



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 news bulletins focused on noteworthy improvised explosive attacks and trends in the IED/C-IED community. For additional information or to be added to the RAPID network, please email the RAPID team (rapid@atsolutions.com) from your government email account.



A man holds ball bearings from an IED attack at a mosque in the Jamrud area of Khyber Agency, Pakistan last week (Express Tribune)

[See [Suicide Bomber Kills More Than 40 At Pakistani Mosque](#)]

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1. Recon Robotics Awarded 5.8 Million In US Military Contracts (Business Wire)

Tuesday, 23 August 2011

<http://www.sys-con.com/node/1954320>

ReconRobotics, Inc. announced today that it has been awarded a series of contracts by the U.S. Army Rapid Equipping Force and the United States Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) for 385 of its Recon Scout® XT micro-robot kits. Also included in these orders are a large number of Recon Scout SearchStick™ devices, which can be used by warfighters to convert any Recon Scout Throwbot® into a pole camera. ReconRobotics plans to complete deliveries of these robot systems by August 30, 2011.

"Nothing makes us more proud than designing and building products that help our U.S. Armed Forces safely and successfully complete their missions," said Ernest Langdon, Director of Military Programs for ReconRobotics. "Our military sees these durable, easy-to-deploy micro-robots as a critical piece of gear for dismounted troops, not unlike their ballistic vests and helmets. Not only do these robots provide immediate visual reconnaissance that saves lives, but they do so without substantially increasing the carry burden of our U.S. Special Forces and dismounted fire teams."

This series of military orders signals an increasing emphasis on personal micro-robots that are deployed at the fire-team level – i.e., one robot for each four- to six-man fire team. Until now, the majority of deployed military robots have been Small Unmanned Ground Vehicles (SUGVs) that weigh 30 to 40 lbs and are typically deployed at the company level (80 to 200 soldiers) to assist in counter-IED missions.

Nearly 2,000 of the company's Recon Scout® Throwbot® systems have been deployed by the U.S. military and international friendly forces, and by hundreds of law enforcement agencies, worldwide. The company's Recon Scout XT weighs just 1.2lbs (524g), and yet it can be deployed in five seconds and thrown up to 120 feet (36m). Like the warfighter's ballistic vest, the miniature Recon Scout XT is a personal device that protects soldiers – in this case by maximizing their situational awareness and standoff distance. During dismounted operations, warfighters often encounter armed personnel or Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs). The Recon Scout system mitigates risk to the warfighter by revealing the internal layout of the enclosed spaces, identifying potential IEDs and the fixing the location of (friendly, indigenous or enemy) personnel prior to making entry.

ReconRobotics is the world leader in tactical, micro-robot systems. The company's Recon Scout® Throwbot® system saves lives by providing immediate situational awareness and greater standoff distance to warfighters and law enforcement personnel. These capabilities protect personnel from hidden threats, enhance mission planning and execution, and minimize collateral damage. The company was formed in 2006 to commercialize robotics technology developed at the University of Minnesota Distributed Robotics Laboratory under funding from the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA). ReconRobotics is based in Edina, Minnesota, USA and markets its products through a distribution network in 33 countries.

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2. **More C-IED Robots For US Navy** (UPI)

Monday, 22 august 2011

http://www.upi.com/Business_News/Security-Industry/2011/08/22/More-counter-IED-robots-for-US-Navy/UPI-95211314038978/?spt=hs&or=si

The U.S. Navy has ordered more man-transportable robots, together with spares kits, from iRobot Corp. of Massachusetts.

The order for more than 100 of the MK 1 MOD 1 robots is worth \$21 million.

The company said it is the fourth order from the Naval Sea Systems Command it has received under a \$230 million indefinite-delivery/indefinite-quantity award previously given it.

Orders under the overall contract stand at \$36 million, it said.

"Improvised explosive devices remain one of the biggest threats to our forces overseas," said Robert Moses, president of iRobot's Government and Industrial Robots division. "iRobot's unmanned ground vehicles save lives every day by providing our troops with the ability to identify and dispose of IEDs from a safe standoff distance."

The MTRS MK 1 MOD 1 is modeled after the iRobot 510 PackBot. These combat-proven robots perform bomb disposal and other dangerous missions.

iRobot has delivered more than 4,000 unmanned ground vehicles to military and civil defense forces worldwide.

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3. **Third Turban Bomb Rocks Southern Helmand** (Long War Journal)

Saturday, 20 August 2011

http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2011/08/third_turban_bomb_at.php

For the third time this summer, a Taliban suicide bomber with an explosive device hidden within his traditional Afghan headdress detonated at an Afghan government center. The Friday attack occurred during a ceremony marking Afghanistan's Independence Day held at the Helmand Military Corps Center. Three Afghan National Policemen were wounded in the attack.

The Taliban-led insurgency is increasingly relying upon formerly-taboo tactics such as female suicide bombers and bombs rigged to traditional Afghan headdresses, called lungee, referred to by the West as "turbans." These tactics have raised the ire of many Afghan communities, particularly among those in Kandahar and Helmand. Afghan lungee are not searched at security checkpoints because of the acute level of cultural sensitivity regarding headdresses. The Taliban have exploited this dynamic and conducted at least three such "turban-bombings" since July 14.

On July 14, a Taliban suicide bomber detonated his headdress during a funeral ceremony for the slain half-brother of Afghan President Hamid Karzai, killing four people, including the ulema council leader, Maulvi Hikmatullah Hikmat, and another senior religious cleric. The National Directorate of Security chief for Kandahar, General Mohammed Naim Momin, immediately condemned the attack and said it violated the Pashtun legal code known as Pashtunwali. "We respect those people who wear turbans and did not check the turban as a sign of respect, but he betrayed this respect and hid explosives in his turban," he told the New York Times.

On July 27, a suicide bomber killed the mayor of Kandahar City, Ghulam Haidar Hamidi, after he exited a meeting and was speaking on his cellphone in a courtyard. The bomber rigged a small amount of explosives in his lungee and approached Hamidi, locking him in a bear hug before detonating the device that killed both of them.

By Aug. 9, President Karzai had met with ulema councils from around Afghanistan and urged a collective strategy to help end the use of "turban bombs" before the phenomenon became more widespread. Karzai asked the clerics to launch a public information campaign to "convince militants not to use turbans and other religious attire to carry out suicide bombings, not to target mosques and to make them aware that suicide was un-Islamic," according to a spokesman for Karzai.

Not surprisingly, the Taliban denied responsibility for the July 14 suicide bombing in Kandahar that killed Maulvi Hikmatullah, and denied that Mayor Hamidi was killed by a "turban bomb." The Taliban, under increased pressure from a stepped-up targeted assassination campaign by NATO and Afghan forces, have been resorting to acute asymmetrical tactics and brutality, including the wanton massacre of Afghan civilians.

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4. **RCT-5 Sweeps Through Counter IED Training** (DVIDS)

Tuesday, 23 August 2011

<http://www.dvidshub.net/news/75768/rct-5-sweeps-through-counter-ied-training#.TIPbBl12HNs>

CAMP DWYER, Helmand province, Afghanistan – Regimental Combat Team 5 Marines and sailors recently completed counter improvised explosive device training here, Aug. 21.

The counter IED course was one of the first training exercises conducted by the RCT in order to prepare its members for the challenges they will face while operating in southern Helmand province.

“The biggest thing we want these guys to get out of this is confidence in their tools, to be able to employ a metal detector as well as to be able to operate comfortably in an IED environment,” said Staff Sgt. Jennifer Ramsey, EOD team leader, and a native of Charlottesville, Va. “The IED threat out here is obviously very well known.”

Explosive ordnance disposal technicians are embedded with infantry units to gain first-hand knowledge of the IED threat Marines face on a daily basis. The knowledge and experience of EOD technicians and infantry Marines arms the members of RCT-5 with the most up to date tactics, techniques and procedures in the counter IED fight.

The course began with in depth classroom instruction covering types, production, placement and detection of IEDs. Particular emphasis was placed on the production and components of homemade explosives. A Marine’s ability to identify these components and prevent the production of HME is instrumental in decreasing the number of IED attacks on coalition forces.

Practical application followed classroom instruction. Marines and sailors acquired hands-on experience with various metal detectors, sweeping narrow lanes of earth laced with simulated IEDs. As students found these phony threats, instructors insured they were using the proper procedures to identify and mark the simulated devices.

Students next moved from the IED lanes to the enhanced IED course. This course placed Marines and sailors in an environment similar to those they will face while patrolling in southern Helmand. They worked together as a team maneuvering through simulated rural and urban terrain, utilizing everything they had learned during classroom instruction and practical application.

More often than not members of RCT-5 put their earlier training to good use, finding simulated IEDs and quickly marking or clearing the threat. Complacency, however, was rewarded by the sound of a controlled detonation of C4 adjacent to the training area, reminding students that the counter IED fight is a high stakes one.

“The training was different than anything we did stateside because we’re learning from an EOD team who knows the area of operation and has first-hand knowledge of the enemy’s TTPs,” said Sgt. William R. Biggs, a Personal Security Detachment vehicle commander and native of Frankfurt, Ky. “As a leader, this helps me ensure the safety of the Marines under my charge and the completion of our mission.”

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Now that RCT-5 has boots on the ground in southern Helmand, every training evolution is approached with a renewed sense of purpose.

"This hits a little closer to home since we are in country now," said Pvt. Corey Porter, a machine gunner from Columbia, Mo., with the PSD. "You definitely take it seriously because this kind of stuff is going to save your life and make sure the Marines behind you get home as well."

Editors Note: RCT-5 is currently transitioning with RCT-1 and is assigned to 2nd Marine Division (Forward) which heads Task Force Leatherneck. The task force serves as the ground combat element of Regional Command (Southwest) and works in partnership with the Afghan National Security Forces and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to conduct counterinsurgency operations. The unit is dedicated to securing the Afghan people, defeating insurgent forces and enabling ANSF assumption of security responsibilities within its area of operations in order to support the expansion of stability, development and legitimate governance.

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5. **Elite Afghan Force Destroys 4,000 Kg Ammonium Nitrate** (Long War Journal, British Forces News)
Monday, 22 August 2011

LWJ: http://www.longwarjournal.org/threat-matrix/archives/2011/08/elite_afghan_force_destroys_in.php

BFN: <http://bfbs.com/news/afghanistan/large-bomb-making-haul-discovery-afghan-forces-50834.html>

Long War Journal:

Members of an elite counterterrorism unit of the Afghan National Directorate of Security (NDS) called BOST 170 raided an insurgent explosive cache in the Lashkar Gah district of Helmand province on Aug. 21 and seized the largest amount of homemade explosive precursors in the area since 2006. Lashkar Gah district is one of several regions for which NATO transitioned security responsibility to the Afghan government and security forces in May.

Some 60 soldiers from BOST 170 helped conduct the heliborne operation that confiscated over four tons of ammonium nitrate fertilizer, the key ingredient in over 80% of the main charges found in improvised explosive devices (IEDs) in Afghanistan. The sacks of prohibited fertilizer were destroyed in place with assistance from Task Force Helmand's Brigade Reconnaissance Force (BRF) demolition team.

NATO assisted with the creation of the elite BOST 170 counterterrorism unit in 2008 to help conduct reconnaissance, interdiction, and seizure operations.

The Helmand provincial governor released a statement on the recent raid and quoted NDS head General Nazar Ali Wahidy, who said: "These explosives were skillfully kept beside undergrowth and terrorists wanted to make IEDs from them and use them in different sorts of attacks. The NDS of Helmand discovered the ammonium nitrate parcels which could have made IEDs. By discovering and removing the explosives, the NDS stopped a big disaster."

