

RAPID

Realtime Analysis and Publishing of IED Data

WEEKLY NEWS UPDATE

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



Two Boxes Of Pentolite Blocks Discovered

Authorities in Cauca encountered 34 bars of pentolite mobilized in parcel boxes.

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AFPAK

1. [Attack, Afghanistan] Afghan Suicide Blast Kills At Least 20, Including Three NATO Troops

Monday, October 1 2012

<http://english.al-akhbar.com/content/afghan-suicide-blast-kills-least-20-including-three-nato-troops>

A suicide bomber tore through an Afghan-NATO foot patrol in a crowded city on Monday, killing at least 20 people, including three foreign troops and their interpreter, officials said.

Taliban insurgents claimed responsibility for the attack near a market in the eastern city of Khost. Six Afghan police and 10 civilians were also killed, and 62 were wounded, provincial governor's spokesman Baryalai Rawan, told AFP.

Authorities had earlier given a death toll of four Afghan police and six civilians.

"Today at around 8:30am (0400 GMT) a suicide bomber on a motorcycle targeted a joint patrol in Khost city in a crowded area," the governor's office said.

NATO's US-led International Security Assistance Force confirmed that three NATO service members and an ISAF-contracted interpreter had been killed in the attack.

The Taliban Islamists said on their website that the suicide attack was carried out by "a hero mujahid, Shohaib, from Kunduz," claiming that eight foreigners and six Afghan soldiers were killed.

The deaths take coalition casualties to at least 347 this year, according to an AFP tally. NATO has more than 100,000 troops fighting the Taliban insurgency in Afghanistan, but they are due to pull out by the end of 2014.

Joint NATO-Afghan operations had been temporarily restricted last month after a spike in insider attacks, in which Afghan security forces turned their weapons against their coalition allies.

Last week, US Defense Secretary Leon Panetta said most joint operations have resumed, but could not give any precise details on numbers.

NATO says that overall insurgent attacks on its forces dropped by five percent in the first eight months of this year compared to 2011, but are still running at about 100 a day.

It said the decline in attacks showed that its troops had been able to "reverse the momentum" of the insurgents' campaign, an interpretation that the Taliban "strongly and categorically" denied.

In a spectacular attack last month the Taliban stormed a heavily fortified base in southern Afghanistan, destroying aircraft worth tens of millions of dollars and killing two US Marines.

And according to the United Nations, August was the second deadliest month in five years for civilians, with a total of 374 – more than 10 a day – killed and 581 injured.

The latest blast came a day after NATO announced that a firefight between coalition troops and their Afghan allies killed an ISAF soldier, a civilian contractor and three Afghan army troops. At least 51 coalition troops have been



killed in insider assaults this year – about 15 percent of all NATO deaths – and the top ISAF general has described them as "the signature attack" of the Afghan war.

The scale of the insider assaults is unprecedented in modern warfare, and has seriously undermined trust between NATO coalition forces and their Afghan allies in the joint effort against Taliban insurgents.

"I'm mad as hell about them, to be honest with you," ISAF commander General John Allen told CBS's "60 Minutes" program on Sunday.

"We're willing to sacrifice a lot for this campaign, but we're not willing to be murdered for it," the commander said.



AFPAK

2. [Attack, Afghanistan] Roadside Bomb Kills Two In Afghanistan

Saturday, September 29 2012

<http://www.local10.com/news/Roadside-bomb-kills-2-in-Afghanistan/-/1717324/16789316/-/ulfotr/-/index.html>

A police trainer and a civilian interpreter were killed and two policemen were wounded Saturday when their vehicle hit a roadside bomb in western Afghanistan, a police spokesman said.

It happened around 7:30 a.m. (11 p.m. ET Friday) in western Herat province as the group was on its way to the Adraskan police training center where they were working, said Abdul Rauf Ahmadi, a spokesman for the Afghan police commander in the west of Afghanistan.

The explosion happened the same day as NATO's handover of a police training academy in the city of Herat, but the two events were miles apart and unrelated.

U.S.-led international forces are continuing to hand security responsibilities over to Afghan forces as the withdrawal of U.S. troops proceeds.

There are about 68,000 American troops still in Afghanistan, but combat operations are scheduled to end next year and the entire international force is scheduled to withdraw by the end of 2014.

After that, a new NATO mission will advise, train, and assist an estimated 350,000-strong Afghan force, NATO Secretary-General Anders Fogh Rasmussen has said.



AFPAK

3. [Trend, Afghanistan] Militants Increasingly Using Roadside Bombs

Friday, September 28 2012

<http://paktribune.com/news/Militants-increasingly-using-roadside-bombs-253691.html>

The police chief on Thursday said the Taliban had no courage to enter a face-to-face battle with Afghan forces, thus increasingly using roadside bombs, a key reason behind soaring casualties among forces in the southern province of Kandahar.

Col. Rahmatullah Atrafi told reporters at the governor's house that the rebels had recently intensified roadside bomb attacks against government forces, who detected more than 10 bombs on a daily basis in Kandahar city limits and nearby districts.

He said roadside bombs remained a key factor behind increasing deaths among security forces and civilians.

Atrafi said police had often suffered casualties when they tried to rescue civilians.

"Police have been killed on many occasions by the insurgents after they had arrived at the site of a bomb attack and then a second bomb goes off," he said.

The police chief accused the rebels of hiding among people after carrying out bomb attacks. "They have no value for a human life," Atrafi said.

About 93 mines were found and defused over the past two weeks in Kandahar city and districts, the police chief said, adding only few mines had exploded during the period, inflicting casualties both on civilians and police.



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4. [Trend, Pakistan] Suspected Militant Killed In Explosion While Planting Bomb In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Wednesday, October 3 2012

http://www.satp.org/satporgtp/detailed_news.asp?date1=10/3/2012&id=8#8

A suspected militant was killed while trying to plant a bomb in an oil tin in Badhaber area of Peshawar, the provincial capital of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, on October 2, reports Daily Times. The explosion occurred in Badhaber graveyard killing the man on the spot. Police rushed to the area and defused another bomb in the vicinity and started investigation.

Further, three Policemen were injured when suspected militants attacked their vehicle in Mattani area, reports Dawn.

In addition, unidentified militants fired on a Police van near Bakkakhel Police Station of Bannu District, reports Daily Times. However, no casualties were reported. A Police mobile party, led by Assistant Sub-Inspector (ASI) Asmatullah Khan, was on routine patrol in Bakkakhel area when it was attacked by militants. The accused managed to escape the scene.

Separately, Police foiled a sabotage bid by defusing a five-kilogram bomb at Shaikhan area on the outskirts of Peshawar, reports Dawn. According to Assistant Inspector General (AIG) Shafqat Malik, the head of Bomb Disposal Unit, the bomb was planted near the body of a youth to trap police. He said that it was planted to kill the policemen if they tried to shift the body but terrorists failed to do so as the bomb was defused very carefully.



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5. [Attack, Pakistan] Three Security Men Injured In Roadside IED Blast In FATA

Thursday, October 4 2012

http://www.satp.org/satporgtp/detailed_news.asp?date1=10/4/2012&id=4#4

Three security men were injured in a blast near Gora Parai checkpost in Baizai tehsil (revenue unit) of Mohmand Agency of Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) on October 3, reports Dawn. Sources said that security personnel were on routine patrol when the explosive device planted along the road went off.



AFPAK

6. [Attack, Pakistan] School Blown Up In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Thursday, October 4 2012

http://www.satp.org/satporgtp/detailed_news.asp?date1=10/4/2012&id=5#5

Unidentified militants blew off the building of Government high school in Adamzai village of Akora Khattak area in Nowshera District of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa on October 3, reports Dawn. Bomb Disposal Squad officials said that about six to eight kilograms of explosives were used in the blast. Sources said that Police arrested 11 suspects during a search operation in the area after the incident.

Meanwhile, Akora Khattak Police raided the house of Qari Ahmad Ali, considered to be affiliated with Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) and recovered weapons from it. Station House Officer (SHO) Fazle Subhan said that Qari Ahmad Ali was not present in his home at the time of raid.



AFRICOM

7. [Attack, Kenya] Explosive Attack On Kenya Church Kills One Child

Sunday, September 30 2012

<http://world.time.com/2012/09/30/explosive-attack-on-kenya-church-kills-1-child/>

The acting police chief in Kenya's capital says an explosive device set off in a Sunday school class killed one child and seriously wounded three.

Moses Ombati said he suspects sympathizers with the Somali militant group al-Shabab were behind the attack at an Anglican church in Nairobi.

Kenya has seen a series of attacks on churches ever since Kenyan forces moved into Somalia to fight al-Shabab last year. Kenyan forces kicked the rebels out of their last stronghold, Kismayo, on Friday.

Grenades are often used in the attacks; Ombati is describing the cause of Sunday's attack as an explosive device.

One church member, Julius Macharia Maina, brought four children to the hospital. One child's head was cut open; the others had bruises. Maina described the attack "emotional and very scary."





AFRICOM

8. [Attack, Nigeria] Bomb Explosion In Zaria, Kaduna State Kills Two

Sunday, September 30 2012

<http://news2.onlinenigeria.com/headlines/198878-bomb-explosion-in-zaria-kaduna-state-kills-two.html>

An explosion and gunfire shook an area around an Islamic school in Zaria, Kaduna state Sunday, leaving two suspected attackers dead and others wounded, emergency officials said.

Details of the blast in the northern Nigerian city of Zaria were sketchy, with initial reports saying that the blast occurred inside the school but a government spokesman later saying that it went off near it.

“It’s close to a boarding school called Albani,” National Emergency Management Agency spokesman Yushau Shuaib said.

“Two suspects were killed. The innocent victims that were injured were taken to hospital.”

Two of the presumed attackers were killed when they exchanged gunfire with security forces after the explosion, he said.

