

RAPID

Realtime Analysis and Publishing of IED Data

WEEKLY NEWS UPDATE

Volume 2, Issue 31

3 AUGUST, 2012

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

23 Injured in Two Successive Lahore Blasts

Twenty three persons sustained injuries when two back-to-back explosions ripped through a busy vegetable market in Lahore, Pakistan Wednesday. The circumstantial evidence implied that the first bomb was planted under a push cart while the second bomb was planted in a parking lot.

**[See More: 23 Injured in Two
Successive Lahore Blast]**



UNCLASSIFIED

1. [Attack, Pakistan] Bomb Targeting CD Shop Injures Passerby..... 3
2. [Attack, Pakistan] Truck Bomb Kills 11 in Northwest Pakistani Market..... 4
3. [Attack, Afghanistan] IED Explosion Kills Two NATO Soldiers In Afghanistan..... 5
4. [Attack, Pakistan] 23 Injured in Two Successive Lahore Blasts..... 6
5. [Attack, Afghanistan] IED kills Afghan Police Chief, 2 Bodyguards in South Afghanistan..... 7
6. [Attack, Somalia] Bomb Blast Targets Somalia Constitution Meeting Venue in Mogadishu 8
7. [Attack, Nigeria] Bomb Blasts, Gunfire Rock Maiduguri 9
8. [Attack, Nigeria] Suicide Bomb, Explosion Hit North Nigeria Police 10
9. [Attack, Somalia] Somalia: Bomb Blast Targets Somali Troops in Mogadishu 12
10. [Attack, Libya] Libya Blast: Bomb Rips Through Military Intelligence Headquarters In Benghazi.... 13
11. [Security, Somalia] Somalia Bomb Attack Thwarted Just Before Approval of Constitution 14
12. [Security, Nigeria] Panic in Kano As Police Uncover Four Fresh Bombs Near Buk 16
13. [Security, Somalia] Somaliland: Mayor’s Assassination Attempt Fails 17
14. [Attack, Yemen] Parcel Bomb Kills Yemen Tribal Chief Son..... 19
15. [Attack, Iraq] Iraqi Police Killed In Bombing And Drive-By Shooting 20
16. [Attack, Iraq] Car Bomb in Iraq kills six 21
17. [Trend, Yemen] Yemeni Warplanes Bomb Two al-Qaida Hideouts 22
18. [Attack, Yemen] “Al-Qaeda” Bombing Wounds Yemeni Colonel 23
19. [Attack, Iraq] Bombs Kill 21, Underlining Iraq Chaos..... 24
20. [Security, Bahrain] 5 Tonnes of Bomb Materials Seized 27
21. [Attack, Bangladesh] Three Held With Cell Phone Bombs..... 29
22. [Attack, India] Roadside Bomb Attack by Rebels Kills Two Soldiers in India's Troubled Northeast . 31
23. [Attack, India] Day After Chidambaram's Visit, Bomb Blast Rocks Assam..... 32
24. [Attack, Malaysia] Woman Nabbed for Throwing Explosive Over Unpaid Debt 33
25. [Attack, Philippines] Suspected ASG Members Bomb Jolo Cathedral 34
26. [Security, India] Op Failed, IEDs Didn’t Go Off as Planned 35
27. [Security, United States] U.S. Looking for Upgraded Underwear Bomb with Different Type of Explosive, TSA says..... 36
28. [Trend, United States] Boy, 14, Charged with Making Pipe Bombs..... 37
29. [Trend, United States] Rodents May Detect Explosives 38
30. [Security, United States] Warrant Leads Officers to Homemade Explosive Device 39
31. [Security, United States] Homemade Explosives Found at Sacred Heart School 41

UNCLASSIFIED

32. [Technology, United States] Pentagon to Recruit Bomb-sniffing Rats 42

33. [Technology, United States] US Army Seeking New Shooter Game Featuring Suicide Bombers, by
2013 43

34. [Special Interest, United States] House Panel Probes Army IED Review 45

35. [Special Interest, United States] C-IED: Multiple U.S. DOD Organizations are Developing Numerous
Initiatives..... 47

36. [Attack, United States] Blacksburg Police, Feds Investigating IED Explosion 49

37. [Security, Norway] U.S. Practice Bomb Prompts Oslo Police to Evacuate Downtown 50

38. [Attack, Serbia] 2 Serbian Soldiers Killed in Cluster Bomb Explosion on Border with Kosovo 51

39. [Technology, United Kingdom] MoD in Search of IED Sensors of the Future..... 52

1. [Attack, Pakistan] Bomb Targeting CD Shop Injures Passerby

Monday, July 30 2012

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/414831/militancy-in-mansehra-bomb-targeting-cd-shop-injures-passerby/>

A passerby was seriously injured on Sunday when an improvised explosive device (IED) went off outside a CD shop located near a bus terminal here.