The commando raid against the explosives cache highlights the continuing battle against the IED threat. From April to June this year, 3,845 IEDs exploded or were found, according to the Pentagon's Joint IED Defeat Organization (JIEDDO). The numbers of Coalition forces killed and wounded in IED attacks rose 15 percent between April and June compared to the same time frame last year. In June, the usage of IEDs was 25 percent higher than average.

The area of operations where BOST 170 seized the explosives cache remains one of the worst-affected parts of Afghanistan. The type of explosive precursors seized, ammonium nitrate, continues to plague security forces throughout Afghanistan. Irene Smith, spokeswoman for JIEDDO said: "During the last 12 months, an unending supply of calcium ammonium nitrate, originating almost exclusively from Pakistan, has been used to produce IEDs in Afghanistan despite a countrywide ban."

On July 30, a minivan carrying civilians from Lashkar Gah to the adjacent district of Nahri-Saraj struck an insurgent-planted IED, killing 16 Afghans and wounding several others. On August 13, another insurgent-planted IED killed five civilians traveling through the same area, according to local authorities. The Taliban did not take responsibility for either attack, but they rarely admit to attacks that kill civilians. In both instances, the bombs were placed on the roadway overnight and were detonated by early morning road traffic.

Lastly, on August 18, an IED destroyed a minibus carrying Afghan civilians through the western province of Herat. At least 22 men, women, and children perished in the blast, which local authorities blamed on Taliban insurgents. The previous year, a similar IED attack in the same area of the Obe district killed 14 civilians.

British Forces News:

Afghan forces have uncovered more than four tonnes of illegal fertiliser - which is used by insurgents to make homemade explosives and IEDs - hidden in the Lashkar Gah district of Helmand Province.

The find of ammonium nitrate, an essential bomb making substance, is the biggest made in the UK's area of operations since 2006.

Acting on intelligence from the Afghan National Directorate of Security (NDS), soldiers from BOST 170, an elite arm of the NDS who focus on counter-terrorism, planned an operation out to an area called Khosh Kowa, around twenty kilometres east of the city of Lashkar Gah.

In total, sixty troops from BOST 170 partnered with Task Force Helmand's Brigade Reconnaissance Force (BRF) were airlifted in two Chinook helicopters to where the intelligence had suggested the cache was hidden.

The British forces put in place an outer cordon, allowing the Afghan forces to move in and further examine the two places believed to house the material.

After checking the first site for booby traps and IEDs, the soldiers started digging into the dusty ground and began to uncover bag after bag, filled with the highly explosive chemicals.

At the second site close by, the team cleared away a section of bush that had been used to hide another pile of bags.

In total, the sacks weighed in at 4,150 kilograms. Ammonium nitrate, which is banned in Afghanistan, is the primary ingredient in the explosives used in the country.

To ensure that the insurgents could never exploit any of the material, the decision was made by the Afghan soldiers to destroy the whole lot in a controlled explosion. With assistance from the BRF's Counter-IED experts, the bags were blown up, leaving a crater ten metres wide.

The find is the biggest ever for BOST 170, who were formed in 2008 and have been trained by International Security Assistance Force troops operating in Helmand.

In a statement released by the Helmand Provincial Governor, the head of the NDS General Nazar Ali Wahidy said: "These explosives were skilfully kept beside undergrowth and terrorists wanted to make IEDs from them and use them in different sorts of attacks. The NDS of Helmand discovered the ammonium nitrate parcels which could have made IEDs. By discovering and removing the explosives, the NDS stopped a big disaster."

Captain Gus Precious RM is the Officer Commanding the BRF's Brigade Patrol Troop who helped support the operation: "It was the Afghans' willingness to find and eradicate the IEDs, which harm both our colleagues and civilians, which directly contributed to this positive outcome. This amount of ammonium nitrate would have been used to make hundreds of IEDs and its destruction will significantly affect the insurgents' ability to target Afghan and coalition forces in Helmand."

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6. ISAF Forces Kill Senior Taliban Leader; Detain IED Facilitators (ISAF)

Wednesday, 24 August 2011

<http://www.isaf.nato.int/article/isaf-releases/isaf-joint-command-morning-operational-update-august-24-2011.html>

A combined Afghan and coalition security force killed a senior Taliban leader and one other insurgent during a security operation in Ghormach district, Faryab province, yesterday.

Mullah Bahuddin was a senior Taliban leader responsible for directing multiple attacks on Afghan National Security Forces, and facilitating weapons distribution and suicide bomb attacks in the area.

He was a key insurgent leadership figure, connecting the greater Badghis and Ghormach Taliban groups.

The security force located Bahuddin and one of his subordinates earlier in the day, using information received through reports from locals. As the force conducted a search to detain the two insurgents, it observed the two men were armed. A firefight ensued, and Bahuddin and his subordinate were both killed. Following the engagement the security force confiscated a machine gun, rocket propelled grenade rocket motors, and a pistol from the insurgent location.

Bahuddin is one of more than 50 Taliban insurgents killed since the beginning of the year during security force operations in Faryab province.

In other International Security Assistance Force news throughout Afghanistan:

South

An Afghan and coalition combined security force discovered 2,200 pounds (1,000 kgs) of marijuana seeds and 3,300 pounds (1,500 kgs) of hashish while on a dismounted patrol in Zharay district, Kandahar province, yesterday. The drugs were seized and safely destroyed by coalition forces.

In Nahr-e Saraj district, Helmand province, an Afghan and coalition combined security force detained several suspected insurgents during a security operation targeting a Taliban facilitator, yesterday. The facilitator is responsible for coordinating the movement of fighters, roadside bomb materials and ammunition to aid Taliban leaders in the region.

A combined Afghan and coalition security force detained two suspected insurgents during a security operation in Panjwa'i district, Kandahar province, yesterday. The target of the operation was a Taliban leader who directs a team of sub-leaders and fighters in the area.

East

In Maiden Shahr district, Wardak province, a combined Afghan and coalition patrol detained numerous insurgents during an operation targeting a criminal leader, yesterday. The target is responsible for numerous improvised explosive device and complex attacks against ANSF and coalition forces. The detainees were

taken by Afghan Security Forces for further questioning.

Also in the east, a combined Afghan and coalition security force detained several suspected insurgents, yesterday, during a security search for a Taliban facilitator in Khugyani district, Nangarhar province. The facilitator is responsible for direct fire attacks against Afghan National Security Forces, and also assists with the movement of fighters and weapons within the district.

Finally, in Jani Khel district, Paktika province, a coalition patrol discovered a weapons cache yesterday. The cache, discovered while on a routine patrol, included two recoilless rifles, four recoilless rifle rounds, detonation cord and 51 pounds (23 kgs) of bulk explosives. Coalition forces seized and safely destroyed all items.

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7. ISAF Forces Detain Suspected IED Facilitator In Farah (ISAF)

Thursday, 18 August 2011

<http://www.isaf.nato.int/article/isaf-releases/isaf-joint-command-evening-operational-update-august-18-2011-2.html>

A combined Afghan and International Security Assistance Force patrol killed several insurgents during an operation in Nerkh district, Wardak province, yesterday.

The insurgents were killed after they engaged the patrol with small-arms fire.

The patrol found and seized a quantity of small arms and ammunition, which were safely destroyed on site.

In other International Security Assistance Force news throughout Afghanistan:

East

A combined Afghan and coalition patrol detained several insurgents during an operation targeting an insurgent leader in Kabul district, Kabul province, yesterday. The purpose of the operation was to disrupt insurgency activities in and around the Kabul province. The detainees were taken in by Afghan Security Forces for further questioning.

West

In Pur Chaman district, Farah province, a combined Afghan and coalition patrol detained several suspected insurgents during an operation targeting a Taliban improvised explosive device facilitator, yesterday. The facilitator coordinates the movement of IEDs to insurgent groups who carry out attacks against ANSF and coalition forces throughout the Farah and Nimroz provinces. The detainees were taken in by Afghan Security Forces for further questioning.

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8. ISAF Forces Detain Multiple Persons Linked To Roadside Attacks; Seize IED Materials (ISAF)

Monday, 22 August 2011

<http://www.isaf.nato.int/article/isaf-releases/isaf-joint-command-morning-operational-update-august-22-2011.html>

An Afghan and coalition combined security force killed several insurgents and detained a Haqqani network facilitator in Nadir Shah district, Khost province, yesterday.

The facilitator was responsible for coordinating small arms and indirect fire attacks. He also purchased equipment and supplies for insurgents in the area.

While searching the area, the security force observed several armed insurgents. An engagement ensued and several insurgents were killed, while another was wounded.

The security force also confiscated several AK-47 assault rifles, roadside bomb making materials and chest racks following the engagement. Completing the operation, the security force located and detained the targeted facilitator and multiple associates.

In other International Security Assistance Force news throughout Afghanistan:

North

In Pul-e Khumri district, Baghlan province, a combined Afghan and coalition security force detained a Taliban leader and one associate during a security operation yesterday. The leader directed a cell of fighters in roadside bomb attacks against Afghan National Security Forces and was responsible for levying illegal taxes from local civilians.

South

In Nahr-e Saraj district, Helmand province, an Afghan and coalition combined security force detained several suspected insurgents during a security operation yesterday. The insurgents were found while the security force was conducting a search for a Taliban leader responsible for a cell of fighters in the district.

East

In Sabari district, Khost province, an Afghan and coalition combined security force detained one suspected insurgent yesterday while searching for a Haqqani network leader. The leader is responsible for coordinating roadside bomb and direct action attacks against Afghan National Security Forces.

Also in the East, a combined Afghan and coalition security force captured a Haqqani network leader and several associates during a security operation in Orgun district, Paktika province. The leader directed a large cell of fighters in conducting roadside bomb attacks in the district.

Finally, in Tagab district, Kapisa province, a combined Afghan and coalition security force detained multiple

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suspected insurgents yesterday while searching for a Taliban leader. The targeted leader conducts roadside bomb attacks against Afghan National Security Forces.

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9. ISAF Forces Detain 2 Persons Linked To Roadside Attacks; Destroy 2 Ordnance Facilities (ISAF)

Sunday, 21 August 2011

<http://www.isaf.nato.int/article/isaf-releases/isaf-joint-command-morning-operational-update-august-21-2011.html>

A combined Afghan and coalition security force captured a Taliban leader and several associates during a security operation in Panjwa'i district, Kandahar province, yesterday.

The Taliban leader was responsible for coordinating attacks and acquiring weapons for insurgents in the district.

The force also destroyed an unstable explosive ordnance facility during the operation, neutralizing the threat to Afghan civilians in the area.

In other International Security Assistance Force news throughout Afghanistan:

South

In Qalat district, Zabul province, an Afghan and coalition combined security force captured a Taliban leader and one suspected insurgent during a security operation, yesterday. The detained leader was responsible for leading attacks against Afghan National Security Forces in the district. He also coordinated roadside bomb placements and facilitated weapons for other insurgents.

An Afghan and coalition combined security force destroyed an unstable explosive ordnance facility and detained two suspected insurgents in Nahr-e Saraj district, Helmand province, yesterday. The target of the operation was a Taliban leader involved in the facilitation, movement and preparation of heavy weapons throughout the upper Gereshk area. During the search, the security force came across the facility. After securing the area and ensuring no civilians were present, the force destroyed the facility, which was laden with explosives.

East

In Nerkh district, Wardak province, a combined Afghan and coalition security force killed two insurgents and detained several suspected insurgents during a security search for a Hezb-e Islami Gulbuddin leader, yesterday. The leader is the bodyguard for the highest-appointed Hezb-e Islami Gulbuddin district leader. While searching for the leader, the force noticed several armed insurgents hiding in a nearby tree line. After they identified the threat, the force fired at the armed insurgents, killing two. Following the engagement, the force seized multiple grenades, AK-47 assault rifles and chest racks.