Another relief official said there had also been an exchange of fire between security forces and gunmen Saturday night.

The Boko Haram sect has not claimed responsibility for this attack that backfired badly.

Shuaib said it appeared the school was the target based on initial information that the attackers had sent a warning asking students to evacuate. He was not immediately able to provide further details.

Attackers and security forces appeared to exchange gunfire after the explosion, leaving the two suspects dead, he said.

Another relief official said there had also been an exchange of fire between security forces and gunmen Saturday night. He said Sunday morning’s explosion was the result of an improvised explosive device.

Nigeria’s north has been hit by scores of bombings and shootings blamed on Boko Haram, whose insurgency is blamed for more than 1,400 deaths since 2010. A string of attacks have also hit the country’s centre.

In June, two churches were attacked in Zaria and one in the city of Kaduna, both cities located in Kaduna state.

The church attacks left at least 16 people dead and sparked reprisals by Christian mobs who burned mosques and targeted Muslims, killing dozens. Boko Haram claimed responsibility for the attacks.

Boko Haram has claimed to be fighting for the creation of an Islamic state in Nigeria’s north, though its demands have repeatedly shifted.

It is believed to have a number of factions with varying aims, in addition to imitators and criminal groups who carry out violence under the guise of the group.



AFRICOM

9. [Security, Nigeria] Independence Day Tragedy Averted As Police Defuse Bomb In Jos

Monday, October 1 2012

<http://www.punchng.com/news/independence-day-tragedy-averted-as-police-defuse-bomb-in-jos/>

A tragedy was averted in Jos on Monday when the Plateau State Police Command defused an Improvised Explosive Device on Ajayi Street in the centre of the metropolis.

Our correspondent gathered that the IED was planted by unknown persons at about 10.10 pm on Sunday at the heavily populated area of Kwararafa, very close to the Jos Central Mosque.

Though no life was lost, but the police succeeded in arresting one person over the incident.

The police, while confirming the story, said that though the device exploded before men of the bomb disposal squad, led by ASP Abel Mbibi, got to the scene after they were tipped off by members of the public, they evacuated the device and were able to defuse the tension that arose as a result of the incident.

Police Public Relations Officer, Mr. Emmanuel Abuh, in a statement said the suspect was immediately handed over to the Special Task Force.



AFRICOM

10. [Attack, Somalia] African Troops Face Blast As They Take Somali Port

Tuesday, October 2 2012

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/10/02/us-somalia-conflict-forces-idUSBRE8910E320121002>

African Union troops and tanks entered the former al Shabaab stronghold of Kismayu on Tuesday, but a blast claimed by the al Qaeda-linked militants who have fled the Somali port signaled their intention to fight back.

The government said the explosion caused no casualties, but the incident pointed to al Shabaab's capacity to hit back with guerrilla strikes and bombings in both Kismayu and neighboring Kenya, whose troops led the assault on the town.

Residents and a government spokesman described a loud blast aimed at Somali soldiers patrolling Kismayu's dusty streets, but the rebels said they had detonated a bomb at a building housing Somali troops, "killing many".

"The bomb was planted inside a district administration office building," al Shabaab spokesman Sheikh Abdiasis Abu Musab said, warning of more attacks. "This is only an introduction to the forthcoming explosions."

The African Union forces entered Kismayu for the first time on Tuesday after launching an offensive against the port on Friday, forcing the rebels to flee. Hundreds of Somali government troops and allied militia fighters deployed in the city's winding streets on Monday.

Mohamud Farah, a spokesman for Somali government forces in the southern Juba region, said the militants had thrown a grenade at Somali troops, but there were no casualties.

"A hand grenade was hurled at one of our military cars passing in front of the district headquarter building. No casualties," he told Reuters from Kismayu.

"The grenade missed the car. We have seized one of the three al Shabaab suspects who were behind the grenade attack."

Although the successes against al Shabaab are welcomed by Somalia's government and its international backers, there are fears that even Kismayu's capture may not deliver a knock-out blow to the combat-hardened rebels.

The Islamist militant group, which merged with al Qaeda in February, has carried out a campaign of suicide bombings since it withdrew from the capital last year under military pressure.

Suspected al Shabaab militants threw a hand grenade at a Kenyan police post on Monday in the northern town of Garissa close to the border with Somalia, police said, a day after two police officers were shot dead in the town.

Kenyan authorities blame the rebels for a series of attacks in the east African country since it sent its troops into Somalia last October.

Residents in Kismayu spoke of two grenade blasts, then another big explosion.

"First two successive grenades were hurled at the Somali troops patrolling the middle city streets, the forces



opened fire and then we heard a bigger explosion that shook the whole city in the direction of the district office building," a resident, Halima Farah, told Reuters.

Residents said the African Union troops fired in the air to disperse people who had gathered to watch the tanks rolling into the city for fear that militants would mount grenade attacks.

"AU tanks and Somali military vehicles have taken positions in Kismayu, people have welcomed us," General Ismail Sahardiid, the commander of Somali government forces, told Reuters.



AFRICOM

11. [Attack, Kenya] Kenyan Police Post Targeted, Al Shabaab Suspected

Tuesday, October 2 2012

<http://af.reuters.com/article/topNews/idAFJJOE89100920121002?sp=true>

Suspected al Shabaab militants threw a hand grenade at a Kenyan police post on Monday in the northern town of Garissa close to the border with Somalia, police said, a day after two police officers were shot dead in the same town.

Kenya has been rocked by a series of grenade and gun attacks since it sent troops into Somalia last October in pursuit of Islamist al Shabaab rebels whom it blamed for kidnapping its security personnel and Western tourists.

"A hand grenade was thrown, it dropped and exploded but nobody was injured," Garissa county commissioner Mohamed Maalim said, adding a gunfight ensued for about 10 minutes.

"The police fought back, secured the post and repulsed the gang," he said.

Maalim said police suspected it was an al Shabaab attack, the third in two days, which follows the killing of two policemen in Garissa and a separate bombing in which three children attending a Sunday school were hurt when militants threw a hand grenade at a church in Nairobi.

The attacks on Kenyan soil have intensified since Kenyan troops, alongside other African Union forces, launched an offensive against the southern Somali port of Kismayu, al Shabaab's last stronghold, forcing the rebels to flee.

"This is a heinous act by al Shabaab. They are out to cause chaos out of bitterness from their losses in Somalia," Maalim said. Security sources said police and paramilitary forces were searching for the gunmen.

Most of the inhabitants of Garissa are ethnic Somalis. The town is 180 km (110 miles) from Kenya's border with Somalia.

In July masked assailants launched simultaneous gun and grenade raids on two churches in Garissa, killing at least 17 people in the worst attack in the country since Kenya sent troops into Somalia.

Local residents say tension is running high after the latest attack on police.

"Security officers are going from house to house, breaking into homes and roughing people up," said Mohammed Gabow, former Mayor of Garissa, who is now an elected civic leader in Bulla Iftin, where the police post is located.



AFRICOM

12. [Security, Kenya] Police On Red Terror Alert After Kismayu Raid

Tuesday, October 2 2012

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201210021338.html>

Police said Tuesday they were on a high alert following intelligence reports of imminent terror attacks in the country since the Kenya Defense Forces entered Kismayu port in Somalia.

Police Spokesman Eric Kiraithe announced that security forces had increased surveillance and urged the public to be on the look out for people with ulterior motives.

"We have intelligence reports in respect to terrorist threats from Al Shabaab and their sympathisers since KDF entered Kismayu," Kiraithe told a news conference Tuesday.

As a result, he said, "security forces in the country have heightened their surveillance to ensure the country is safe."

He said intelligence reports had shown that Al Shabaab was actively recruiting women to carry out attacks, including acting as suicide bombers.

"There has been a misconception that it is only men who carry out suicide bombings. But we have established that since Al Shabaab have learnt that there is a lot of attention on men, they are now recruiting women to carry out the attacks," he said and urged members of the public to be on the look out for women dressed in suspicious ways. Such women, he said, should be thoroughly screened.

Kiraithe said they have established that most explosives--particularly grenades used in recent attacks are smuggled into the country from the lawless Somalia which is being liberated by the KDF and AMISOM allied forces.

Kenya has lately suffered several attacks, including Sunday's explosion that killed one child and wounded nine others at a church in Nairobi.

On Monday night, two Administration Police officers were gunned down by suspected Al Shabaab attackers as they patrolled the border town of Garissa--making it one of the most volatile parts of the country.

"We have also sensitised our officers internally to be alert at all times," he said.

Police headquarters has sent out an appeal to businessmen particularly those in the transport and hotel industry to always scrutinise their customers by verifying their identities, nationalities and their mission at respective places.

"Even if one has an identity card or passport, those documents should be thoroughly verified because some are fake," he said.

Below are some of the guidelines issued by police headquarters as part of the safety measures to be undertaken in the country:

HOTELIERS/LANDLORDS/PSV OPERATORS ETC: KNOW YOUR CUSTOMER

- When dealing with your customers always endeavor to establish their identity by examining their identification documents. In a National Identity Card, check the names, date of birth, place of issue, date of issue, district of origin, Division, Location and sub-location.
- In case of a Passport, in addition to the above details, ascertain nationality, Date of issue, place of issue and expiry date. Also check the validity of the visa, the stated purpose of visit, date visa issued and the port of entry into the country. It is also important to take a special note of the countries previously visited. Most passports also have a page on description and in the Kenyan passport; it is normally on 2nd last page.
- Satisfy yourself that the identification provided corresponds with the holder, e.g. holding a passport or ID Card which they have signed but cannot reproduce a similar signature.
- Landlords: In addition to the above details device ways of establishing whether what the tenants keep and do in the rented premises is covered by the terms of the applicable tenancy agreement. For example does the tenancy agreement authorize storage or handling of explosives, welding, metalwork etc?



