

RAPID

Realtime Analysis and Publishing of IED Data

WEEKLY NEWS UPDATE

Volume 3, Issue 3

18 JANUARY 2013

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.



Explosions At Syria's Aleppo University Kills 15

Two explosions rocked the University of Aleppo while students sat their exams.

[Read more on Page 31](#)





1. [Attack, Pakistan] Three-Kg Bomb Blast Kills One	4
2. [Attack, Pakistan] Bomb Kills 14 Pakistani Soldiers In North Waziristan	5
3. [Attack, Afghanistan] Seven Afghan Civilians Killed In Mosque Blast	7
4. [Attack, Pakistan] Boy Killed In Quetta Bomb Blast	8
5. [Trend, Pakistan] Low Intensity Bomb Explodes, Another Defused	9
6. [Attack, Pakistan] Blast Reported Near Quetta	10
7. [Attack, Afghanistan] Family Killed In Kandahar Bomb Blast	11
8. [Attack, Pakistan] Twelve Pak Security Personnel Killed In Clashes, Landmine Explosion	12
9. [Attack, Afghanistan] Six Suicide Bombers Hit Afghan Spy Agency In Kabul, Killing One And Wounding Dozens	13
10. [Security, Pakistan] Explosive Device Defused In Kanjo	14
11. [Attack, Mali] France Bombs Islamist Strongholds In North Mali	15
12. [Attack, Libya] Two Policemen Injured In Libya Bomb Attack	18
13. [Trend, Nigeria] Police Recover 1,123 Explosives In Kano	19
14. [Attack, Libya] Car Bomb Kills Policeman In Benghazi As Libya Violence Escalates	20
15. [Security, Tunisia] Tunisia Arrests "Terrorist" Group And Seizes Weapons	21
16. [Trend, Algeria] Al Qaeda Threatens To Blow Up Algerian Gas Plant If Stormed	22
17. [Trend, Algeria] Hostage Flees Bloodbath With Bomb Around Neck	25
18. [Attack, Egypt] Masked Attackers Fire Petrol Bombs At Egypt's Presidential Palace Protesters	27
19. [Attack, Iraq] Iraq Attacks Kill Young Boy, Three Soldiers	28
20. [Attack, Iraq] Iraq Finance Minister Escapes Bomb Attack	29
21. [Attack, Iraq] Suicide Bomber Kills Iraqi Sunni Muslim Lawmaker	30
22. [Attack, Syria] Explosions At Syria's Aleppo University Kills 15	31
23. [Attack, Iraq] Car Bombs Strike Restive City In Iraq	32
24. [Attack, Syria] Twenty-Four Killed In Car Bomb Blasts In Syria's Idlib	33
25. [Attack, Iraq] Twenty-Two Killed In Iraq Bomb Attacks	34



26. [Attack, Syria] Large Blast Hits Aleppo Neighborhood In Syria	35
27. [Attack, Croatia] One Person Injured In Powerful Bomb Blast In Croatian Capital	36
28. [Security, Turkey] Street Cleaner Finds Cluster Bomb Under Car In Istanbul	37
29. [Trend, England] Man Arrested In Connection With Explosion At A House In Bolton	38
30. [Attack, Bosnia and Herzegovina] Bomb Destroys War Memorial In Divided Bosnian Town	39
31. [Security, Ireland] Pipe Bomb Discovered At Limerick Flat	40
32. [Security, Cyprus] Man Finds Bomb On His Car And Takes It To Police Station	41
33. [Trend, Northern Ireland] Parcel Bomb Sent To Policeman	42
34. [Attack, Thailand] Two Soldiers Killed By Road Bomb In Thai South	43
35. [Attack, Northern Ireland] Small Bomb Found In South Belfast	44
36. [Trend, India] Naxals Practised Bomb Plant On Dogs And Goats, General Secretary Of CPI (Maoist) Koel-Sankh Zonal Committee Revealed	45
37. [Trend, Bangladesh] Bomb Blast Kills Youth	46
38. [Trend, South Korea] Korea GPS Guided Bomb (KGGB) Developed	47
39. [Attack, India] Army Jawan Killed As Bomb Shell Explodes	48
40. [Attack, Burma] Bomb Blast Rocks Kachin Town Of Bhamo	49
41. [Security, United States] Explosive Device Found In Wilmington Apartments	50
42. [Attack, United States] Three Injured In Bomb Blast At South Texas Home	51
43. [Special Interest, United States] New Pods Help Sniff Out Nuclear Bomb Source	52
44. [Security, United States] Explosive Devices Found In Trash Near Rosewood	53
45. [Attack, United States] Small Bomb Explodes Outside Tacoma Corrections Office	54
46. [Law Enforcement, United States] Man Sentenced For Sharing Bomb-Making Instructions	55
47. [Attack, Colombia] ‘Rebel Attack’ Kills One, Wounds Six In Northern Colombia	56
48. [Attack, Colombia] Landmine Mine Kills 15-Year-Old In Northwest Colombia	57
49. [Trend, Ecuador] FARC Increased Weapons Purchases During Ceasefire	58



AFPAK

1. [Attack, Pakistan] Three-Kg Bomb Blast Kills One

Friday, January 11 2013

<http://www.nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/karachi/11-Jan-2013/3-kg-bomb-blast-kills-one>

A bomb carrying at least 3-kg explosives went off in a car at Rashid Minhas Road in which a man was killed here in the wee hours of Wednesday. According to details, police and rangers reached the spot and cordoned off the area. Bomb disposal squad also arrived and collected the evidence from blast site. Police said that the bomb completely damaged the vehicle. One person died in the blast whom identification has yet to be ascertained. The body was taken to Postgraduate Medical Centre for autopsy. The BDS officials said the explosive device was laying on the back seat of the car parked at the Askari Fuel Pump when blast took place. They did not find any nut bolts and ball bearing from the spot. BDS said that the culprits had to blast the explosive through remote control device but bomb went off when the culprit was trying fixed it in the car. Police said that a fake number plate number AXX-525 was used on the vehicle. Police registered the case against unknown accused.



AFPAK

2. [Attack, Pakistan] Bomb Kills 14 Pakistani Soldiers In North Waziristan

Sunday, January 13 2013

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/01/13/us-pakistan-attack-idUSBRE90C07R20130113>

A roadside bomb killed as many as 14 Pakistani soldiers in the northern border region of North Waziristan on Sunday, military officials said, a day after the Pakistani Taliban leader called for attacks on the military in the area to stop.

The explosion occurred on a road about 50 km (30 miles) south of the provincial capital of Miranshah. Twenty-one soldiers were wounded in the attack, senior army officials said.

A spokesman for the Mujahideen Ansar, a group dominated by Uzbek fighters, claimed responsibility and told Reuters the attack was retaliation for the Pakistani army's complicity in drone strikes. The group is allied to Pakistan Taliban fighters.

Pakistan frequently protest publicly about U.S. drone strikes but has not taken any legal steps to end them.

On Saturday, Hakimullah Mehsud, the leader of the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), had circulated a leaflet calling for an end to the Taliban's infrequent attacks on Pakistani soldiers in North Waziristan.

Thousands of Pakistani soldiers are stationed in North Waziristan.

The ceasefire did not apply to the rest of the country, where there are often fierce clashes between the Taliban and security services.

The mountainous tribal region of North Waziristan along the Afghan border is a key stronghold of the Taliban and al-Qaeda. South Waziristan is under the control of the Wazir tribe, who have a peace deal with the Pakistani military.

It was unclear if the leaflet was related to rumors of splits in the movement. It called on local and foreign fighters to unite because "the enemy is trying to divide and rule us".

The Taliban have formed alliances with a number of other militant groups in North Waziristan who are violently opposed to the Pakistani state.

Some Taliban commanders are divided over whether the Pakistani state or NATO forces are their top target.

Those divisions were laid bare in November by an attempted suicide attack on Mullah Nazir, a top militant commander from the Wazir tribe in South Waziristan. He had signed a peace deal with the Pakistani army but supported attacks on NATO forces in Afghanistan.

The attack was widely believed to be the work of rival Taliban commanders, and the Wazir tribe ordered Hakimullah Mehsud's tribe out of their lands.

Mullah Nazir was killed in a drone strike this month and it is unclear if his successor will continue his policies, or



what relationship the Wazir tribe will have with the Mehsud tribe.

Pakistani army officials have also told Reuters that there are tensions between Mehsud and his deputy. The two men recently appeared together in a video to deny the allegations.

The decision to halt attacks against the Pakistani army in North Waziristan could signal the Pakistani Taliban's intention to help the Afghan Taliban fight U.S.-led NATO forces in the neighboring country, or focus more closely on attacking Western targets inside Pakistan.

Or it could be more specifically aimed at unifying local factions. Mehsud's statement specifically addressed both foreign fighters and local Taliban.





AFPAK

3. [Attack, Afghanistan] Seven Afghan Civilians Killed In Mosque Blast

Sunday, January 13 2013

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/01/13/us-afghanistan-civilians-idUSBRE90C05P20130113>

At least seven civilians were killed in a blast inside a mosque in eastern Afghanistan overnight shortly after a joint foreign forces-Afghan operation in the area killed four Taliban fighters, local officials said on Sunday.

The explosion occurred in the Sayed Abad district of Wardak province at about 2 a.m. local time (4:30 p.m. EST Saturday), said provincial governor spokesman Sahihullah Shahid.

"A convoy of Afghan and foreign troops came under fire from insurgents inside the mosque ... Seven villagers were killed by an explosion after the operation," Shahid told Reuters.

A spokesman for NATO's International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) said a joint special forces team conducted a night raid in the area, and was aware of reports of an explosion once the team had left. He added no civilians were killed in the joint operation.

Night raids and civilian casualties have been major sources of friction between the Afghan government and its Western backers, and have led to large protests and violence.

The Taliban and Wardak police said an ISAF air strike killed the civilians, but the coalition said no aircraft were used.

The ISAF spokesman said the joint force was fired at by Taliban fighters from a nearby building which is believed to be used as a mosque. The soldiers returned fire, killing four insurgents, he said.