An Afghan and coalition combined security force killed two insurgents during a search for a Haqqani network leader in Zurmat district, Paktiya province, yesterday. The targeted leader is responsible for building roadside bombs and coordinating direct action attacks in the district. The security force was led to the area after receiving several tips from local citizens about insurgent activity in the area. While searching the area, the force observed two armed insurgents manoeuvring in the area. A fire fight ensued and the two insurgents

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were killed. The deceased insurgents were armed with several grenades, AK-47 assault rifles, blasting caps for explosives, detonation cord and chest racks. No civilians were harmed during this operation.

Lastly, an ISAF Unmanned Aerial Vehicle made a forced landing in Jalalabad city, Nangarhar province, yesterday. While the exact cause of the forced landing is under investigation, initial indications suggest mechanical issues may be the cause. The UAV was conducting routine operations at the time of the crash. Security forces assess no civilians were injured during this incident and there are no reports of enemy activity in the immediate area.

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10. ISAF Forces Detain Persons Linked To Roadside Attacks (ISAF)

Saturday, 22 August 2011

<http://www.isaf.nato.int/article/isaf-releases/isaf-joint-command-morning-operational-update-august-20-2011.html>

A combined Afghan and coalition security force detained numerous suspected insurgents during a security operation targeting a Taliban leader in Kandahar city, Kandahar province, yesterday.

The target of the search was an insurgent leader responsible for planning imminent attacks against Afghan government compounds throughout Kandahar City.

In other International Security Assistance Force news throughout Afghanistan:

North

In Aliabad district, Kunduz province, a combined Afghan and coalition security force detained several suspected insurgents while searching for a Taliban leader, yesterday. The leader facilitates the movement and acquisition of weapons for insurgents in the district.

South

An Afghan and coalition combined security force detained one suspected insurgent while searching for a Taliban facilitator in Nahr-e Saraj district, Helmand province, yesterday. The facilitator is responsible for building and supplying roadside bombs to Taliban fighters in the area.

East

In Sabari district, Khost province, a combined Afghan and coalition security force detained numerous suspected insurgents yesterday while searching for a Haqqani network leader. The leader plans and conducts direct action and roadside bomb attacks against Afghan National Security Forces.

An Afghan and coalition combined security force detained several suspected insurgents during a search for a Haqqani network leader in Zurmat district, Paktiya province, yesterday. The leader coordinates roadside bomb and direct action attacks Afghan National Security Forces.

Finally, in Charkh district, Logar province, a combined Afghan and coalition security force detained two suspected insurgents during a security search for a Taliban facilitator. The facilitator is responsible for manufacturing roadside bombs and moving roadside bomb components for attacks against Afghan National Security Forces.

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11. **ANP Arrests 10 Year-Old Suicide Bomber From Pakistan** (Afghan Ministry of Interior)

Sunday, 21 August 2011

<http://moi.gov.af/en/news/2994>

Afghan National Police arrested a 10 year-old suicide bomber, citizen of Pakistan (Abdul Samad) who was kidnapped from Quetta City of Pakistan three months ago by enemies of peace and Islam. He was taken to one of the terrorist education centre across the border and prepared for a suicide bombing. Before reaching his target, he was identified and arrested by Afghan National Police in PD 10th area, Kandahar City.

Ministry of Interior Affairs strongly condemns this unforgivable, shameful, un-Islamic and inhumane act of the enemies of peace and stability for using the innocent children, Afghan and Islamic culture for suicide bombing.

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12. **Karzai, ISAF Condemn Herat Province IED Attack** (AFPS)

Thursday, 18 August 2011

<http://www.defense.gov/news/newsarticle.aspx?id=65073>

Afghan President Hamid Karzai, his government's interior ministry and the International Security Assistance Force jointly condemned today's improvised explosive device attack that reportedly killed numerous civilians and wounded many others in the Tark Abad district of Afghanistan's Herat province, military officials reported.

Initial reports indicate 24 Afghans were killed and 11 others were wounded when IEDs struck two separate vehicles. Among the dead are children and five women. Afghan officials said the Taliban were behind the attacks.

"Insurgents plan attacks such as these without regard for the civilians they kill, looking for the attention of the media," said Navy Rear Adm. Hal Pittman, an ISAF spokesman. "The Afghan people see the selfish destruction the insurgents bring. ISAF joins President Karzai and [the interior ministry] in condemning this atrocity."

In other Afghanistan news, Marine Corps Gen. John R. Allen, commander of NATO's International Security Assistance Force, issued a statement today in which he wished the Afghan people a joyous Independence Day holiday.

Allen's statement reads:

"To the honorable people of Afghanistan -- Salam-u-Alaikum! On behalf of all the members of the NATO International Security Assistance Force, I would like to wish you a joyous celebration during the Afghanistan Independence Day holiday. On this occasion, I express my heartfelt appreciation to all Afghans faithfully serving their country, whether in government, as members of the Afghan National Security Force, or as peace-loving civilians.

"For ten years, ISAF and its members have been working with our Afghan brothers and sisters to build a stronger, freer, and safer Afghanistan. Together, we have crippled the al-Qaida terrorist organization in the region and worked tirelessly to weaken the insurgency. Together, we continue to promote the conditions necessary for a stable and free Afghanistan. And together, we will ensure a prosperous future for the people of Afghanistan.

"Earlier this year, ever-strengthening Afghan National Security Forces began assuming primary security responsibility from ISAF forces in several areas throughout the country. These Afghan forces will continue to grow in both quantity and quality, so that in the near future, they will be trained, equipped, and capable of independently defeating the insurgents wherever they may try to hide.

"I, along with every member of my command, am proud of the progress being made, Shohna ba Shohna with our Afghan partners. I look forward to the continued progress that will be made through 2014 and beyond, as

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the nations of ISAF remain forever faithful hamkar to the Afghan people, and we will continue to support a free and stable Afghanistan.

“We are bound together in our efforts and sacrifices, and we will continue to work toward a peaceful and prosperous Afghanistan. That bond will remain strong long after we’ve prevailed over the insurgency, and will ensure Afghanistan is a country where its people can have faith in their government and live without the fear of violence. With courage and honor, together we will prevail.”

In Afghanistan operations yesterday:

-- A combined Afghan and coalition force killed numerous insurgents and detained two others during a security operation in the Khugyani district of Nangarhar province. The security force was searching for a Hezb-e Islami Gulbuddin terrorist organization leader when they observed several groups of heavily armed insurgents. A firefight ensued when the insurgents, armed with rocket-propelled grenades, machine guns and assault rifles, attacked the security force. The target of the operation was an insurgent leader who directs a group of Hezb-e Islami Gulbuddin and Taliban fighters in the district. He also plans and conducts ambush and roadside-bomb attacks against Afghan forces.

-- In the Ghormach district of Faryab province, a combined force killed two insurgents and detained a suspect while searching for a senior Taliban leader. The leader is the Taliban-appointed deputy governing official for insurgent operations in the Shirin Tagab district, and is responsible for roadside-bomb and rocket attacks against Afghan forces.

-- A combined force detained a Taliban leader and a suspected insurgent in the Qalat district of Zabul province. The leader was responsible for roadside-bomb attacks against Afghan security forces patrolling the Tarnak Wa Jaldak and Qalat districts.

-- In the Arghandab district of Kandahar province, a combined force detained a suspect during an operation targeting a Taliban leader who conducts intimidation operations against Afghan civilians and coordinates attacks against Afghan forces.

-- Also in Kandahar province, a combined force detained numerous suspected members of the Taliban during a security operation in the Panjwai district. The target of this operation is a Taliban leader who directs several lower-ranking leaders and fighters in the area.

-- A combined Afghan and coalition force detained several suspects in the Nahr-e Saraj district of Helmand province. The force conducted the operation to disrupt a Taliban cell responsible for running a prison operation in the area.

-- A combined force killed two insurgents and detained several suspects during a security operation in the Pul-e Alam district of Logar province. The force was searching for a Taliban leader who coordinates and plans attacks against Afghan security forces. The combined force confiscated rocket-propelled grenades, assault rifles, several other grenades and chest racks.

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-- A combined force detained several suspects during a search for a Taliban leader in Ghazni city, Ghazni province. The leader manages fighters, facilitates roadside bomb operations and coordinates attacks with other Taliban leaders and facilitators.

In Aug. 17 operations:

-- A combined force found and safely destroyed an explosives cache in the Lashkar Gah district of Helmand province. The cache contained 9,149 pounds of ammonium nitrate and 3,858 pounds of homemade explosives.

In Aug. 16 operations:

-- A combined Afghan and coalition operation resulted in the detention of a key roadside-bomb facilitator and several other suspected insurgents in the Kabul district of Kabul province.

-- In the Now Zad district of Helmand province, a combined patrol detained numerous suspects during an operation targeting a Taliban leader who is responsible for attacks against Afghan and coalition forces.

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13. **Heart Bomb Targets US Base, Kills 25** (BBC)

Thursday, 18 August 2011

http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5hb7VaczQ3tQHXY_GVWcm3nmpC7EQ?docId=CNG.b990893f53ecd8dbb389b03f5e073bc2.721

HERAT, Afghanistan — Bomb attacks killed 25 people in Afghanistan on Thursday, ripping through a minibus packed with civilians and targeting a US-run base in the east bordering Pakistan, officials said.

The attacks in opposite ends of the country underscored how pernicious Taliban-led insurgents have become in fighting to bring down the Western-backed government of President Hamid Karzai and evict 140,000 US-led foreign troops.

Women and children were among the casualties when a roadside bomb tore through the minibus in the western province of Herat, killing 22 civilians, the provincial government said.

The bus was travelling between the district of Obe and the provincial capital Herat city, local administration spokesman, Moheyddin Noori, told AFP.

In a second explosion in the same district one woman was killed and seven men were wounded when their truck hit another improvised bomb, Noori said.

"In total we have 23 dead and seven injured," Noori said, speaking at the Herat city hospital.

The local government spokesman blamed the bombing on "the armed opposition groups" -- a reference to Taliban-led insurgents, who have been fighting to win back power since the 2001 US-led invasion ousted them from government in Kabul.

Improvised bombs, built with old ammunition, have been the weapon of choice for the Taliban and other insurgents for nearly 10 years.

But the poorly-made devices often kill civilians travelling on Afghan dirt roads between their villages and big cities.

Military officials say the makeshift bombs, also known as IEDs (improvised-explosive devices) are the main killer of troops in the US-led NATO force deployed in Afghanistan and local Afghan security forces.

The Herat explosion followed a suicide car bombing at a US-run base in the eastern province of Paktia, in which two Afghan guards died.

While western Afghanistan is considered relatively secure, the east has long been a flashpoint for violence, which Western officials say is fuelled by rear bases operated by the Taliban and other Islamist networks in Pakistan.

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"The bomber was in a vehicle. He tried to enter the base (but) the guards did not let him. He was frustrated and detonated at the very, very first gate," a coalition spokesman said.

"Two Afghan-contracted guards were killed," the spokesman told AFP.

The Paktia provincial police chief told AFP three people, two contracted guards and a border police officer in a nearby police base, had been wounded.

The police chief, Abdul Ghafar Sapai, told AFP that the distance between the first barrier, where the truck bomb detonated, and the main gate was more than 100 metres (300 feet).

The base houses small groups of troops and civilian experts who are trying to help rebuild the war-torn country and enhance security. The groups are known as Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRT) and are assigned across Afghanistan.