- P.S.V. Operators apart from knowing your passengers in the manner described above ascertain what luggage/ cargo you are transporting. Remember ignorance of law is no defense and that the Public Service Vehicle (PSV) and other Transport Licensing Board licenses presume carriage of legitimate persons and goods.
- Remember you can be charged for aiding and abetting crime by failing to take preventive action.

POTENTIAL TARGETS

- In addition to knowing your customers as indicated above, keep an eye on the inner and outer perimeter and make a note of persons showing interest. Challenge any stranger showing interest or idling around the premises.
- Contact your local OCS for cooperation.
- Where possible deploy modern technology including CCTV and scanning machines.

UNATTENDED LUGGAGE

- Clearly ascertain the contents and identify the owner of luggage left with you or in any premises for which you are responsible. If you are not certain of the nature of the luggage or identify the owner don't allow.
- Never rush to check or interfere with unattended luggage it may contain explosives awaiting your interference to detonate.
- Endeavor to identify the person who may have left the luggage
- Report to authorities immediately

TERRORISM SCENE

- Never run towards or approach a scene or explosion, be wary of secondary explosions
- Stay away from a scene of explosion and where possible know emergency exits for escape
- Give information to police on any account of the incident correctly and truthfully to assist in investigations.

SUSPICIOUS PERSONS

- Carefully study and note peculiar characteristics
- Note any identifiable characteristics of the person for future description when necessary.
- Ask for identity before transacting any business.
- Report to authorities immediately of any suspicion or peculiarities.
- Politely create an opportunity to interview all strangers to establish their identity: who they are, where they are coming from and where they are going. Attempt interrogation to isolate open lies or deliberately inaccurate information. If they display anxiety or turn hostile- alert authorities.

TRAITS OF A SUSPECT

- Alone and nervous
- Loose and bulky clothing that may not fit the weather
- Exposed wires possibly through sleeves - for circuit detonation
- Rigid body - may be wearing an explosive vest
- Tightened hands - may be holding an explosive device
- Bulky suspicious luggage etc



AFRICOM

13. [Special Interest, Somalia] Al-Shabaab Female Suicide Bombers – The New Terror Tactic

Thursday, October 4 2012

<http://www.newstimeafrica.com/archives/28586>

Police in the country have now confirmed that indeed the Al-Shabaab militants and their sympathizers have come up with new terror tactics which include deploying their female counterparts in carrying out their operations. “The Al-Shabaab have trained and deployed female suicide bombers to carry out their planned attacks in the country,” said Police Spokesman Eric Kiraithe.

Speaking while issuing the report, Kiraithe highlighted that his department has issued guidelines that would be used by hoteliers, landlords, public service vehicles and the general public that would be used in assuring all concerned parties of their security concerns. He stressed that the group has now sought to include their female members in attacking their security officials together with unsuspecting innocent public members.

“We have received vital information courtesy of our intelligence that indicates that the militia is out to cause chaos by any means necessary. We hereby urge all public civilians to co-operate with our security officials so as to enhance the security measures taken so far,” said Kiraithe in a statement. He also added that the retaliatory attacks were as a result of their defeat over Kisumayu Port.

All PSV (Public Service Vehicles) operators have been urged to take the necessary measures as a way of assuring all public commuters of their security. “More emphasis should be given to luggage, cargo and other goods being transported on our roads. Do remember that one can be charged for aiding and abating crime by way of failing to take the preventive measures stipulated,” reiterated the Spokesman.



AFRICOM

14. [Security, Kenya] Kenyan Police Target Landlords In Terror Fight

Thursday, October 4 2012

<http://www.monitor.co.ug/News/World/Kenyan+police+target+landlords+in+terror+fight/-/688340/1524142/-/bjhjmyz/-/index.html>

Police in Kenya have issued a fresh terror alert, asking the public to be extra vigilant and report suspicious persons to the authorities. They also issued instructions on Tuesday on how to identify suspects and gave guidelines to landlords, hotel and lodgings attendants, shop owners as well as public service vehicle crews on what to do to ensure public safety.

Among other measures, customers are to be subjected to “polite interrogations” besides producing identification documents before being allowed into rental houses or hotel rooms.

“Politely create an opportunity to interview all strangers to establish their identity, who they are, where they are coming from and where they are going,” police spokesperson Eric Kiraithe said. He added: “Attempt interrogation to isolate open lies or deliberately inaccurate information. Alert authorities if they display anxiety or turn hostile .” In case of suicide bombers, the police said, a suspect body frame would appear rigid because they would be wearing specially made vests laden with explosives. The caution was given following intelligence reports that the terrorist group al-Shabaab was planning a series of attacks.

Security officers were further alarmed that British fugitive Samantha Lewthwaite, who entered Kenya last year, could be planning a suicide bombing. “The public should also look out for those wearing bulky clothes that may not fit the weather and tightened fists would be a signal they are holding an explosive,” the police added. Share This Story

Security guards who screen people using metal detectors were also asked to pay closer attention with the aim of identifying “exposed wires possibly through sleeves as they could be detonators”.



AFRICOM

15. [Attack, Nigeria] One Dies In Zaria Explosion

Thursday, October 4 2012

<http://www.channelstv.com/home/2012/10/04/one-dies-in-zaria-explosion/>

One person was on Wednesday killed as an explosive device, exploded on Wednesday night at Sabon Gari in Zaria, Kaduna State.

A witness, who pleaded anonymity, disclosed that the incident took place at about 9p.m at the Rendezvous Hotel on Uche Road in Sabon Gari.

He said the incident left several other persons injured.

The security situation in Zaria had deteriorated in the last few days, following the presence of suspected members of Boko Haram in the town.

Confirming the incident, the Army Public Relations Officer, Depot Nigerian Army, Capt. Ibrahim Abdullahi, said security agencies had already rallied round to take control of the situation.

He, however, said the extent of damages done by the explosion was yet to be ascertained.



AFRICOM

16. [Attack, Nigeria] Bomb Explosion Kills Three In Jalingo Bar

Friday, October 5 2012

<http://www.vanguardngr.com/2012/10/bomb-explosion-kills-three-in-jalingo-bar/>

An explosion shook an area around an outdoor bar in the city of Jalingo , police said Friday, with local media reporting that up to three people killed.

“There was an explosion at a beer garden in the Dorowa area of the city,” said police spokesman Amos Olaoye, without providing further details.

The explosion occurred at Dorowa Ward off Barde Way in Jalingo at about 7.40 p.m.

At the Federal Medical Centre, Jalingo, a Medical Officer, Dr Umaru Yakubu, disclosed that one person was confirmed dead while three others whose conditions he described as critical, were rushed to the theatre of the hospital.

He also said that eight others whose injuries were mild were receiving treatment at the accident and emergency ward of the hospital.

Jalingo is the capital of Taraba state, which has been occasionally hit by violence blamed on Boko Haram.

Dorowa is a popular drinking joint in Jalingo where both the local brew, “Burkutu” and “Ogogoro” as well as other assorted alcoholic drinks are sold.

Bars have sometimes been targeted by the Islamist extremists, though crime and local disputes have also led to such incidents.

Taraba’s state parliament on Thursday impeached the deputy governor over allegations of corruption, local media reported.



CENTCOM

17. [Attack, Syria] Car Bomb Kills Four In Eastern Syria

Sunday, September 30 2012

<http://world.time.com/2012/09/30/car-bomb-kills-4-in-eastern-syria/>

A suicide attacker in a parked car blew himself up in an area housing security offices in northeastern Syria on Sunday, killing at least four people, state media said.

Syrian state television and the country's official news agency also said scores were wounded in the mid-afternoon blast in Qamishli, 700 kilometers (435 miles) from the capital, Damascus. The agency said the explosion, which also damaged nearby buildings, was carried out by a "terrorist suicide bomber."

Activists put the death toll at eight and said it was expected to rise because 15 people sustained "serious wounds." The blast targeted a police station in the city, according to the London-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. An amateur video posted online by opposition activists showed a column of white smoke rising between buildings in Qamishli.

The explosion came hours after activists said fighting between Syrian rebels and government forces killed at least five people in the embattled northern city of Aleppo. The dead included a man who has been shot by a sniper near the city's medieval citadel. Several homes were also destroyed in the violence, it said.

The country's commercial capital and largest city, Aleppo is home to some 3 million people and was once a bastion of support for President Bashar Assad. But the city has been hit by fierce fighting since rebels launched an offensive there in July.

The news agency said Assad's troops have carried out a "successful operation" in western Aleppo against "terrorist gatherings" — a reference to the fighting trying to topple the regime. SANA said several rebels had been killed or wounded in the violence, but gave no other details.

On Saturday, a fire sparked by battles between Assad's troops and rebels tore through Aleppo's centuries-old covered market, one of the best-preserved bazaars in the Middle East. It was the worst blow yet to the city's historic center and to a UNESCO World Heritage site in Syria.

The heightened violence in Aleppo drew criticism from the city's industrialists of "insufficient" government protection provided to factories and other businesses in the area.

Fares al-Shihabi, head of Aleppo's Chamber of Industry, told Syria's pro-government al-Watan daily that several previous calls on the government for increased protection against "daily armed attacks" on industrial estates "have gone unanswered."

In response, the chamber was forced to hire guards around-the-clock to protect the businesses against attacks by looters, he added.

Rami Martini, chief of Aleppo's Chamber of Tourism, warned of the vulnerability of tourist sites in the area. He told al-Watan that the violence in Aleppo has "dealt a blow in every sense of the word" to the country's tourism sector. The Aleppo market, a major tourist attraction with its narrow stone alleys and stores selling perfume, fabrics and spices, had been the site of occasional gun battles and shelling for weeks. But amateur video posted Saturday showed wall-to-wall flames engulfing wooden doors as burning debris fell away from the storefronts. Activists said hundreds of shops were affected.

