



## Weekly News Update

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13 JULY 2011

The RAPID Weekly News Update is a weekly collection of unclassified news coverage 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](mailto:rapid@atsolutions.com)) from your government email account.

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## 1. Soldier Creates Smartphone App To Track Taliban, IEDs (The Star)

Thursday, 07 July 2011

<http://www.thestar.com/news/world/article/1021082--soldier-creates-smartphone-app-to-track-taliban-ieds>

With eight years in the U.S. military, Captain Jonathan Springer has seen a lot of combat, but when two soldiers in his battalion were killed in June 2010 by a rocket strike in Afghanistan's Pesh River Valley, he began to think there must be something he could do to prevent future deaths.

"It hurts me to think about them and the ultimate sacrifice they paid," said Springer, who is now serving with the 1st Brigade of the 101st Airborne Division as a fire support officer and artillery captain at Fort Campbell, Ky.

"That started the ball rolling. I didn't know how or what I was going to do, but I had a sense that I needed to do something for those soldiers."

He came up with a novel idea: a smartphone app that could help soldiers do everything from plot the co-ordinates of an IED to identifying the location of enemy gunfire.

Springer said many soldiers actually carry a smartphone into battle. They use it to text, warn each other about possible dangers, listen to music, or even play the odd round of Angry Birds.

"I saw them as personal computers that were untapped by military personnel," he explained.

Springer, who has done a tour in Afghanistan and two tours in Iraq, has always been a fan of Apple products. He said that when he first saw the App Store, he originally thought there should be an app for soldiers.

After trying to teach himself programming code, Springer turned to Raster Media in Las Vegas to help him develop the app.

"Originally I just wanted it to be a compass that gave me military grid co-ordinates that is used by all NATO Forces," he said. But the app has evolved, and a map and camera have been added.

The idea for the camera function came from a colleague. He suggested a function that allows a user to stamp the GPS co-ordinates on a photo. He told Springer that he would pay \$5.99 for that function alone.

The app is available at the Apple App store or through Springer's website. So far over 3,000 people have downloaded the app. Springer said it could be used by any military personnel that use NATO's Military Grid Reference System, including the Canadian military.

The app is extremely easy to use, said Springer. For example if soldiers in Afghanistan find an IED on the road, they can map it and plan around it. "Or if you're taking fire from the mountainside to the south of you, you can plot the point where enemy fire comes from.

"You can whip out the compass and get your direction," he explains. "It does degrees, mils, longitude, latitude, altitude. If you need to call in artillery, all those things come into play. You can plot way points and share that information with other users of the app over a shared email."

Springer knows he won't get rich with the app since it really is directed at a tiny niche market. But he hopes that it will be beneficial for soldiers in the field.

So far, he has invested \$30,000 of his own savings. "I know it's a lot of money, but if it saves one soldier's life it's worth it."

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The military has yet to embrace it. When Springer tried to get some additional funding to expand the app so it could work on Android phones, the military told him there was none available.

“I hope the leaders in the army know how critical smartphones are becoming to soldiers.

“Anything that can save a soldier’s life is worth the investment.”

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## 2. As Improvised Explosive Devices Evolve, Soldiers Work To Find New Methods To Detect Them

(Wall Street Journal)

Monday, 11 July 2011

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702304584404576438290492960696.html?mod=googlenews\\_wsj](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702304584404576438290492960696.html?mod=googlenews_wsj)

U.S. Defense Secretary Leon Panetta, visiting troops in southern Afghanistan, saw how the art of detecting buried explosive devices has changed little, in some ways, since his Army days despite the billions of dollars spent by the Pentagon to improve bomb detection.

During a visit to Forward Operating Base Dwyer in Helmand province, Mr. Panetta, 73 years old, witnessed a group of Afghan soldiers training with long, crudely constructed bamboo poles with hooks at one end, scraping through a dirt field to find and destroy improvised explosive devices, or IEDs.

The sight reminded Mr. Panetta of when he served as an Army intelligence officer from 1964 to 1966. "When I was in the Army, you used to do that by bayonet," he said.

The IEDs planted today by Taliban insurgents in southern Afghanistan are far more powerful and sophisticated than the mines that troops faced in the 1960s, officials say. Commanders at the base told Mr. Panetta that insurgents use pressure-sensitive plates, wall-mounted explosives and remote-controlled devices to try to kill U.S. and Afghan forces on patrol.