The PRTs are run by various Western nations as part of NATO's US-led International Security Assistance Force mission in Afghanistan. The Gardez PRT is run by the United States.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack in Gardez, the capital of eastern Paktia province.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahed contacted AFP from an undisclosed location by telephone, saying that dozens of US and Afghan troops were killed and wounded.

The Taliban are known to make exaggerated, sometimes false, statements when it comes to deaths caused in their attacks.

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14. **Taliban Attack On British Office In Kabul Kills At Least Nine** (Reuters)

Friday, 19 August 2011

<http://in.reuters.com/article/2011/08/19/idINIndia-58863620110819>

Five Taliban attackers laid siege to a British cultural centre in the Afghan capital on Friday, killing at least nine people during an hours-long assault on the 92nd anniversary of Afghanistan's independence from British rule.

A suicide bomber in car blew himself up in front of the gate of the British Council in Kabul before dawn, and another car packed with explosives detonated moments later while four attackers, three of them men clad in the burqa headcovering worn by Afghan women, stormed the compound, police said.

Scores of Afghan and NATO troops surrounded a compound strewn with wooden and metal debris while two helicopters hovered on watch above as the fighting progressed over at least eight hours, interspersed by a total of eight blasts.

Toward the end, the last of the four attackers who fought into the compound holed himself up in the bulletproof basement of the shattered building. There was only one option left to get him out, authorities said: blow him up.

A Reuters witness heard two big blasts in close succession near the siege's end, around 1 p.m. Kabul time (0830 GMT).

"Eight members of the Afghan national police and one foreign soldier were killed," Mohammad Zahir, head of criminal investigations for the Kabul police, told Reuters. He said he was not able to confirm the nationality of the foreign soldier.

A ministry of interior spokesman said at least 16 people were wounded in the attack on the British Council, a state-funded agency running mainly cultural programmes. It is not part of the main British embassy in Kabul's diplomatic zone.

Two British nationals and one South African were inside the compound during the attack, but were later rescued by an elite Afghan unit, British Ambassador to Afghanistan Sir William Patey told a press conference.

"This was a dastardly, cowardly attack designed to attack British interests, but ultimately ending in the deaths of many Afghans and we regret the death of the Afghans," Patey said, adding that the attack was over.

Kabul police chief Mohammad Ayob Salongi said four Afghan police, three Nepalese British Council guards and one Afghan street cleaner were killed. He too had no details on the nationality of the foreign soldier.

A Reuters photograph taken at the scene showed what appeared to be a white male being lifted onto a stretcher with blood across his back and wound to the back of his head. A second photo showed a Union Jack insignia on his left shoulder, and a different uniform than those worn by council's guards.

"There's no confirmation on whether the foreign soldier who was wounded was killed," Patey said, also declining to reveal the nationality.

The Taliban said they were sending two messages: "One to the Afghan government and one to the British," spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid told Reuters by phone.

"We are now reminding them that we will become independent again from all foreigners, especially from the British," Mujahid said, referring to Afghanistan's independence from British rule 92 years ago, which the country was marking on Friday amid heightened security.

After the United States, Britain has the second-largest force in the NATO-led war against the Taliban, with around 9,500 troops.

Mujahid declined to say how many bombers the Islamist group used for the attacks, which come a month after NATO handed over security responsibilities to the Afghans in several areas across the country, as part of a gradual transition process to be completed by the end of 2014.

Afghan forces have been given responsibility for the city of Kabul since 2008, when NATO handed over security control, but in reality NATO forces still police the area heavily.

There is growing unease in the United States and Europe about the costly and increasingly violent war that has dragged on for 10 years, causing U.S. lawmakers to question whether bringing home all combat troops by 2014 is fast enough.

NATO and the United States earlier this year reluctantly backed Kabul's peace plan, which involves reconciliation with some members of the Taliban. The Taliban have repeatedly said they will not negotiate with the Afghan government until all foreign forces have stopped fighting in their country.

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15. Australian Soldier Killed In IED Blast (AFP)

Monday, 22 August 2011

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gIU59TtQluc8Gr2YFwpK6XZRsmWg?docId=CN.G.5fad70b189faefe5cb9ec67dccc6c25.3b1>

An Australian soldier patrolling with Afghan army troops was killed Monday by an improvised explosive device, officials said, the country's 29th death in the decade-long conflict.

The soldier, whose identity is yet to be released, was killed when a makeshift device went off during a mentoring night patrol with the Afghan National Army, defence chief David Hurley told reporters.

Hurley said the experienced soldier was seriously wounded in the blast, which happened around 2.30am local time, and he could not be saved despite being rushed to a nearby base hospital.

"Unfortunately the soldier died from his wounds shortly after arrival," Hurley said.

Another soldier from the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) -- not an Australian -- was wounded in the incident.

Prime Minister Julia Gillard said Australia's mentoring of Afghan soldiers, with the goal of handing over full security responsibility by the end of 2014, was dangerous but vital work to ensure stability once foreign troops withdrew.

"Without an effective and capable national army security post-transition cannot be guaranteed," Gillard said.

"This fighting season in Afghanistan has been a very hard one for our nation, we've grieved for too many young lives lost," she added.

"I can't promise the Australian people that there won't be another day like this, but I can promise that we are making progress (and) that Australia's national interests are being served by being in Afghanistan."

Gillard said Canberra had a "clear goal, a defined mission and a timeline" for withdrawal, with the transition to Afghan control already taking place in some areas.

Defence Minister Stephen Smith said it would be a "terrible blow" for the officer's family and serve as a "terrible reminder for 28 other families" who have lost loved ones in the Afghan conflict.

Eight of the 29 soldiers to have died since Australia first entered the fighting in 2001 were killed this year, but Canberra has vowed to maintain current force levels until 2014 despite a US drawdown of some 33,000 troops by the end of next year.

Australia, a key coalition partner, has around 1,500 personnel in Afghanistan, mostly in Uruzgan province.

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16. **Polish Soldier Killed In Blast** (Poland.Pl)

Friday, 19 August 2011

http://www.poland.pl/news/article,Polish_Soldier_Killed_in_Afghanistan,id,459979.htm

Polish sapper, Corporal Szymon Sitarczuk was killed on duty as a result of the attack on Polish patrol - informed Press Office of Polish Military Contingent Afghanistan.

The attack occurred yesterday afternoon in the northern part of Ghazni province, where the soldiers of the first motorized infantry company of Alpha Combat Group patrolled an area.

Improvised explosive device (IED) went off when sappers were checking the area. Another Polish soldier and two Afghan policemen were wounded in the explosion.

Medical evacuation helicopter was called to the scene immediately. Injured soldier and Afghan policemen were transported to a hospital in Ghazni base. Their lives are not in danger.

He is the 28th Pole killed in Afghanistan since 2007, when Poland became involved in the ISAF operation.

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17. **Infantryman Killed By IED Attack** (Mid-Hudson News)

Friday, 19 August 2011

http://www.midhudsonnews.com/News/2011/August/22/Condo_Afg_fatal-22Aug11.html

The Hudson Valley is mourning the loss of a serviceman killed in the line of duty.

A soldier who lived in Kingston was killed in Afghanistan, the Department of Defense announced Saturday. Pfc. Douglas Cordo, 20, died August 19 in Zabul, Afghanistan, of injuries sustained when enemy forces attacked his unit with an improvised explosive device.

Cordo was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 24th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division in Fort Wainwright, Alaska.

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18. **Female Suicide Bombers Creating Havoc For Pakistani Government** (Asia Times)

Friday, 19 August 2011

http://www.alternet.org/world/152078/pakistan_frets_over_femme_fatales?page=entire

The tactic of the Pakistan Taliban to use veil-clad female suicide bombers to effectively strike their targets without being intercepted has set alarm bells ringing for the security agencies which are already finding it hard to nip al-Qaeda and Taliban-sponsored terrorism in the bud.

A female suicide attacker and a separate handcart bomb targeted the Pakistani police on August 11 in the Lahori Gate area of Peshawar, the capital of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, killing seven people in the first deadly suicide attack during the holy month of Ramadan.

Peshawar is on the front line of a Taliban-led insurgency and borders the country's largely lawless tribal belt which is described by the United States as the global headquarters of al-Qaeda. The target of the female bomber, who was believed to be 17 years old, was a police check post that was completely destroyed in the attack.

The girl first threw a hand grenade on the check post, 20 meters from the site of the first blast, which had already killed seven people including five policemen, and then blew herself up. The bomber's vest failed to explode fully, resulting in one death only, that of an elderly woman. Witnesses were reported as saying that before the explosion they had heard the girl scream: "Allah-O-Akbar." (God is great).

Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (Pakistan Taliban - TTP) claimed responsibility for the attack, with TTP spokesman Azam Tariq telling the media that the group has a large number of women suicide bombers ready to be used in future attacks against the security forces to avenge the Pakistani military for operations in the tribal belt.

TTP head in Mohmand Agency of the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), Commander Omar Khalid, threatened further suicide attacks until Pakistani military offensives, which he said were being waged to appease the United States, come to an end.

"The suicide attacks were in reaction to the current military operation in the tribal areas," Khalid told Agence France-Presse by telephone from an undisclosed location. The TTP leader said that the use of female bombers was part of a new strategy.

Khalid has been active in the TTP's propaganda machine since the death of Osama bin Laden, and has been vocal in his support of al-Qaeda. He had vowed revenge on Pakistani and American security forces for the al-Qaeda founder's death, saying: "We will take revenge for Osama's killing from the Pakistan government, its security forces, the ISI [Inter-Services Intelligence], the CIA [Central Intelligence Agency] and the Americans. They are now on our hit list."

The Peshawar suicide bombing was the third suicide attack carried out by a female in Pakistan since December 2010. Interior Minister Rehman Malik has condemned TTP for using women as human bombs, saying that it is a sign of their desperation in the wake of strict security measures that have made it difficult to strike targets at will. He agreed that the new ploy of using females to create havoc could complicate the

government agencies' efforts to stem a growing insurgency by extremists given the fact that women in Pakistani culture, especially in a conservative society like Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, are rarely frisked or searched in security checks.

According to the security agencies responsible for dealing with suicide bombings, the emerging phenomenon of female bombers poses a bigger challenge to the law enforcement agencies in Pakistan since women in their all-enveloping burqas (veils) can easily breach security. They added that a veil is perfect for the concealment of explosive devices as well as suicide jackets.

Well-informed circles in the security agencies say both the TTP and al-Qaeda have established female suicide bombing cells in remote areas of north western Pakistan and north eastern Afghanistan. The existence of these cells was confirmed by a 12-year-old Pakistani girl, Meena Gul, who confessed in June 2010 to having been trained to be a human bomb. Meena Gul said she was brainwashed to kill Pakistani troops in one of several such training camps. She was detained by the police in the Munda area in Dir district of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

According to Meena, female suicide bombers from Pakistan and Afghanistan are being trained in small cells on both sides of the border, to be eventually dispatched to their missions with a sermon, "God will reward you with a place in heaven." Meena said her cell was led by Zainab, her sister-in-law, who used to dress as a man and fought alongside the Taliban against Pakistani troops. Prior to the two suicide attacks in 2010 by female bombers in Afghanistan and Pakistan, there was no recorded instance of any women bombers engaging in this deadly activity in either country.

Sources in the security agencies say the TTP training cells on both sides of border are working under the command of Qari Zia Rahman, the dual-hatted Taliban and al-Qaeda leader. Qari Zia is not only a top regional commander of Tehrik-e-Taliban but also an al-Qaeda member who operates in the Kunar and Nuristan provinces of Afghanistan as well as across the border in the Bajaur Agency in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas of Pakistan.

Qari Zia's private army has fighters from Pakistan, Chechnya, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, and various Arab countries. He commands a brigade in al-Qaeda's paramilitary Shadow Army, which is called the Lashkar-e-Zil (LeZ), previously led by Ilyas Commander Kashmiri, who was reportedly killed in a US drone strike in July 2011.