Station House Officer Khurshid Khan Tanoli of the city police station told The Express Tribune that the explosion partially damaged the shop. The police found four explosives in total out of which two exploded partially while the two unexploded devices were recovered and defused by the bomb disposal squad.

The police later claimed that as the bomb, a timed device, could not go off properly there was no loss of life and property.

Upon hearing the explosion, the people in the terminal called the police who cordoned off the area.

Tanoli told The Express Tribune that the miscreants had planted four IEDs, two inside the showcase of closed CD shop and one in a CPU that was placed at a small distance from the showcase. He added that the IEDs were made out of a water supply pipe joint that was fitted with a time device.

However, luckily only the explosive powder from the joint exploded which lowered the chances of major damage. Two of the devices were still intact and were later defused by the bomb disposal squad. Every joint carried around 200 to 300 grams of explosives, according to Tanoli.

The injured was identified as fruit vendor Adnan Mashkoor. The explosion caused him several injuries and burns and lost him his finger. However, according to the hospital sources he was out of danger.

However the SHO in reply to a question said that the nature of injuries that Adnan suffered has made him a suspect.

“We are still investigating the matter and would reach the culprits soon” Tanoli said. Nevertheless he also added that there were intelligence reports that the Taliban might have carried out the attack.

The police have registered criminal case against unknown persons under sections 3/4 Explosive Act, 7 ATA, 324 and 327 of the PPC.

On March 15 this year, a self-proclaimed offshoot of the Taliban had threatened to blow up CD shops, net cafés, cable network operators’ offices, NGO offices and all those educational institutions offering co-education in the district.

2. [Attack, Pakistan] Truck Bomb Kills 11 in Northwest Pakistani Market

Sunday, July 29 2012

<http://surgar.net/english/-news-pg-Hot-Issues-4927.html>

A truck packed with explosives exploded in a crowded market in northwestern Pakistan close to the Afghan border on Thursday, killing 11 people, a government official said. The blast in Salarzai town in the Bajur tribal area also wounded nearly two dozen people, some of them critically, and damaged several vehicles and shops, said Jehangir Azam, a local government administrator. It's unclear whether it was a suicide bombing, or if the explosives were detonated by remote control, said Azam. A shop owner who was injured in the attack, Sher Mohammed, was sitting in his store when he saw a pickup truck enter the bazaar. Minutes later he heard a large explosion.

"Something hurt my arm, chest and leg, and I feel down," said Mohammed. "When I opened my eyes, I found myself on this hospital bed." Mohammed cursed the attackers, saying "I don't know why we have been targeted." No group has claimed responsibility for the attack. The Pakistani Taliban have a strong presence in Bajur, but the group's spokesman, Ahsanullah Ahsan, denied they were behind the bombing. The group often denies involvement in bombings with significant civilian casualties. The army has carried out several offensives against militants in Bajur, but they continue to stage attacks. Also Thursday, Pakistan temporarily closed one of the two crossings used by NATO to ship troop supplies into Afghanistan because of security concerns, said Bakhtiar Khan, a local government official.

The decision to close the Torkham crossing in the northwest Khyber tribal area followed an attack in the area on Tuesday in which gunmen opened fire on a convoy carrying NATO troop supplies, killing a driver and wounding two other people. The crossing could remain closed for several days as officials work with Pakistan's paramilitary Frontier Corps to come up with an adequate security plan, said Khan. The other crossing used by NATO convoys, Chaman in southwest Baluchistan province, remains open, said customs official Mohammed Tariq. Pakistan closed its Afghan border to NATO supplies in November in retaliation for U.S. airstrikes that killed 24 Pakistani soldiers. Islamabad finally reopened the route in early July after the U.S. apologized for the deaths. The flow of trucks over the border since then has been relatively thin because of bureaucratic delays and disputes over compensation.

3. [Attack, Afghanistan] IED Explosion Kills Two NATO Soldiers In Afghanistan

Thursday, August 02, 2012

<http://www.rttnews.com/1937648/ied-explosion-kills-two-nato-soldiers-in-afghanistan.aspx?type=gn&Node=B1>

Two service-members of the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) were killed in an IED (improvised explosive device) attack in southern Afghanistan on Thursday.

An ISAF statement did not reveal the nationality of the victims as per ISAF policy to defer casualty identification procedures to the relevant national authorities.

With this, the number of foreign troops killed in Afghanistan this year rose to 266.

In a separate press release on Thursday, ISAF announced the arrest of a senior Taliban explosives expert in a joint operation by Afghan and coalition security forces in Pul-e Khurmi district, Baghlan province.

He constructed several improvised explosive devices used in attacks targeting Afghan officials and Afghan and coalition convoys. He also constructed multiple suicide vests he planned to use in attacks against Afghan forces in the region. During the operation on Wednesday, the security forces also detained two suspected insurgents and seized multiple explosive devices.