The souk is one of a half-dozen renowned cultural sites in Syria that have become collateral damage in the civil war.

The rebels launched a renewed offensive on Aleppo last week, sparking intense fighting in the city.

An amateur video posted by activists Sunday showed night fighting in Aleppo.

"We want to liberate the city from these shabiha," a man says in the background, referring to Syria's pro-Assad militiamen. In the video, what appears to be a rebel fighter fires projectiles from the cover of a hillside to the shouts of "God is Great" from others nearby.



Another video showed Syrian warplanes flying over Aleppo and heavy smoke rising from the city's skyline. Syria imposes tight restrictions on foreign reporters and the authenticity of these videos could not be verified independently.

Also Sunday, Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan urged Syria's allies to stop backing the Assad regime. "We call on Russia, China and Iran, please review your stance," Erdogan told a conference of his ruling Justice and Development Party.

"History will not forgive those who stand together with cruel regimes," Erdogan said.

Turkey once had close ties with Damascus, but since the Syrian uprising began Ankara has emerged as one of the strongest foreign backers of the Syrian opposition. Turkey has given shelter to tens of thousands of Syrian refugees and Turkish soil has served as a crucial logistical center for rebel fighters since they captured several Syrian border crossings with Turkey over the summer.





CENTCOM

18. [Attack, Iraq] Iraqi Bomb Attacks Kill At Least 32

Monday, October 1 2012

<http://www.irisht Examiner.com/world/iraqi-bomb-attacks-kill-at-least-32-209345.html>

Bombings and shootings killed more than 32 people across Iraq yesterday, underscoring the government's struggle with a stubborn insurgency more than nine months after the last US troops withdrew.

In Taji, 20km north of the capital Baghdad, bombs in three parked cars went off separately, killing 11 people and wounding 24, including several policemen.

Reuters footage of the scene of one of the bombs showed the remains of an exploded car surrounded by several completely and partially destroyed houses and cars.

Taji has one of Iraq's largest military air bases but the bombing hit a civilian neighbourhood.

"A car bomb entered the area and no one... noticed this. Why did that happen? All the houses were destroyed," said Khadiar Abas, owner of one of the damaged homes.

In Baghdad, a suicide car bomb and two parked car bombs went off, killing eight people including a police officer and wounding another 11.

Another blast targeted a bus carrying Iranian pilgrims as it passed through the town of Madaen, about 30km south-east of Baghdad, killing two passers-by and wounding another ten, including seven Iranians.

A suicide bomber in a car blew himself up in the city of Kut, 150km southeast of Baghdad, killing four policemen, police, local officials said.

No group claimed responsibility for the raft of attacks, but a local al-Qaeda affiliate and other Sunni Islamist groups have carried out at least one major assault a month since the last US troops left in December.

Al-Qaeda's local wing, the Islamic State of Iraq, says it has begun a new offensive against mainly Shi'ite targets.

Security experts say it has benefited from the conflict in Syria, which has given al-Qaeda the pretext to seek more money and arms from Sunni tribes, politicians and governments.

Security had been tightened in Baghdad and other provinces after dozens of inmates, including convicted members of al-Qaeda, fought their way out of a prison in the northern city of Tikrit on Friday.

Two more policemen were killed when a car bomb went off in the town of Balad Ruz, 90km northeast of Baghdad.

In Mosul, 390km north of Baghdad, a parked car bomb and two roadside bombs blew up separately, killing a civilian and wounding six.

The last major attacks occurred on Sept 9, in the capital when a series of bombs in mainly Shi'ite districts ended one of the bloodiest days of the year with more than 100 killed across the country.



CENTCOM

19. [Special Interest, Iraq] Iraq Sees Deadliest Month In Over Two Years

Monday, October 1 2012

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2012/10/201210191210102392.html>

September was the deadliest month in Iraq in more than two years, with 365 people killed in violence that included waves of nationwide attacks, official figures show.

Fighters are regarded as weaker than when violence reached its peak in 2006 and 2007, but they remain capable of carrying out mass-casualty attacks across the country.

The statistics compiled by the health, interior and defence ministries showed that 182 civilians, 88 police and 95 soldiers were killed in attacks in September.

Another 683 people were wounded, which includes 453 civilians, 110 police and 120 soldiers, according to the figures.

It was the highest monthly toll given by the government since August 2010, when figures showed 426 people killed and 838 wounded in attacks.

The previous deadliest month this year was July, when 325 people were killed in attacks, according to official figures.

The worst violence of the month occurred on September 8 and 9, when a wave of more than 30 attacks killed 88 people and wounded more than 400.

String of bombings

Sunday was the second-deadliest day in September, with at least 33 people killed and 106 wounded in attacks. The string of bomb and gun attacks occurred in Baghdad and the nearby areas of Taji, Madain and Tarmiyah, and also hit Kut, Mosul, south of the northern oil city of Kirkuk, and areas around Baquba.

In Baghdad's central Karrada district on Sunday, a suicide bomber detonated an explosives-packed car, scattering debris for dozens of metres from the site of the blast, shattering store windows and smashing cars.

A headless, limbless torso surrounded by pieces of flesh lay at the scene.

"I was in my shop and I heard the sound of a very powerful explosion," said another store owner who gave his name only as Abu Ihab. "Dust was everywhere."

"We were sitting in the shop while police were collecting flesh," he said.

"Human flesh was on the sidewalk, being collected and put in plastic bags."

"When the explosion happens, it does not care about any security measures," he said. "I sit in my shop and I am afraid for my life."

Complaints against government

The deadly violence in Iraq and a lack of basic services are two of the main complaints against the government.

"We are tired of this government," said Haidar Mohammed, an employee of a shop on the street hit by the blast on Sunday. "The government does not do anything."

September also saw a brazen prison break in the city of Tikrit in which 102 inmates, among them 47 alleged al-Qaeda members who had been sentenced to death, managed to escape, according to the interior ministry.

The ministry said that weapons had been smuggled into the prison during family visits, and that inmates were also able to seize a guard's weapon, and take others from an armoury.

The inmates launched an uprising in the prison, taking control of the facility. Two high-ranking police officers also reported that fighters outside the prison detonated explosives at the facility's perimeter to aid the escape.

Out of the 102 fugitives, four had been killed and 23 captured as of Friday night, according to the ministry, which also said that 16 security forces members were killed in clashes related to the incident.

Al-Qaeda affiliate the Islamic State of Iraq (ISI) said in July that it was launching a "new military campaign aimed at recovering territory".



An earlier message posted on online forums said the ISI would begin targeting judges and prosecutors, and try to help its prisoners break out.

Fighters have attacked a number of heavily-guarded sites in recent months.

In addition to the Tikrit prison break, targets have included a prison in Taji, police stations, a military base, the counter-terrorism directorate in Baghdad, and an entrance to Baghdad's heavily fortified Green Zone.





CENTCOM

20. [Attack, Yemen] Yemen Forces Kill Three Qaeda Leaders In Bomb Factory Raid

Tuesday, October 2 2012

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/10/02/us-yemen-violence-qaeda-idUSBRE8910FZ20121002>

Yemeni security forces killed three militant leaders on Tuesday when they stormed a house used by al Qaeda for making bombs, the interior and defense ministries said.

Yemen, a U.S. ally, has been in turmoil since a popular uprising ousted veteran ruler Ali Abdullah Saleh in February and is struggling to suppress a lethal insurgency, with the backing of Washington.

Army and security forces raided a house in the southern province of Aden at dawn, killing three militants in clashes that went on for almost two hours, the Interior Ministry said. Four soldiers were wounded.

"A large amount of various explosives was found in most of the rooms in addition to booby-trapped gas cylinders and cars ready to be used in suicide attacks and weapons including a rocket and explosive belts," the Defense Ministry website quoted a security source as saying.

The house, in Mansoura city, was used as a headquarters for al Qaeda leaders in Aden to plan for attacks and a bomb factory, the source said.

Security forces seized documents and computers which contained plans to attack vital establishments in the province including military, security and civil buildings, the source said.

A local security source told Reuters among those killed was a Somali fighter, adding that the cell was behind several suicide attacks and assassination attempts in Aden over the past few months.

Yemen, which borders top oil exporter Saudi Arabia and lies on major world shipping lanes, is home to al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, a group viewed by Washington as the most dangerous branch of the militant network established by Osama bin Laden.

Washington, which has pursued a campaign of assassination by drone and missile against suspected al Qaeda members, backed a military offensive in May to recapture areas of Abyan province controlled by al Qaeda offshoot Ansar al-Sharia (Partisans of Islamic Law).

But militants have struck back with a series of bombings and killings.

On Saturday, a suicide bomber killed himself and a bystander in south Yemen in an attempt to assassinate a government official who had targeted al Qaeda militants.



CENTCOM

21. [Attack, Iraq] Iraq Bomb Kills Three Street Sweepers

Tuesday, October 2 2012

<http://english.al-akhbar.com/content/iraq-bomb-kills-three-street-sweepers>

An Iraqi official says five people have been killed in two separate incidents near the northern city of Kirkuk.

A senior police official in the city, Sarhat Qadir, says three street sweepers were killed after stumbling across a bomb Tuesday morning as they were trying to empty a garbage bin in the nearby village of Zab.

Kirkuk is located 290 kilometers (180 miles) north of Baghdad.

Also on Tuesday, Kirkuk police found two bodies, including that of the district administrator in al-Wihda village.

Qadir says the two were shot dead and that an investigation is under way.

September was the deadliest month in Iraq in more than two years, with 365 people killed in violence according to official figures released yesterday.