"If that (civilian deaths) occurred, those civilians died somehow after the forces left the area," he said.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid, in a statement e-mailed to media, said "American forces" used two air strikes in an attack on the mosque.



AFPAK

4. [Attack, Pakistan] Boy Killed In Quetta Bomb Blast

Sunday, January 13 2013

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-13-20238-Boy-killed-in-Quetta-bomb-blast>

A boy has been killed in a bomb blast in the Golimar roundabout area of the city on Saturday night.

Police sources said that miscreants had planted an explosive device outside an internet cafe that exploded. As a result, a six-year-old boy namely Ghulam Nabi was killed in the explosion.

The blast also damaged nearby buildings. The police have registered a case and started investigation into the incident.



AFPAK

5. [Trend, Pakistan] Low Intensity Bomb Explodes, Another Defused

Monday, January 14 2013

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-4-154215-Low-intensity-bomb-explodes-another-defused>

A low intensity bomb exploded with a big bang in Pirabad police limits on Sunday, however, the Bomb Disposal Squad (BDS) managed to defuse two kilogram bomb on the same spot.

According to SDPO Orangi Town Zahid Hussain, the first blast took place at about 12:15 pm near Mughal Kanta situated on Manghopir Road in Pirabad police jurisdiction.

The police and BDS team reached the spot and during the search of the area the BDS team found a two kilogram bomb packed in a shopping bag. The bomb was locally assembled having a remote controlled device attached with detonator and ball bearings, which was defused by the BDS.

The SDPO said that the terrorists conducted the first blast of the low intensity device and they had planned to explode the bigger one when the police and BDS team would reach the spot.

He said that the same kind of bomb was recovered on November 22 last year near an Imambargah in Qasba Colony No-2-1/2 in the same police jurisdiction.



AFPAK

6. [Attack, Pakistan] Blast Reported Near Quetta

Tuesday, January 15 2013

<http://dawn.com/2013/01/15/blast-reported-near-quetta/>

A blast was reported on Tuesday near the cattle market situated 15 kilometres away from Quetta, DawnNews reported.

Police and rescue teams had reached the site of the explosion.

Quetta is the capital of Balochistan province which has seen an upswing in violence recently and is suffering from a separatist insurgency, sectarian violence and Taliban militants.





AFPAK

7. [Attack, Afghanistan] Family Killed In Kandahar Bomb Blast

Tuesday, January 15 2013

<http://tolonews.com/en/afghanistan/9077-family-killed-in-kandahar-bomb-blast>

At least four members of a family including two children were killed in a roadside bomb blast in southern Kandahar province on Monday night, local officials said.

The blast happened last night in the Meiana area of the Meianshin district when the family's vehicle struck the bomb in the road, killing a man, a woman and two children, district governor Rozi Khan said.

"All of them were members of a family which was on the way to their home," he said.

Insurgents frequently use improvised explosive devices to target the Afghan and Nato troops, but most of the victims are civilians.



AFPAK

8. [Attack, Pakistan] Twelve Pak Security Personnel Killed In Clashes, Landmine Explosion

Tuesday, January 15 2013

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/News-Feed/pakistan/12-Pak-security-personnel-killed-in-clashes-landmine-explosion/Article1-990176.aspx>

At least 12 Pakistani security personnel have been killed in clashes and a landmine explosion in the two regions of the country most troubled by insurgents, officials said Tuesday. In the northwestern tribal belt, officials said dozens of militants attacked a checkpoint overnight, sparking clashes that killed six security personnel and four militants.

The fighting broke out in the northwestern Khyber district, where troops are frequently locked in clashes with homegrown Islamist militia Lashkar-e-Islam.

Taliban and Al-Qaeda-linked militants have carved out strongholds in the semi-autonomous tribal belt to plot attacks on Pakistani, Afghan and Western targets.

"Around 100 militants attacked a Frontier Corps checkpoint in the Shalobar area of Bara in Khyber tribal region on Monday night, which triggered a firefight," a security official told AFP on condition of anonymity.

Officials said four paramilitary soldiers and two tribal policemen were killed, and 16 other personnel were wounded.

The area is cut off to journalists and aid workers so it was not possible to confirm the death toll independently.

A spokesman for Lashkar-e-Islam said it carried out the attack but denied that any of its fighters were killed.

"We took four soldiers hostage as well. There was no loss of life on our side in the clashes," said spokesman Abur Rasheed Lashkari in a text message.

In the southwestern province of Baluchistan, six policemen were killed when their vehicle ran over a landmine around 460 kilometres (300 miles) southwest of Quetta.

"A senior police official of intelligence branch and five of his subordinates were on a mission in Panjgur district when their vehicle collided with a landmine. All of them were killed," Balach Aziz, a senior administration official, told AFP.

Twin suicide attacks killed 92 people at a snooker hall in a mainly Shiite Muslim area of Quetta last Thursday, the deadliest single sectarian attack on the minority community in Pakistan.



AFPAK

9. [Attack, Afghanistan] Six Suicide Bombers Hit Afghan Spy Agency In Kabul, Killing One And Wounding Dozens

Wednesday, January 16 2013

http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia_pacific/police-suicide-bomber-attacks-in-afghan-capital-smoke-seen-rising-at-site-as-gunfire-sounds/2013/01/16/2be16f32-5fb3-11e2-9dc9-bca76dd777b8_story.html

Taliban suicide bombers attacked the gates of the Afghan intelligence agency Wednesday, killing one person and wounding dozens in a blast that shredded nearby cars and shattered storefront windows three blocks away. The brazen midday attack highlighted ongoing violence in Afghanistan and the determination of the insurgency to continue fighting even as President Hamid Karzai and the U.S. negotiate for a quicker pullout of American forces. A minivan drove into a gate of the intelligence agency compound in the capital at noon and exploded in a blast that was heard throughout downtown. A second minivan pulled up, and five attackers wearing explosive vests jumped out and tried to storm the gate, police said.

Security forces killed the five attackers and defused explosives found in the second van, police said in a statement.

It was the second attack targeting the intelligence agency in as many months. On Dec. 6, a Taliban suicide bomber posing as a peace messenger blew himself up while meeting with Afghan intelligence chief Asadullah Khalid inside a Kabul residence. Khalid has been hospitalized in the United States with serious wounds since then.

Taliban spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid claimed responsibility for the latest assault in a text message sent to The Associated Press. The Taliban insurgency regularly targets Afghan army and police, but attacks against the intelligence agency show the group's ability to strike even those who are supposedly closely monitoring their activities.

One intelligence service guard was killed in the blast, said agency spokesman Shafiqullah Tahiri. He did not provide any information on guards who were wounded.

Mohammad Zahir, the chief of the Kabul police investigation unit, said at least 30 people suffered injuries. Tahiri said some of those injuries were minor, but four of the wounded were in critical condition.

The attack comes less than a week after Karzai returned from a trip to the United States in which he pushed the U.S. to get its troops out of Afghan villages. During the visit, both sides seemed ready to consider a much smaller American force in Afghanistan after 2014 than had previously been envisioned.

Karzai said on his return that Afghanistan would be safer once the U.S. troops leave. But Wednesday's attack was a stark reminder that Afghan forces are as much a target as foreign troops.

After Wednesday's blast, ambulances were able to carry some of the wounded to hospitals, while others were loaded into the back of a pickup truck. Blood streamed down the face of one man, staining his white-collared shirt and sweater vest as he waited for an ambulance.

The blast left the twisted wreckage of at least seven cars on the street, while the windows of nearby shops were blown out and glass shards littered the pavement blocks away.

A heavy snow started to fall as uniformed intelligence agents cordoned off the area around the gate. The blast walls at the entrance were blackened from the explosion and metal pieces — apparently the remains of the entrance gate — were twisted and strewn about.

The entire intelligence service compound is surrounded by tall, thick cement walls designed to protect buildings from bomb blasts.

Attacks in the heavily secured Afghan capital are less common than in the country's restive south, but they do occur and are often more sophisticated operations. They frequently include multiple attackers trying to penetrate the perimeter of armed guards and blast walls that surround government buildings and embassies.

The most recent attack in Kabul was on Dec. 17, when a car bomber struck outside a compound used by a U.S. military contractor. That blast killed at least two Afghan workers and wounded more than a dozen people.

A spokesman for the international military coalition, Maj. Martyn Crighton, said Afghan forces responded to the attack and that NATO forces were not involved.



AFPAK

10. [Security, Pakistan] Explosive Device Defused In Kanjo

Thursday, January 17 2013

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-13-20338-Explosive-device-defused-in-Kanjo>

The security forces recovered and defused explosive material in Kanjo Township on Wednesday, official sources said. The sources said that the security forces recovered explosive material in Kanjo Township in Kabal tehsil during a search. A huge blast was heard when the explosives were being defused which caused panic among the residents.



AFRICOM

11. [Attack, Mali] France Bombs Islamist Strongholds In North Mali

Sunday, January 13 2013

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/01/13/us-mali-rebels-idUSBRE90912Q20130113>

French fighter jets pounded Islamist rebel strongholds deep in northern Mali on Sunday as Paris poured more troops into the capital Bamako, awaiting a West African force to dislodge al Qaeda-linked insurgents from the country's north.

The attacks on Islamist positions near the ancient desert trading town of Timbuktu and Gao, the largest city in the north, marked a decisive intensification on the third day of the French mission, striking at the heart of the vast area seized by rebels in April.

France is determined to end Islamist domination of northern Mali, which many fear could act as a base for attacks on the West and for links with al Qaeda in Yemen, Somalia and North Africa.

Defense Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian said France's sudden intervention on Friday had prevented the advancing rebels from seizing Bamako. He vowed that air strikes would continue.

"The president is totally determined that we must eradicate these terrorists who threaten the security of Mali, our own country and Europe," he told French television.

Residents and rebel leaders had reported air raids early on Sunday in the towns of Lere and Douentza in central Mali, forcing Islamists to withdraw. As the day progressed, French jets struck targets further to the north, including near the town of Kidal, the epicenter of the rebellion.

