help, but did not reveal a sense of urgency, Casey told USA TODAY after the trip.

Choking off the source of fertilizer is critical, Borrebach said. "How do we work with Pakistan to be able to reduce the amount of calcium ammonium nitrate coming across the border?" he said. "That's the key to this." Not necessarily, said Seth Jones, an expert on Afghanistan at the RAND Corp. who has advised the special operations forces there. "You could bang your head against a wall for eternity trying to keep ammonium nitrate from crossing the border," Jones said.

The Taliban and other insurgent groups operate out of a border region between Pakistan and Afghanistan, over which the Pakistani government has little control.

Beefing up local security forces in Afghanistan, he said, shows more promise in defeating the IED problem. He pointed to areas of Kandahar province where homegrown security forces, assisted by the U.S. troops, had made life better for local citizens. They, in turn, rejected insurgents, sided with the security forces and pointed out bomb caches. The IED problems subsided, he said.

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2. [Trend] **Two Diggers Survive Multiple IED Strikes** (AAP)

Thursday, 22 September 2011

http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2011/09/admiral_mullen_pakis.php

During a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing today, Admiral Michael Mullen, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, highlighted the Pakistani Inter-Services Intelligence Agency's role in sponsoring the Haqqani Network - including attacks on American forces in Afghanistan.

"The fact remains that the Quetta Shura [Taliban] and the Haqqani Network operate from Pakistan with impunity," Mullen said in his written testimony. "Extremist organizations serving as proxies of the government of Pakistan are attacking Afghan troops and civilians as well as US soldiers."

Mullen continued: "For example, we believe the Haqqani Network--which has long enjoyed the support and protection of the Pakistani government and is, in many ways, a strategic arm of Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence Agency--is responsible for the September 13th attacks against the U.S. Embassy in Kabul."

"There is ample evidence confirming that the Haqqanis were behind the June 28th attack against the Inter-Continental Hotel in Kabul and the September 10th truck bomb attack that killed five Afghans and injured another 96 individuals, 77 of whom were US soldiers," Mullen continued.

During his oral testimony, Mullen reportedly reiterated his concerns about the ISI's role in sponsoring Haqqani Network attacks.

"With ISI support, Haqqani operatives planned and conducted (a Sept. 10) truck bomb attack, as well as the assault on our embassy," Mullen said, according to Reuters. "We also have credible intelligence that they were behind the June 28 attack against the Inter-Continental Hotel in Kabul and a host of other smaller but effective operations."

The Sept. 13 attack on the US Embassy in Kabul was part of a lengthy siege on Western targets, including the NATO headquarters. The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attacks, which used both suicide bombers and rocket-propelled grenades. [See LWJ report, Taliban launch complex attack on US embassy in Kabul.]

Afghan officials previously released audio of intercepted conversations between the terrorists responsible for the June 28 attack on the Inter-Continental Hotel and their Haqqani handlers in Pakistan. In an intercepted phone call, Badruddin Haqqani, a top leader of the terror network, is heard directing one of the fighters and laughing during the attack that killed 11 civilians and two Afghan policemen, as well as nine members of the attack team. [See LWJ report, Haqqani Network directed Kabul assault by phone from Pakistan.]

The ISI's sponsorship of terrorist attacks inside Afghanistan and elsewhere has long been known to US intelligence officials.

For instance, according to a leaked State Department cable dated Dec. 5, 2008, a senior US intelligence official briefed NATO representatives on the ISI's dirty work. The ISI "provides intelligence and financial support to insurgent groups - especially the Jalaluddin Haqqani network out of Miram Shah, North Waziristan - to conduct attacks in Afghanistan against Afghan government, ISAF, and Indian targets," Dr. Peter Lavoy, who was then the National Intelligence Officer for South Asia, told his NATO counterparts.

Years later, Pakistan's duplicity in this long war is still a major problem. While recognizing that progress has been made in Afghanistan, Mullen cautioned that Pakistan's sponsorship of the insurgency may jeopardize the mission.

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"History teaches us that it is difficult to defeat an insurgency when fighters enjoy a sanctuary outside national boundaries, and we are seeing this again today," Mullen said in his written testimony. "The actions by the Pakistani government to support [the Quetta Shura Taliban and the Haqqani Network] --actively and passively--represent a growing problem that is undermining U.S. interests and may violate international norms, potentially warranting sanction."

Mullen continues: "In supporting these groups, the government of Pakistan, particularly the Pakistani Army, continues to jeopardize Pakistan's opportunity to be a respected and prosperous nation with genuine regional and international influence."

Mullen argues, however, that now is not the time "to disengage from Pakistan" but instead, 10 years after the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, America should "reframe our relationship."

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3. [Tech] **IED Research Aimed at Reducing Soldiers' Amputations, Leg Injuries** (Newswise)
Monday, 3 October 2011
<http://www.newswise.com/articles/ied-research-aimed-at-reducing-soldiers-amputations-leg-injuries>

A Mississippi State biomedical engineering researcher focused on decreasing amputations and other leg injuries to soldiers in IED-attacked vehicles will present her findings next week at a NATO conference in Canada.

Lakiesha N. Williams, an assistant professor of biological engineering at the university, will address NATO's Research and Technology Organization during a Monday-Wednesday [Oct. 3-5] defense meeting in Halifax, Canada. Organized by NATO'S Human Factors and Medicine Panel, the gathering will deal with "blast injury across the full landscape of military science."

Williams, director of the interdisciplinary human body simulation research group in the James Worth Bagley College of Engineering, is the principal investigator for the research project. She works closely with co-principal investigator Jun Liao, an assistant professor of biological engineering.

This \$400,000 project receives support from the Department of Defense as part of a larger project at MSU's Center for Advanced Vehicular Systems.

Their investigation uses high-performance computer modeling and simulations to mimic what happens to soldiers' legs when vehicles they're in run over improvised explosive devices and other explosive materials. Understanding human body impacts under these scenarios ultimately can help the military develop tools and innovative designs to decrease the traumatic impact on soldiers.

"We simulate how bones break, skin tears and muscles fail in soldiers' lower extremities," said Williams, an MSU doctoral graduate who also studies traumatic brain injuries. "High performance computers can simulate effects on the legs from IED explosions."

She said the MSU research differs from other automotive studies affecting people's legs, since few other studies have focused on intensive, explosive battlefield situations and incorporated this high level of anatomical details.

Assisting Williams and Liao on the Human Body Simulation team include biomedical engineering doctoral student Robbin E. Bertucci of Long Beach and senior biological engineering major Ryan M. Gilbrech of Slidell, La.

With interests in mathematics, science and helping others, Bertucci planned as an undergraduate to pursue medical school before she developed a relationship with Williams. "This interdisciplinary field can lead into all kinds of directions," she said.

Williams said continuing development of this research project could assist professionals who face potential traumatic, high-impact situations, including medicine, sports and public safety in traumatic, high-impact situations.