Insurgents are regarded as weaker than when violence reached its peak in 2006 and 2007, but they remain capable of carrying out mass-casualty attacks across Iraq.

The statistics compiled by the health, interior and defense ministries showed that 182 civilians, 88 police and 95 soldiers were killed in attacks in September.



CENTCOM

22. [Attack, Syria] Turkey Fires Across Syria Border, Kills Kurdish Rebel

Wednesday, October 3 2012

<http://english.al-akhbar.com/content/turkey-fires-across-syria-border-kills-kurdish-rebel-ngo>

Turkish troops reportedly fired across the Syrian border on Tuesday, killing a member of a Kurdish militia and wounding two others in the first such fatal shooting at the Turkish frontier, according to a UK-based, watchdog group.

"The three Kurds, members of a Kurdish militia hostile to the Damascus regime but also wary of the rebellion, were patrolling the border in (Syria's) Hasaka province when they were hit by Turkish army fire from the other side," Rami Abdel Rahman, director of the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights told AFP.

"This was the first fatal shooting at the Turkish border," he added.

The watchdog group supports Syrian rebels and their allies in their fight to overthrow the President Bashar al-Assad's Damascus regime.

Al-Akhbar could not independently verify the attack or casualty and injury figures.

The incident occurred in the Derbassiyeh region of the northwest province of Hasaka, according to the group.

The monitoring group said that the Kurds were members of the Popular Protection Units (YPG), a militia close to the Kurdish Democratic Union Party (PYD).

Ankara has accused the group of being a front for the outlawed Kurdistan Worker's Party (PKK), which the United States has warned should be denied a safe haven in the region.

Members of Syria's more than two million Kurdish minority have largely stayed out of the conflict roiling the country but many participated in anti-regime protests that erupted in March last year.

They have also distanced themselves from the rebel Free Syrian Army, which is fighting President Bashar al-Assad's forces, fueling suspicions among some of collusion with the regime.

Ankara has accused its former ally Damascus of granting swathes of territory in northern Syria, including on the border, to the PYD as a buffer zone.

Despite distrust between the traditional Kurdish parties in Syria, they signed an agreement in July to unify their ranks.



CENTCOM

23. [Attack, Lebanon] Three Dead In Blast In Hezbollah Stronghold

Wednesday, October 3 2012

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/10/03/us-lebanon-explosion-idUSBRE8920W020121003>

Three people were killed on Wednesday when an explosion ripped through a building in eastern Lebanon, a stronghold of the Shi'ite Muslim militant group Hezbollah, a medical source said.

Hezbollah forces quickly cordoned off the area and prevented journalists from entering the town of Nabi Sheet, 30 km (18 miles) south of the regional centre of Baalbek.

The cause of the explosion was not immediately clear. One source said the blast occurred in a weapons cache but a security source said the building was used to store car parts.

Despite domestic demands for the group to disarm, Hezbollah keeps stockpiles of weapons - including thousands of rockets, saying they will need them in the event of a new war with Israel, a country it fought a month-long war in 2006.

Baalbek is known as a hub for arms and drug smuggling.



CENTCOM

24. [Attack, Syria] At Least 40 People Killed In Aleppo Explosions

Wednesday, October 3 2012

http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2012/10/03/world/middleeast/03reuters-syria-crisis-aleppo.html?_r=0

Four blasts ripped through a government-controlled district close to a military officers' club in the northern Syrian city of Aleppo, killing at least 40 people and wounding more than 90 on Wednesday, opposition activists said. In an image released by the Syrian state news agency, a street was littered with debris after bomb blasts in Aleppo, Syria, on Wednesday.

The attacks within minutes of each other struck the main Saadallah al-Jabiri Square and a fifth bomb exploded a few hundred metres away, state television said, on the fringes of the Old City where rebels and forces loyal to President Bashar al-Assad have been fighting.

"Five minutes after the first explosion a second bomb exploded. A third exploded ten minutes after that," a state television reporter said. "There was a fourth car bomb which exploded before engineering units could defuse it." The station also broadcast footage of three dead men disguised as soldiers in army fatigues who it said were shot by security forces before they could detonate explosive-packed belts they were wearing. One appeared to be holding a trigger device in his hand.

Rebels fighting to overthrow President Bashar al-Assad announced last week a new offensive in Aleppo, Syria's largest city and commercial hub of 2.5 million people, but neither side has appeared to make significant gains so far.

The explosions also came a week after rebels bombed military command buildings in the heart of Damascus and clashed with security forces for several hours.

That was the biggest attack in the capital since July 18 when a bomb killed several senior security officials including Assad's brother-in-law, the defence minister and a general.

BODIES IN RUBBLE

Aleppo is now split in two with Assad's forces mainly in the west and rebels in the east. Several large protests in support of the president have been held in Saadallah al-Jabiri square.

Pro-Assad al-Ikhbariya TV showed footage of four dead men, including one dust-covered body being pulled from the rubble of a collapsed building and loaded onto the back of a pickup truck.

Many of the multi-storey buildings on the square had their facades ripped off and there was a deep crater in the road.

The British-based Observatory, which monitors the violence in Syria through a network of activists, said the explosions occurred next to an Officers Club. Footage showed sandbags near the bomb site.

Fighting only with light weaponry, rebels have resorted to bomb attacks in areas still controlled by Assad.

A pro-Assad Lebanese paper said on Tuesday that Assad was visiting Aleppo to take a first-hand look at the fighting and had ordered 30,000 more troops into the battle. It said Assad would remain in the city.

Opposition activists say 30,000 people have been killed in the 18-month-old anti-Assad up-





rising, which has grown into a full-scale civil war.

For much of the revolt, Assad has retained a grip on Aleppo with many rich merchants and minority groups there, fearful of instability, remaining neutral while protests spread.



CENTCOM

25. [Trend, Syria] Militant Group Al-Nusra Claim Suicide Bombings In Aleppo

Thursday, October 4 2012

http://articles.chicagotribune.com/2012-10-04/news/sns-rt-us-syria-crisis-aleppobre8930be-20121003_1_suicide-bombings-al-nusra-front-al-nusra

An Islamist militant group has claimed responsibility for coordinated suicide bombings in the northern Syrian city of Aleppo that killed 48 people, the SITE monitoring group which tracks Jihadist websites said on Thursday. At least two car bombs exploded on Wednesday in the main Saadallah al-Jabiri Square and another bomb exploded a few hundred meters away, state media said.

SITE said Al Nusra Front claimed responsibility for "blowing up dens" in a communiqué posted on Islamist forums on Wednesday and provided details of its operation, pictures of the targeted buildings after the attacks, and the bombers.

The group said it targeted the Officers' Club in Saadallah al-Jabiri Square, municipal offices, the Amir Hotel, and the Touristic Hotel, identifying each as being either command centers or barracks for security forces and "shabbiha," pro-government militias.

The authenticity of the information could not be verified.

Rebels fighting to overthrow President Bashar al-Assad announced last week a new offensive in Aleppo, Syria's largest city and commercial hub of 2.5 million people, but neither side has appeared to make significant gains so far.

The explosions also came a week after rebels bombed military command buildings in the heart of Damascus and clashed with security forces for several hours.

That was the biggest attack in the capital since July 18 when a bomb killed several senior security officials including Assad's brother-in-law, the defense minister and a general.



CENTCOM

26. [Attack, Iraq] Iraq Bomb Kills Four, Hurts Nine

Thursday, October 4 2012

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-70197-Iraq-bomb-kills-four,-hurts-9>

A car bomb hit a private security convoy in Baghdad on Thursday, killing four people and wounding at least nine others, security and medical officials said.

The bomb exploded in the Mansur area of west Baghdad at about 9:00 am (0600 GMT), killing four people and wounding nine, an interior ministry official said.

A medical source from Al-Yarmuk hospital confirmed the facility had received four bodies, but put the number of wounded at 14.

It was not immediately clear whether the casualties were bystanders, people travelling in the convoy, or both. Neither official gave details on the name of the security company.

Car parts were scattered across the street where the bomb exploded, and a number of shop windows in the area were shattered by the blast, an AFP journalist said.

There were two burned cars at the site of the explosion in addition to the remnants of the car bomb. The area was cordoned off by army and police.

Private security firms in Iraq have faced difficulties in obtaining visas and various licences since United States forces withdrew from Iraq at the end of last year.

Iraq deeply mistrusts security companies over perceived arrogant behaviour by employees of the firms in the past and various incidents of violence involving them.

The most infamous such incident was the 2007 killing of at least 14 civilians in Baghdad's Nisur Square by gunmen from the Blackwater firm guarding a US embassy convoy.

While Blackwater, now called Academi, was later banned from the country, a number of other private security firms still guard diplomats in Iraq and provide security for various foreign companies.



CENTCOM

27. [Security, Yemen] Explosive Device Defused Near Police Station In Bab Al-Yemen, No Injuries

Thursday, October 4 2012

<http://www.yementimes.com/en/1613/news/1480>

A team of military engineers on Wednesday diffused a 1.5 kg TNT explosive device planted 30 meters east of a police station in the Bab Al-Yemen area of Sana'a.

Recently, explosive devices placed by anonymous persons in different areas of Sana'a have become increasingly commonplace. Targets have included both national and international facilities.

A security source told the Defense Ministry-based 26 September Net news site that the bomb was found inside a box of tissues and was timed to go off at 11 a.m. by way of remote operation.

General Ali Mohsen Obaid, spokesman of the Military Committee, told the Yemen Times that anonymous people, most likely affiliated with Ansar Al-Sharia, started planting explosive devices in different areas of Sana'a recently in order to create chaos.

Ansar Al-Sharia is a militant group considered to be affiliated with Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP).

Obaid said investigations are active to discover who is responsible for operations such as Wednesday's attempted bombing as well as the assassination attempt on Defense Minister Mohammed Nasser Ahmed near the Yemeni Cabinet on Aug. 11.