In Gao, a dusty town on the banks of the Niger river where Islamists have imposed an extreme form of sharia law, residents said French jets pounded the airport and rebel positions. A huge cloud of black smoke rose from the militants' camp in the city's north, and pick-up trucks ferried dead and wounded to hospital.

"The planes are so fast you can only hear their sound in the sky," resident Soumaila Maiga said by telephone. "We are happy, even though it is frightening. Soon we will be delivered."

Paris said four Rafale jets flew from France to strike rebel training camps, logistics depots and infrastructure around Gao with the aim of weakening the rebels and preventing them from returning southward.

"We blocked the terrorists' advance and from today what we've started to do is to destroy the terrorists' bases behind the front line," French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius told LCI television.

France has deployed about 550 soldiers to Mali under "Operation Serval" -- named after an African wildcat -- split between Bamako and the town of Mopti, 500 km (300 miles) north.

In Bamako, a Reuters cameraman saw more than 100 French troops disembark on Sunday from a military cargo plane at the international airport, on the outskirts of the capital.

The city's streets were calm, with the sun streaking through the dusty air as the seasonal Harmattan wind blew



from the Sahara. Many cars had French flags draped from the windows to celebrate Paris's intervention.

"We thank France for coming to our aid," said resident Mariam Sidibe. "We hope it continues till the north is free."

AFRICAN TROOPS EXPECTED

More than two decades of peaceful elections had earned Mali a reputation as a bulwark of democracy, but that image unraveled in a matter of weeks after a military coup in March which left a power vacuum for the Islamist rebellion.

France convened a U.N. Security Council meeting for Monday to discuss Mali. French President Francois Hollande's intervention has won plaudits from leaders in Europe, Africa and the United States but it is not without risks.

It raised the threat level for eight French hostages held by al Qaeda allies in the Sahara and for the 30,000 French expatriates living in neighboring, mostly Muslim states.

Concerned about reprisals, France has tightened security at public buildings and on public transport. It advised its 6,000 citizens to leave Mali as spokesmen for Ansar Dine and al Qaeda's north Africa wing AQIM promised to exact revenge.

In its first casualty of the campaign, Paris said a French pilot was killed on Friday when rebels shot down his helicopter.

Hours earlier, a French intelligence officer held hostage in Somalia by al Shabaab extremists linked to al Qaeda was killed in a failed commando raid to free him.

Hollande says France's aim is simply to support a mission by West African bloc ECOWAS to retake the north, as mandated by a U.N. Security Council resolution in December.

With Paris pressing West African nations to send their troops quickly, Ivory Coast President Alassane Ouattara, who holds the rotating ECOWAS chairmanship, kick-started the operation to deploy 3,300 African soldiers.

Ouattara, installed in power with French military backing in 2011, convened a summit of the 15-nation bloc for Saturday in Ivory Coast to discuss the mission.

"The troops will start arriving in Bamako today and tomorrow," said Ali Coulibaly, Ivory Coast's African Integration Minister. "They will be convoyed to the front."

The United States is considering sending a small number of unarmed surveillance drones to Mali as well as providing logistics support, a U.S. official told Reuters. Britain and Canada have also promised logistical support.

Former French colonies Senegal, Niger and Burkina Faso have all pledged to deploy 500 troops within days. In contrast, regional powerhouse Nigeria, due to lead the ECOWAS force, has suggested it would take time to train and equip the troops.

HOUSE-TO-HOUSE SEARCHES



France, however, appeared to have assumed control of the operation on the ground. Its airstrikes allowed Malian troops to drive the Islamists out of the strategic town of Konna, which they had briefly seized this week in their southward advance.

Calm returned to Konna after three nights of combat as the Malian army crushed any remaining rebel fighters. A senior army official said more than 100 rebels had been killed.

"Soldiers are patrolling the streets and have encircled the town," one resident, Madame Coulibaly, told Reuters by phone. "They are searching houses for arms or hidden Islamists."

Analysts expressed doubt, however, that African nations would be able to mount a swift operation to retake north Mali -- a harsh, sparsely populated terrain the size of France -- as neither the equipment nor ground troops were prepared.

"My first impression is that this is an emergency patch in a very dangerous situation," said Gregory Mann, associate professor of history at Columbia University, who specializes in francophone Africa and Mali in particular.

While France and its allies may be able to drive rebel fighters from large towns, they could struggle to prise them from mountain redoubts in the region of Kidal, 300 km (200 miles) northeast of Gao.

Human Rights Watch said at least 11 civilians, including three children, had been killed in the fighting. A spokesman for Doctors Without Borders in neighboring Mauritania said about 200 Malian refugees had fled across the border to a camp at Fassala and more were on their way.

In Bamako, civilians tried to contribute to the war effort.

"We are very proud and relieved that the army was able to drive the jihadists out of Konna. We hope it will not end there, that is why I'm helping in my own way," said civil servant Ibrahima Kalossi, 32, one of over 40 people who queued to donate blood for wounded soldiers.



AFRICOM

12. [Attack, Libya] Two Policemen Injured In Libya Bomb Attack

Tuesday, January 15 2013

<http://en.trend.az/regions/met/arabicr/2108256.html>

Two policemen were injured, one seriously, when their patrol was attacked in Benghazi, the official Libyan News Agency (LANA) reported on Tuesday.

Unidentified assailants threw a bomb into the policemen's car Monday night. Security forces later detained the occupants of two suspect vehicles for questioning over the attack, dpa reported.

On Saturday, Italy's consul general in Benghazi, Guido De Sanctis, escaped unharmed when gunmen opened fire on his armour-plated car. It was the third attack on foreign diplomats in Benghazi in under a year.

US ambassador to Libya Chris Stevens was killed when gunmen attacked the US consulate in the city in September, while the British ambassador escaped uninjured from an attack in June.

Security officials in the city - the cradle of Libya's revolution against former leader Moamer Gaddafi - have also been targeted in recent months.

Libya is currently restructuring its security services, with the hitherto dominant Supreme Security Committees due to be disbanded and their members integrated into the police.

The committees, made up of revolutionary brigades, have played a major security role due to the weakness of the nascent police force.

But observers have criticized the inability of the Interior Ministry to control the committees and the perceived sympathy of some committees with radical Islamists.





AFRICOM

13. [Trend, Nigeria] Police Recover 1,123 Explosives In Kano

Tuesday, January 15 2013

<http://www.vanguardngr.com/2013/01/police-recover-1123-explosives-in-kano/>

The Police Command in Kano State said it recovered 1,123 Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) between January and December 2012.

This is contained in a statement by the command's Public Relations Officer, ASP Magaji Majiya, in Kano.

According to the statement, 68 IEDs were successfully defused in different parts of the state by the Anti-Bomb Disposal Unit of the command during the period.

"Even though the early part of the year 2012 was characterised by terrorists attacks, the situation was immediately brought under control through concerted efforts of the police and other security agencies."

The statement said the command killed 21 armed robbery suspects and arrested 217 others during the period. "Similarly, the command has arrested two kidnap suspects and rescued two kidnapped victims in the state during the period."

It said 108 suspects were charged with culpable homicide while 82 faced rape cases. It added that the command recovered 79 stolen and abandoned vehicles during the year.

The statement expressed appreciation to religious leaders and the public for their prayers which had "greatly helped the command against evil intention of criminals in the state".

The command also expressed gratitude to all those who assisted the police and other security agencies with timely information that led to successes in its operations.

"Our traditional institutions at ward and district levels and the Kano Emirate Council must be commended for the cooperation, support and assistance they have been rendering to this command at all times."

The command also commended the state government for its general support in the provision of logistics and welfare "which greatly enhanced our operations".



AFRICOM

14. [Attack, Libya] Car Bomb Kills Policeman In Benghazi As Libya Violence Escalates

Wednesday, January 16 2013

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/01/16/us-libya-benghazi-bomb-idUSBRE90F00B20130116>

A car bomb killed a police officer in Benghazi early on Wednesday, a police source said, the second attack on the eastern city's security forces in two days.

Like much of the country, Benghazi - cradle of the popular revolt that overthrew Muammar Gaddafi more than a year ago - is awash with weapons. Libya's government has struggled to control rival armed factions there ever since the uprising.

Attacks on British, Italian, Red Cross and United Nations properties and personnel there in the past year highlight the precarious security in the North African state.

Wednesday's attack killed Salah al-Wizry as he arrived home late at night.

"He was killed in front of his house by a bomb planted in his vehicle," a police source said.

On Monday, at least one police officer was wounded when attackers threw a grenade at a patrol car in Benghazi.

On Tuesday, Italy - the former colonial power in Libya - suspended activity at its consulate in the city, Libya's second biggest, and withdrew staff for security reasons after a gun attack on its consul at the weekend.



Unidentified gunmen opened fire on Guido De Sanctis's armored car. He was unhurt but the attack was a reminder of the September 11 attack on the U.S. mission there that killed the ambassador and three other Americans.

American officials say militants with ties to al Qaeda affiliates were most likely involved in that attack.

To keep a degree of order, Libya's government relies on numerous militias made up of thousands of Libyans who took up arms against Gaddafi. The groups provide what passes for official security but also what poses the main threat to it.

In November, the city's police chief was shot dead and attacks on police officers and buildings are frequent.



AFRICOM

15. [Security, Tunisia] Tunisia Arrests "Terrorist" Group And Seizes Weapons

Thursday, January 17 2013

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/01/17/us-tunisia-arrests-idUSBRE90G0YQ20130117>

Tunisian authorities said on Thursday they had arrested a "terrorist" group and seized a big arms cache, as security forces went on alert after a mass hostage-taking by Islamist militants in neighboring Algeria.

The arms included Kalashnikov rifles and rocket-propelled grenades, a security source said. A statement by the Ministry of Interior said they were discovered in the southern town of Medenin, without giving further details.

Al Qaeda-linked Islamists seized dozens of hostages in a raid on a gas field plant in southeast Algeria this week, to the south of Tunisia.

Twenty-five hostages escaped and six were killed on Thursday when Algerian forces launched an operation to free them, Algerian sources said.

The Islamists said that the attacks were in retaliation for Algeria allowing France to use its air space to carry out bombing raids in Mali.