IEDs planted by the Taliban are responsible for most U.S. casualties in Afghanistan. Mr. Panetta's predecessor at the Pentagon, Robert Gates, invested heavily in new technologies to try to minimize the threat.

The military now uses specially designed armored vehicles to protect troops, sophisticated jammers to block radio signals, as well as drone aircraft to spot insurgents planting explosives.

In Iraq, much of the investment fighting IEDs went into jammers, which blocked radio signals that set off bombs. As a result, most bombs are now set off by pressure plates or command wires. Jammers are ineffective against those trigger methods, forcing the military to place more emphasis on spotting bombs before they are triggered.

At Dwyer, the Afghan trainees used the bamboo poles to feel at a distance for the telltale signs of an IED, such as protruding wires.

The bamboo-pole contraption was the brainchild of a U.S. Marine, whom commanders at Dwyer identified as Gunnery Sgt. Holly, who served in Helmand and was subsequently killed in an incident unrelated to his work with IEDs.

The 10-to-15-foot bamboo poles, referred to as the "Holly Stick," caught on fast among troops. Since they were put into widespread use in the area, IED "find rates" have increased by 35%, said Col. David Furness. He attributed the improvement to the methodical pace at which the hooks or sickles are used to scrape the earth.

Handlers feel for possible IEDs using the hook. A soft patch in the dirt is a sign the earth had recently been moved, an indicator that an explosive device may be buried below.

A Pentagon body tasked with developing IED defenses is now making a U.S.-manufactured version of the Holly Stick that will be retractable so it can be carried more easily by foot soldiers, the defense secretary was told.

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Mr. Panetta sounded impressed. "It's a good idea," he said.

During his two-day visit to Afghanistan, Mr. Panetta met with President Hamid Karzai and other top Afghan officials, as well as top U.S. commanders.

Mr. Panetta said he emerged convinced "we are on the right path" towards the goal of transferring full security responsibility to the Afghans by the end of 2014.

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### 3. Coalition Mentors Afghans In IED Reduction (Marine Corps News)

Thursday, 07 July 2011

<http://www.military.com/news/article/marine-corps-news/coalition-mentors-afghans-in-ied-reduction.html>

The explosive hazard reduction course at Joint Sustainment Academy Southwest, here, allows coalition forces instructors teach members of the Afghan National Security Forces the fundamentals of identifying and countering improvised explosive devices.

The course prepares members of the Afghan National Army, uniformed police and border police to operate in a partnership role with coalition forces when IEDs are encountered, the basics of insurgent IED tactics and how to handle and eliminate unexploded ordinance and munitions.

The ANSF students also learn to locate, identify and disarm victim operated IEDs such as pressure plate and trip wires devices. Another key focus of the course is to teach ANSF personnel to perform searches alongside coalition units.

“We teach them how to spot the IEDs, place a charge next to it and then how to blow them up,” said Senior Chief Petty Officer Ronald Ameika, an explosive ordnance disposal tech and instructor at JSAS.

Course trainees are constantly reminded to multitask, listening for the audible alarm from the Vallon metal detector while always scanning the surface of the earth in front of them for signs of planted IEDs.

“Students need to be well rounded and familiar with all field equipment, explosives and techniques used,” said Ameika, a native of Groton, Conn.

“Countering IEDs and dealing with these devices is a process that goes through stages,” said British Royal Engineer Lance Cpl. Paul Dwayne, an instructor for the EHR course at JSAS. “At the [moment] we concentrate on getting [students] the very basics so that they can work with a mentor over a period of time, getting up to scratch, to the level we want them at, so we can go out in small teams and carry out the drills,” added Dwayne, from Kettering, England.

During the course, the students train daily, mastering their search procedures and rotating positions on the search party.

Near the end of the course, students undergo a drill using sophisticated technology to measure their effectiveness.

A team of students executes the side-to-side sweep of a lane with a metal detector. The sweep pattern of each student using the detector is recorded and then displayed as a computer image on a monitor.

“This serves as a great debriefing tool that makes students fully aware of errors committed during the exercises and corrective measures needed to successfully complete the course prior to graduation,” said Ameika.