After presenting the research group's findings at the NATO conference, Williams and other researchers will add more advanced modeling and simulations to the current model.

"Our group's larger goal includes developing a full, virtual human body model that can provide accurate predictions of injuries," she said.

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4. [Tech] **Simulator Gets First Use in Explosives Training** (Yuma Sun)

Monday, 3 October 2011

<http://www.yumasun.com/articles/marines-73404-simulator-training.html#ixzz1a7P6MZQd>

Seventy Marine Corps Air Station Yuma Marines will try the Improvised Explosive Device Training Course and Combat Convoy Simulator during a Deployment for Training exercise Sunday through Friday in Camp Pendleton, Calif.

In years past, Yuma Marines have utilized Bridgeport, Calif., and other locations for the DFT. This will be the first use of the simulator for the exercise.

The course and simulator parts of the exercise are scheduled to take one and a half days. The first day Marines will receive instruction on tactics, techniques and procedures used to plant, search and identify IEDs. Marines will also train on prepared immediate action response to identified IEDs or detonations.

During the IED training course, Marines will have roughly four hours of practical application for different types of roads to replicate possible scenarios during deployment.

“Any environment could be dangerous and this course trains Marines to stay alert and know what to look for when an IED threat is present,” said Staff Sgt. Aaron McCatty, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron training chief.

Marines also get the chance to try out the simulator. The simulator is divided into six different rooms with eight screens surrounding simulation vehicles. The screens show terrain, weather, buildings and other elements to help the Marines connect to their surroundings.

Four rooms are equipped with Highly-Mobile Multiwheeled Vehicles and the other two contain Medium Tactical Vehicles. Marines are also able to interact with other rooms and shoot various weapons while driving in this interactive environment.

“The training course and simulator are relatively new to the Marine Corps,” said McCatty. “These exercises will refresh past knowledge learned, whether in combat or past training, as well as teach Marines new tactics and procedures using the most state-of-the-art equipment.”

Before Marines use the simulator, they have a brief period of instruction and planning stage.

Marines will then be evaluated on convoy driving procedures, communication, security, fire and maneuver and accountability by the instructor and their peers.

“This is a great opportunity for Marines to increase their combat proficiency and leadership ability,” said McCatty. “This will allow them to review and refine skills and techniques they have learned previously in their Marine Corps training.”

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5. [Tech] **U.S. Military Wants “Throwbots” – Small ‘Throwable’ Recon Robots** (Ottawa Citizen)

Tuesday, 4 October 2011

<http://blogs.ottawacitizen.com/2011/10/04/u-s-military-wants-“throwbots”—small-‘throwable’-recon-robots/>

The Army, Marine Corps and the Pentagon’s Joint IED Defeat Organization are working to procure and deliver thousands of small, easily transportable “throwable” robots equipped with surveillance cameras designed to beam back video from confined spaces, buildings, tunnels and other potentially dangerous locations, service officials said.

“These robots can provide dismounted troops that extra bit of stand-off distance,” said Marine Corps Lt. Col. Dave Thompson, project manager, Robotic Systems Joint Project Office.

The Joint IED Defeat Organization, or JEIDDO, is in the process of responding to a joint urgent operational needs statement for an ultra-light recon robot capability to support dismounted operations in Afghanistan; combatant commanders are looking to receive an initial delivery of about 4,000 of the small robots, some of which are engineered to be thrown through a second-story window to provide “eyes” on a potentially hazardous combat situation, said Mathew Way, program integrator for Mitigate and Neutralize, JIEDDO.

After finishing up a market survey of which commercially-available technologies might be able to meet the needs of the JUONS — and quickly conducting testing on numerous small robots designed to establish quantitative data with the National Institute for Standards and Technology — JIEDDO chose three lightweight, “throwable” robots to run through a series of combat-assessments in Afghanistan.

Included among those systems are iRobot’s 110 First Look robot, MacroUSA’s Armadillo V2 Micro Unmanned Ground Vehicle, and QinetiQ North America’s Dragon Runner .

About 50 of each of these robots will be deployed with forces in different parts of Afghanistan in order to assess the capability of the “throwbots” to perform across different types of combat terrain. The bots will be placed with infantry, engineering and explosive ordnance disposal units, among others, Way said.

“What we are going to try to do is give a sampling of every type of system down range across different regions of Afghanistan. More than likely there will be more than one system needed to answer this JUONS (Joint Urgent Operational Needs Statement),” said Way.

The theater assessment in Afghanistan, called an “OCONUS” trial, or Outside the Continental United States, is aimed at informing development of requirements regarding the tasks the systems will be needed to perform.

“This OCONUS trial will give us the Soldier feedback that we need. This will allow us to go to industry and tell them what we want. JIEDDO can then use those precise requirements to support a rapid, open competition, to then field the final solution or solutions to fulfill the warfighter need,” Way said.

At the same time, the Army-led RS JPO is coordinating efforts across the DOD and also working on developing, purchasing, and deploying several of the small, mobile “throwable” robots such as iRobot’s First Look and the Recon Robotics Recon Scout XT Throwbot.

“This is an area of joint interest. JIEDDO has a large part of this, as does the Army’s Rapid Equipping Force and the Marine Corps. We are all looking at similar systems. RS JPO is trying to do some coordination between all of these organizations and see if we can look at the systems that are out there, look at the

requirements, and start to posture ourselves for the sustainment and the maintenance of these systems in the long term,” said Thompson.

The anticipated value of the “throwbots” is in part driven by the frequency of dismounted small unit and squad patrols in Afghanistan, where Soldiers and Marines routinely check areas for IEDs and insurgent activity, Thompson explained.

At the moment, many units use the Small Unmanned Ground Vehicle 320, a small tactical robot equipped with video reconnaissance technology that is 32 pounds. Still, there is a need for something that is lighter, more easily transportable by dismounted units on the move and able to be “thrown” into forward locations such as buildings and caves, Way and Thompson said.

THROWBOTS

The Recon Scout XT Throwbot, for instance, is only 1.2 pounds. The device is designed to withstand a 30-foot vertical drop and provide “eyes” or forward-positioned cameras able to capture images from dangerous locations. It is a small, barbell-shaped robot with wheels at each end of a titanium tube along with a camera, antenna and illuminator. The Recon Scout also includes an operator control unit with a small viewing screen and joystick. The Recon Scout is currently being acquired by the Army’s Rapid Equipping Forces, or REF.

“The Recon Robot XT responds to the Soldiers’ need to see where they’re going before they get there. With this throwbot capability, warfighters gain situational awareness of an area, thus mitigating risks and casualties,” an REF spokesperson said.