Since the overthrow of former President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali two years ago, the influence of radical Islamists in Tunisia has increased. Secularist groups have accused the ruling moderate Islamist Ennahda party of being too soft on extremists.

Last month, Interior Minister Ali Laryed said Tunisian police had arrested 16 Islamist militants who had been accumulating arms with the aim of creating an Islamic state.

They were linked to Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb and had been planning to attack security headquarters, he said.



AFRICOM

16. [Trend, Algeria] Al Qaeda Threatens To Blow Up Algerian Gas Plant If Stormed

Friday, January 18 2013

<http://www.thenational.ae/news/world/africa/al-qaeda-threatens-to-blow-up-algerian-gas-plant-if-stormed#full>

Islamist gunmen holding dozens of Western hostages and scores of Algerians at a gas plant deep in the Sahara Desert let some of them speak to the media today to warn that they would be blown up if the site is stormed.

Governments around the world were holding emergency meetings to respond to one of the biggest international hostage crises in decades, which sharply raises the stakes over a week-old French campaign against Al Qaeda-linked fighters in Mali.

A group calling itself the "Battalion of Blood" said it has 41 foreigners - including Americans, Japanese and Europeans - hostage after storming a natural gas pumping station and employee barracks in Algeria before dawn yesterday.

The attackers have demanded an end to the French military campaign in Mali, where hundreds of French paratroops and marines are launching a ground offensive against rebels in a campaign that began a week ago with air strikes.

Algerian troops have the site surrounded, deep in the desert. An unidentified hostage who spoke to France 24 television said prisoners were being forced to wear explosive belts. Their captors were heavily armed and had threatened to blow up the base if the Algerian army tried to storm it.

"They attacked the two sites at the same time. They went inside, and once it was daylight they gathered everyone together," the man, who sounded calm, said in the only part of the phone call the French broadcaster aired.

Another hostage, identified as British, spoke to Al Jazeera television and called on the Algerian army to withdraw from the area to avoid casualties.

"We are receiving care and good treatment from the kidnappers. The [Algerian] army did not withdraw and they are firing at the camp," the man said.

"There are around 150 Algerian hostages. We say to everybody that negotiations is a sign of strength and will spare many any loss of life," he said, adding that there were about 150 Algerian hostages in custody.

Another hostage, identified as Irish, told the Qatar-based channel: "The situation is deteriorating. We have contacted the embassies and we call the Algerian army to withdraw ... We are worried because of the continuation of the firing. Among the hostages are French, American, Japanese, British, Norwegian and Irish."

In what it said was a phone interview with one of the hostage takers, the Mauritanian news agency ANI said Algerian security forces had tried to approach the facility at dawn.

"We will kill all the hostages if the Algerian army try to storm the area," it quoted the hostage taker as saying. Algeria has not commented on reports its troops tried to approach.



Algerian Interior Minister Daho Ould Kablia said the raid was led by Mokhtar Belmokhtar, a veteran Islamist guerrilla fighter who fought Soviet forces in Afghanistan in the 1980s and had recently set up his own group in the Sahara after falling out with other local Al Qaeda leaders.

A holy warrior-cum-smuggler dubbed "The Uncatchable" by French intelligence and "Mister Marlboro" by some locals for his illicit cigarette-running business, Belmokhtar's links to those who seized towns across northern Mali last year are unclear.

The precise number and nationalities of foreign hostages could not be confirmed, with countries perhaps reluctant to release information that could be useful to the captors.

British Foreign Secretary William Hague confirmed one Briton had been killed and "a number" of other British citizens were being held. Algerian media said an Algerian was killed in the assault. Another local report said a Frenchman had died.

The militants said seven Americans were among their hostages — a figure US officials said they could not confirm. Norwegian oil company Statoil said nine of its Norwegian staff and three Algerian employees were captive. Japanese media said five workers from Japanese engineering firm JGC Corp. were held. France has not confirmed whether any French citizens were held.

"This is a dangerous and rapidly developing situation," Mr Hague told reporters in Sydney. "The safety of those involved and their co-workers is our absolute priority, and we will work around the clock to resolve this crisis."

US defence secretary Leon Panetta said: "I want to assure the American people that the United States will take all necessary and proper steps that are required to deal with this situation."

Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, in Vietnam on the first leg of a Southeast Asian tour, said that "Japan will never tolerate such an act", according to the Jiji news agency. His government held an emergency meeting and said it was working with other countries to free Japanese citizens.

One thing is clear: as a headline-grabbing counterpunch to this week's French build-up in Mali, it presents French President Francois Hollande with stark choices.

France's ambassador to Mali, Christian Rouyer, said the attack in Algeria demonstrated that the French were right on the need to intervene in Mali.

"We have the flagrant proof that this problem goes beyond just the north of Mali," Mr Rouyer told France Inter radio. "Northern Mali is at heart of the problem, of course, but the dimension is really national and international, which gives even more justification to the French intervention."

Mr Hollande has received backing from Western and African allies who fear that Al Qaeda, flush with men and arms from the defeated forces of Libya's Muammar Qaddafi, is building a desert haven in Mali, a poor country that was helpless to combat fighters who seized its northern cities last year.

The Algerian government has ruled out negotiating with the hostage takers and the United States and other Western governments condemned the attack on a facility that produces 10 per cent of Algeria's gas, much of which is pumped to Europe.



The militants, communicating through established contacts with media in neighbouring Mauritania, said they had dozens of men armed with mortars and anti-aircraft missiles at the base and had rigged it with explosives.

They said they had repelled a raid by Algerian forces after dark yesterday. There was no government comment on that. Algerian officials said earlier about 20 gunmen were involved.

"We hold the Algerian government and the French government and the countries of the hostages fully responsible if our demands are not met, and it is up to them to stop the brutal aggression against our people in Mali," read one statement carried by Mauritanian media.

They condemned Algeria's secularist government for letting French warplanes fly over its territory to Mali. They also accused Algeria of shutting its border to Malian refugees.

Regis Arnoux, head of CIS, a French catering firm operating at the site, told BFM television he had been in touch with a manager of some 150 Algerian workers there. Local staff were being prevented from leaving but were otherwise free to move around inside and keep on working.

"The Westerners are kept in a separate wing of the base," Mr Arnoux said. "They are tied up and are being filmed. Electricity is cut off, and mobile phones have no charge.

"Direct action seems very difficult ... Algerian officials have told the French authorities as well as BP that they have the situation under control and do not need their assistance."

Norway's Statoil operates the gasfield in a joint venture with Britain's BP and the Algerian state company Sonatrach.

"Our total focus is on fixing this situation and returning our colleagues home," Statoil CEO Helge Lund told a news conference in Stavanger, western Norway. "Family, friends and colleagues are waiting for news from them."

Mr Lund will travel later today to Bergen, western Norway, to a crisis centre set up in a hotel by the company where some relatives of the hostages are gathering.

Japan's JGC Corp said in a statement it was co-operating with the government but would not comment the number of its employees kidnapped.

Read more: <http://www.thenational.ae/news/world/africa/al-qaeda-threatens-to-blow-up-algerian-gas-plant-if-stormed#ixzz2ILGrt7AC>

Follow us: @TheNationalUAE on Twitter | thenational.ae on Facebook



AFRICOM

17. [Trend, Algeria] Hostage Flees Bloodbath With Bomb Around Neck

Friday, January 18 2013

<http://www.independent.ie/national-news/video-hostage-flees-bloodbath-with-bomb-around-neck-3356628.html>

An Irishman fled al-Qa'ida terrorists after making a desperate dash for freedom with explosives strapped to his neck.

Stephen McFaul, a 36-year-old father-of-one, was abducted with up to 41 foreign oil workers from a remote BP gas field in Algeria.

But today he is getting ready to return to his overjoyed family after a dramatic escape amid a bloody battle between the Algerian army and kidnapers.

His family admitted that "luck" was the only reason that Mr McFaul had escaped, as the vehicle he was in avoided being blown up in an Algerian air strike.

Mr McFaul's dramatic escape came as it emerged that 34 hostages were dead and at least eight Islamist militants had also been killed.

As many as 25 foreign captives and 600 Algerians were reported to have been freed -- or to have escaped -- from their captors.

Mr McFaul made a run for safety with "Semtex strapped to his neck", his brother Brian said last night.

Once out of danger he rang his wife Angela in Belfast and ended two days of dread with the words: "I'm free love, I'm free."

It emerged the oil company manager had risked his life by secretly telephoning and texting his family while still being held.

Once he was freed, his 13-year-old son Dylan said he would "never let him go back there" and just wanted to give him a "big hug".

However, there are growing fears for another man from Northern Ireland who was reported to have been among the hostages.

None of those still being held have been named.

Last night the biggest hostage crisis to involve western victims for decades appeared to be nearing a bloody end amid growing international anger over Algeria's handling of the situation.

Mr McFaul's family had been preparing for the worst as news of the bloodbath filtered through. His brother Brian said: "We found out that al-Qa'ida were taking five jeeps out of the compound when the Algerian army bombed the compound.



"Out of those five jeeps, four were wiped out. Stephen's jeep was the only jeep that wasn't bombed; it crashed and Stephen made a run for it – with Semtex strapped to his neck.

"We still don't know all the details about what happened yet; all we know is that he made it out – if that isn't luck for you I don't know what is."

"It's a lot to take in for the family but at least we know he is safe and well."

The 42-year-old said his brother phoned his wife Angela as soon as he was released to tell her he was safe and had been taken to a secure location. "He didn't want to worry her or their children, but I don't think she'll let him go back to Algeria after that," he added.

"We're just waiting to get him home now. He's been through a terrible ordeal and it's going to take him a long time to get over it. We were so relieved to hear that Stephen is unharmed – but he had a very close shave with death.

"On Wednesday night they made him sleep with his mouth taped up, his hands tied and they put Semtex round his neck."

One of the kidnap leaders, Abu al-Baraa, was also among those killed, and the terrorists warned that the remaining hostages would be "blown up" if the army moved in.