On the final day of the field exercise, students typically show a great measure of improvement, he added. “By the end of the fourth week, they know what they are doing,” said Ameika.

Course graduates who show potential and possess adequate math and reading skills can also be recommended to continue to an advanced EOD course.

Many ANSF troops attending the EHR course recognize the potential to teach others and the opportunity to serve the people of Afghanistan.

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“In Afghanistan there are many IEDs,” said Staff Sgt. Mohibullah Hamidi of the 215th Corps ANA. “What I learn here in this course, I will use in the future to help the people of Afghanistan. I plan to become an expert and teach others how to counter the IED threat.”

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**4. Explosives Cache Destroyed Near Khak-e Safed Village (DIVDS News)**

Wednesday, 06 July 2011

<http://www.dvidshub.net/news/73278/explosives-cache-destroyed-near-khak-e-safed-village>

The 207th Afghan National Army soldiers and coalition special operations forces destroyed an explosives cache near the Khak-e Safed village, July 2.

The cache, which was located a few kilometers from the village, contained six five-gallon jugs of ammonium nitrate based homemade explosives.

In addition, the entrance to the cache site was rigged with a pressure plate improvised explosive device and an anti-tampering device to deter intruders.

A coalition SOF team member reported the anti-tampering device had wires connected to the PPIED rigged to explode if anyone dug to expose the pressure plate.

Combined forces successfully destroyed the cache without incurring civilian injuries or resulting in any property damage.

Another coalition SOF team member reported the destruction of the cache contributes to the Afghan citizens' perception and realization that the Government of Afghanistan, through Afghan National Security Forces, is providing security for the villagers.



**5. Moqor District Governor Killed In Badghis** (Bakhtar News)

Sunday, 10 July 2011

<http://bakhtarnews.com.af/en/index.php?news=5840>

Moqor district governor was killed in a roadside mine blast this morning and five others injured including education head of that district were. [sic]

Head of Badghis governor office Sharafuddin said to this news agency, the mine exploded in Sang Atash area, Moqor district when the car of the governor was passing from the area.

In this explosion, Mullah Daud governor of Moqor was killed and Mullah Azizullah education head of that district, three bodyguards of the governor and a civilian were wounded, he said. According to Sharafuddin, the mine was placed by militants in this area.

The injured were shifted to central hospital of Badghis province and their health condition reported satisfactory, said the source.

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**6. Local Soldier Was Killed In IED Attack** (WWMT News)

Thursday, 07 July 2011

<http://www.wwmt.com/articles/killed-1393121-local-attack.html>

A soldier from Battle Creek has been killed in Afghanistan.

Staff Sergeant Joshua Throckmorton died on Tuesday. He was one of three U.S. soldiers killed on July 5th in Afghanistan.

The men died after enemy forces attacked their unit with an improvised explosive device.

The soldiers were assigned to the 709th Military Police Battalion based in Germany.

Throckmorton was 28-years-old, married and the father of three.

His family says he joined the Army after graduating from Battle Creek Central. He loved high school football and he saw the world with the Army.

While Throckmorton was stationed in Germany he had spent fifteen months in Iraq and was three months into a one year deployment in Afghanistan before he was killed Tuesday.

Family members tell Newschannel 3 they just learned of Throckmorton's death on Wednesday night and are still struggling to come to terms with the news.

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**7. ISAF Casualty** (DVIDS News)

Saturday, 09 July 2011

<http://www.dvidshub.net/news/73486/isaf-casualty>

One International Security Assistance Force service member died following an improvised explosive device attack in southern Afghanistan today.

It is ISAF policy to defer casualty identification procedures to the relevant national authorities.

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**8. Suicide Bomber Kills 7 At Political Rally In Northwest Pakistan** (Associated Press of Pakistan)

Monday, 11 July 2011

[http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en /index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=144593&Itemid=1](http://ftpapp.app.com.pk/en /index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=144593&Itemid=1)

At least seven persons including two policemen were killed and 25 others injured in a suicide attack at Battagram bazaar near Wapda House here on Monday, police said. The suicide bomber, who was apparently targeting a public meeting of PML-Q at Battagram bazaar, blew himself up after asked by police to stop for search at security check point. The explosion occurred ahead of PML-Q public meeting that was to be addressed by PML-Q KPK President Engr Amir Muqam. Two policemen identified as Tayyub Khan and Hazrat Ali Shah, girl and a woman among seven killed and 25 injured in the terror strike. The bang of explosion was heard in long distance and created terror.