QinetiQ’s Dragon Runner, originally developed for the Marine Corps, weighs about 14-pounds and includes cameras, motion-detectors and an optional small manipulator arm able lift about 10-pounds.

iRobot’s First Look is about 10-inches long and weighs less than five pounds. The robot has four built-in cameras facing different directions and is engineered to withstand a 15-foot drop. It is waterproof up to three feet and is designed to climb steps as high as eight inches. The robot is configured like a miniature model of the well-known and widely used PackBot robot. The First Look’s sensor payload includes cameras, thermal imagers and chem-bio radiation sensors.

The Armadillo V2 is also about 5-pounds. It has four small wheels, is built to withstand eight-meter “throws” and also includes multiple cameras and thermal imaging.

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6. [Attack: Paktia] **Amtec Helped SMDC Design, Build Vehicle to Detect IEDs** (AL)

Thursday, 29 September 2011

http://www.al.com/42/index.ssf/2011/09/amtec_helped_smcdc_design_build.html

Since U.S. forces first went into Afghanistan in 2003, they have had to contend with the danger of improvised explosive devices. IEDs have become the weapon of choice for terrorists, as they require little skill to set up and allow terrorists to launch devastating attacks with a limited investment.

But IEDs are hard to detect, and failure to detect them usually leads to tragic consequences. All too often warfighters, whether on foot or traveling in Humvees or other vehicles, are on them before they know it. The military had a need for better systems, methods and equipment for detecting IEDs.

Amtec, a Research Park-based firm providing research and development, engineering, systems integration, test and evaluation, and automation, robotics and manufacturing services, helped develop a solution for early detection of IEDs with their mobile test bed vehicle. Under a program known as the Orthogonal Sensor Fusion System, Amtec outfitted a truck and integrated a prototype fusion engine and a suite of up to six sensors with orthogonal detection modes, said Amtec Program Manager Bob Caspers.

The company was the prime integration contractor for the Joint IED Defeat Organization-funded, Space and Missile Defense Command-led project, with upward of \$40 million for development, testing and evaluation of sensor technologies and fusion algorithms for IED detection. They also specified and developed the support hardware and software for a System Integration Lab (SIL) and the ORTHON test truck to host various sensors and fusion algorithms.

The government had a quick turnaround requirement, and Dr. Nat Albritton, Amtec director of engineering & technology development, said Amtec was able to provide delivery of the integrated testbed within 14 months of authorization to proceed.

The truck featured on-board data collection, a mobile or stationary computer lab, and data analysis center. Albritton said it is easily reconfigured as a ground element for multi-tiered testing. During test operations, the ORTHON test truck carried up to four specialized operators, one of which focuses on system monitoring of the main sensors. Instrumentation on the truck for the O-SFS program provided the ability to process, or fuse, data from each sensor with the goal of improving the probability of detection, while reducing false alarms.

That was a primary goal of the project, said Amtec Senior Staff Engineer Tom Alexander, who was heavily involved with the program from the outset. "We take data from multiple sensors and combine it to get a better representation of outside threats." He explained that overlay of data from various sensors gives the operator a much better picture of the true threat situation, and allows for real time, on-the-move data analysis. "This allows the operator to confirm what the sensors and system are telling him."

But it goes beyond mere data detection. The truck's imaging sensors actually allowed the operator to interrogate the suspected target, and determine the exact nature of the IED threat and enhance the systems confidence in the detection.

The O-SFS program proved the principle of sensor data fusion for IED detection. Given an optimized suite of sensors and algorithms this concept could contribute to successfully defeating the IED threat. In addition to its use in Department of Defense counter IED investigation, the truck test bed platform can be configured to support test and experimentation by Department of Homeland Security or local fire/police and first responder agencies.

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7. [Attack: Paktia] **9 Afghan Soldiers Killed in Roadside Bomb Blast** (CNN)
Sunday, 2 October 2011
<http://www.cnn.com/2011/10/02/world/asia/afghanistan-violence/>

A roadside blast killed nine Afghan National Army soldiers and wounded four in eastern Afghanistan, a provincial official said Sunday.

The attack occurred Saturday afternoon while the soldiers were patrolling in Gardez, the capital of the Paktia province, said Ruhullah Samoun, spokesman for the provincial governor.

It was not immediately clear whether there was a claim of responsibility for the attack, though the Taliban have previously targeted Afghan and NATO troops in the area.

In August, a suicide truck bomb ripped through the main security gate of a U.S. military base in Gardez, killing at least two local guards and injuring nine others, the International Security Assistance Force said at the time.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for attack.

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8. [Attack: Herat] **Roadside Bomb Kills 16 From One Family in Afghanistan** (McClatchy Newspapers)
Thursday, 27 September 2011
<http://www.mcclatchydc.com/2011/09/27/125407/roadside-bomb-kills-16-from-one.html>

A minibus carrying civilians in the western province of Herat hit a roadside bomb Tuesday, triggering an explosion that killed 16 civilians, including children and women, provincial officials said.

A provincial spokesman, Muhiuddin Noori, said the dead included 11 children and four women, a toll that underscored, despite U.S. claims of improved security, how dangerous Afghanistan has become for civilians.

A United Nations report released earlier this year said that civilian casualties had increased by 15 percent in 2010, with 2,777 civilians killed, the deadliest year for civilians since the U.S. first sent troops here in 2001. The trend likely has continued in 2011.

The report attributed 75 percent of those casualties to the Taliban.

President Hamid Karzai condemned the killing in a statement and called it an "inhuman and terrorist" act. "With such cowardly killing of civilians they proved that they won't even spare children and women's lives," the statement said.

The victims were all members of the same family, Noori said. They were returning from a wedding when their minibus hit the improvised explosive device in the Shindand district of Herat province.

Most civilian casualties are caused by suicide bombings or IEDS, the Taliban's weapons of choice.

The Herat explosion happened just hours after a suicide bomber in the southern province of Helmand rammed an explosives-laden car into the main gate of the police headquarters in the province's capital, Lashkar Gah.

A provincial spokesperson said that two civilians, including a teenager, were killed and another 26, including 10 police officers, were wounded.

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9. [Attack: Herat] **At Least 3 Killed and 5 Injured in Herat Bombing** (Demotix)

Thursday, 29 September 2011

<http://www.demotix.com/news/850122/least-3-killed-and-5-injured-herat-bombing-afghanistan>

Two passers-by and a female police official were killed and five others injured in a roadside bombing in western Herat province, officials said on Thursday.

A remote-controlled bomb, attached to a motorcycle, was detonated on the airport road when a police vehicle was crossing the area, Col. Syed Sharif Mohammadi, the airport commander, told Pajhwok Afghan News.

A female police officer, a man and a woman riding a motorcycle were killed and four other policewomen along with their driver wounded, he said, adding the injured were rushed to hospital.

However, Mohammad Rafiq Sherzai, a spokesman for the Herat Regional Hospital, said three dead bodies, including two women's, and 10 injured, including four female police officials, were brought to hospital.