On Sept. 26, the Ministry of Interior announced that the security apparatus foiled an attempt to detonate an explosive device near the German Embassy in Sana'a.

A security source at the Interior Ministry said in a press conference, "The security apparatus found a 12 kg bomb planted near the German Embassy and deactivated it."

On Sept. 21, Sana'a Security Apparatus foiled an explosive device put in a school near the Presidential Compound.

A security source at the Martyr Abdulrazaq's School, located near Al-Sabeen Hospital, said he found a bomb thrown among trees in the school and informed the security apparatus to deactivate it.



CENTCOM

28. [Security, Iraq] Explosives Cache Found In Northern Iraq

Thursday, October 4 2012

http://al-shorfa.com/en_GB/articles/meii/newsbriefs/2012/10/03/newsbrief-03

The Iraqi police in Ninawa province on Wednesday (October 3rd) found a warehouse filled with missiles and explosives south of Mosul, capital of Ninawa province.

"The cache contained 34 Katyushas, 13 anti-aircraft, Russian-made Strela missiles, seven Grad rockets and 200 mortars of different sizes," Ninawa police spokesperson Col. Khalid al-Hamdani told Al-Shorfa.

"Police found the warehouse based on confessions from an al-Qaeda member detained by security forces," he said.



CENTCOM

29. [Attack, Syria] Armenians Killed In Bombings In New Village District Of Aleppo

Friday, October 5 2012

<http://armenpress.am/eng/news/695347/armenians-killed-in-bombings-in-new-village-district-of-aleppo.html>

Bombs were exploded nearby the Dzavaryan National School in the Armenian New Village district of Aleppo at about 22:30pm on October 4, causing death to two Aleppo Armenians. It was reported to Armenpress by the Press Secretary of the National Primacy of Aleppo Zhirayr Reyisyan, adding that the names of the killed were Hasmik Ter Nersisyan-Kirakosyan and Parsum Parsumyan. There were wounded as well, the number of which had not yet been clarified. The wounded were immediately transferred to the hospital.

Reyisyan stated that the emergency body took immediate measures to extinguish the fire and works in that direction had been carried out by late night.

The Press Secretary of the National Primacy of Aleppo reported as well that the explosions caused considerable damages to the nearby buildings and a significant number of apartments were destroyed.

At night of October 5 another bomb was exploded in Suleimania district, again causing considerable material damages. According to Zhirayr Reyisyan, minutes ago one more explosion was blown in Aleppo, about the caused damages of which there was not any information yet.

In Syria more than 30,000 people, including more than 30 Armenians, died in the collisions between the opposition and government forces, which have lasted about 18 months.



CENTCOM

30. [Attack, Iraq] Bombing Near Baghdad Mosque Kills Five

Friday, October 5 2012

<http://www.watoday.com.au/breaking-news-world/bombing-near-baghdad-mosque-kills-five-20121005-275cw.html>

Iraqi officials say a double bombing near a Shi'ite mosque in Baghdad has killed five people, including four worshippers.

Police say that the bombs went off outside the al-Sadrein mosque and at a nearby police checkpoint as Friday noon prayers ended in the mostly Shi'ite neighbourhood of Zafaraniyah in southeastern Baghdad.

They say at least 26 worshippers were wounded.

A medical official in a nearby hospital confirms the casualty figures.

All officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they are not authorised to talk to the media.

Violence has dropped in Iraq since the height of the insurgency a few years ago but militants still launch deadly attacks against security forces and Shi'ites in an attempt to undermine the Shi'ite-led government.



EUCOM

31. [Security, Israel] Weapons Cache Found In Central Israel

Sunday, September 30 2012

<http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-4287195,00.html>

The Central District Police Department has uncovered a large cache of explosives and advanced bomb activation systems in an open area between the towns of Rosh HaAyin and Shoham on Sunday.

Police detectives, who were tipped off about the cache's whereabouts, believe the weapons were meant to be used in at least one assassination attempt. The discovery underscores an ongoing war between area criminal organizations.

"There is only one purpose for which this equipment could be used – killing people," a police source said.

The police speculated that the storage area served as a type of a base belonging to one of the criminal organizations operating in central Israel. Bomb squads managed to neutralize the bombs and the police made efforts to collect evidence that could lead them to the owners of the cache.





EUCOM

32. [Attack, Russia] Woman Injured In Tatarstan Bomb Blast

Monday, October 1 2012

<http://en.rian.ru/crime/20121001/176336270.html>

A woman in Russia's predominantly Islamic republic of Tatarstan was injured on Monday when an unidentified explosive device went off in her apartment, the Interior Ministry said.

The woman found a package on the stairway of her nine-story residential building in the city of Almet'yevsk and brought it into her apartment. The package exploded when she tried to unwrap it.

She was later taken to hospital.

A team of police experts are working at the scene.



EUCOM

33. [Security, Spain] Police Arrest Spanish Man For Allegedly Planning Columbine-Style Attack On University Campus

Thursday, October 4 2012

<http://www.nydailynews.com/news/world/spaniard-arrested-allegedly-planning-columbine-style-attack-article-1.1174802>

Spanish police said Thursday they have arrested a man on suspicion that he planned to imitate the 1999 Columbine school killings by planting bombs around a university campus.

In a statement, police said they seized 140 kilograms (308 pounds) of bomb-making material when they arrested the 21-year-old in the Balearic island city of Palma de Mallorca on Wednesday.

Police said that in his personal diary and Internet blog, the man — a Spaniard only identified by his initials J.M.M.S. — talked of his admiration for the perpetrators of the Columbine attacks and how he planned to place several bombs around a campus in Palma.

The statement said the man had openly expressed his hatred for society, and particularly students, in his diary and blog.

A police spokesman said there was nothing to indicate that the man had planned to carry out the attack for any set ideological reasons.

Twelve students and one teacher were killed in the Columbine attack in Colorado. The two perpetrators then killed themselves.

Spanish police said the arrested man had tried several times to purchase guns for the university attack, but finding this impossible then opted to use bombs by buying explosive-making material on the Internet.

The arrest took place just as the material was delivered to his house, the statement said. Police said they had been watching the man for the past five months after messages referring to Columbine began appearing on Internet pages in Spain.

A police spokesman said the suspect had previously studied electronics at a technical training school and had recently begun a course in business administration. He said he earned money by playing poker on the Internet and had recently moved out of his family house and into an apartment.

The officer spoke on condition of anonymity in keeping with police regulations.





EUCOM

34. [Law Enforcement, Ireland] Gardaí Target Real IRA Bomb Maker

Thursday, October 4 2012

<http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/breaking/2012/1004/breaking15.html>

Gardaí have begun a significant search and arrest operation in north Dublin as part of their investigation into the feud between the Real IRA and criminal gangs in the city that claimed the life of Real IRA key member Alan Ryan last month.

A man was arrested in the course of the searches this morning after firearms, ammunition, live pipe bombs and pipe bomb components were discovered at a halting site in Darndale.

A large group of uniformed gardaí could be seen arriving at the site this morning and panning out to search the large facility off the N32, which links the Malahide Road at Darndale to the M50 in the Northern Cross area.

The teams were searching caravans, outhouses and vehicles on the site and a number of gardaí were also using tools to cut through undergrowth in an effort to find any firearms or pipe bombs that may have been concealed away from the dwellings on the site. A religious grotto at the site was also being closely examined for concealed items.

While the firearms – understood to be shotguns – and pipe bomb components were taken from the site for analysis, gardaí called in the Army bomb disposal team to examine two live pipe bombs that were discovered on the site.

The search operation – carried out by 80 gardaí – involves local garda from Coolock station and other stations in the Garda's northern division backed by the Special Detective Unit, Emergency Response Unit, National Bureau of Criminal Investigation, Garda Air Support Unit and the Garda dog and mounted units.

The man in his late 20s who was arrested is being held under Section 30 of the Offences Against the State Act at Coolock Garda station.

He is from the area and is well known to gardaí for his involvement in organised crime, including drug dealing and helping to source pipe bombs for the Real IRA.

Gardaí believe the man has effectively teamed up with the Real IRA in recent years and used that association to take on other drug dealers in the north Dublin area. He is suspected of directing an operation which has been producing pipe bombs for the Real IRA, some of which were used in attacks by the dissident group late last week.

While those incidents were not publicised at the time, it is understood that three pipe bombs were planted at houses in north Dublin and that two exploded.

The attacks are part of a feud the Real IRA has been engaged in with a number of organised crime gangs in Dublin from whom the Real IRA has been trying to extort money from in recent years.

The gangs have mainly resisted paying the money and in recent years have effectively come together as a coalition; to work together to resist the Real IRA extortion attempts.



As part of their feud with the dissidents, the Real IRA shot at and almost killed one man in Co Meath two years ago. There have followed a series of gun attacks by both sides, with the shooting dead of Real IRA member Alan Ryan in Clongriffin north Dublin last month significantly escalating the feud.

Gardaí believe the pipe bombs used last week were planted by the Real IRA as part of revenge attacks for the killing of Ryan.



EUCOM

35. [Security, Northern Ireland] Ardoyne Bomb Was 'Mortar Type' Device

Friday, October 5 2012

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-19844252>

A bomb found in the Ardoyne area of north Belfast is believed to have been a mortar type device that could have been used to target a police vehicle.

The police have said it put the lives of people in the area at risk.

They have appealed for help to catch those responsible.

More than 30 families were moved out of their homes for several hours on Thursday after police discovered the device at the back of a house in Jamaica Street.

The police confirmed that an army bomb disposal team had made safe a "substantial viable device".

Ch Insp Andrew Freeburn said both he and the community in north Belfast were "extremely angry that somebody would put the lives of the community at risk in this way".