The injured were rushed to DHQ Hospital for treatment where emergency was declared. The security forces cordoned off the area and started search operation.

The traders closed down shutters of shops and raised slogans. PML-Q leader Eng Amir Muqam has strongly condemned the attack and termed it cowardice act of terrorism. Talking to reporters, he said that such coward act of terrorism could not deter our determination from service to people. He demanded arrest of the perpetrators.

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**9. Three NATO Soldiers Among Six Killed In Afghan Attacks** (Park Tribune)

<http://paktribune.com/news/index.shtml?241394>

Monday, 11 July 2011

Three NATO soldiers and three policemen were killed in bomb and insurgent attacks in the restive south and east on Sunday, as the top US commander in the country said the overall number of insurgent attacks had decreased this summer.

NATO said one coalition soldier died following an insurgent attack and another was killed in a bomb explosion in the south, while a third service member died after another insurgent attack in the east. In southern Kandahar city, three Afghan policemen were killed, while three policemen and three civilians were wounded, in a roadside bomb blast that ripped through a police vehicle, provincial police chief Abdul Raziq told AFP.

Sunday's incidents brought the overall death toll for foreign forces to 293 this year in Afghanistan, according to a tally based on that collected by the independent website iCasualties.org.

Meanwhile, seven deminers kidnapped in western Afghanistan have been beheaded by their abductors, police said on Sunday.

The seven were part of a group of 28 deminers who were whisked away on Wednesday in a district that is the focus of the Taliban insurgency in Farah province, but no one has claimed responsibility for the mass kidnapping.

"Seven of the deminers are beheaded. We have recovered the body of one of them and the rest of the bodies are with tribal elders," said Mohammad Ghaws Malyar, the Farah provincial deputy police chief.

He said the fate of the other deminers who were taken in the Bala Buluk district was unknown.

Criminal groups and insurgents have repeatedly kidnapped dozens of Afghans and foreigners since a 2001 US-led invasion ousted the Taliban regime, but most are eventually freed for ransom or in exchange for the release of prisoners.

The deminers were working for the Demining Agency for Afghanistan, an Afghan charity based in the southern province of Kandahar.

In a similar incident in December, 18 Afghans working for the Mine Detection Center were kidnapped in the eastern province of Khost, which borders Pakistan, and were freed unharmed a day later in a joint Afghan-foreign operation.

Overall, however, General David Petraeus said attacks were down by "a few percent" for May and June, the beginning of the traditional annual fighting season, although he said the number of homemade bomb explosions had risen.

"June saw fewer insurgent attacks than last June and that's quite significant and May was quite the same," he said.

"So you have the first two months of comparison with the previous year is actually a reduction. July is trending that way. That is very significant," he told reporters in the Afghan capital Kabul.

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**10. Two Policemen Killed, 7 Injured In Peshawar Roadside Blast** (The Nation)

Monday, 11 July 2011

<http://nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/Politics/11-Jul-2011/Two-policemen-killed-7-injured-in-Peshawar-roadside-blast>

Two policemen were killed and seven others injured in a remote controlled improvised explosive device (IED) blast here in Peshawar late Sunday night.

According to police, unknown miscreants had planted a remote controlled device by roadside near Urmar Camp.

As the police mobile reached the scene, militants blasted the device with the help of remote control. As a result of explosion, two policemen were killed on the spot while seven others sustained injuries. Heavy contingent of police reached the scene of the incident and shifted the injured cops to Lady Reading Hospital (LRH).

The security forces cordoned off the area after the blast and launched search operation but no arrest has been made.

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**11. Danish Soldier Dies in Explosion During Patrol In Afghanistan** (Bloomberg)

Sunday, 10 July 2011

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-07-10/danish-soldier-dies-in-explosion-during-patrol-in-afghanistan.html>

A Danish soldier was killed in an explosion today while on patrol in the Helmand province in southern Afghanistan, Denmark's army said.