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10. [Attack: Kandahar, AFG] **Five NATO Troops, Three Afghans Killed** (AFP)

Friday, 30 September 2011

<http://www.emirates247.com/news/world/five-nato-troops-three-afghans-killed-2011-09-30-1.421249>

Two Afghan policewomen and a civilian were killed by a mine on their way to work Thursday, a day after another five Nato soldiers died in the 10-year war against the Taliban.

The policewomen and civilian died when their vehicle was blown up by a remote-controlled mine on their way to the civilian airport serving the western city of Herat where they were employed, officials said.

Three foreign soldiers were also killed by an improvised explosive device (IED) in eastern Afghanistan Wednesday, the Nato-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) said, along with two others in separate incidents.

The latest deaths came a day after the United Nations released figures saying violent incidents in the Afghan war increased nearly 40 percent in the first eight months of this year compared to the same period last year.

ISAF, which is leading efforts to reverse the Taliban insurgency, disputed the figures, saying attacks were down two percent in the first eight months of this year.

It explained the discrepancy by saying that it did not define acts including assassinations or attempted attacks as "security incidents", unlike the UN.

Mohammad Rafiq Shaheer, a spokesman for Herat hospital, said: "A remote-controlled mine explosion on a police vehicle on the Herat airport road has killed three people, two policewomen and a civilian, and wounded 10 people, four policewomen and a policeman and five other civilians."

He added that the attack took place at around 8:00am (0330 GMT).

Noor Khan Neikzad, a police spokesman in Herat, confirmed the blast but said he did not have the toll.

The incident came two days after 16 wedding guests including 11 children were killed when their bus hit a roadside bomb elsewhere in Herat province, which borders Iran.

Meanwhile, ISAF said five of its soldiers were killed Wednesday.

Three died in an IED attack in eastern Afghanistan, it said, without giving any further details in line with policy.

Separately, two other soldiers died in separate incidents, one due to an insurgent attack in Wardak province, eastern Afghanistan and another "as a result of a non-battle related injury" in the south, ISAF said.

At least 463 foreign troops have been killed in Afghanistan this year, according to independent website iCasualties.org.

There are 140,000 foreign forces in Afghanistan, some 100,000 of them from the United States, fighting a Taliban-led insurgency.

All combat troops are due to leave by the end of 2014 although thousands are likely to remain in training and mentoring roles.

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11. [Attack: Khyber] **7 Cops Killed in Torghar Blast** (Pakistan Observer)
Tuesday, 4 October 2011
<http://www.thenews.com.pk/TodaysPrintDetail.aspx?ID=9257&Cat=13>

A roadside bomb blast in Torghar district of Hazara division Saturday morning resulted in martyrdom of at least seven cops and serious wounds to ten men in uniform. The death toll is feared to mount as the medics have described the condition of many injured as critical.

Reports reaching here from Torghar, a newly created district by the ruling ANP government in Khyber Pukhtunkhwa, say a police bus carrying under training recruits to Abbottabad from district headquarter Judba, ran over the explosive device planted on the roadside near Shahdad area some 15 kilometers from the district headquarters.

As the explosive device which some police officials say was a landmine, exploded with big bang, the vehicle carrying the police recruits was damaged badly killing as many as three men in uniform on the spot while a dozen others sustained serious wounds.

The security forces and the rescue teams shifted the victims to hospitals in Batagram and Abbottabad where two more succumbed to their injuries raising the death toll to 7. Some four injured, the doctors said, continued to be in precarious condition.

“A police truck was carrying the recruits to Abbottabad for training over there when it ran over the explosive device may be a land mine at Shahdad area”.

A senior police official said confirming that five Jawaans embraced Shahadat in the incident. Some police officials said it was a radio controlled device planted at road side and the target was certainly the police vehicle which was blasted when it came closer.

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12. [Attack: Lahore] **3 Low Intensity Bombs rock Anarkali Bazaar** (International News Network)
Friday, 30 September 2011
<http://www.onlinenews.com.pk/details.php?id=184045>

Three low intensity bombs on Friday went off at Anarkali Chowk here. However, no loss of life was reported.

As per media reports, three low intensity bombs, planted in a gutter located on the road leading to Government College from Anarkali Chowk, exploded causing panic in the area.

Anarkali Chowk is one of the busiest bazaars of Lahore.

According to police sources, the explosion was due to bombs of low intensity whereas Rescue sources said that the explosions happened due to the gas filling the gutters. No loss of life was reported in the incident.

Police rushed to the spot after the explosion whereas all types of traffic remained suspended for some time and panic prevailed throughout the area after the explosions.

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13. [Attack: Quetta] **BDS Official Dies Defusing Bomb** (APP)

Friday, 30 September 2011

http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2011%5C09%5C30%5Cstory_30-9-2011_pg7_10

An official of Bomb Disposal Squad (BDS) was killed when a bomb exploded in Chaman on Thursday. “The blast took place in the grid station area of Chaman when, on being informed, BDS reached the site and an expert, Manzoor Elahi, attempted to defuse the Improvised Explosive Device (IED) attached with the NATO container,” Levies Force said. Soon after the incident personnel of law enforcement agency reached the site and threw a cordon around the entire area to trace the suspects out. Body of the deceased was handed over to the heirs.

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14. [Attack: Mashaada] **Iraq Attacks Leave Seven Dead** (AFP)

Monday, 3 October 2011

<http://news.smh.com.au/breaking-news-world/iraq-attacks-leave-seven-dead-20111003-1149t.html>

Gun attacks and bombings in Iraq on Sunday killed seven people, including four anti-al-Qaeda militiamen killed in two roadside bombs, police and medics said.

Two Sahwa, or Awakening Council, fighters were initially killed when their car was struck by a roadside bomb around 9.30am (1530 AEDT) in the Al-Nibaie area, north of the town of Mashaada, 30km from the capital, police First Lieutenant Uday Sarhan said.

When two other Sahwa fighters rushed to the scene of the blast, their vehicle was hit by another roadside bomb, killing both of the car's passengers and two nearby civilians, Sarhan said. He added that there had been no wounded from the two explosions.

A doctor at a hospital in the nearby town of Balad confirmed that four Sahwa fighters and two civilians had died.

Al-Nibaie is a desert area that was a stronghold of al-Qaeda at the height of Iraq's Sunni insurgency in 2006 and 2007.

The tide of that insurgency began to turn partly due to Sunni tribesmen siding with the US military against al-Qaeda from late 2006, forming the Sahwa, who are called the Sons of Iraq by US forces.

Meanwhile, in the main northern city of Mosul, a Christian restaurant worker was killed by gunmen who stormed into the eatery, shot him dead, and fled, a police officer said, on condition of anonymity.

It was unclear whether the victim's religion was the reason he was targeted.

Violence is down across Iraq from the peak of the insurgency and sectarian war, but attacks are still common. A total of 185 Iraqis were killed in violence in September, according to official figures.