In an earlier telephone interview with Al Jazeera early yesterday, an Irishman, believed to be Mr McFaul, said: "The situation is deteriorating" as firing took place outside the gas-field compound.



CENTCOM

18. [Attack, Egypt] Masked Attackers Fire Petrol Bombs At Egypt's Presidential Palace Protesters

Sunday, January 13 2013

<http://english.alarabiya.net/articles/2013/01/13/260154.html>

Unknown attackers threw petrol bombs at tents housing protesters outside the Egyptian presidential palace in Cairo on Saturday, witnesses said.

Several tents were set on fire and ambulances were driving away from the scene late on Saturday evening, according to Reuters.

Protesters opposing an Islamist-backed constitution have been camped outside the residence of President Mohamed Mursi for several weeks.

A dozen masked attackers fired birdshot late Saturday at protesters, wounding several along with security forces standing watch nearby, witnesses said. It was the latest in a series of shootings of protesters in Egypt.

Paramedic Mohammed Sultan put the total number of wounded in the attack at 15, including nine members of the security forces and six protesters.

The witnesses said attackers also threw Molotov cocktails at protesters' tents, setting some on fire. Footage on Egyptian TV stations showed more people coming to join the protests.

The sit-in was started Dec. 4 by opponents of Islamist President Mursi. They are demanding the annulment of Egypt's new Islamist-backed constitution. The document deeply polarized Egyptians but passed by a 64 percent "yes" vote in a referendum in which around 33 percent of voters participated. Critics called the process flawed.

The political conflict has been accompanied by street violence. At least 10 people died in clashes outside the palace on Dec. 5 that broke out when supporters of Mursi attacked the sit-in. Some were reportedly killed by gunfire.

On Dec. 31, gunmen shot and critically wounded a well-known activist at the site of another sit-in in downtown Cairo's Tahrir square. Police said they arrested a cafe owner who told them that he fired on the square after people manning makeshift checkpoints there searched his car and shot at him.

The current attack comes two weeks before the anniversary of the Jan. 25 start of the 2011 uprising that overthrew Mubarak. Activists opposed to Mursi are expected to organize large protests that day.





CENTCOM

19. [Attack, Iraq] Iraq Attacks Kill Young Boy, Three Soldiers

Sunday, January 13 2013

<http://english.al-akhbar.com/content/iraq-attacks-kill-young-boy-three-soldiers>

Insurgent attacks in separate parts of Iraq killed four people including a seven-year-old boy and wounded five others Sunday, officials said.

The first attack took place early Sunday when gunmen attacked an army checkpoint near the city of Samarra north of Baghdad, killing three soldiers and wounding two others.

Insurgents threw hand grenades at the checkpoint before opening fire with machine guns, an army lieutenant colonel and a medic at the city's hospital said. Both spoke on condition of anonymity.

In the western province of Anbar, police said a roadside bomb went off on a security patrol in the city of Fallujah, killing the boy who was walking near the patrol. Three policemen were wounded also in the attack.

Medics in nearby hospitals confirmed the casualty figures.



CENTCOM

20. [Attack, Iraq] Iraq Finance Minister Escapes Bomb Attack

Monday, January 14 2013

<http://en.trend.az/regions/met/iraq/2107663.html>

Iraq's finance minister, who has been locked in dispute with Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, has escaped an apparent assassination attempt when his convoy was struck by a roadside bomb, his office and security sources say, Al Jazeera reported.

Rafa al-Essawi's convoy had been travelling between the towns of Fallujah and Abu Ghraib, west of Baghdad, when the bomb went off at around 7pm local time (16:00 GMT) on Sunday, the officials said.

"A roadside bomb exploded near his convoy. His car was not hit and he is safe, but two guards were wounded," a spokesman for Essawi's office said.

Police sources confirmed the convoy had been hit by shrapnel, but said there had been no injuries.

The blast comes amid a political crisis between the Shia prime minister and his mainly Sunni coalition partners in the federal government.

Essawi has been a central figure in more than two weeks of protests by minority Sunnis against the Shia-dominated Baghdad government after his bodyguards were arrested on terrorism charges. He has publicly called for Maliki to be replaced.

Sunnis have lead protests in the cities of Fallujah, Ramadi and Samara blaming the government of discrimination. Rare demonstrations on the main highway between Iraq and Syria have caused disruptions.

Earlier this month, Maliki warned demonstrators to stop their protests and ordered the release of more than 700 female prisoners, a key demand of the demonstrators.

The protests come with barely three months to go before provincial elections, a key barometer of support for Maliki and his opponents ahead of a general election next year.

Essawi is a leading member of the Iraqiya bloc, which, while a member of Maliki's unity government, has called for him to quit.

Sunnis have also decried alleged misuse of anti-terror laws to hold members of the minority community, and claim Sunnis are being targeted.

Former vice-president Tareq al-Hashemi, a Sunni, was handed down a death sentence in absentia on charges of running a death squad, a charge he denounced.



CENTCOM

21. [Attack, Iraq] Suicide Bomber Kills Iraqi Sunni Muslim Lawmaker

Tuesday, January 15 2013

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/01/15/us-iraq-violence-idUSBRE90E0HB20130115>

A suicide bomber killed an influential Iraqi Sunni Muslim lawmaker and his bodyguard on Tuesday in Anbar province, where thousands of protesters have been rallying daily against Shi'ite Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki.

Posing as a construction worker, the attacker targeted Efan al-Esawi, a member of the Sunni-backed Iraqiya bloc who once helped organize a campaign against al Qaeda at the height of the war after the 2003 U.S.-led invasion, police and local officials said.

No one claimed responsibility for the bombing but it may point to attempts by insurgents to fan tensions over the mass Sunni Muslim protests, which have revived worries of a slide back into the sectarian bloodletting of Iraq's recent past.

"One of the workers at the site went toward him, he thought he wanted something, the worker hugged him and then blew himself up," said Sadoun Ubaid, deputy head of Anbar provincial council.

"This man was targeted because he led the fight against al Qaeda. That is why they would target him."

The protests have become a serious test for Maliki since they erupted in late December after authorities arrested the bodyguards of Finance Minister Rafaie al-Esawi, a Sunni Muslim, on terrorism charges.

Sunni leaders said the arrests were part of an extended campaign to unfairly target their minority sect by security forces. Many Sunnis feel they have been sidelined from power-sharing by the Shi'ite Muslim-led Baghdad government.



CENTCOM

22. [Attack, Syria] Explosions At Syria's Aleppo University Kills 15

Tuesday, January 15 2013

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/01/15/us-syria-crisis-explosion-idUSBRE90E0I920130115>

At least 15 people were killed and dozens wounded in two explosions that rocked the University of Aleppo in Syria's second largest city on Tuesday, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

State television said there had been one explosion at the university, which lies in the government-controlled area, describing it as a "terrorist attack".

Rebels have used car bombs and suicide attacks in fighting government forces and attacking government-controlled areas.

Fighting between rebels and government forces has reached a stalemate in Aleppo and left the city divided. Rebels say they control more than half the province.

State television footage showed at least one body lying on the street and several cars burning.

The second explosion reported by the Observatory, a British-based opposition monitoring group, may have been caused by a burning car, but there was no independent confirmation.

One of the university buildings was damaged. The state news agency said the explosion occurred on the first day of exams.





CENTCOM

23. [Attack, Iraq] Car Bombs Strike Restive City In Iraq

Wednesday, January 16 2013

<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/01/17/world/middleeast/bombings-kirkuk-iraq.html>

At least two car bombs shattered a building housing the local headquarters of the Kurdistan Democratic Party in the restive city of Kirkuk on Wednesday, killing at least 19 people and wounding more than 200, according to the police.

A third bomb at a nearby facility used by Kurdish security forces killed at least four more people, news agencies reported.

The suicide bombers' main target appeared to have been the local office of Massoud Barzani, the president of Iraq's semiautonomous northern Kurdish region. Kirkuk is about 180 miles north of Baghdad.

Tensions have increased recently in the city, where government soldiers squared off with Kurdish militias after Prime Minister Nuri Kamal al-Maliki sought to consolidate his control over security there.

"This is a political explosion," said Muhammed Kamal, the chief of the Kurdistan Democratic Party in Kirkuk. "Iraq is witnessing a political crisis that is being reflected on the security of the country and it's all because of the prime minister."

The attacks took place on Atlas Street, one of the busiest thoroughfares in central Kirkuk. There was no immediate claim of responsibility, but car bombs have frequently been used by Sunni insurgents.

The bombings came a day after a member of the Iraqi Parliament was killed in a suicide bomb attack in Anbar Province. The lawmaker, Efan al-Essawi, was also the leader of a local council of the Sunni Awakening, an American-backed group of Sunni militias that switched sides to fight against Al Qaeda in Iraq,

Mr. Essawi had escaped earlier assassination attempts. In 2009, attackers placed a magnetic bomb on the armored car he was using when he was a candidate for Parliament, the first attack on a candidate as those elections approached.

Also on Wednesday, gunmen killed three policemen at a checkpoint northeast of the capital, according to the police, and two women were killed in an attack west of Baghdad.



CENTCOM

24. [Attack, Syria] Twenty-Four Killed In Car Bomb Blasts In Syria's Idlib

Wednesday, January 16 2013

<http://www.panarmenian.net/eng/news/141449/>

At least 24 people were killed, most of them government forces, in three coordinated car bombs in Syria's Idlib province, a monitoring group said on Wednesday, Jan 15, a day after explosions killed more than 87 people in Aleppo University, Reuters reported.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a Britain-based group with a network of sources in Syria, said one of the car bombs targeted government vehicles near a building used by one of President Bashar al-Assad's domestic security agencies.

A second hit a government security office and the third a checkpoint on a road leading to Idlib city. All exploded within a few minutes of each other, the Observatory said.

State news agency SANA said 22 people were killed in Idlib city when two car bombs exploded and said two other bombs were defused on a main road leading to Idlib.

Rami Abdelrahman, head of the Observatory, said the death toll was expected to rise due to the number of wounded who were in critical condition.

Stuck in a military stalemate, rebels have used bomb attacks to target government forces, who have far superior firepower including war planes and ballistic missiles.