The Defence Command didn't say what caused the blast nor did it identify the soldier in a statement published on its website. Denmark, which has about 690 troops in Afghanistan under North Atlantic Treaty Organization command, has since 2002 lost 39 soldiers in the country, mostly in roadside bomb attacks.

**12. Afghan Official: 8 Policemen Killed In Explosion** (Associated Press)

Thursday, 07 July 2011

<http://www.newsday.com/news/afghan-official-8-policemen-killed-in-explosion-1.3010154>

Police say eight Afghan policemen have been killed by a roadside bomb in northern Afghanistan.

The police chief of Jawzjan province, Abdul Aziz Ghyrat, says the policemen were patrolling in Fayz Abad district Thursday when their vehicle struck the powerful explosive.

He says six policemen, including the commander of the unit, were killed instantly and two died later at a hospital.



**13. Eleven Injured In Kirkuk Blast** (Aswat al-Iraq)

Monday, 11 July 2011

[http://en.aswataliraq.info/Default.aspx?page=article\\_page&c=slideshow&id=143706](http://en.aswataliraq.info/Default.aspx?page=article_page&c=slideshow&id=143706)

At least 11 persons have been wounded in a booby-trapped car explosion, targeted against an Iraqi police patrol in Tuz-Khurmato township, south of Kirkuk on Monday, a security source reported.

“A booby-trapped car has blown up against an Iraqi police patrol in Tuz-Khurmato township, 80 km to the south of Kirkuk, wounding 11 persons, including 4 policemen,” the security source said, adding that the car was detonated via a remote-control device.

Kirkuk is 280 km to the northeast of Baghdad.

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**14. Iraqi Civilian Killed, Another Injured In Falluja Blast** (Aswat al-Iraq)

Sunday, 10 July 2011

[http://en.aswataliraq.info/Default.aspx?page=article\\_page&c=slideshow&id=143678](http://en.aswataliraq.info/Default.aspx?page=article_page&c=slideshow&id=143678)

A civilian has been killed and another injured in an explosion inside a concrete factory in Garma village east of Falluja, the largest city of west Iraq's Anbar Province, an Anbar security source reported on Sunday.

"A civilian has been killed and another injured in an explosion inside a concrete factory in the Ra'oud Area of Garma village, east of Falluja," the security source said.

"The explosion was caused by a number of explosive charges planted around the targeted factory," the security source told Aswat al-Iraq news agency.

"Iraqi police and Army forces rushed to the attacked factory, searching nearby plants, as a precaution against armed groups that might be hiding in the area," the security source said.

Falluja is 60 km to the west of Ramadi, the center of Anbar Province, 110 km to the west of Baghdad.

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**15. Two Soldiers Killed By IED Outside Main Iraq Base** (Associated Press)

Thursday, 07 July 2011

<http://www.armytimes.com/news/2011/07/ap-iraq-soldiers-killed-by-ied-outside-camp-victory-070711/>

A roadside bomb killed two U.S. soldiers Thursday outside the main American military base in Baghdad in what U.S. officials said appeared to be another attack by Shiite militias hoping to drive U.S. troops out of Iraq.

The attack follows the deadliest month for U.S. troops in Iraq in two years. Fifteen U.S. soldiers died in June, nearly all in attacks by Shiite militias.

The 46,000 U.S. troops currently stationed in Iraq are to leave by year's end under a 2008 withdrawal agreement. However, the White House is offering to keep up to 10,000 troops in the country beyond that deadline, if asked by Iraq, to help stabilize the country's still-shaky security and keep Iran from becoming too cozy with Baghdad officials.

Thursday's bomb, which was detonated near a checkpoint outside Victory Base Camp, was a powerful armor-piercing explosive known as an EFP, according to two military officials with knowledge of the attack.

EFPs typically are designed and outfitted in Iran, and are a trademark of the Shiite militia headed by anti-U.S. cleric Muqtada al-Sadr.

The U.S. officials spoke on condition of anonymity because the details have not been officially released. A spokesman for the U.S. military in Iraq did not have an immediate comment about the attack. Victory Base Camp serves as the headquarters of the U.S. military in Iraq, and is home to thousands of American soldiers and contractors.

The slain soldiers were not identified pending notification of their relatives, and no other details were immediately available.