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15. [Attack: Kirkuk] **Three Killed, 79 Injured in Kirkuk Explosion** (Aswat al-Iraq)
Thursday, 29 September 2011
http://en.aswataliraq.info/Default1.aspx?page=article_page&id=145079&l=1

An explosion that took place in northern Iraq's oil-rich city of Kirkuk on Thursday had killed 3 persons and injured 79 others, a Kirkuk Health official reported.

"The final result of the suicide attack that took place close to the 1st June Bank in central Kirkuk on Thursday has reached 3 killed and 79 injured," Kirkuk Health Department's Director-General, Dr. Siddiq Omar told Aswat al-Iraq news agency.

A booby-trapped car, driven by a suicide bomber, blew off close to a gathering of security men, close to 1st June Bank in central Kirkuk, waiting to get their salaries, to kill and injure dozens of them, the city's Police Director, Sarhad Qader told Aswat al-Iraq early in the day.

"The attack has caused severe damage, burning 2 houses, damaging 18 civilian cars along with huge damage to the bank's building, along with killing and injuring dozens of people," Qader stressed.

Kirkuk, 280 km to the north of Baghdad, is one of the areas in conflict between the central government in Baghdad and the Kurdistan Region's government in Arbil.

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16. [Attack: Baghdad] **5 Civilians Injured in 2 Southeast Baghdad Explosive Blasts** (Aswat al-Iraq)
Friday, 30 September 2011
http://en.aswataliraq.info/Default1.aspx?page=article_page&id=145087&l=1

Five civilians have been injured in 2 explosive charges blasts in southeast Baghdad on Friday, a security source reported.

“Two explosive charges blew up on Friday morning close to a shop selling construction materials in the compound of southeast Baghdad’s Zaafaraniya district.

Preliminary reports note that 5 civilians were wounded,” the security source told Aswat al-Iraq news agency.

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17. [Attack: Kirkuk] **5 Civilians injured, Another aAbducted in Kirkuk Blasts** (Aswat al-Iraq)

Friday, 30 September 2011

http://en.aswataliraq.info/Default1.aspx?page=article_page&id=145088&l=1

Five civilians from one family, including 3 children, have been injured in an explosive charge blast and a group of armed men abducted a civilian in northern Iraq's oil-rich city of Kirkuk on Thursday night, the city's police director reported on Friday.

“An explosive charge blew up on Thursday night in a car, close to al-Riyadh township, 45 km to the southwest of Kirkuk, wounding all its 5 passengers belonging to one family, including 3 children,” Lt-Brigadier, Sarhad Qader told Aswat al-Iraq news agency.

He added that a group of armed men had abducted a car driver, close to Taza-Khurmatu township, 20 km to the south of Kirkuk, also on Thursday.

Kirkuk is 280 km to the north of Baghdad.

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18. [Security] **Attempt to Blow up Passenger Car in Kut Foiled** (Aswat al-Iraq)

Friday, 30 September 2011

http://en.aswataliraq.info/Default1.aspx?page=article_page&id=145089&l=1

A special security force has foiled an attempt to blow up a passenger bus by a sticky bomb in Kut, the center of southern Iraq's Wassit Province on Friday, a Wassit police source reported.

“A group of Kut's Anti-explosives Directorate elements have managed to foil an attempt to blow up a passenger car, using a sticky bomb in central Kut on Friday,” the police source told Aswat al-Iraq news agency.

He said that the explosive charge included a large quantity of explosive material, attached to a wire and a mobile phone to use them in blowing up the charge inside its garage, which is usually crowded during Friday holidays.

The police source added that police imposed a cordon around the bus, preventing citizens from getting close to it, as a precautionary step should there be additional explosive charges.

Kut, the center of Wassit Province, is 180 km to the southeast of Baghdad.

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19. [Attack: Mosul] **Suicide Bomber Killed While Wearing Explosive Belt** (Aswat al-Iraq)

Saturday, 1 October 2011

http://en.aswataliraq.info/Default1.aspx?page=article_page&id=145096&l=1

A suicide bomber has been killed, while wearing an explosive belt in his house east of the city of Mosul, the center of northern Iraq's Ninewa Province on Friday, a Ninewa police source reported.

“A suicide bomber was killed at his house in Domiz district, southeast of Mosul on Friday night, while trying to wear an explosive belt, in preparation to attack some target in the city,” the security source told Aswat al-Iraq news agency.

He said the suicide bomber had deserted his home in Baghdad and moved to Mosul, where he lived since about 4 years.

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20. [Attack: Hilla] **8 Killed, 42 Injured in Explosion in Mourning Procession in Hilla, Babel Province**
(Aswat al-Iraq)

Saturday, 1 October 2011

http://en.aswataliraq.info/Default1.aspx?page=article_page&id=145097&l=1

At least 8 people have been killed and 48 others injured in an attack that took place against a mourning procession in Hilla, the center of west Iraq's Babel Province on Friday, a Babel security source reported.

"Four persons were killed and 48 others injured on Friday by a booby-trapped car explosion, targeted against a mourning procession in Prophet Ayoub district, 3 km south of Hilla, as preliminary result," the security source told Aswat al-Iraq news agency, adding that the wounded were driven to a nearby hospital for treatment.

Noteworthy is that 13 persons have been killed and 43 others injured on 14/9/2011, by a booby-trapped car explosion against a popular restaurant in Shomally south of Hilla, whilst persons were injured in another car blast in Jigala area, 50 km to the north of Hilla on 16/9/2011.

Four other persons were killed and 17 were injured in a suicide bomber by a booby-trapped car blast in Iskandaria township north of Hilla.

The city of Hilla, the center of Babel Province, is 110 km to the south of Baghdad.

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21. [Attack: Baghdad] **Three Civilians Injured in West Baghdad Blast** (Aswat al-Iraq)

Saturday, 1 October 2011

http://en.aswataliraq.info/Default1.aspx?page=article_page&id=145103&l=1

Three Iraqi civilians have been injured in an explosive charge blast on the main highway passing through west Baghdad on Saturday, a security source reported.

“An explosive charge, planted on the main highway passing through west Baghdad’s Hay al-Adel district, blew off on Saturday, wounding 3 civilians that were close to the venue of the blast,” the security source told Aswat al-Iraq news agency, adding that the injured persons were driven to hospital for treatment.

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22. [Attack: Baghdad] **Civilian Killed, 5 Wounded in a Blast West Baghdad** (Aswat al-Iraq)

Monday, 3 October 2011

http://en.aswataliraq.info/Default1.aspx?page=article_page&id=145126&l=1

A civilian was killed and five were wounded in a bomb blast west of Baghdad , police sources said today.

The source told Aswat al-Iraq that the bomb was planted on the side of the road and directed against a police patrol.

Among the wounded were two police men, the source added.

No other details were given.

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23. [Attack: Baghdad] **7 Wounded in North Bagdad Bomb Blast** (Aswat al-Iraq)

Monday, 4 October 2011

http://en.aswataliraq.info/Default1.aspx?page=article_page&id=145137&l=1

A car bomb in a village north of Baghdad wounded seven, including 3 soldiers, security sources said today.