The Pakistani interior minister had claimed in March 2010 that Qari Zia had been killed in an airstrike, but Qari Zia later spoke to the media and mocked Rehman Malik for wrongly reporting his killing. Similarly, the CIA, which offers a \$350,000 bounty for information leading to his death or capture, has targeted him in multiple drone attacks in Kunar province since January 2010, but failed to hunt him down despite repeated attempts.

Female suicide bombers are relatively new in South Asia. The first known suicide bombing by a female anywhere in the world came in 1985 when a 16-year-old girl, Khyadali Sana, drove an explosive-laden truck into an Israeli Defense Force convoy and killed two soldiers.

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Since then, women have driven bomb-laden vehicles, carried bomber bags, and strapped huge explosives and metal implements on their bodies in Lebanon, Sri Lanka, Chechnya, Israel, Turkey, Somalia and last but not the least, in Pakistan. Organizations worldwide which have publicized their use of female bombers include the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), the Syrian Socialist National Party (SSNP), the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK), Chechen rebels, Al Aqsa Martyrs, Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ), and, most recently, Hamas.

While the SSNP has the distinction of deploying the first ever female suicide bomber, the LTTE became the world's foremost suicide bombers and proved the tactic to be so unnerving and effective that their methods and killing innovations were studied and copied, most notably in the Middle East. The LTTE has committed the most attacks, close to 200, using female bombers in 40 percent of cases. The largest number killed (170) was in Moscow in October 2002 when Chechen rebels, including a high proportion of women, held hostages in a theater, eventually leading to a futile rescue operation in which 129 captives and 41 rebels were killed. Palestinian suicide bombers have carried out the largest number of attacks in the recent years.

The youngest female bomber so far is 16-year old Khyadali Sana (who detonated herself in 1985), followed by 17-year old Laila Kaplan, (who had blew herself up in 1996). The oldest female suicide bomber was 37-year old Shagir Karima Mahmud in 1987. The first LTTE female suicide bomber was Dhanu, who killed Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in May 1991. The only pregnant female suicide bomber was from the Kurdistan Workers Party, killing six Turkish soldiers in June 1996. Her name remains unknown. The first Russian "Black Widow" was Hawa Barayev, who acted on behalf of the Chechen rebels in June 2000 and killed 27 Russian Special Forces soldiers by exploding her suicide vest.

The first female bomber in Israel, representing the al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigade, was Wafa Idris, a paramedic who exploded herself in January 2002, killing an 81-year-old man and injuring over 100. The first female bomber who acted on behalf of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad was a 19-year-old student, Hiba Daraghmeh, who detonated herself in a shopping mall, killing three people. The first female Hamas bomber was 22-year-old Reem al-Reyashi, who blew herself up and killed four Israeli soldiers at an army checkpoint on January 14, 2004.

Reem was a mother who left behind a husband, a three-year-old son and one-year-old daughter. On June 11, 2011, a veiled female bomber detonated herself at the official residence of the country's Interior Minister Abdi Shakur Sheikh Hassan in Mogadishu, killing him on the spot. It is believed that the suicide attack could have been a retaliatory act by al-Shabaab insurgents in the wake of a sustained government push against them.

The first incident of suicide bombing carried out by a female in Afghanistan happened on June 21, 2010 in Kunar province, killing two American soldiers. The first suicide attack by a female bomber in Pakistan was carried out on December 24, 2010 at an aid distribution center of the United Nations World Food Program in Khar area of Bajaur Agency in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas, killing 47 people.

The second attack was carried out on June 25, 2011 when a husband and wife team, said to be Uzbeks, attacked a police station in the Dera Ismail Khan City of Khyber Pakhtoonkhawa, killing seven policemen and a tea boy. The TTP had claimed responsibility for the attack, saying it was carried out to avenge the May 2, 2011 killing of Osama bin Laden.

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The use of female suicide bombers by Taliban extremists has prompted the Pakistan media to demand that all suspected veil-clad women should be searched without exception. Pakistani English newspaper Daily Times stated in its August 13 editorial:

"The piety of holy warriors has shown its true colors - the sanctity of the holy month of Ramadan seems irrelevant to them as evidenced by the Peshawar suicide hit carried out by a female bomber.

Pakistan has witnessed a string of terror attacks following the May 2, 2011 killing of Bin Laden in Abbottabad. It seems that the very culture that the terrorists claim to uphold - of keeping a woman untouched by male hands and covered in a veil as well - is exactly what these monsters are using against us. If women are the new lethal weapons against the citizens and the state then counter steps must be drawn up to face this threat. Women, especially those in the baggy burqa, should be searched without exception".

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19. **Suicide Bomber Kills More Than 40 At Pakistani Mosque** (Long War Journal)

Friday, 19 August 2011

http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2011/08/suicide_bomber_kills_57.php

A suicide bomber killed more than 40 people and wounded more than 100 in an attack today at a mosque in Pakistan's tribal agency of Khyber.

The bombing took place at a mosque in the village of Ghundi in the Jamrud area of Khyber. The suicide bomber detonated his vest just after Friday prayers ended.

"It was a suicide attack. The bomber was wearing about 8-10 kg of explosives and was on foot. He detonated in the main prayer hall," a Pakistani official told Geo News.

No group has take responsibility for the attack, but the Movement of the Taliban in Pakistan is known to operate in the area. In the past, the Pakistani Taliban have targeted tribal leaders and local officials who attempt to raise militias to oppose Taliban rule. The Taliban have attacked anti-militant leaders in mosques in the past [see list below].

Khyber has become a hub of Taliban and al Qaeda activity since the Pakistani military launched an operation in the Mehsud tribal areas in South Waziristan in October 2009. Taliban forces have relocated to the Bara and Jamrud regions and the Tirah Valley in the Khyber agency [see LWJ report, Taliban escape South Waziristan operation].

Tariq Afridi, a powerful Taliban commander based in Darra Adam Khel, has taken control of Taliban operations in Khyber. The Taliban and the Lashkar-e-Islam, a local Taliban ally commanded by Mangal Bagh, have gained power in Khyber despite a series of Pakistani military operations that began in the summer of 2007 which were supposedly designed to relieve Taliban pressure on neighboring Peshawar. A total of five military offensives have failed to dislodge the terror groups.

Both the Taliban and the Lashkar-e-Islam are known to operate bases and training camps in the Tirah Valley as well as in Bara and Jamrud. These safe havens in Khyber enable these terror groups to launch attacks inside Pakistan as well across the border in Nangarhar province in Afghanistan. In November 2008, the US military attacked Taliban forces in the Tirah Valley after they retreated across the border from Nangarhar in Afghanistan. US strike aircraft and artillery killed seven Taliban fighters during the hot pursuit.

In 2009, US Predators killed Ibn Amin, a Taliban and al Qaeda commander, in one of four strikes between Dec.16-17 in the Tirah Valley. Amin was the commander of the Tora Bora Brigade, one of six formations in al Qaeda's Lashkar al Zil, or Shadow Army. He operated in the Swat Valley.

The Khyber Pass is NATO's main conduit for supplies into Afghanistan; an estimated 70 percent of NATO's supplies move through this strategic crossing point. Between September 2007 and April 2008, the Khyber Pass was shut down seven times due to Taliban attacks.

Taliban target religious sites

Over the past four years, the Taliban and allied Pakistani terror groups have shown no reservations about striking inside mosques and other religious sites, as well as during religious processions and events. There have been 34 major attacks on mosques and other Islamic institutions in Pakistan since December 2007, according to information compiled by The Long War Journal.

One of the most brazen attacks took place on Dec. 4, 2009, when a suicide assault team stormed a mosque frequented by military officers in Rawalpindi. Two senior generals were among the 40 people killed.

Another major attack took place on July 1, 2010, when suicide bombers struck the Data Ganj Bakhsh shrine in Lahore, killing 41 people and wounding more than 170. Three suicide bombers detonated their vests at the shrine at a time when it was most frequented, in an effort to maximize casualties.

The last major attack against religious targets took place on April 3, when a pair of suicide bombers killed 41 people in an attack at a Sufi shrine in Dera Ghazi Khan in Punjab province.

Major attacks at mosques, religious events, and Islamic institutions in Pakistan since December 2007:

Aug. 19, 2011: More than 40 people were killed in a suicide attack at a mosque in Jamrud in the Khyber tribal agency.

April 3, 2011: The Taliban killed 41 people in a double suicide attack on a Sufi shrine in Dera Ghazi Khan.

March 4, 2011: The Taliban killed nine people in a bombing at a mosque in Nowshera.

Jan. 25, 2011: Suicide attacks that targeted Shia religious processions in Lahore and Karachi killed 16 people. The Fedayeen-e-Islam, a subgroup of the Pakistani Taliban, Lashkar-e-Jhangvi, and Jaish-e-Mohammed, claimed credit for the Lahore attack.

Nov. 5, 2010: A suicide attack outside a mosque in Darra Adam Khel killed 50 people.

Oct. 25, 2010: Five people were killed when an IED was detonated inside a shrine in Pakpattan.

Oct. 22, 2010: Five people were killed when an IED was detonated inside a mosque in Peshawar.

Oct. 7, 2010: Two suicide bombers killed eight people in a coordinated attack on the Abdullah Shah Ghazi shrine in Karachi.

Sept. 3, 2010: A suicide bomber attempted to storm a mosque in Mardan, but was stopped by security guards. One person was killed after he detonated his vest.

Sept. 1, 2010: Suicide bombers detonated during Shia religious processions in Lahore, killing 28 people.

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Aug. 23, 2010: A suicide bomber detonated at a mosque in Wana, South Waziristan, killing 18 people.

July 1, 2010: Suicide bombers detonated at the Data Ganj Bakhsh shrine in Lahore, killing 41 people and wounding more than 170.

May 28, 2010: The Punjabi Taliban assaulted two Ahamadi mosques in Lahore, killing more than 70 people.

Dec. 18, 2009: A suicide bomber detonated inside a mosque frequented by policemen in Lower Dir, killing 12.

Dec. 4, 2009: A suicide assault team stormed a mosque in Rawalpindi that is frequented by Army officers, killing 40.

Oct. 20, 2009: A pair of suicide bombers detonated their vests at Islamabad's International Islamic University, killing five.

June 12, 2009: A suicide bomber killed five Pakistanis, including anti-Taliban cleric Dr. Sarfraz Naeemi, in an attack on a mosque in Lahore during Friday prayers.

June 12, 2009: A suicide bomber killed six worshipers and wounded more than 90 in an attack inside a mosque in Nowshera. The attack collapsed the dome of the mosque.

June 5, 2009: A suicide bomber killed 49 worshipers in an attack on a mosque in a remote village in Dir.

April 5, 2009: A suicide bomber killed 24 worshipers and wounded more than 100 in an attack outside a Shia religious center in the Chakwal district in Punjab province.

March 27, 2009: A Taliban suicide bomber killed more than 70 worshipers and wounded more than 125 in an attack at a mosque in the Khyber tribal agency.

March 5, 2009: An attacker threw a hand grenade into the middle of a mosque in Dera Ismail Khan, wounding 25 worshipers.

March 2, 2009: A suicide bomber killed six people during an attack at a gathering in a mosque in the Pishin district in Baluchistan.

Feb. 20, 2008: A suicide bomber killed 32 Pakistanis and wounded more than 85 in an attack on a funeral procession for a Shia elder who was murdered in Dera Ismail Khan.

Feb. 5, 2009: A suicide attack outside a mosque killed more than 30 Shia worshipers and wounded more than 50.