CENTCOM

25. [Attack, Iraq] Twenty-Two Killed In Iraq Bomb Attacks

Thursday, January 17 2013

<http://www.independent.ie/breaking-news/world-news/22-killed-in-iraq-bomb-attacks-3355931.html>

At least 22 people have been killed as insurgents unleashed a string of bomb attacks across Iraq, mainly targeting Shiite Muslim pilgrims, extending a wave of deadly bloodshed into a second day.

The eruption of violence follows nearly two weeks of relative calm, and threatens to inflame rising tensions among Iraq's ethnic and sectarian groups.

The worst attack took place near Dujail, 50 miles north of Baghdad, where two car bombs exploded near pilgrims who were travelling on foot to a shrine in the town of Samarra.

The head of the Salahuddin provincial health directorate, Raed Ibrahim, said 11 people were killed and more than 60 injured in that attack.

"We heard thunderous explosions, and everybody went outside and saw burning cars and several bodies on the ground. Market stalls on both sides of the road were on fire," said Naseer Hadi, who works in the Dujail post office.

The pilgrims were heading to Samarra to commemorate the death of two prominent Shiite Imams who are buried in the al-Askari shrine there.

A 2006 bombing at the gold-domed shrine that was blamed on al Qaida in Iraq set off years of retaliatory bloodshed between Sunni and Shiite extremists which left thousands of Iraqis dead and pushed the country to the brink of civil war.

The attacks in Dujail came hours after a car bomb struck a bus carrying foreign pilgrims near the southern Shiite holy city of Karbala. Four people were killed and 12 wounded in that attack, according to police and hospital officials.

In the town of Qassim, 78 miles south of Baghdad, a parked car bomb exploded near a bus stop, killing five people and wounding 20. The casualties included Shiite pilgrims who were heading to Karbala, said police and hospital officials.

In north-eastern Baghdad, a roadside bomb apparently meant to hit an army patrol missed its target and struck a civilian car, killing two passengers and injuring two others, said police and hospital officials.





CENTCOM

26. [Attack, Syria] Large Blast Hits Aleppo Neighborhood In Syria

Friday, January 18 2013

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/01/18/us-syria-crisis-blast-idUSBRE90H0KA20130118>

A large blast hit a neighborhood of the Syrian city of Aleppo on Friday and caused several casualties, state television said.

It was unclear who was behind the attack.

Syria TV said the explosion had been caused by a rocket fired by a "terrorist group" - a term it frequently uses to describe rebels in the 22-month-old uprising against President Bashar al-Assad.

But opposition groups said Assad's forces were behind the blast, which hit the Muhafaza Sakaniya neighborhood in a western district of the city.

Video from state television showed the side of a building collapsed into rubble that spilled into nearby streets. A crowd sifted through the wreckage as medics pulled bloodied bodies onto stretchers.

Activists said the district, a government-held area of a city that has descended into a long and bloody stalemate between army and rebels, had been hit by a military air strike.

"The rebels do not have this capability yet," said Hameed Barrasho, an activist in Aleppo speaking by Skype. "We have several reports of a jet in the area before the strike. This is the regime trying to sow more chaos in the city."

Syria's government restricts foreign media access to parts of the country it holds, making it difficult to confirm accounts by either side.

Earlier in the week, twin blasts at the University of Aleppo killed more than 80 people. Each side blamed the other.



EUCOM

27. [Attack, Croatia] One Person Injured In Powerful Bomb Blast In Croatian Capital

Friday, January 11 2013

<http://www.canada.com/news/person+injured+powerful+bomb+blast+Croatian+capital/7806376/story.html>

Police say a powerful bomb explosion at a bus station in Croatia's capital Zagreb has lightly injured one person.

The explosion occurred shortly after midnight Friday in the western part of the city.

It was the second explosion this week in Croatia. On Wednesday, a freight train hit an explosive device set up on the tracks near Zagreb, badly damaging the train but causing no injuries.

Police officials have preliminarily ruled out terrorism. Police official Vitomir Bijelic says "for now, we are treating both explosions as acts against public safety."

Special police have blocked off the area of Friday's blast and are investigating.



EUCOM

28. [Security, Turkey] Street Cleaner Finds Cluster Bomb Under Car In Istanbul

Friday, January 11 2013

<http://www.todayszaman.com/news-303717-street-cleaner-finds-cluster-bomb-under-car-in-istanbul.html>

A street cleaner prevented a possible explosion on Friday when he found a cluster bomb placed under a car in Istanbul's Bayrampaşa neighborhood.

The street cleaner found a suspicious package under a car at around 2:00 a.m. while cleaning a street in Bayrampaşa. He then delivered the package to police officers who were on patrol in the area.

Bomb disposal units were summoned to the scene and the package was safely defused after the area was cordoned off.

Police said the car under which the cluster bomb had been placed belongs to a security officer and a large number of police officers reside in the area.

The street cleaner was taken to a police station for questioning and an investigation has been launched into the incident.





EUCOM

29. [Trend, England] Man Arrested In Connection With Explosion At A House In Bolton

Monday, January 14 2013

<http://www.itv.com/news/granada/story/2013-01-14/bolton-bomb-blast/>

A man has been arrested in connection with an explosion at a house in Bolton.

Shortly after 1.20pm on Sunday, police were called by the North West Ambulance Service, who had received reports a man had suffered serious injury to his hand.

Officers attended and discovered a 26-year-old man had suffered a serious hand injury during an explosion at a house on Lea Gate.

A number of neighbouring houses were evacuated as a precaution while a search was carried out by bomb disposal experts.

Police also searched two properties in Tonge Moor.

No explosive items were found at any of the addresses.

The injured man was taken to hospital for treatment to his injuries, which are not life threatening.

He has been arrested on suspicion of causing an explosion likely to endanger life or property and remains in a stable condition in hospital.

"I appreciate that given the nature of this incident and the impact it had on those living on Lea Gate there will be some concern among residents, but I want to reiterate that this was an isolated incident and there was not and is not any threat to the wider community.

"We are continuing to investigate the circumstances leading up to this incident and if anyone has any information that can assist I would urge them to get in touch."

– Detective Chief Inspector Sarah Jackson





EUCOM

30. [Attack, Bosnia and Herzegovina] Bomb Destroys War Memorial In Divided Bosnian Town

Monday, January 14 2013

<http://www.orlandosentinel.com/news/nationworld/sns-rt-us-bosnia-mostarbre90d0jr-20130114,0,3143383.story>

A bomb blast destroyed a monument to fallen soldiers of Bosnia's Muslim-dominated wartime army on Monday in the southern town of Mostar, where divisions between ethnic Croats and Muslims still run deep.

Police said an "explosive device" had destroyed the lily-shaped monument in front of Mostar's city hall in the early hours of Monday morning.

Bosnia's international peace overseer, Valentin Inzko, said he was "appalled" by the attack and appealed for calm.

"This violence must not be allowed to spread," Inzko said in a statement.

Home to around 70,000 people, Mostar saw heavy fighting during Bosnia's 1992-95 war.

Despite Western efforts to encourage reintegration, the town remains largely divided between Bosnian Muslims (Bosniaks) on the east bank of the Neretva river and Croats on the west, where the city hall is located.

No one was injured in the explosion.

"Police are investigating the circumstances and hope to locate the perpetrator soon," Srecko Bosnjak, spokesman for the Mostar police, said.

The monument to the Bosnian army was built last year, next to a memorial in honor of Croat veterans of the conflict.

Post-war violence in Mostar has been largely confined to clashes between rival football fans, but political leaders continue to resist the efforts of Western overseers to unify the town.

Each community has its own utility services, electricity provider and education system.

Ethnic politicking has paralyzed the town more than once, and in October last year Mostar was the only town in Bosnia where local elections were postponed due to a dispute over how to hold the vote.



EUCOM

31. [Security, Ireland] Pipe Bomb Discovered At Limerick Flat

Tuesday, January 15 2013

<http://www.limerickleader.ie/news/local/pipe-bomb-discovered-at-limerick-flat-1-4683679>

Two men and two women are being questioned by gardai following the discovery of a viable pipe-bomb at a flat in Limerick city centre.

The improvised device was discovered shortly before 9am during a planned garda operation at a premises on Cecil Street.

The building was evacuated following the discovery and the surrounding area was sealed off for several hours afterwards.

Members of the Defence Forces Explosives Ordnance Disposal team made the device safe shortly before midday before removing it for further examinations.

Four men who were arrested following the discovery are being questioned under Section 30 of the Offences Against the State Act.



EUCOM

32. [Security, Cyprus] Man Finds Bomb On His Car And Takes It To Police Station

Thursday, January 17 2013

<http://www.cyprus-mail.com/bomb/man-finds-bomb-his-car-and-takes-it-police-station/20130117>

A man triggered a security scare in Nicosia when he walked into a central police station carrying a bomb he found in his driveway, saying he wanted officers to examine it.

Police said Petros Konafis, 33, a former footballer and now agent, discovered a suspicious device on the rear window of his car and after drawing a blank on what it was doing there, decided to take it to the Paphos Gate for further scrutiny by experts.

Police discovered it was a makeshift bomb which had failed to go off, triggering the evacuation of the complex.

It appears however that it was not until the arrival of the bomb squad that everyone realised what they had been handling.

“When they came we realised what the object was (and) we evacuated the building,” said Nicosia CID chief Erotocritos Erotocritou.

Police said the object was a "makeshift high intensity explosive" attached to a detonator and a fuse.

It was defused on site by explosives experts.

Reports said Konafis suspected the incident was linked to his professional dealings.

Police spokesman Andreas Angelides urged the public not to pick up any suspicious objects and notify the force immediately if they happen to find one.



EUCOM

33. [Trend, Northern Ireland] Parcel Bomb Sent To Policeman

Friday, January 18 2013

<http://www.u.tv/News/Parcel-bomb-sent-to-policeman/10ef8769-a263-4d35-9bf5-f83edf9c189d>

The device was sent to Chief Inspector Andy Lemon but was intercepted by postal workers on Friday.