The source told Aswat al-Iraq that the car was parked on the side of the road. It detonated at the same time that a military convoy was passing.

A hummer and a number of cars and shops were affected by the explosion.

No other details were given.

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24. [Attack: Baaquba] **Civilian Killed, 5 Wounded in Bomb Blast in Baaquba** (Aswat al-Iraq)

Monday, 4 October 2011

http://en.aswataliraq.info/Default1.aspx?page=article_page&id=145150&l=1

A civilian was killed and five wounded in bomb blast in the center of Baaquba city, security sources said today.

The source informed Aswat al-Iraq that the bomb exploded in a recording center, which led to heavy material damages.

Police sources noted that a curfew was put into effect in the area, and that investigations into the incident have been launched.

Baaquba, center of Diala province, lies 57 km north east of the capital, Baghdad.

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25. [Attack: Baghdad] **5 Injured in Bomb Blast in Baghdad** (Aswat al-Iraq)

Wednesday, 6 October 2011

http://en.aswataliraq.info/Default1.aspx?page=article_page&id=145175&l=1

Five civilians were injured due to a bomb blast near a football playing yard in southeast Baghdad, police sources said today.

The source told Aswat al-Iraq that the bomb was planted in the yard.

It exploded when young men gathered to play football and led to the injuries among the spectators.

The area was closed by the security forces.

No other details were given.

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26. [Attack: Baghdad] **5 Killed, 20 Wounded in Central Baghdad** (Aswat al-Iraq)

Thursday, 7 October 2011

http://en.aswataliraq.info/Default1.aspx?page=article_page&id=145176&l=1

Five civilians were killed and twenty injured in a bomb blast in Itafiyah area, central Baghdad, security sources said today.

The source told Aswat al-Iraq that the bomb exploded in crowded street which led to the injuries and material losses in a number of civilian vehicles.

No other details were given.

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27. [Attack: Somalia] **Roadside Bomb Kills Two in Mogadishu** (Shabelle Media Network)

Sunday, 2 October 2011

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201110030009.html>

At least two people have been killed and three others injured in Mogadishu roadside bomb explosion.

The blast caught a civilian bus loaded with vegetables traveling in Mogadishu's Karan district.

The bomb was said to be remains of explosive devices as the district is one of the areas Al Shabaab has recently abandoned.

The wounded people in the blast were taken to Keysaney hospital at Mogadishu's eastern tip for treatment.

The bus drivers working in parts of Mogadishu have several times asked the government to make mine clearance operations in Al Shabaab abandoned areas.

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28. [Attack: Somalia] **Shabaab Suicide Bomber Kills Scores in Mogadishu** (Long War Journal)
Monday, 4 October 2011
http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2011/10/shabaab_suicide_bomb_2.php

Shabaab, al Qaeda's affiliate in Somalia, claimed credit for a massive suicide truck bombing today in Mogadishu that killed scores of schoolchildren and Somali soldiers. The attack is the worst in Somalia since Shabaab launched its insurgency in early 2007.

The suicide bomber detonated a truck packed with explosives at the Hargaha and Samaha compounds in the capital, according to Mareeg. Government ministers were present at the scene of the attack, where scholarships were being awarded by the Turkish government to Somali students.

Upwards of 100 Somalis, including dozens of students and their parents, are estimated to have been killed, and more than 90 wounded. Somali ministers and parliamentarians are also said to have been wounded in the attack.

Shabaab claimed credit for the deadly suicide blast, saying it targeted Somali government officials and troops from the African Union Mission in Somalia.

"Our Mujahideen fighters have entered a place where ministers and AMISOM foreigners stay," an official statement on Shabaab's website read.

"One of our Mujahideen made the sacrifice to kill TFG [Transitional Federal Government] officials, the African Union troops, and other informers who were in the compound," a Shabaab official told AFP.

Today's attack is the largest in Somalia since Shabaab began its insurgency against the weak Transitional Federal Government following the Ethiopian invasion in December 2006 and the ouster of Shabaab's predecessor, the Islamic Courts, in early 2007. Shabaab now controls much of central and southern Somalia, although the terror group pulled many of its forces from Mogadishu last summer, claiming to make a tactical retreat.

Since mid-2006, Shabaab has carried out more than 30 major suicide attacks in Somalia. The last attack, on June 17, killed the Interior Minister in his home in Mogadishu.

Shabaab has assassinated several Somali ministers within the past few years. On June 18, 2009, State Security Minister Omar Hashi Aden and the former ambassador to Ethiopia were among 20 people killed when a Shabaab suicide bomber targeted them as they left a hotel in the town of Beletwejn,

On Dec. 3, 2009, the ministers of health, education, and higher education were among 19 Somalis killed in a suicide attack at a graduation for Somali medical students from Banadir University in the capital of Mogadishu.

Shabaab also succeeded in assassinating a top African Union commander. On Sept. 17, 2009, the deputy African Union commander and 21 other people, including 16 peacekeepers, were killed after suicide bombers penetrated security at an African Union base in Mogadishu.

And on July 12, 2010, Shabaab carried out a major terror attack outside Somalia, a double suicide bombing in Kampala, Uganda that killed 76 people as they watched a World Cup match. The attack cell was named after a senior al Qaeda leader who also served as a senior Shabaab commander.

Background on Shabaab's links to al Qaeda

Shabaab merged with al Qaeda in November 2008, after requesting to join the international terror group in September 2008. Top al Qaeda leaders, including slain emir Osama bin Laden, current leader Ayman al Zawahiri, and Abu Yayha al Libi, have praised Shabaab in propaganda tapes and encouraged the group to carry out attacks against the Somali government, neighboring countries, and the West.

After the death of bin Laden in Pakistan in May 2011, Shabaab renewed its pledge of allegiance to al Qaeda. In mid-June, Sheikh Ali Mohamud Rage, Shabaab's senior spokesman, affirmed that the group would continue to follow the orders of Zawahiri after he was officially named the new emir of al Qaeda.

"In an initiative and in [a demonstration of] loyalty, love and support amongst the mujahideen in the world, the Shabaab al-Mujahideen Movement announces the renewal of its allegiance to the Emir of Qaedat al-Jihad," Rage said.

Since Shabaab's inception, Al Qaeda has been instrumental in appointing leaders to posts in the Somali terror network. Over the past several years, al Qaeda commanders have taken over some of the top leadership positions in Shabaab.

Saleh Ali Saleh Nabhan, al Qaeda's top leader in East Africa, held a top position in Shabaab. He had been indicted for his involvement in the 1998 suicide attacks in Kenya and Tanzania along with Osama bin Laden and other top al Qaeda leaders. In the summer of 2008, Nabhan was instrumental in reaching out to al Qaeda's top leadership to broker a merger between Shabaab and the global terror group. He was killed in a US special operations raid in Somalia on Sept. 14, 2009.