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Nov. 22, 2008: A bombing at a mosque in Hangu killed five civilians and wounded seven.

Nov. 21, 2008: A suicide attack on a funeral procession in Dera Ismail Khan killed 10 mourners and wounded more than 25.

Sept. 10, 2008: The Taliban attacked a mosque filled with Ramadan worshipers in the district of Dir in northwestern Pakistan. More than 25 worshipers were killed and more than 50 were wounded.

Aug. 19, 2008: A suicide bomber killed 29 Shia mourners and wounded 35 after detonating in the emergency ward of a hospital.

June 17, 2008: Four Pakistanis were killed and three wounded in a bombing at a Shia mosque in Dera Ismail Khan.

May 19, 2008: Four Pakistanis were killed in a bombing outside a mosque in Bajaur.

Jan. 17, 2008: A suicide bomber killed 10 and wounded 25 in an attack on a Shia mosque in Peshawar.

Dec. 28, 2007: A suicide bomber detonated in the middle of a mosque in Charsadda in an attempt to kill former Interior Minister Aftab Sherpao as he conducted Eid prayers. More than 50 were killed and more than 200 were wounded.

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20. **Roadside Bomb Kills Three In Khyber Agency** (Express Tribune)

Saturday, 20 August 2011

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/235777/roadside-bomb-kills-3-soldiers-in-khyber-agency-officials/>

A road side bomb struck a military convoy in a restive tribal region on the Afghan border, killing at least three soldiers and wounding six, local officials said.

The attack in the Khyber Agency, which is also the major supply route for US-led foreign forces in Afghanistan, came a day after a teenage suicide bomber killed at least 51 people offering Friday prayers at a mosque in the region.

Meanwhile, an army operation called Operation Koh-e-Sufaid meant to flush out the militants from Khyber Agency ended on Thursday. According to the military, the operation was launched to clear the area of militants whose fighting had increased the incidence of sectarian killings, kidnapping, and extortion in the agency.

It was army's first major military operation since the May 2 killing of Osama bin Laden by US Seals in Abbottabad.

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21. **IED Attack Near Miranshah** (Pakistan Today)

Sunday, 21 August 2011

<http://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2011/08/soldier-amongst-three-killed-in-attack-on-checkpost-in-north-waziristan/>

At least three people including a soldier were killed and fourteen others were injured in violence in North Waziristan Agency on Sunday. According to reports, several militants attacked a checkpost of security forces at Pash Ziarat on Ladha-Razmak Road, killing a jawan of the armed forces. Security forces retaliated and killed two militants and injured five others.

Militants also attacked a security forces convoy with an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) at Chashma Bridge near Miranshah, causing injuries to seven security forces personnel and destructing a vehicle. The injured were airlifted to Combined Military Hospital where condition of majority of the injured was stated serious. Security forces and local tribesmen launched joint action against militants in which two local tribesmen were killed.

Armed forces had claimed that military action had been completed in South Waziristan whereas tribal elders of North Waziristan said there were no local and foreign militants in their controlled areas. Two dead, four injured in separate incidents: Two people including a woman were killed and four others, three children among them, were injured in two separate incidents on Saturday.

Police sources said the accused Hadayatullah went to Yasmeen Begum's house in the night and attacked her with a knife, killing her and injuring her three children Shad Bibi, Tahamul Khan and Khushab Khan. Relatives of the victims immediately informed the Sabir Abad Police Station who arrested the accused and took the knife in custody. Relatives of Yasmeen Begum registered a first information report (FIR) against the accused Hadaytullah.

In another incident, two cars collided head-on near Rangeenabad Chowk on Indus highway, causing serious injuries to two brothers Hamayun Khan and Zahid Khan. They were immediately shifted to a hospital in Lachi. However, Hamayun died before he could be treated in the hospital and his brother Zahid was admitted in critical condition.

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22. **'Dagger' Brigade Soldiers Train Iraqi Army To Utilize Bomb-Sniffing Dogs** (DVIDS)

Sunday, 21 August 2011

<http://www.dvidshub.net/news/75681/dagger-brigade-soldiers-train-iraqi-army-utilize-bomb-sniffing-dogs#.TlPhAV12HNs>

The olfactory capabilities of man's best friend, *canis familiaris* — dogs, that is — are well-known and have been used by law enforcement to detect illicit drugs for decades. Soldiers with the 2nd "Dagger" Advise and Assist Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, United States Division – Center, are hoping to impress upon Iraqi Security Forces the utility of working dogs to fulfill that function, but more importantly to become the first line in the detection of explosive materials.

Four dogs, trained by and inherited from EOD Technologies, a civilian firm whose contract is winding down, are currently living and training at Joint Security Station Old MoD, where their 11th Iraqi Army Division handlers and 2nd AAB trainers live and work as well. As EODT's contract did not provide for the transport of the dogs out of Iraq, Staff Lt. Gen. Abdul Karim, commander of the Rusafa Area Command, seized the opportunity to employ them, and arrangements were made for equipment and the four dogs to join the 11th IA Div.

"Nobody has invented a machine that can smell things like a dog's nose," said Sgt. 1st Class Earl C. Couture, an engineer with Company C, Special Troops Battalion, 2nd AAB and a Jay, Maine, native.

Couture, by virtue of his having spent four years as a kennel master at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., from 2003 to 2007, is in charge of ensuring both that the dogs are able to differentiate everyday smells from potentially lethal ones and that their Iraqi handlers are able to use their dog's abilities most effectively.

"The benefits of using working dogs are countless," he said. "They can really speed up the process [of looking for explosives], which means they won't slow down traffic as much, can go anywhere, and as long as they get six hours off, they can work for 18 hours a day."

In addition, Couture said, they are non-aggressive and can be employed even in civilian- and children-heavy areas.

The dogs came from EODT already trained in the basic skills of detecting lethal explosives, but Couture said they needed to be re-familiarized with those scents.

One of the ways he and his team worked on this was by arraying a group of boxes on the training grounds at JSS Old MoD, with all but one box empty, and the remaining box containing an explosive material that would be found in an actual bomb. Both the dogs and their 11th IA Div. handlers were unaware of which box contained the material. When the dog recognized the scent, it sat, indicating it found what it was looking for.

"We train [the dogs] to use a non-aggressive reaction, so they don't disrupt the explosive and blow themselves up," Couture said.

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During training on Aug. 17, three of the four dogs identified the correct box every time, and the fourth identified the correct box on its second attempt, showing some work still needs to be done re-acclimating the dogs to the scents.

Part of the Iraqi handlers' job is also to maintain the health and hygiene of their dogs so they can be ready at any time to go out on a mission.

"The past few days, we were taught how to feed and groom the dogs," said Lt. Muqtada Anwar, a squad leader with the 11th IA Div. "We still need to train more and get results."

Only soldiers who volunteered and explicitly stated they like dogs, or have dogs at home, were considered for canine duty, said Couture. The dogs live in an air-conditioned trailer and are taken out for frequent walks on grassy areas.

The anticipated result of the training is to enable the 11th IA Div. to utilize a corps of bomb-sniffing dogs whose natural sense of smell, speed, and dedication will save lives and thwart insurgent schemes. Man's best friend, indeed.

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23. Three Roadside IEDs Explode In Baghdad; VBIED Targets Tarmiya Police Chief (Reuters)

Thursday, 18 August 2011

<http://www.trust.org/alertnet/news/factbox-security-developments-in-iraq-august-18>

* MOSUL - An off-duty soldier was killed and three others were wounded when gunmen opened fire on their car in western Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, a local police source said.

* MOSUL - Gunmen shot dead a civilian near his house in western Mosul, a local police source said.

* BAGHDAD - Two al Qaeda members were killed and another was arrested when Iraqi security forces raided a house in the Yarmouk district of west-central Baghdad, Major General Qassim al-Moussawi, a spokesman for Baghdad security operations, said. Two soldiers were killed and three others were wounded in the raid, he said.

BAGHDAD - A roadside bomb wounded two people in Baghdad's southwestern Bayaa district, an Interior Ministry source said.

BAGHDAD - A U.S. convoy was targeted in the Mansour district, west-central Baghdad, on Wednesday night, but the attack was ineffective and there were no casualties or damage, the U.S. military said.

BAGHDAD - Gunmen stormed police officers' houses in Abu Ghraib on the western outskirts of Baghdad, killing one police officer and wounding two civilians, late on Wednesday, a police source said.

BAGHDAD - A roadside bomb wounded three people in Baghdad's western Harithiya district on Wednesday, an Interior Ministry source said.

BAGHDAD - A roadside bomb targeting a convoy of a police officer, killed one policeman and wounded another on Wednesday, in Baghdad's eastern al-Ghadir district, a police source said.

TARMIYA - A car bomb targeting the house of Brigadier Tawfiq Ahmed, the police chief of Tarmiya, 25 km (15 miles) north of Baghdad, killed two of his bodyguards and wounded seven people on Wednesday, an Interior Ministry source said. (Compiled by Baghdad bureau)

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24. Multiple Bombings Across Iraq (Reuters)

Sunday, Monday 21-23 August 2011

<http://www.trust.org/alertnet/news/factbox-security-developments-in-iraq-august-17>

<http://www.trust.org/alertnet/news/factbox-security-developments-in-iraq-august-18>

<http://www.trust.org/alertnet/news/factbox-security-developments-in-iraq-august-19>

<http://www.trust.org/alertnet/news/factbox-security-developments-in-iraq-august-21>

<http://www.trust.org/alertnet/news/factbox-security-developments-in-iraq-august-22>

<http://www.trust.org/alertnet/news/factbox-security-developments-in-iraq-august-23>

BAGHDAD - Gunmen attacked a stationery shop, killing the owner and wounding three customers in Baghdad's southern Zaaferaniya district, an Interior Ministry source said.

KIRKUK - Two roadside bombs targeting a police patrol killed one passer-by and wounded five people, including two policemen, in southern Kirkuk, 250 km (155 miles) north of Baghdad, police sources said.

KIRKUK - A bomb placed near a local office of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) wounded two Kurdish security guards in southern Kirkuk, a police source said.

MOSUL - Armed men threw a hand grenade at an Iraqi army patrol and wounded three people, including two soldiers, in northern Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, a local police source said.

MOSUL - Armed men threw a hand grenade at a police patrol and wounded a child in eastern Mosul, a police source said.

MOSUL - Gunmen shot dead a man in a crowded market in eastern Mosul, a police source said.

MOSUL - A roadside bomb targeting a police patrol escorting a judge's convoy killed one policeman and wounded another in eastern Mosul, a police source said. (Compiled by Baghdad bureau)

* MOSUL - An off-duty soldier was killed and three others were wounded when gunmen opened fire on their car in western Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, a local police source said.

* MOSUL - Gunmen shot dead a civilian near his house in western Mosul, a local police source said.

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BAGHDAD - Gunmen stormed police officers' houses in Abu Ghraib on the western outskirts of Baghdad, killing one police officer and wounding two civilians, late on Wednesday, a police source said.

BAGHDAD - A roadside bomb wounded three people in Baghdad's western Harithiya district on Wednesday, an Interior Ministry source said.

BAGHDAD - A roadside bomb targeting a convoy of a police officer, killed one policeman and wounded another on Wednesday, in Baghdad's eastern al-Ghadir district, a police source said.

TARMIYA - A car bomb targeting the house of Brigadier Tawfiq Ahmed, the police chief of Tarmiya, 25 km (15 miles) north of Baghdad, killed two of his bodyguards and wounded seven people on Wednesday, an Interior Ministry source said. (Compiled by Baghdad bureau)

* KIRKUK - Gunmen opened fire on a police lieutenant colonel and seriously wounded him in northern Kirkuk, 250 km (155 miles) north of Baghdad, a local police source said.