While the White House is considering keeping some U.S. soldiers in Iraq beyond this year, some U.S. officials oppose an extension. They fear the recent uptick in American deaths will continue if soldiers remain in Iraq—a risk they say is not worth taking.

The most recent attack brings the number of U.S. troops who have died in Iraq to 4,471 since the 2003 invasion, according to an Associated Press count.

Iraq and Iran have the only two Shiite-led governments in the region. U.S.-allied Arab states, particularly Saudi Arabia and its Gulf neighbors, are concerned about what they perceive to be Iran's expanding influence ahead of a planned departure of U.S. forces from Iraq. The Sunni-led monarchies of the Gulf have also accused Tehran of encouraging Shiite-led uprisings in Bahrain and other Gulf states.

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**16. Seven Injured, Including One Cop, In Baquuba Blast** (Aswat al-Iraq)

Saturday, 09 July 2011

[http://en.aswataliraq.info/Default.aspx?page=article\\_page&c=slideshow&id=143661](http://en.aswataliraq.info/Default.aspx?page=article_page&c=slideshow&id=143661)

At least 7 persons, among them policemen, have been injured in a booby-trapped motorcycle explosion, parked on the roadside in central Baaquba on Saturday, a Diala security source reported.

“A booby-trapped motorcycle, parked on the roadside in central Baaquba, targeted against a police patrol, has blown up wounding 7 persons, among them policemen, and causing severe damage to a bank and 5 shops,” the security source told Aswat al-Iraq news agency.

Baaquba, the center of Diala Province, is 57 km to the northeast of Baghdad.

**17. Rocket Launchers Found In Kut** (Aswat al-Iraq)

Monday, 11 July 2011

[http://en.aswataliraq.info/Default.aspx?page=article\\_page&c=slideshow&id=143710](http://en.aswataliraq.info/Default.aspx?page=article_page&c=slideshow&id=143710)

Wassit police sources disclosed today that they confiscated rocket launchers, and dismantled two rockets in Kut city.

The source told Aswat al-Iraq that they found two rockets alongside the launchers in the center of the city.

On the other hand, the source added that the police dismantled a car bomb that had been planted in a parking garage in the city, and a second bomb that had been planted inside a woman's purse north of Kut.

Kut, the center of Wassit, lies 180 km southeast of the capital, Baghdad.

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**18. Police Colonel Killed, Captain, Policeman, Injured In Tikrit Blast** (Aswat al-Iraq)

Monday, 11 July 2011

[http://en.aswataliraq.info/Default.aspx?page=article\\_page&c=slideshow&id=143695](http://en.aswataliraq.info/Default.aspx?page=article_page&c=slideshow&id=143695)

An Iraqi police officer, with a colonel rank in Salahal-Din's Police Command, has been killed, a captain and a policeman, injured in a sticking bomb that blew up under their car north of Tikrit on Monday, a Salahal-Din security source reported.

“An explosive charge, stuck under a police car in Beiji township, 40 km north of Tikrit, blew up on Monday morning, killing Police Colonel, Salam Juma'a, wounding a captain and a policeman, along with causing severe damage to the car,” the security source told Aswat al-Iraq news agency.

Tikrit, the center of Salahal-Din Province, is 175 km to the north of Baghdad.

**19. Iraqi Army Officer Killed In Kut Explosion** (Aswat al-Iraq)

Monday, 11 July 2011

[http://en.aswataliraq.info/Default1.aspx?page=article\\_page&id=143693&l=1](http://en.aswataliraq.info/Default1.aspx?page=article_page&id=143693&l=1)

An Iraqi Army officer has been killed in an explosive charge blast under his car in southern Iraq's city of Kut on Saturday night, a police source reported on Monday.

"The victim, who was killed in a sticking bomb that blew off under his personal car on Saturday night had been a Lt-Brigadier in Iraq's Defense Ministry," the police source told Aswat al-Iraq news agency.

The police source had reported on Saturday night that an explosion had blown up a car in Kut, destroying the car and burning all the documents inside it, thing that had hidden the identity of the victim.

Kut, the center of southern Iraq's Wassit Province, is 180 km to the south of Baghdad.