The discovery at the Castle Street premises sparked a security alert and the area was sealed off while army bomb experts were at the scene.

A PSNI spokesman described the bomb as a "small viable device" and said it has been taken away for further examination.

Castle Place, Market Street, Railway Street, Lower Main Street and John Wesley Street were also affected during the security operation.

All roads have now re-opened and the alert has ended.

Sinn Fein MLA for Strabane, Michaela Boyle said lives were put at risk.

"What is to be gained by this? This has put the lives of postal workers at risk as well as others. It caused mayhem and disruption to the town and wider community," she said.

"It is a Friday and we have a market in the town which generates a lot of people from other places coming into the town. A lot of revenue has been lost by businessmen and women who are already struggling.

"There is no place in society for this sort of activity from these individuals.

"It could have been fatal."



PACOM

34. [Attack, Thailand] Two Soldiers Killed By Road Bomb In Thai South

Friday, January 11 2013

<http://www.scmp.com/news/asia/article/1125597/two-soldiers-killed-road-bomb-thai-south>

Police say suspected insurgents have detonated a roadside bomb that killed two soldiers in Thailand's violence-plagued south.

Police Colonel Wasan Puangnoi says a group of unknown militants hid an improvised bomb on a road in Yarang district in Pattani province and set it off on Friday morning as a pickup truck carrying four soldiers passed by.

He says the explosion killed two of the soldiers. The other two were injured and rushed to a hospital.

Pattani, Yala and Narathiwat are the only provinces with Muslim majorities in predominantly Buddhist Thailand.

More than 5,000 people have been killed in the southern region since an Islamist insurgency flared in 2004.





PACOM

35. [Attack, Northern Ireland] Small Bomb Found In South Belfast

Saturday, January 12 2013

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/news/headlines/small-bomb-found-in-south-belfast-1-4676974>

A security alert in Belfast on Saturday morning has forced the closure of a railway line.

Army bomb disposal officers were called to examine a suspicious object discovered in Donegall Avenue. Several homes in the area were evacuated.

A number of roads were closed for a time, as well as a railway line during the security alert.

The PSNI have also appealed for information about a viable pipe bomb device which was found on the Westlink, close to the footbridge at Roden Street on Friday night.





PACOM

36. [Trend, India] Naxals Practised Bomb Plant On Dogs And Goats, General Secretary Of CPI (Maoist) Koel-Sankh Zonal Committee Revealed

Saturday, January 12 2013

http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2013-01-12/news/36296294_1_naxal-leader-latehar-pranay-sahay

Before planting a bomb inside the body of CRPF constable Babu Lal Patel, Naxals are believed to have carried out such experiments on dogs and goats for last several months, the Centre has learnt from the interrogation of a senior Naxal leader arrested in Jharkhand on Friday.

The arrested man, Prabhat Mochi, is said to be the general secretary of CPI (Maoist) Koel-Sankh Zonal committee, and reports to the CPI (Maoist) central committee member Arvind who led the encounter against the CRPF party in Latehar earlier this week.

CRPF director general Pranay Sahay, who returned from the encounter spot on Friday, told ET that the depravity carried out by Naxals was the "worst violation of human rights" and had crossed all limits.

"People who are human right activists and sympathise with the Naxalites should acknowledge the manner in which the constable's body was treated, as the worst case of inhuman wrong," Sahay said, questioning the silence of human right activists.

The constable whose body was mutilated was just 23 years old, got married just last year and had, in fact, made a last call to his wife Rekha in Allahabad after getting injured in the encounter. "Though it is being said that we took all the hits in this encounter, the fact is that Naxals lost as many men as we did...there are accounts of our injured men to substantiate that. We are getting intercepts of Naxals asking their counterparts for lots of pain-killers, bandages and medical help for their injured," Sahay told ET.

An MHA official said the 65-year-old Naxal leader Arvind was being marginalised in the Naxal leadership for being ineffective and had hence planned the brutal strategy of planting IED's inside dead bodies of CRPF men to reassert his leadership and break morale of the forces. "Our morale is not down...we are pushing more forces into the area and will enter and smash the Naxal camps," Sahay said.

The bomb was a mixture of nitrate explosive and gelatin sticks and carried two nine volt batteries tied to a commercial detonator. A report prepared by the bomb disposal experts says two batteries were attached so that in the event of any pressure getting exerted on the abdomen during lifting the body, one battery would act as a back-up to cause an explosion in case the other got discharged.

Yet another back-up was put in form of a light sensor attached to the bomb which would have ensured the improvised explosive device would have gone off in case the stitches on the body were opened and the bomb, if it had failed to explode already, got exposed to sunlight and the light sensor would then act as the trigger. The bomb was neatly packed in a plastic container placed inside the abdomen to ensure that the bomb does not get moist due to blood. The NSG Bomb Disposal Centre is doing a detailed study to give a report to the home ministry.



PACOM

37. [Trend, Bangladesh] Bomb Blast Kills Youth

Sunday, January 13 2013

<http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=264956>

A youth, who was injured while allegedly making a bomb at Baropota village in Benapole on Thursday, died on Friday night. The deceased was identified as Robiul Hossain Rabi 40, son of Sajjad Morol of the village under Benapole Port PS. Faruk Hossain, officer in-charge of Benapole police station, said injured Robi was a member of an outlawed party. Robi was first taken to Jessore General Hospital and then sent to Dhaka. But he succumbed to his injuries on the way at night.



PACOM

38. [Trend, South Korea] Korea GPS Guided Bomb (KGGB) Developed

Monday, January 14 2013

http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/news/tech/2013/01/325_128846.html

The Defense Acquisition Program Administration (DAPA) and the Agency for Defense Development (ADD) said that they have developed KGGB (Korea GPS Guided Bomb).

KGGB can be mounted on a 500-pound (225kg) bomb, enabling it to precisely hit specific targets. A combat plane with KGGB is able to hit a target day or night even when the target is blocked by a mountain.

DAPA spokesperson Baek Yoon-hyung, briefing the press on Jan.14, said, "KGGB targets long distance fighter planes that are hidden behind hills."

Another ADD official added, "KGGB is able to work in a curve motion. Old fighter planes such as the F-4 and the F-5 can benefit with KGGB mounted on them. The Air force will be able to reinforce their power with its deployment."



Its maximum shooting range is 100km and the range of error is within 13m.

"It costs 100 million won a head. Compared with JDAM (Joint Direct-Attack Munition) which is currently used in the Air force, KGGB is much more precise. It is less costly as well."

More than 40 billion won has been spent on the KGGB development.

It has been deployed since last year.

ADD, along with 20 companies such as LIGNex1, has been working on this KGGB project since Nov. 2007.





PACOM

39. [Attack, India] Army Jawan Killed As Bomb Shell Explodes

Thursday, January 17 2013

<http://www.deccanherald.com/content/306002/army-jawan-killed-bomb-shell.html>

An army jawan was today killed in an accidental blast caused by a bomb shell that took place in a junk dealer's shop on the Church Road in the cantonment area here, police said.

The blast was so intense and powerful that some portions of the body of the deceased, later identified as army jawan Matoshi, were found scattered in a radius of few metres near the site.

Immediately after the incident, Deputy Commissioner Manjit Singh Narang along with police and military officials reached the site and took stock of the situation.

Vibhor Kumar DSP (Headquarters) said the deceased army jawan had come to a junk dealer's shop in the morning where he tried to sell some old and abandoned bomb shells which he had brought with him to the junk dealer.

When the junk dealer showed reluctance to accept those bomb like articles, the jawan tried to break them into pieces with a hammer.

Eyewitnesses said the action triggered huge blast during which the body of deceased was blown off.

The area was immediately cordoned off by the police and army authorities.



PACOM

40. [Attack, Burma] Bomb Blast Rocks Kachin Town Of Bhamo

Friday, January 18 2013

<http://www.irrawaddy.org/archives/24556>

A bomb blast on the outskirts of Bhamo Township in Kachin State on Thursday injured two people, a local leader said, adding that the explosion occurred near the town's technological university.

"It happened around 4:20 pm on the Bhamo-Momauk road on Thursday and hurt two people," said Zaw Thin, a local member of the National League for Democracy. "A driver was hurt in his left arm as he was about 20 feet away from the explosion, while an old man who was at his home was also injured," he said.

Zaw Thin said the bomb went off near the fence of the Bhamo Technological University, about 3.5 kilometers away from the town center. It was not immediately clear who was responsible for the blast.

Bhamo is located on the banks of the Irrawaddy River in the south of Kachin State.

The state, located in northern Burma, has been the scene of fighting between the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) and the Burmese government since June 2011, when a 17-year-old cease-fire broke down. Most of the fighting has been concentrated in the northern part of the state, where the KIA holds sway over the mountains along the Burma-China border.

Although gunfire has been heard about 7 kilometers east of Bhamo, the town has not been directly affected by the violence so far. Bhamo hosts over 4,000 Kachin villagers in nine camps who fled the violence in Kachin State from nearby areas such as Momauk, Mansi, Lajayang, Gaung Ja Yang and Nang Sam Yang.

In early January, there were explosions in Man Nyunt, 7 kilometers outside Bhamo and 180 kilometers away, while a bridge on the Mansi-Bhamo road was destroyed by a bomb blast, according to reports in state-controlled media.

The road running south from Bhamo to Mandalay—the town's major road connection with the rest of Burma—has been closed since fighting began in Kachin State. The Irrawaddy River is now the most important remaining transport connection between Bhamo and the rest of the country.



NORTHCOM

41. [Security, United States] Explosive Device Found In Wilmington Apartments

Thursday, January 10 2013

<http://www.nbcphiladelphia.com/news/breaking/Pipe-Bomb-Investigation-Wilmington-186383581.html>

A suspicious device caused the evacuation of the Haverford Place Apartments in Wilmington Thursday.

The device turned out to actually be a bomb, according to firefighters. But, they didn't say if it was a pipe bomb or not.

Police and the bomb squad were called to the 4600 block of Haverford Place around 3 p.m. for the report of a suspicious device in the hallway of a building. About 50 people were evacuated as bomb-sniffing dogs were called in, according to the Delaware Fire Marshal's Office.