MOSUL - Gunmen in a speeding car shot dead a civilian in eastern Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, a local police source said.

BAGHDAD - A roadside bomb went off and wounded three civilians in Baghdad's eastern Baladiyat district on Thursday night, a police source said.

KIRKUK - Police found the body of an unknown man with torture marks in southwest Kirkuk on Thursday, a source at the police information centre in Kirkuk province said.

KIRKUK - A sticky bomb attached to the car of a police major exploded, wounding him and his wife in northern Kirkuk on Thursday, a source at the Kirkuk police information centre said.

KIRKUK - Gunmen in a speeding car shot and wounded a civilian in central Kirkuk on Thursday, a Kirkuk police source said. (Compiled by Baghdad newsroom)

* BAGHDAD - Three people were wounded when a bomb went off in front of a liquor shop in the Karrada district of central Baghdad, an Interior Ministry source said. A hospital source said five people were wounded.

BAGHDAD - The body of a Peshmerga guard was found with traces of suffocation and torture in Baghdad's northeastern Sadr City district, an Interior Ministry source said.

MOSUL - Gunmen threw two hand grenades at a police checkpoint and wounded two policemen in central Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

BAGHDAD - A sticky bomb attached to a car carrying a security guard for the oil minister wounded him and a nearby shop owner when it went off in Baghdad's west-central Utaifiya district, a police officer at the scene said.

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BAGHDAD - Two roadside bombs exploded in quick succession and wounded six people in Baghdad's northwestern Hurriya district late on Saturday, an Interior Ministry source said. The source said the first bomb targeted an Iraqi army patrol and wounded two soldiers while the second exploded when a police patrol arrived at the site of the first bombing, wounding two policemen.

BAGHDAD - A roadside bomb went off and wounded two people in Baghdad's southeastern Zaafaraniya district late on Saturday, an Interior Ministry source said. (Compiled by Baghdad bureau)

BAGHDAD - A roadside bomb went off and wounded two people in Baghdad's western Adil district, an Interior Ministry source said.

KIRKUK - A gunman was killed and two policemen were wounded during clashes which erupted after a police force raided the home of the gunman in southern Kirkuk, 250 km (155 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

BAQUBA - Gunmen entered a house and killed a man and his three-year-old daughter in a town near Baquba, 65 km (40 miles) northeast of Baghdad, police said. (Compiled by Baghdad bureau)

* QAIYARA - A sticky bomb attached to the car of an oil policeman killed him and wounded his father when it went off in Qaiyara, 290 km (180 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

* BAGHDAD - A roadside bomb wounded two people when it went off near a liquor store in central Baghdad, an Interior Ministry source said.

KIRKUK - Gunmen shot and wounded a farmer in his house on the southwestern outskirts of Kirkuk, 250 km (155 miles) north of Baghdad, police said.

AL-ZAB - Gunmen shot and wounded an employee of the Baiji oil refinery near his house in the town of al-Zab, near Kirkuk, police said.

BAGHDAD - Gunmen using silenced weapons shot dead Baghdad University professor Dr. Hussein Kadhim and wounded his son in front of the professor's house in the Adil district of western Baghdad, an Interior Ministry source said.

MOSUL - Gunmen stormed a home on Monday in western Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, killing the homeowner and his son, a police source in Nineveh province said.

HIT - A roadside bomb exploded late on Monday, killing municipal council member Nofal al-Hity and his son and seriously wounding a third person, in the city of Hit, about 130 km (80 miles) west of Baghdad, a local police source said. (Compiled by Baghdad bureau)

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25. **Civilian Killed, 2 Wounded In Anbar Blast** (Aswat Al Iraq)

Saturday, 20 August 2011

http://en.aswataliraq.info/Default1.aspx?page=article_page&id=144396&l=1

One civilian was killed and two were injured in bomb blast near a policeman's residence in the west of Anbar, police sources said today.

The source informed Aswat al-Iraq that precautionary measures were taken in Haqlaniaya area, Haditha Qadha, as well as prompt search for security officials residences in the province for fear of expected terrorist attacks.

Ramadi, the capital of Anbar province, lies 110 km west of the capital, Baghdad.

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26. **US Army Vehicle Damaged In Diwaniya Blast** (Aswat Al Iraq)

Sunday, 21 August 2011

http://en.aswataliraq.info/Default1.aspx?page=article_page&id=144404&l=1

A U.S. Army vehicle has been damaged in an explosive charge blast in southern Iraq's Diwaniya city on Saturday night, according to a police source on Sunday.

“An explosive charge had blown up against a U.S. Army patrol on the main road passing through Diwaniya city on Saturday night, causing damage to one of its vehicles, but there was no report about human losses,” the police source told Aswat al-Iraq news agency.

He added that the American forces had forced a security cordon around the venue of the explosion, whilst U.S. choppers flew overhead in Diwaniya city.

Diwaniya, the center of the city carrying the same name, is 180 km to the south of Baghdad.

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27. **Three Explosions In Mosul** (Aswat Al Iraq)

Sun-Tues, 21-23 August 2011

http://en.aswataliraq.info/Default1.aspx?page=article_page&id=144426&l=1

http://en.aswataliraq.info/Default1.aspx?page=article_page&id=144420&l=1

http://en.aswataliraq.info/Default1.aspx?page=article_page&id=144453&l=1

An Iraqi Police officer has been killed, a soldier and a civilian were injured in an explosive charge blast north of Mosul, the center of Ninewa Province, on Sunday, according to a Ninewa security source on Monday.

“An explosive charge blew off against an Iraqi Army patrol in northern Mosul’s Ghabat (Forests) district, killing a police officer, wounding a soldier and a civilian,” the security source told Aswat al-Iraq news agency.

The security source did not give further details, but added that the explosion had caused material damage to a number of the patrol’s vehicles.

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

Security sources said today that two cops were injured in a bomb blast in the center of Mosul.

The source told Aswat al-Iraq that the bomb was thrown at a police checkpoint in the center of the city.

The culprit fled the scene, the source added.

No other details were given.

Mosul, the center of Ninewa province, lies 405 km north of the capital, Baghdad.

A cop was killed and his father injured in a sticky bomb blast south of Mosul, security sources said today.

The source told Aswat al-Iraq that the cop, working in oil installations protection unit, was killed by the sticky bomb which was attached to his private car.

The father was gravely injured by the explosion which resulted in needing his legs amputated.

Mosul city, center of the province, lies 405 km north of the capital, Baghdad.

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28. **Report Shows Philippine IED Attacks Decline In 2010** (Inter Aksyon)

Friday, 19 August 2011

<http://www.interaksyon.com/article/11315/terrorist-activities-in-ph-declined-in-2010-says-us>

There was a decline in terrorist activities in the Philippines throughout 2010, the US Department of State said in a report released this week.

In its 2010 Country Reports on Terrorism released on Thursday, the State Department said Philippine authorities were able to maintain pressure on terrorist groups like the homegrown Abu Sayyaf, the Southeast Asian network Jemaah Islamiyah, and communist New People's Army, which the Americans have tagged a terrorist organization.

The report cited the death of Abu Sayyaf commander Albader Parad in February 2010 and the continued assistance extended by the US government to the Philippines.

However, several terrorist attacks were still recorded throughout last year that led to the deaths of several civilians.

Key terrorist incidents noted by the US State Department last year include:

-- The February 27 attack in Basilan in which 13 civilians were killed and 13 others injured. The attack was allegedly committed by the Abu Sayyaf to avenge the death of Parad and five others in February 21.

-- On April 13, 2010, Abu Sayyaf fighters led by Puruji Indama launched bomb attacks in Isabela City, Basilan, shot civilians and ambushed responding military and police officers. The attacks killed five civilians, three Marines, and a police officer.

"The assailants had planned a more significant attack, but a second vehicle carrying explosives exploded in an unpopulated area before the attack, killing three ASG members, including Indama's brother. A third IED (improvised explosive device) planted in front of a judge's house failed to explode and was later disabled by police. Two ASG members were killed during the fighting that ensued and two more were captured," the report noted.

-- Finally, on August 4, 2011, a bomb blast occurred at the Zamboanga airport, injuring 24 people including Sulu governor Sakur Tan as well as an American citizen. Two people were killed in the attack.

The report also noted that terrorist attacks in the Philippines were often "indiscriminate and most remain unresolved" and that violent incidents spiked before the May 2010 presidential elections and the local elections in October.

Despite these attacks, the US State Department noted that the Philippines continued "vigorous efforts" to arrest terrorists, citing the filing of a petition by the Department of Justice with the Regional Trial Court in Basilan for the proscription of the ASG as a terrorist group and 202 identified associates as terrorists. The petition is still pending at the end of 2010.

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"JI associate Zulkipli bin Abdul Hir, aka Marwan, and ASG commander Isnilon Hapilon appeared on the FBI's (Federal Bureau of Investigation) Most Wanted Terrorist list at numbers 29 and 17, respectively, and were believed to be in the Philippines along with other wanted ASG members," the report said.

The US State Department report said the current strength of the ASG is between 200 to 400, while the JI is between "500 to several thousand."

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29. **Five IEDs Recovered From Maoist Training Camp Near Baliba Village** (Times of India)

Monday, 22 August 2011

http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2011-08-22/ranchi/29914236_1_saranda-forest-villages-youths

Security forces on Sunday busted a Maoist training camp and killed a rebel during an encounter near Baliba village inside the Saranda forest, considered to be the largest sal forest of Asia.

Police said they had recovered five improvised explosive devices (IED), one generator, a motorcycle and weapon components from the training camp. While two IEDs were of 20kg each, three others weighed 15kg each.

West Singhbhum SP A K Singh confirmed the recovery and death of a suspected Maoist in the encounter. "We have busted a training camp run by the Maoists. We are yet to ascertain the identity of the rebel killed in the encounter. The youth is not a local person because the people living in nearby villages have failed to identify him," said Singh.

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30. **Twenty IEDs Recovered In Latehar** (Zee News)

Saturday, 20 August 2011

http://zeenews.india.com/news/jharkhand/twenty-ieds-recovered-in-latehar_727342.html

A major disaster was averted when security forces detected as many as 20 Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) in Latehar district on Saturday, police said.

"The IEDs were laid serially on an unmetalled road at Gaganpur panchayat under Garu police station," Superintendent of Police Kranti Kumar told reporters here.

"The IEDs were laid serially on an unmetalled road at Gaganpur panchayat under Garu police station," Superintendent of Police Kranti Kumar told reporters here.

"The explosives were recovered during a search operation by personnel of the CRPF and district police," he added.

Five IEDS were bigger in size than the others.

The Maoists had apparently planted the explosives to target security forces involved in combing operations.

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31. **Maoists Kill Ten In Chhattisgarh** (Eurasia Review)

Saturday, 20 August 2011

<http://www.eurasiareview.com/one-more-big-strike-by-maoists-in-india-analysis-20082011/>

“There is no time for the security forces to take it easy. It is a trend on part of the Maoists to hit back when it is the least expected.”

This is what I wrote in my previous post while analysing the relative low level of violence by the Maoists on 15 August, India's 65 Independence Day. And as if to prove me right, Maoists struck big within four days. On 19 August, the day Afghanistan capital Kabul witnessed the killing of ten people—mostly security force personnel— in a Taliban attack on the British Council compound and Jamrud, a key town in Pakistan's Khyber agency saw an explosion in a mosque offering Friday prayers in the holy month of Ramadan killing over 50 people and injuring scores of others, the extremists struck big in the Chhattisgarh state killing 10 policemen and a civilian.