**20. Iraqi Police: Suicide Bomber Kills 5 Sunni Guards** (Associated Press)

Tuesday, 12 July 2011

<http://www.wboc.com/story/15061582/1-of-iraqs-3-vice-presidents-resigns>

Iraqi police say a suicide bomber has killed five members of a government-backed Sunni militia that has helped U.S. forces fight al-Qaida.

Two policemen say the bomber drove an explosives-packed car into a security checkpoint just outside the capital Baghdad in the western suburb of Abu Ghraib.

The checkpoint was guarded by militiamen belonging to Sahwa, or Awakening Councils. The group once fought Americans but later joined U.S. and Iraqi soldiers in one of the turning points of the war. Sunni insurgents have since frequently targeted the group.

A medic at Abu Ghraib General Hospital says eight other people were wounded in Tuesday's bombing. All spoke on condition of anonymity because they are not authorized to release the information.

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**21. Three Blasts Rock Mumbai, CM Chavan Says 20 Dead, 81 Injured** (Times of India)

Wednesday, 13 July 2011

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mumbai/Three-blasts-rock-Mumbai-CM-Chavan-says-17-dead-81-injured/articleshow/9212554.cms>

Three near-simultaneous explosions rocked Mumbai at rush-hour on Wednesday, killing at least 20 people in what the government said appeared to be another terrorist strike in the city hit by a major attack nearly three years ago.

Maharashtra chief minister Prithviraj Chavan said the latest attack killed 20 people, and home minister P Chidambaram said the toll was likely to rise.

Television footage showed dozens of police officials, several of them armed, at the sites of the explosion and at least one car with its windows shattered. A photograph showed victims of a blast at the Zaveri Bazaar crowding into the back of a cargo truck to be taken to a hospital.

Because of the close timing of the string of explosions, "we infer that this was a coordinated attack by terrorists," home minister Palaniappan Chidambaram said.

One blast hit the crowded neighborhood of Dadar in central Mumbai. The others were at the Zaveri Bazaar, which is a famed jewelry market, and the busy business district of Opera House, both in southern Mumbai and several miles (kilometers) apart, police said.

All three blasts happened from 6:50pm. to 7pm., when all the neighborhoods would have been packed with office workers and commuters.

The 2008 attack killed 166 people and was blamed on Pakistan-based militant groups. Tensions escalated between the countries and peace talks were suspended. The talks recently resumed.

Soon after Wednesday's blasts were reported, Pakistan's government expressed distress on the loss of lives and injuries.

The blasts would mark the first major attack on Mumbai since the November 2008 violence, when 10 terrorists laid siege to the city for 60 hours, targeting two luxury hotels, a Jewish center and a busy train station. There was no immediate indication that Wednesday's blasts were part of a prolonged siege.

Mumbai has been on edge since then. In December, authorities deployed extra police on city streets after receiving intelligence that a Pakistan-based militant group was planning an attack over New Year's weekend. Police conducted house-to-house searches in some neighborhoods for four men who authorities believe entered the city to carry out a terrorist attack, and computer-aided photographs of the four suspects were released.

In March 2010, Mumbai police said they prevented a major terrorist strike after they arrested two Indian men, who, police said, were preparing to hit several targets in the city. Then in September, police issued a terror alert for the city during a popular Hindu festival.

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**22. Bomb Outside Nigerian Capital Kills Three** (Reuters)

Monday, 11 July 2011

[http://www.defenceweb.co.za/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=17080:bomb-outside-nigerian-capital-kills-three-red-cross&catid=3:Civil%20Security&Itemid=113](http://www.defenceweb.co.za/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=17080:bomb-outside-nigerian-capital-kills-three-red-cross&catid=3:Civil%20Security&Itemid=113)

A bomb blast at a church in Suleja, a satellite town on the outskirts of Nigeria's capital, Abuja, killed three people and seriously wounded seven yesterday, the Red Cross said.

"Three dead, seven critically injured (after) bomb explosion at Suleja, Niger State," a Red Cross spokesman said. The police and emergency agencies said there had been an explosion but would not confirm any deaths or give details on the cause.

Witnesses said a church had been damaged in the blast and at least two dead bodies had been taken to the local hospital.

Suleja was the target of a deadly bomb attack at its electoral office on the eve of April's parliamentary election.

Security in Nigeria's capital has been tight in recent weeks after a bomb outside national police headquarters last month by suspected members of an Islamist sect killed several people.