After Nabhan's death, Osama bin Laden appointed Fazul Abdullah Mohammed to serve as al Qaeda's operations chief in East Africa. The announcement was made at a ceremony in Mogadishu that was attended by Ahmad Godane Zubayr, Shabaab's spiritual leader. At the time, Fazul, who also had been indicted for his role in the Kenya and Tanzania attacks, was serving as Shabaab's top intelligence official as well as a senior military leader. Fazul was killed by Somali troops at a checkpoint outside of Mogadishu on June 3, 2011. In the years before his death, Fazul sought guidance from Osama bin Laden, according to several terrorists detained at the Guantanamo Bay facility.

Other foreign al Qaeda operatives also hold key leadership positions in Shabaab. Shaykh Muhammad Abu Fa'id, a Saudi citizen, serves as a top financier and a "manager" for Shabaab. Abu Musa Mombasa, a Pakistani citizen, serves as Shabaab's chief of security and training. Mahmud Mujajir, a Sudanese citizen, is Shabaab's chief of recruitment for suicide bombers. Abu Mansour al Amriki, a US citizen, serves as a military commander, recruiter, financier, and propagandist.

In the past, al Qaeda's central leadership, which is based in Pakistan, instructed Shabaab to downplay its links to the terror group but to continue to target US interests in the region, a senior US intelligence official who closely follows al Qaeda and Shabaab in East Africa told The Long War Journal in June 2010. The report was later confirmed by intelligence information seized at bin Laden's compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan.

But more recently, Rage has openly called for al Qaeda to send more fighters to Somalia to fight the weak Transitional Federal Government and African Union forces from Uganda and Burundi.

"We call on our brothers [Al Qaeda] to come to Somalia and to help us expand the East Africa jihad," Rage told reporters at a press conference in Mogadishu in December 2010, while announcing the takeover of a rival Islamist group.

Shabaab is considered by some US military and intelligence officials to be one of al Qaeda's most successful affiliates. Shabaab has defeated Hizbul Islam, a rival Islamist terror group, and has taken control of much of

southern and central Somalia after waging a terror insurgency against Ethiopian forces and the UN-backed Transitional Federal Government.

Somali troops and African Union peacekeepers from Uganda and Burundi are battling Shabaab in Mogadishu and in southern and central Somalia in an attempt to regain control of the capital and surrounding areas. Shabaab has lost ground in Mogadishu but is still in control of large areas of the center and south.

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29. [Security: India] **IEDs Found in Dhubri** (IBN Live)

Tuesday, 4 October 2011

<http://ibnlive.in.com/generalnewsfeed/news/ieds-found-in-assam/845566.html>

A powerful improvised explosive device (IED) was found on a railway track at Moterjhar in Assam's Dhubri district by a joint force of the army and state police, defence sources said today.

The 10 kg IED along with electrical wires was found last night and is suspected to have been planted by National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB) to create panic among the people during the ongoing Durga Puja festivities, the sources said. NDFB's involvement is being suspected as it is dominant in the area and had its raising day yesterday.

Two other IEDs were seized from a ferry boat in the district this morning. The sources said BSF personnel during a routine check found the two explosives, weighing 1.5 kg each, hidden in an engine fitted boat travelling from Majerchar to Dhubri town. One person was picked up for interrogation in this connection, they added.

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30. [Attack: India] **Militants trigger powerful IED in Sopore** (Kashmir Dispatch)

Tuesday, 4 October 2011

<http://www.kashmirdispatch.com/city/04106242-militants-trigger-powerful-ied-in-sopore.htm>

Suspected militants Tuesday triggered off an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) blast in Sopore town of North Kashmir. However, there was no casualty reported in the blast, sound of which was heard in the entire area.

Station House Officer of concerned Police Station Bomai, Rouf Ahmad said that the militants triggered off the IED, placed in auto rickshaw near Zendri crossing in Seelu area on Sopore-Kupwara road this morning. However, he said, no one was injured in the blast.

According to the locals, the sound of blast was heard in the entire area. Soon after the blast, a team of police reached the spot and collected parts of the auto rickshaw.

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31. [Attack: India] **Meghalaya Commandos Attacked, IED Fails to Explode** (PTI)
Tuesday, 27 September 2011
http://zeenews.india.com/news/north-east/meghalaya-commandos-attacked-ied-fails-to-explode_733794.html

A team of Meghalaya Police commandos on Tuesday came under attack from Garo militants who fired at them and lobbed an IED which, however, failed to explode.

Around 10 Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) commandos were on a patrol when Garo National Liberation Army (GNLA) militants fired at them at Rajarankati near Chokpot in the state's South Garo Hills district this afternoon, DIG (Western Range) GHP Raju said.

A heavy exchange of fire took place between the two sides, but there was no injury or casualty, he said.

While fleeing, the GNLA militants lobbed a grenade towards the commandos but it did not explode.

A team from the BSF and CRPF has also been called to the place to diffuse the bomb.

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32. [Security: Nepal] **Soldier Wounded by Yala Bomb** (Bangkok Post)

Saturday, 29 September 2011

<http://www.bangkokpost.com/breakingnews/258855/soldier-wounded-by-yala-bombing>

The head of a military unit providing protection for teachers was seriously injured when a roadside bomb exploded in Yala's Muang district on Thursday morning, police said.

The bomb victim was identified as Sgt Suthep Kongchuay of No 5011 Yala 11 special unit. He was hit in his body by shrapnel and admitted to Yala hospital.

Witnesses told Pol Col Phumpetch Pipatetchphum, deputy Yala police chief, that the bomb was hidden in dense grass on the side of the Yala-Lam Mai road and was detonated as Sgt Suthep led his eight-soldier patrol by the spot, near the village mosque, about 7am.

The deputy police chief of Yala blamed militants of the Runda Kumpulan Kecil movement.

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33. [Security: Ireland] **Device made safe in Dublin** (AP)

Monday, 3 October 2011

<http://www.thejournal.ie/device-made-safe-in-dublin-243513-Oct2011/>

An Army Bomb Disposal Team made safe an improvised explosive device (IED), which was discovered outside a private residence in Tallaght, Dublin, overnight.

The Defence Forces deployed the team to the Newhall housing estate on the Blessington Road in response to a request by the gardaí. The team arrived on scene at 03.45am and the scene was declared safe at 04.50am. The remains of the device have been handed over to the gardaí and an investigation has been launched.

This is the 194th call out for the Bomb Disposal Teams and the 38th viable IED made safe by the Defence Forces this year.

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34. [Security: California, US] **Improvised Explosive Device Found on Fairfield Street** (Bay City News)
Sunday, 25 September 2011
<http://www.nbcbayarea.com/news/local/Improvised-Explosive-Device-Found-on-Fairfield-Street-130905623.html>

A suspicious device was found on a Fairfield street Friday afternoon, Fairfield police said.