"I would ask people to transform that anger into action," he added.

"If you know anything about this incident please come forward."

The Police Service of Northern Ireland's Area Commander for north Belfast said the device was "intended to murder."

He said: "Once again the community of north Belfast have been disrupted and the lives of residents put at risk by an element intent on causing as much loss of life and disruption as they can.
'Ludicrous act'

"The people who carried this out showed a callous disregard for the lives of everyone in our community.

"This is a residential area and we could have been looking at serious tragedy here."

Ch Insp Freeburn thanked people for their patience during the security operation. Those families who were moved have now returned to their homes.

The BBC's Andy Martin in Belfast says Ardoyne is a predominantly republican area of the city in which there are significant numbers of dissident republicans, including members of Oglagh na hEireann which security forces have described as the most dangerous of the dissident factions.

Sinn Fein councillor Gerard McCabe condemned those who had shown no regard for the community in Ardoyne.

"This was a ludicrous act for anyone to leave a device somewhere where an innocent person could be seriously hurt or even killed," he said.



"It has caused a massive disruption for the people of the lower part of Ardoyne."



EUCOM

36. [Attack, Italy] Fire Bomb Explodes Near Italian Tax Collection Agency

Friday, October 5 2012

<http://www.panarmenian.net/eng/news/126178/>

A fire bomb exploded outside the offices of Italian tax collection agency Equitalia in the northern city of Verona on Friday, Oct 5, police said.

Another device planted in the entrance failed to explode, and was made safe by firemen after the first blast smashed glass doors at the tax office in the early hours of Friday morning, a police spokesman said. Nobody was hurt, Reuters reported.

Equitalia offices have been the target of a series of threats and attacks this year.

The agency is widely associated with tax hikes imposed by the technocrat government of Mario Monti, who has cut spending and led a crackdown on fiscal evasion in a bid to cut public debt that has made Italy a focus of the euro zone crisis.



EUCOM

37. [Security, Ireland] Viable Explosive Device Made Safe In Rathangan Residential Area

Friday, October 5 2012

<http://www.breakingnews.ie/ireland/viable-explosive-device-made-safe-in-rathangan-residential-area-569463.html>

An Army Bomb Disposal Team made safe a viable improvised explosive device in Rathangan, Co Kildare overnight.

The Defence Forces deployed to a residential area in Rathangan following a request from gardaí.

The area had been cordoned off by gardaí and local residents were evacuated.

The team arrived on scene at 11.30pm and examined the device which was located outside a private residence.

The viable device was made safe by means of a controlled explosion.

The remains of the device were handed over to gardaí to assist with their investigations.

The scene was declared safe at 1.45am.



PACOM

38. [Security, India] Explosives Seized In Kerala

Saturday, September 29 2012

http://zeenews.india.com/news/kerala/explosives-seized-in-kerala_802652.html

In a major cache of explosives, 300 kg of ammonium nitrate, 1000 detonators and 16 rolls of fuse wire were seized from a jeep at a checkpost at Kuttupuzha in the district by Excise Department officials.

Two persons have also been arrested in this connection, police said on Saturday.

The explosive substances, recovered during a routine vehicle check up yesterday, were kept under vegetable bags, police said.

Those arrested were handed over to police for further questioning, they said.



PACOM

39. [Trend, Cambodia] Anti-Tank Mine Explodes, Kills Six Cambodian Farmers

Monday, October 1 2012

<http://www.arabnews.com/anti-tank-mine-explodes-kills-6-cambodian-farmers#.UGmErfMGbjw.twitter>

Six farmers were killed when their tractor ran over an anti-tank mine left over from Cambodia's 1980s civil war. District police chief Khum Soy said Monday one of those killed was a 12-year-old child. Two other people were seriously wounded by the blast in northwestern Battambang province.

He said the group was driving home from a market where they had traveled to sell mushrooms and firewood.

The area around Battambang province was a site of intense battles between the former Khmer Rouge regime and government forces.

An estimated 4 million to 6 million land mines and other unexploded ordnance still remain in Cambodia from more than three decades of armed conflict.



PACOM

40. [Attack, Indonesia] Bomb Explodes In Ambon Terminal, No Injuries Reported

Monday, October 1 2012

<http://www.thejakartaglobe.com/home/bomb-explodes-in-ambon-terminal-no-injuries-reported/547594>

A bomb exploded at the Pasar Mardika Terminal in Ambon early on Monday, but no injuries or fatalities resulted.

Police say they so far have no clue of who is behind the bombing.

“We're still investigating it,” National Police spokesman Brig. Gen. Boy Rafli Amar said on Monday. “There's no information yet on whether the bombing is related to certain network, it's still under investigation. Two witnesses have been questioned.”

The homemade bomb exploded in front of Dewi store at 1:05 a.m. No one injured or died in the explosion.

The anti-terrorism squad Densus 88 often carries out counter-terrorism raids in restive Maluku region. Police recently arrested W.D., who is said to have undergone military training in Pakistan. He was allegedly involved in an attack on a hotel in Mumbai, India, in 2008.



PACOM

41. [Law Enforcement, India] Naxal Held In Kondagaon, Tiffin Bomb Recovered

Wednesday, October 3 2012

<http://www.dailypioneer.com/state-editions/raipur/98962-naxal-held-in-kondagaon-tiffin-bomb-recovered.html>

Continuing with anti-Naxal operations, Kondagaon Police arrested a rebel near Totar village. A 30-kg tiffin bomb was also seized.

According to police, Samu, alias Vijay Kashyap is a resident of Kudur Dongrigudapara, Kondagaon.

“He was arrested near the nullah between Totar and Kodonar village on Tuesday. The small action team of Kondagaon Police, along with police staff, was conducting search operation in Bamhani, Islnar, Hangva, Totar and Kodonar area when they found the Maoist in a hut,” said Additional Superintendent of Police (Ops) Surjit Atri. Kashyap panicked on seeing police personnel and tried to flee but was nabbed by the security personnel.

Later, police recovered a 3-kg tiffin bomb along with wire and switch. Kashyap joined the Maoists before 2005. He was involved in attacking a police search party in 2007, according to the police.

Police have charged him under Sections 147, 148, 149, 307 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), Section 25 and 27 of the Arms Act and Section 3 and 5 of the Explosive Substances Act.



PACOM

42. [Security, India] Huge Explosives Cache Found

Wednesday, October 3 2012

<http://www.dailypioneer.com/state-editions/raipur/99255-huge-explosives-cache-found.html>

The Kondagaon Police on Wednesday achieved a major success against the Maoists when they destroyed a camp in the forests of Sejan village and recovered a truckload of explosives and other destructive material.

Inspector General of Police (Bastar range) Himanshu Gupta appreciated the district police team and announced Rs 15,000 reward for each staff involved in the operation. He also revealed that the huge cache of explosives recovered from the Maoist camp was stored for a planned attack on the Bayanar Police Station.

According to Gupta, police received the information that the ultras were accumulating explosives at a camp in the dense forest. Acting swiftly, a joint team of district police and Chhattisgarh Armed Forces jawans was sent to the site, and cordoned off the area.

The Maoists opened fire on the team but after an hour-long encounter, the ultras retreated.

During the search, four rocket launchers, two live pressure bombs, four live hand grenades, 5 kg of explosives, materials used for preparing bomb, wires, detonators, battery, chargers, looted EVMs and Maoist literature, besides daily use items, were recovered.

According to another report, a joint team of the Central Reserve Police Force and district police early on Wednesday confronted guerrillas hiding in the dense forest of Bande in Pakhanjur area in the neighbouring Kanker district.

The encounter between the two sides lasted for two hours, after which the Naxals fled into the forest. During a search, security forces also recovered explosive material and Maoist literature from the site.

According to Kanker Superintendent of Police Rahul Bhagat, a number of these ultras are believed to have been injured in the encounter.



PACOM

43. [Security, India] Police Raid Maoist Hideout And Recover Explosives In Chhattisgarh

Thursday, October 4 2012

http://www.satp.org/satporgtp/detailed_news.asp?date=10/4/2012&id=8#8

The Chhattisgarh Police raided a Communist Party of India-Maoist (CPI-Maoist) hideout in the forests of Keejing hills and seized huge quantity of explosives, an electronic voting machine (EVM), bombs and other materials used for laying landmines in Kondagaon District on October 2, reports The Times of India. Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) Surjeet Kumar said the raid was jointly carried out by the personnel of District Force and Chhattisgarh Armed Force (CAF), who raided the hideout following a tip off that Maoist rebels were camping in the area. The Security Force (SF) personnel also recovered 20 pipe bombs, Chinese and Indian made grenades, booby traps, 50 liters of petrol, wires, batteries, explosives and medicines along with school uniforms and huge quantity of Maoist literature from the hideout. However, newstrackindia.com quoting IANS reported that the recovered items included four rocket launchers, two pressure bombs and four packets of hand grenades.

Meanwhile, a senior Maoist leader and a Maoist couple surrendered before the Police in Rajnandgaon District on October 3. The surrendered Maoists are identified as Murli alias Budkar Hidami, commander of local operating squad (LOS), Shantilal and his wife Deema Salami, an active member of Chetna Natya Manch, the cultural wing of the CPI-Maoist. Murli was a close aide of Maoist leader Diwakar of Tippiagarh area divisional committee who was killed by fellow cadres from Andhra Pradesh.

Separately, Bastar Superintendent of Police (SP) RL Meena told a news agency that, "Maoist insurgents have stepped up their recruitment drive in Abujhmad region forcing minor boys and girls, mostly in their early teens, to join the rebel ranks," reported Zee News. According to Kanker SP Rahul Bhagat, the rebels are conducting recruitment drives through posters. The posters put up at Koyalibeda say that the first phase of the recruitment is expected to commence from October 25 and last till November 15. In the posters, the rebels have also demanded shutdown of Rawghat and Chargaon iron ore mining projects strongly opposing displacement of the villagers in these areas.