Police say Boko Haram, which says it wants a wider application of sharia Islamic law across Africa's most populous nation, has been behind almost daily attacks in northeastern Nigeria, mainly around Maiduguri, the capital of Borno state.

The strikes, which often target the police, churches and drinking spots, have killed more than 150 people this year.

Authorities said 11 members of Boko Haram were killed and two soldiers wounded on Saturday night when the group attacked a military patrol in Maiduguri with explosives.

"At about 1930 (1830 GMT), a patrol team of the Joint Military Task Force was attacked with improvised explosive devices and several gunshots from a building in a bus park," Colonel Victor Ebhaleme told the media on Sunday.

Bomb blasts in the north have replaced militant attacks on oil facilities hundreds of kilometres (miles) away in the southern Niger Delta as the main security threat in Nigeria. The United States and European Union have condemned the violence.

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**23. Nine Policemen Injured In Yala Triple Explosions** (The Nation)

Monday, 11 July 2011

<http://www.nationmultimedia.com/home/9-policemen-injured-in-Yala-triple-explosions-30160001.html>

A second and third bomb at a rubber plantation in Yala's Raman district injured nine policemen Monday morning.

Of them, three sustained serious injuries and were airlifted into the Songklanagarind Hospital in Songkhla. They were Pol Second Lieutenant Somporn Suksaard, Pol Corporal Suriya Saiyanet and Pol Sergeant Somkuan Janyakorn.

These policemen went to a rubber plantation on the Raman - Taloh Ha Lor Road at about 9am after receiving a report that an explosion erupted there.

In the first explosion, 41yearold Sunthorn Maneesang was injured. He was going to tap rubber latex when he stepped on a booby trap at about 7am.

Raman district chief Boonthai Kansiri said four booby traps were planted at the rubber plantation and nearby areas.

"Three of them exploded causing injuries to 10 victims. Doctors have now suggested that it may be necessary to amputate the legs of at least two victims," he said. Police have managed to safely dispose just one bomb there.

**24. IED Blast Caused Derailment Of Guwahati-Puri Express** (Times of India)

Monday, 11 July 2011

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/IED-blast-caused-derailment-of-Guwahati-Puri-Express-Railways/articleshow/9184033.cms>

An improvised explosive device was used to trigger the blast that led to the derailment of the Guwahati-Puri Express in Kamrup district in Assam that left 100 passengers injured, officials said today.

Railway PRO Nripendra Bhattacharya said the explosion led to the engine and eight coaches jumping the rails at around 8:30 last evening at Dhatkuchi between Rangia and Ghagrapar in the district.

Four of the coaches toppled over and fell into a three feet water-filled ditch following the explosion, he said. A large crater beside the tracks and a huge length of fuse wire leading to a jungle were found by the Bomb Disposal Squad after the derailment.

A senior police officer said it appeared to be the handiwork of the Ranjan Daimary-led National Democratic Front of Bodoland anti-talk faction, active in the area.

The officer said at least 100 passengers were injured who were admitted to the Guwahati Medical College and Hospital.

Of the injured, 41 were in a serious condition, hospital sources said.

Railway officials are supervising restoration operations at the spot with 300 labourers at work, the officer said. A special train with 800 passengers of the Guwahati-Puri Express left Guwahati for Puri at 5:30 this morning.

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**25. Bomb Explosion Wounds Two In Mogadishu (Mareeg)**

Sunday, 10 July 2011

<http://www.mareeg.com/fidsan.php?sid=20350&tirsan=3>

At least two displaced people were wounded in bomb explosion that took place in IDPs camp in Mogadishu, witnesses and officials said Sunday.

The bomb was an abandoned old bomb and exploded when a little boy started to play with it.

The district commissioner of Mogadishu's Bondhere, Abdullahi Hirsi Wardhere told mareeg that incident occurred in IDPs camp in the district. No deaths were so far reported.

Bondhere was a scene of three year battle between Somali government backed by African Union peacekeepers and Al shabaab.

Somali government has recently confiscated the district from Al shabaab, becoming the first district it has captured from the group completely. Since then, people started to return to homes as some internally displaced people resorted to also live there.

However, more danger looms as there could be more remnant unexploded bombs and explosives in Bondhere district.

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