Officers responded to Gulf Drive, just south of Sequoia Drive, at 12:16 p.m. to find what appeared to be a small improvised explosive device resting on the street.

As a safety precaution the neighborhood was cordoned off and nearby residents were asked to shelter in place. The Yolo County Bomb Squad and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives Task Force responded to the scene and rendered the device safe, according to police.

This is the second incident where an explosive device was found in this neighborhood. On Aug. 28 a device was discovered on Gulf Drive near Redwood Drive -- about a block away from Friday's incident.

Both devices appear to be constructed similarly and are believed to be related to each other, police said..

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35. [Trend] **The Decline of the IED** (Strategy World)

Sunday, 2 October 2011

<http://www.strategypage.com/htm/w/htatrit/articles/20111002.aspx>

The first decade of the war on terror has killed 6,300 American troops, most of them (71 percent) in Iraq. The most common (47 percent) cause of death overall was roadside bombs and mines. These weapons have been less effective in Afghanistan, where they only caused 39 percent of deaths. All this was in sharp contrast to Vietnam, where 14 percent of American deaths were from bombs and mines.

In Iraq, where the widespread use of bombs and mines began, the U.S. mobilized a multi-billion dollar effort to deal with IEDs (improvised explosive devices, usually roadside bombs), and that effort paid off. New technology (jammers, robots), tactics (predictive analysis and such), equipment (better armor for vehicles and troops) and a lot of determination did the job. Gradually, IEDs became less dangerous. In 2006, it took about five IEDs to cause one coalition casualty (11 percent of them fatal). By 2008 it took nine IEDs per casualty (12 percent fatal). In 2006, only 8 percent of IEDs put out there caused casualties. In 2007, it was nine percent. In 2008, it was less than five percent. At that point, it was clear that the battle with IEDs was being won. The main objective of IEDs was to kill coalition troops, and at that, they were very ineffective. In 2006, you had to use 48 to kill one soldier in Iraq. In 2007, you needed 49 and by 2008, you needed 79. This year there have only been a handful of American deaths from IEDs in Iraq.

Iraqi terrorists are still using roadside bombs, but most of the casualties are Iraqi police, soldiers and civilians. A major reason for the low losses has been MRAP armored trucks, designed to protect its passengers from IEDs, and years of experience in detecting IEDs before they can hurt anyone. New tactics and technologies show up every month. One of the latest items is a data collection system that, thanks to very fast computers, is able to constantly monitor information from thousands of sensors, and predict where IEDs are likely to show up. These warnings show up in the form of red dots on maps displayed in laptops carried in most vehicles. When the engineers or bomb disposal teams check out the dots, and either dispose of the bomb, or confirm that one is not there, the dots disappear.

In Afghanistan, conditions are different. There, IEDs are more frequently used against troops on foot patrol. These, more than attacks on vehicles, tend to cause multiple fatalities. In Afghanistan, the enemy also uses more land mines, both against troops and larger ones against vehicles travelling the numerous dirt roads.

The Taliban, unable to withstand foreign troops in a gun battle, have put most of their resources into an IED campaign. Thus the number of IEDs encountered went from 2,678 in 2007 to than 12,000 last year. This year, the number is declining.

In Afghanistan foreign troops have been on the offensive this year, and more exposed to IED attacks in areas where there has not been time to clear out the IEDs. This is especially true with land mines, which are easier to plant and more difficult to avoid. The mines end up causing more civilian casualties as well, because the Taliban often don't remove the ones that did not go off, or mark the areas where they are. If foreign troops do not encounter mines, and thus have an opportunity to clear them, civilians will eventually encounter them and get hurt.

In Afghanistan, the enemy started off with one big disadvantage, as they didn't have the expertise or the resources of the Iraqi IED specialists. In Iraq, the bombs were built and placed by one of several dozen independent gangs, each containing smaller groups of people with different skills. At the head of each gang was a guy called the money man. That tells you something about how all this works. Nearly all the people involved with IED gangs were Sunni Arabs, and most of them once worked for Saddam and learned how to handle explosives. The gangs hired themselves out to terrorist groups (some of them al Qaeda affiliated), but mainly to Baath Party or Sunni Arab groups that believed the Sunni Arabs should be running the country. You got the money, these gangs got the bombs.

The money man, naturally, called the shots. He hired, individually or as groups, the other specialists. These included scouts (who found the most effective locations to put the bombs), the bomb makers, the emplacers (who placed the bomb) and the trigger team, that actually set the bomb off, and often included an ambush team, to attack the damaged vehicles with AK-47s and RPGs. The trigger team also usually included a guy with a video camera, who recorded the operation. Attacks that failed were also recorded, for later examination to discover what could be improved.

Survivors of the al Qaeda defeat in Iraq fled to Afghanistan, where they brought all these techniques with them. But the Afghans did not have the level of training and experience available in Iraq, so the Afghan IED effort got off to a slow start.

In Iraq, interrogations of captured IED crew members indicated that most IED teams operated on a two week cycle. During this period, the gang prepared and placed from a few, to a dozen IEDs in one, carefully planned operation. Once the money man decided on what area to attack, the scout team (or teams) spent 4-5 days examining the target area, to see how troops, police and traffic operated. They recommend places to put the bombs, and the money man decided how many to build and place where. In Afghanistan, there was less of the two week cycle work, and more planting mines and roadside bombs around areas they wish to protect, especially drug related facilities (where heroin is refined or stored awaiting movement out of the country.)

The bomb makers were contracted to build a certain number of bombs and have them ready for pick up by the emplacers on a certain day. The trigger teams were either already in place, or arrived shortly after the emplacers had successfully planted their bombs. Most of the bombs were discovered and destroyed by the police or troops. Increasingly, the trigger teams were discovered, and attacked, as well. This is where a lot of bomb team members were captured. These men often provided information on other members of the team, which resulted in more arrests.

Thousands of men, involved with these IED gangs, were constantly being captured or killed. There were always plenty of new people willing to have a go at it. The main reason was money. The opportunity to make a month's pay for a few hours, or days, work was worth the risk. But there was a serious shortage of people with technical skills to actually build the bombs. As more of these men were killed or captured, there were fewer bombs, and more of them were duds. This has already been seen in some parts of Afghanistan. There, as the local IED gang is busted up, there follows by several weeks, or months, of no IEDs. But the IEDs are the only effective weapon the Taliban and drug gangs have, so they are spreading millions of dollars around for those willing to get involved.

NATO troops, and particularly the United States, are making a major effort to detect IEDs (improvised explosive devices, or roadside bombs), which have accounted for up to 60 percent of deaths among foreign troops. About several billion dollars' worth of special equipment has arrived in Afghanistan over the last few years, more than doubling the amount of specialized gear used for detecting IEDs, and identifying the personnel making, placing and setting off the bombs. Several thousand specialists arrived to operate the special detection and intelligence programs. The number of IED deaths declined as more anti-IED resources entered the country.

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