NORTHCOM

44. [Trend, United States] TSA Week In Review

Friday, September 28 2012

<http://blog.tsa.gov/>

Black Powder - While resolving an explosives alarm in Anchorage (ANC), Officers discovered a 16 oz. can of black powder in checked baggage along with 1,400 primers.

Inert Grenades Etc. – We continue to find inert hand grenades and other weaponry on weekly basis. Please keep in mind that if an item looks like a bomb, grenade, mine, etc., it is prohibited - real or not. When these items are found at a checkpoint, they can cause significant delays. I know they are cool novelty items, but it is best not to take them on a plane.

- 3 inert grenades were discovered in checked bag at Glacier Park (GPI) resulting in an evacuation of the baggage room as well as the public side of the airport. Some news reports cited the grenades as “Halloween props”, but to our Officers, they looked like 3 live grenades.
- An inert training detonator was discovered during a pat-down search after a Charleston (CHS) passenger alarmed the body scanner. The passenger was an instructor who forgot the item was in his pocket.





NORTHCOM

45. [Law Enforcement, United States] Police Kill Man With Explosive Device In SLC

Friday, September 28 2012

http://www.thespectrum.com/article/20120928/NEWS01/120928001/UPDATE-Police-kill-man-explosive-device-SLC?odyssey=nav|head&nlick_check=1

A man who threatened to detonate a bomb at a Salt Lake City light rail station before an officer fatally shot him Thursday night actually had an explosive, police said.

Police Detective Dennis McGowan said it's not clear how powerful 39-year-old Anthony Mayhew's explosive was, but authorities closed down nearby streets and train service at the Gallivan Plaza TRAX station before shooting him and having robots destroy his backpack about 11 p.m. Thursday.

Mayhew was pronounced dead at a hospital shortly after the confrontation. One officer has been placed on administrative leave pending an investigation into the shooting.

Police responded to the station about 9 p.m. Thursday and said they found Mayhew carrying what appeared to be a switch with wires leading to a backpack.

Mayhew took things out of the backpack and alternately sat down and stood up before he stopped talking to negotiators about two hours later, McGowan said.

When he began walking toward police and didn't comply with orders to stop, one officer shot him, McGowan said.

A police report described the officers as "fearing for their lives and given the credible threat of an explosive device."

After the bomb squad destroyed the backpack, officials collected the remnants and tested it for explosive material.

Mayhew's last address was in West Jordan. Police have not released a motive.



NORTHCOM

46. [Security, United States] Weatherford Still Searching For Lost Detonation Cord

Wednesday, October 3 2012

<http://www.kiiitv.com/story/19729865/weatherford-still-searching-for-lost-detonation-cord>

The search continues in Jim Wells and Duval counties for an explosives detonation cord that an oil field company somehow lost.

It has been about a week and a half since the incident. Employees with Weatherford notified authorities that they had lost three of the cords, two of which were found. The third is still unaccounted for.

Employees said it is like trying to find a needle in a haystack.



NORTHCOM

47. [Attack, United States] Possible Pipe Bomb Explosions Reported

Thursday, October 4 2012

http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20121005/NEWS01/121004033/1002/NEWS01/Possible-pipe-bomb-explosions-reported?nclick_check=1

Des Moines police are investigating reports of possible pipe bombs that exploded early Wednesday morning.

A couple living in the 2500 block of East Ovid Street reported they heard a loud noise and saw a cloud of smoke north of their fence around 2:30 a.m. The next morning, they discovered a hole in the bottom of their fence and found a cap to what they thought could be a pipe bomb, police said.

The couple also found pieces from their fence in the street about 50 feet away, authorities said.

A neighbor also heard the explosion, and both the neighbor and the couple said they had heard two other similar noises in the past couple of weeks.

A third person called dispatch at 2:30 a.m. and 3:45 a.m. to report hearing similar explosions from the 2700 block of East Douglas Avenue. No suspects were listed in the police report.



NORTHCOM

48. [Attack, United States] Bomb-Like Devices Tossed At Orlando Home

Friday, October 5 2012

<http://www.clickorlando.com/news/Cops-Bomb-like-devices-tossed-at-Orlando-home/-/1637132/16867896/-/j2w7p0z/-/index.html>

Police are searching for the person or persons behind a fiery attack on an Orlando home.

According to Orlando police, two bomb-like devices were thrown at the window of a home on Lanette Street around 1 a.m. Friday.

Five adults were inside the home at the time and tried dousing the fire with water before firefighters arrived, according to officers.

No one was injured, police said.

Police believe the home was targeted and the attack is being investigated as arson.

Investigators told Local 6 it could be weeks before it's clear what chemicals were used in the attack.



SOUTHCOM

49. [Security, Colombia] Twenty Bars Of Explosives Seized In The Port Of Buenaventura

Friday, September 28 2012

<http://www.elpais.com.co/elpais/judicial/noticias/incautan-20-barras-explosivos-puerto-buenaventura>

Units of the Navy placed a package containing 20 sticks of explosive type Pentolite, which was abandoned in the Barrio Lleras, urban area of Buenaventura.

The explosives would have an approximate weight of nine kilograms were found in a bag on the pedestrian a central line, from where it was intended to carry out a terrorist attack against civilians and security forces in the port of Buenaventura.

The seized material was verified by personnel of the Group Urban explosionproof Marine Brigade No. 2 and made available to the Technical Investigation Corps, CTI, the Prosecutor's Office.

According to investigations, the explosive would have the ability to affect at least 20 feet around your blast, apparently belonged to Urban Front "Manuel Cepeda Vargas" of the FARC who offends in the area.

So far this year, the Pacific Naval Force has made the seizure of 520 kilos of explosives, preventing the actions of illegal armed groups.



SOUTHCOM

50. [Attack, Colombia] Northern Colombia 'FARC Attack' Kills Policeman

Saturday, September 29 2012

<http://colombiareports.com/colombia-news/news/26261-northern-colombia-farc-attack-kills-policeman.html>

An alleged FARC attack on a police patrol in the north of Colombia has killed one policeman and injured three others, local media reported Saturday.

The attack took place in Tibu, a municipality located in the troubles Catatumbo region on the Venezuelan border.

Authorities told media that members of the FARC's 33rd front detonated a roadside bomb while police patrol was passing.

According to Caracol Radio, one of the injured policemen had to have his leg amputated while another had to have part of his arm amputated.

Catatumbo, a crucial route for trafficking drugs to Venezuela, is one of the most violent regions in Colombia. Rebels carried out at least 147 attacks in the region so far this year.



SOUTHCOM

51. [Trend, Colombia] FARC Responsible For 38 Percent Of Stolen Land

Thursday, October 4 2012

<http://colombiareports.com/colombia-news/news/26341-farc-responsible-for-38-of-stolen-land-govt.html>

Of the thousands of claimants for land restitution, the Colombian government said Tuesday that 38% stems from rebel group FARC pressuring farmers to abandon their land.

According to government figures, there have been 23,199 claims for restitution under the Victims and Land Restitution Law, covering approximately 1,754,275 hectares of Colombian land. Of these, the Ministry of Agriculture attributes 7,946 claimants and 662,468 hectares to the misdeeds of FARC guerrillas.

Of the land allegedly stolen by FARC, 70% has been sowed with explosives, such as land mines, according to Agriculture Minister Juan Camilo Restrepo.

The Victims and Land Restitution Law, which went into effect January 2012, seeks to compensate victims of the country's 48-year armed conflict. The bill is meant to help victims affected by the violence of guerrilla and paramilitary groups rebuild their lives with the help of payments of up to \$11,000, as well as provide land restitution to people displaced by violence.

Over the past 30 years, lands that were abandoned or forcefully seized have added up to nearly 6.65 million hectares. The highest concentration of these cases have occurred in the departments of Bolivar, Magdalena, Sucre, Cesar, Tolima, Meta and Norte de Santander.

President Juan Manuel Santos promised Monday the first properties usurped by FARC guerrillas would be returned to victims this week as part of the process of land restitution and reparation for victims of the armed conflict. "The government has made it very clear: the [Restitution] Law is applied for the whole world. This is a law that we are going to apply for the FARC," he said.

Figures from the Agriculture Ministry, regarding land restitution, have recently been in question. On August 27, Colombia's comptroller transferred evidence to the Prosecutor General's office after finding false information in a follow-up study of the launch of the Victims and Land Restitution Law.



SOUTHCOM

52. [Security, Colombia] Two Boxes Of Pentolite Blocks Discovered

Wednesday, October 3 2012

<http://www.eluniversal.com.co/cartagena/nacional/descubren-dos-cajas-repletas-de-tacos-de-pentolita-93102>

Police of Cauca seized 34 pentolite bars. The dangerous explosive was transported by the form of parcel.

According to research carried out by uniformed Criminal Investigation Branch, Sijin, such as explosives would be destined for the FARC.

This seizure occurred when police units intercepted in the area of El Bordo, El Patia a vehicle carrying 17 pentolite bars.

The police commander of Cauca, Lieutenant Colonel Ricardo Augusto Alarcon, said the explosive was in cardboard boxes, which were in the back of a car affiliated with a package delivery company, which apparently were destined for the municipal seat of El Patia.

Later, alerted to the situation, law enforcement learned that in recent days the same person carrying this pentolite had left two boxes in a post parcel collection with the same name of the sender.

It was in this way that moved to the premises of the company and, after obtaining the approval of the directors of the same, proceeded to check the contents of these boxes. Indeed, inside was another 17 blocks this dangerous explosive.

For official use parcels mode would be the new possibility that the FARC would be used to transport weapons and explosives and evade the authorities conduct checks on main roads and country Cauca.