India map showing the districts where the Naxalite movement is active (2007)

India map showing the districts where the Naxalite movement is active (2007)

It was yet again a display of two synchronised and simultaneous attacks by the Communist Party of India-Maoist (CPI-Maoist) cadres in the Bijapur district. At Metlacheru, the extremists attacked a team of police personnel on its way to Bhopalpatnam, a little after 5pm. Fortunately there were no casualties.

Half an hour later, another ambush took place near Bhadrakali, around three kilometres from the site of the first attack. 10 policemen and a tractor driver were dead in the attack. The dead were part of a 70-member team that had gone to a Bhadrakali police station to drop rations and were ambushed on their way back. The team was walking behind a tractor when the Maoists opened fire. Police claimed that four Maoists too were killed in the exchange of fire. No dead body was, however, recovered. Police claimed that the rebels took away their dead colleagues. Police also claims that no weapons were lost, although such a claim looks doubtful.

Providing rations to police stations located in remote areas is an elaborate procedure in all the Maoist affected areas and the large entourage of policemen deployed for the exercise in regular intervals is always vulnerable to such attacks. The danger is more when Maoists get to know the schedule of the policemen.

Recent reports have indicated at the possibility of the Maoists infiltrating the ranks of the policemen in neighbouring state of Maharashtra. Confidential police documents were recovered from the home of an arrested senior cadre in Pune. A similar possibility can not be ruled out in Chhattisgarh, which has carried out large scale recruitment of police personnel, often by lowering the qualifying norms.

Chhattisgarh is also planning to induct about 4500 vigilante members of the Salwa Judum movement as regular policemen after the Supreme Court disbanded the movement. The Salwa Judum cadres have been accused of large scale human rights violations. The Central Government in New Delhi, however, remains supportive of the movement and has decided to file a review petition in the Supreme Court.

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In any event, the intelligence network of the Maoists is known to be somewhat better than that of the security forces. To add to the woes of the police, Maoists have systematically targeted the police informers in all the states under their influence. In the first seven months of 2011, 72 such police informers were killed by the Maoists across the country.

It is too early to fault the entourage for not adhering to the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). Going by the reports available, they were walking behind a tractor, using the vehicle as a protection shield. Under the prevailing circumstances, it would appear that they were indeed going by the SOPs laid down.

However, there is certainly a problem with the state's anti-Maoist strategy, which appears to be undergoing a process of overhauling under the newly appointed police chief. A sound intelligence gathering system remains non-existent in the state thereby exposing the security force personnel to such attacks. In stead of addressing these operational loopholes, the state appears to be engaging in grand designs of defeating by launching state wide operations.

The state of affairs would not improve till a course correction is effected. Maoists will retain the ability to carry out such attacks demoralising the security forces.

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32. **Suicide Bombers Strike In Southern Yemen** (Long War Journal)

Sunday, 21 August 2011

http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2011/08/suicide_bombers_stri.php

A pair of suicide bombers killed 12 people in attacks on pro-government tribal members in southern Yemen today.

The first suicide bomber detonated his vest in a crowd of people after greeting them in the town of Mudiyah in the southern province of Abyan, Reuters reported. Mudiyah is 30 northeast of Shaqra, which fell under the control of al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula last week, and 50 miles northeast of Zinjibar, the provincial capital of Abyan which fell under AQAP control in late May.

AQAP has been battling pro-government tribes and the military in Mudiyah. Tribesmen claimed they killed Yassir al-Shalily, a leader of the Ansar al Shariah, during fighting in Mudiyah on Aug. 10. Ansar al Shariah is the political front group for al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula and allied Yemeni terrorist groups.

The second suicide attack today took place at a checkpoint manned by tribal fighters in the Al Arqub area near Mudiyah. Nine tribal fighters were killed in the blast, Reuters reported.

Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula has been fighting under the banner of the Ansar al Sharia, or the Army of Islamic law. Ansar al Sharia constitutes "AQAP's version of the Islamic State of Iraq," which is al Qaeda's political and military front in Iraq, a senior US intelligence official told The Long War Journal. "Ansar al Sharia is pulling in allied Islamist groups and sympathetic tribes into its orbit, and seeks to implement an Islamic State much like the Taliban did in Afghanistan and al Qaeda attempted in Iraq," he said.

In an official statement released by Ansar al Sharia in May 2011, the group said it wishes to take control of "all administrative, political, economic, cultural, monitoring, and other responsibilities" in Yemen.

AQAP is seeking to build an army to back up its Islamic state. Last summer, Qasim al Raymi, the military commander for al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, and Mohammed Said al Umdah Gharib al T'aizzi, a senior AQAP military commander in southern Yemen, both claimed that the terror group had raised a 12,000-fighter-strong army in the southern Yemeni provinces. Yemeni officials recently told Al Hayah that "al Qaeda fighters in Zinjibar (the capital of Abyan) number in the hundreds, and perhaps exceed 2,000 gunmen."

For the past several months, Yemeni security forces have been battling AQAP and allied Islamist groups for control of the south. AQAP is known to have openly taken control of areas in Abyan, Shabwah, Hadramawt, Marib, and Lahj since the onset of large anti-government protests in March. Government forces have withdrawn from major cities in the south, leaving an opening for al Qaeda and allied Islamist groups to seize control of several areas. In May, AQAP took over Zinjibar, the provincial capital of Abyan. In June, AQAP seized Azzan, a city in Shabwah province. Last week, AQAP seized the coastal city Shaqra in Abyan province. Now Yemenis describe the southern port city of Aden as ripe for an AQAP takeover.

Yemen has become one of al Qaeda's most secure bases and a hub for its activities on the Arabian Peninsula and on the Horn of Africa. AQAP maintains safe havens in various parts of the country and is also known to

operate terror camps in Aden, Marib, and Abyan, and in the Alehimp and Sanhan regions in Sana'a. The terror group has conducted attacks on oil facilities, tourists, the US embassy in Sana'a, and Yemeni security forces.

AQAP's base in Yemen serves as a command and control center, a logistics hub, a transit point from Asia and the Peninsula, and a source of weapons and munitions for the al Qaeda-backed Shabaab in Somalia.

AQAP has also used its Yemeni base as a hub for attacks against the West. The 2009 Fort Hood shootings and the Christmas Day airline plot, as well as an airline parcel bomb plot in 2010, have all been traced back to Yemen.

"Yemen is Pakistan in the heart of the Arab world," a US intelligence official told The Long War Journal in 2009. "You have military and government collusion with al Qaeda, peace agreements, budding terror camps, and the export of jihad to neighboring countries."

The US is said to be taking advantage of the security vacuum in Yemen to step up attacks against AQAP's top leaders and its network. The US has launched at least four airstrikes in Yemen since May. Yemen has become enmeshed in a civil war that pits government factions, a rival military commander, the political opposition, various tribes, Shia Houthi rebels, and AQAP all against each other. Over the past several months, the fighting has intensified. President Ali Saleh has left the country for medical treatment after suffering a brain injury as well as burns on 40 percent of his body following an explosion at a mosque in the presidential compound in June.

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33. **Two Bombings In Thailand** (Bangkok Post)

Wednesday, 24 August 2011

<http://www.bangkokpost.com/news/security/253146/military-ranger-killed-14-hurt-in-2-separate-bombing-attacks>

A military ranger was killed and 14 other people, including a monk, were wounded in two separate bomb attacks in Yala and Pattani provinces yesterday.

Soldiers and police inspect the site of a bomb blast in a municipal area of Pattani. The bomb, hidden inside a 15-kg cooking gas container on a pushcart parked on a footpath, went off yesterday morning, wounding a Buddhist monk, three women and nine soldiers. ABDULLOH BENJAKAT

The first attack took place in tambon Lidol in Yala's Muang district about 12.30am when two rangers - Jenkawi Kanchanaprom, 24, and Nisai Chalit, 24 - left their military outpost to conduct a routine patrol.

The home-made bomb, hidden under a roadside bridge, exploded when the two rangers arrived in the area. Jenkawi died instantly while Mr Nisai sustained serious injuries. The explosion left a small hole in the road and scattered metal shards around the area.

Police blamed southern separatists for the attack.

In nearby Pattani province, a Buddhist monk, three women and nine soldiers, were wounded when a bomb exploded in Muang district yesterday morning. Of the nine soldiers, two were seriously wounded.

The bomb went off at 7.15 am on Pak Nam Road in tambon Sabarang of Muang municipality in Pattani province while a team of soldiers was escorting Buddhist monks during their morning alms collection.

The bomb was hidden inside a 15-kg cooking gas container on a pushcart parked on a footpath. It was triggered by a remote control device.

Pvt Sathit Chanlao, 22, and Pvt Khaokhom Paipod, 22 were seriously wounded in the explosion which also slightly injured the other soldiers, a 21-year-old monk and the three women.

The blast badly damaged a military pickup truck. The impact of the explosion shattered the glass doors and windows of about 20 houses along the roads and partly damaged three motorcycles parked in the area. Police said downtown, community areas and nightspot venues in Pattani were targets of insurgent bomb attacks.

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34. **Loud "Boom" In Spokane Valley Identified As IED** (KXLY)

Wednesday, 19 August 2011

<http://www.kxly.com/news/28919508/detail.html>

The mysterious "boom" heard by multiple Spokane Valley residents Wednesday night has been identified as an improvised explosive device.

The Spokane County Sheriff's Office received 911 calls Wednesday night around 10:20 from residents report seeing a bright flash and a loud "boom" but investigators were not able to find any evidence of an explosion. Two days later, evidence was recovered near Sprague and Robbie that will be submitted to forensics for examination. They'll be searching for fingerprints.

The IED had a fuse which was lit shortly before it was lifted into the air by a number of helium-filled balloons. There were not anti-personal components to the device, according to the Sheriff's Office, but it could have caused injuries or caused a wildfire.

The Sheriff's Office points out that there was no apparent connection between this device and the IED recently found along the route of the Martin Luther King parade in Spokane.

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35. **Australian Man Blows Off Legs While Mixing HME** (Fox Phoenix)

Tuesday, 23 August 2011

<http://www.myfoxphoenix.com/dpp/news/world/legs-blown-off-homemade-bomb-ncx-08232011>

An Australian man was fighting for life Monday after both his legs were blown off as he tried to construct a homemade bomb.

A paramedic described the 24-year-old's life-threatening injuries as "what you would see in a war situation" following the incident, which occurred about 11:00pm Sunday at Cannons Creek -- 33 miles (54km) southeast of Victoria's state capital Melbourne.

Police said the victim and another seriously-injured man, aged 23, were mixing chemicals in a container in front of about 12 family and friends when the concoction exploded. Arson squad Senior Detective Cameron Lunny described the powerful mixture -- which radio station 3AW said contained brake fluid and chlorine -- as an "improvised explosive device."

"They were just having a bit of a muck around I think," Lunny said. "There's certainly no indication there was anything apart from experimenting."

Intensive care paramedic Ben Meadley said the men -- who were standing over the mixture, trying to bury it, when it exploded -- suffered extensive injuries.

"A 24-year-old man suffered significant blast-type injuries to his legs and hands, the type of injury you would more liken to what you would see in a war situation rather than in outer suburban Melbourne," he said. "He also had severe airway burns and facial burns."

The man was put into an induced coma before he was flown to the Royal Melbourne Hospital in a critical condition.

The 23-year-old suffered burns to his face and arms and burns to his airway, which can cause swelling and restrict breathing. He was also put into an induced coma and was flown to the Alfred Hospital in a critical condition.

Neighbor Arlene Trevethan said the explosion created shockwaves.

"It just shook the house. I came out and I thought it was a fire or something," she said.

Local Robert Dudgeon said he had heard similar explosions in the past, which police are investigating.

"There were others here over the past month or so," he said. "One night there were three in a row. Whether it's the same source or not, I don't know."

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