The device was removed and exploded and the site declared safe, authorities said.

Residents were allowed back in their homes around 7 p.m. No one was hurt.



NORTHCOM

42. [Attack, United States] Three Injured In Bomb Blast At South Texas Home

Saturday, January 12 2013

<http://www.khou.com/news/national/186536521.html>

A young girl and her parents were seriously injured Friday when a package they found outside their South Texas home exploded as they opened it inside, police said.

Their neighbor, Richard Solis, said he was drinking a cup of coffee in his driveway two doors down when he heard a loud "boom." He ran toward the two-story stucco home as flames and a plume of smoke poured out.

Solis heard a woman screaming and saw a badly burned man and little girl run out the front door. He said the man held what appeared to be a ball of fire in one hand and threw it out the door, Solis said.

"The guy yelled, 'the package said to the addressee,'" Solis recounted. Solis said he seemed in shock.

Brownsville police spokesman J.J. Trevino said the family found the package outside their home and opened it early Friday morning.

Trevino identified the three victims as Jesus Juarez, 26, Iviz Machado, 30, and their 5-year-old daughter, Andrea Juarez. All three suffered serious burns, police said.

Additional explosive devices in the package that did not explode were later detonated by the bomb squad.

"This hit too close to home," said Solis, a postal worker, adding that he did not know the family.

The motive or whether the family had received earlier threats was unknown, Trevino said. He said there was extensive damage inside the home and police were working closely with the FBI and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

The Brownsville Herald reports the girl was airlifted to Shriners Hospital for Children in Galveston. Her parents were airlifted to Brooke Army Medical Center burn unit in San Antonio.

Late Friday, Trevino said he did not have information on the victims' conditions.

Police kept the street closed for a block in both directions Friday and said it would likely remain that way late into the night as the investigation continued.

The tall, two-story beige and orange stucco home was one of the larger ones in the suburban neighborhood on the north side of Brownsville.



NORTHCOM

43. [Special Interest, United States] New Pods Help Sniff Out Nuclear Bomb Source

Monday, January 14 2013

<http://www.technewsdaily.com/16365-drone-harvester-for-nuclear-origins.html>

U.S. agencies are testing a system designed to fly on unmanned aerial vehicles and sniff the air after a nuclear detonation, to discover who made the bomb.

The system, called Harvester, includes two "sampling pods" to collect debris from the air, as well as a third pod that detects gamma radiation to guide the drone pilots to the heart of a nuclear blast.

Harvesters are expected to show up in the U.S. Air Force's experimental fleet by 2014, according to a statement from Sandia National Laboratories, which developed the Harvester. "There's a high likelihood the Air Force will make Harvester operational in 2014 to augment its current manned aircraft collection capability," Joe Sanders, Sandia's lead for the Harvester project, said in the statement.

Researchers tested Harvesters at the Grand Forks Air Force Base in North Dakota in September 2012. During the test, the pods flew on MQ-9 Reaper drones donated by the Department of Homeland Security Customs and Border Protection. The pods are about the size of a snowmobile and are designed to fit in a variety of types of aircraft, Sandia says.

The September tests didn't include any nuclear releases. Instead, Harvesters flying on Reaper drones successfully collected radioactive chemicals that occur naturally in the air, including radioisotopes of lead and bismuth, which are decay products of naturally occurring radon, and beryllium-7, a product of carbon-14 that's been broken up by cosmic rays.

Harvester pods analyze what they capture in real time, while they're flying. They also collect samples in filters that researchers can examine more carefully after the pods have landed.

Sandia researchers are now working on another sampling pod, named the Whole Air Sampling Pod, designed to take large samples of air and analyze them for gases instead of particles.





NORTHCOM

44. [Security, United States] Explosive Devices Found In Trash Near Rosewood

Monday, January 14 2013

<http://www.thestate.com/2013/01/14/2590015/explosive-devices-found-in-trash.html#.UPWmfYaRZ8E>

Three potentially explosive “military ordinances” originally found in a pile of trash east of Rosewood were seized Monday shortly after noon by the Columbia police bomb squad and the city fire department.

Police, who did not give out many details about the matter, did not say whether the materials were possible hand grenades or mortar rounds or exactly what they had found.

“We erred on the side of caution and properly and safely removed them from the location and took them to another location to be properly and safely disposed of,” said police spokeswoman Jennifer Timmons. She did not specify where the pile of trash was that the devices were found in.

A man whom police did not identify had found the objects in a pile of trash, then for some reason put them in a storage area near the Mini Mart, which is at the intersection of Live Oak Street and S. Kilbourne Road, Timmons said.

That’s within about a quarter-mile of Kilbourne Road Elementary School, which has hundreds of students and teachers.

But officials said no threat to the school existed.

“We certainly would have taken the necessary precautions to evacuate the general area had it been necessary,” Timmons said.

Timmons said police also searched the original pile of trash where the man said he found the devices but didn’t find anything.

“We kind of dug around ourselves,” she said.

Timmons also issued a plea to the public.

“If you find something that looks like military ordinance, please call the police right away. Don’t let time lapse,” she said. “If it’s suspicious, don’t take chances. Don’t touch it. Call police.”



NORTHCOM

45. [Attack, United States] Small Bomb Explodes Outside Tacoma Corrections Office

Thursday, January 17 2013

http://seattletimes.com/html/localnews/2020158390_apwacorrectionsofficebomb.html

The Washington state Corrections Department says no one was injured when a small homemade bomb exploded Thursday afternoon outside the agency's largest Pierce County field office in Tacoma.

Corrections spokesman Chad Lewis says the three-story building wasn't damaged.

Tacoma police are investigating.

Lewis says no threat was received before the device went off at about 3:30 p.m. The office was locked down until 5 p.m., when employees went home. Lewis says the office will reopen Friday.

Offenders report to community corrections officers at the field office.



NORTHCOM

46. [Law Enforcement, United States] Man Sentenced For Sharing Bomb-Making Instructions

Friday, January 18 2013

<http://www.post-gazette.com/stories/local/neighborhoods-west/man-sentenced-for-sharing-bomb-making-instructions-670919/>

Michael Steven Cech in May showed a man how to build a bomb, believing that the explosive would be used against a federal witness.

On Wednesday, Cech, 42, of McKees Rocks, was sentenced to 15 years and eight months in prison for distribution of information regarding explosives.

At a sentencing hearing, Assistant U.S. Attorney James Kitchen showed a video of Cech demonstrating to a federal informant the mechanics of building a gunpowder-packed nail bomb.

"That there will take out two houses this way and a house that way," Cech said in the video. "It's going to do what you want. It's going to do every bit of what you want."

The informant had told Cech that he needed to eliminate someone who was set to testify in a drug trial. The informant's face was electronically distorted in the video, which was shot using a hidden camera.

Cech traded his knowledge, plus most of the bomb's parts, for a .45-caliber handgun and \$300.



SOUTHCOM

47. [Attack, Colombia] 'Rebel Attack' Kills One, Wounds Six In Northern Colombia

Friday, January 11 2013

<http://colombiareports.com/colombia-news/news/27659-rebel-attack-kills-1-wounds-6-in-northern-colombia.html>

An attack attributed to left-wing guerrillas has left one policeman dead and six wounded in northern Colombia, reported local media on Friday.

According to police, rebels attacked a police checkpoint with "unconventional" weapons and machine guns along the border of the northern Arauca, Norte de Santander and Boyaca departments, reported radio station RCN.

The victims of the attack were guarding electricity towers serving nearby municipalities.

The wounded policemen were taken to a local hospital in the Arauca department, wrote newspaper El Tiempo.

Police did not specify which group carried out the attack, but the presence of guerrilla groups FARC and the ELN as well as drug gangs "Los Rastrojos" and "Los Urabeños" are known.

Suspected rebels on Tuesday attacked the Caño-Limon-Coñivenas oil pipeline in the same area.

In December, the country's largest rebel group, FARC, called a month-long unilateral ceasefire which is set to end January 20. On numerous occasions they have been accused of breaking the ceasefire. Colombia's second largest guerrilla group, ELN, did not make a similar promise.



SOUTHCOM

48. [Attack, Colombia] Landmine Mine Kills 15-Year-Old In Northwest Colombia

Tuesday, January 15 2013

<http://colombiareports.com/colombia-news/news/27695-landmine-mine-kills-15-year-old-in-northwest-colombia-.html>

Three young people aged 15 to 17 walked into a minefield near their northwest Colombia village, leaving one dead and two wounded, reported local media Monday.

Diomedes Chavarria, a young man of 15, was killed instantly as he stepped on the anti-personnel mine in Briceño municipality in northern Antioquia, according to local media. Two others, described by El Colombiano as cousins of Chavarria, were wounded and are in hospital.

The group of three had been taking a shortcut on the way home when they walked into the minefield, which has been attributed to the 36th Front of the FARC left-wing guerrilla force.

The army conducted a rescue operation to recover the body and the wounded from the minefield.

Colombia's armed conflict has left it the second-most afflicted by landmines in the world after Afghanistan. The government reported in 2012 that the number of child landmine victims rose sharply last year.



SOUTHCOM

49. [Trend, Ecuador] FARC Increased Weapons Purchases During Ceasefire

Wednesday, January 16 2013

<http://colombiareports.com/colombia-news/news/27713-farc-increased-weapons-purchases-during-ceasefire-ecuadorean-general.html>

Colombia's largest rebel group FARC increased weapons purchases in Ecuador during the unilateral ceasefire called by the guerrillas in November, said an Ecuadorean general on Tuesday.

"Since the beginning of the peace process...we have captured a great amount of ammunition, arms and therefore we know they [FARC] took advantage of this situation to strengthen their position in preparation of what might happen in the future," Ecuadorean general Fernando Proaño Daza told the Spanish news agency EFE.

The general is in charge of approximately 12,000 Ecuadorean soldiers who are posted along the Colombian border.

According to local media, Ecuadorean authorities have recently seized more than 1,200 bars of explosives bound for armed groups that operate along border zones.

FARC's unilateral ceasefire is set to expire on January 20.