Afghan and coalition security forces detained a Taliban leader in Gelan district, Ghazni province, on Saturday. He coordinated direct-fire, mortar and improvised explosive device attacks against Afghan and coalition forces throughout southern Ghazni, ISAF said.

4. [Attack, Pakistan] 23 Injured in Two Successive Lahore Blasts

Thursday, August 02, 2012

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-13-16507-23-injured-in-two-successive-Lahore-blasts>

Twenty three persons sustained injuries when two back-to-back explosions ripped through a busy vegetable market in Badami Bagh Wednesday. The circumstantial evidence implied that the first bomb was planted under a push cart while the second bomb was planted in a parking lot.

The people on their own kick-started the relief activities and rushed the injured to a nearby hospital. Rescue 1122 and the police rushed to the scene for rescue operation. "We were busy in our usual work at the market when the first blast occurred on the main road which has the truck and vehicle stands as well adjacent to the Sabzi Mandi," said Akhtar Hussain, one of the injured. Everyone rushed for cover for safety. "I was going towards the Sabzi Mandi's main gate when the second blast occurred, which was more powerful than the earlier one, the splinters of the blast along with the debris of stalls and pushcarts hit everyone in the vicinity and one of such splinters hit me on the right side of my neck," he added.

He also mentioned that due to heavy traffic jam on the Ravi Road-Circular Road junction, it took a lot of time for the rescue teams to reach the scene of the blasts. It was believed that the first bomb was planted under a push cart, littering the ground with slippers, blood and broken glasses. The blast left a small crater on the ground, said eyewitnesses, adding that the push cart under which the bomb was believed to be planted was partially damaged. Bomb disposal squad officials said the two bombs were of low intensity and apparently contained about half kg of explosives.

"It was a terrible scene as there were injured lying everywhere," one witness told The News. "I joined the rescue operation and removed about five injured persons," he added. Frightened people gazed at the wreckage as the force of the blast spread panic among the residents of nearby surroundings.

A senior police official said that most of the injured persons were manual labourers who had been in the area which was so crowded when the bomber unleashed mayhem by exploding two remote control bombs. The search was underway at the blast site for the suspects. The police personnel put security cordon around the blast site. A state of emergency was immediately declared in the hospitals.

5. [Attack, Afghanistan] IED kills Afghan Police Chief, 2 Bodyguards in South Afghanistan

Thursday, August 02, 2012

<http://www.presstv.ir/detail/2012/08/02/253959/ied-kills-afghan-police-chief-2-guards/>

An Afghan police chief and his two bodyguards have been killed in a roadside bomb attack in southern Afghanistan.

On Wednesday, an improvised explosive device ripped through a police vehicle in the Shamozai district of Helmand province, Xinhua reported.

"The incident happened around noon when a mine planted by militants struck the vehicle of Shah Khan, the police chief of Shamozai district, killing him along with two of his bodyguards on the spot," said a senior government official.

He blamed Taliban militants for the incident, but no group has claimed responsibility for the attack so far.

Insecurity continues to rise across Afghanistan despite the presence of some 130,000 US-led forces in the war-torn country.

The United Nations announced on February 4 that 2011 was the deadliest on record for Afghan civilians. The death toll rose eight percent compared to the year before and was roughly double the figure for 2007.

Overall, 3,021 civilians died in violence related to the war and 4,507 were injured in 2011.

6. [Attack, Somalia] Bomb Blast Targets Somalia Constitution Meeting Venue in Mogadishu

Friday, July 27 2012

<http://www.presstv.ir/detail/2012/07/27/253087/blast-targets-somalia-constitution-meeting/>

A massive bomb explosion has occurred near a former police academy where the Somalia's 825-member National Constituent Assembly (NCA) was debating a new constitution for the African state, Press TV reports.

According to the police, the blast took place on Friday when a remote-controlled bomb went off near the meeting venue in the capital city of Mogadishu.

"The bomb was planted under a wall near the hall. A civilian car was hit by shrapnel," Farah Omar, a police official told Press TV.

Residents around the meeting venue said they heard the explosion followed by a huge smoke cloud.

On Wednesday, 825 delegates from Somalia clans began a nine-day meeting to debate a provisional constitution in an attempt to form a new parliament in the war-ravaged country.

Somalia has not had a functioning government since 1991 when warlords overthrew former dictator Mohamed Siad Barre.

The weak Western-backed transitional government in Mogadishu has been battling al-Shabab for the past five years and is propped up by a 12,000-strong AU force from Uganda, Burundi, and Djibouti.

Somalia is one of the countries generating the highest number of refugees and internally-displaced people in the world.

7. [Attack, Nigeria] Bomb Blasts, Gunfire Rock Maiduguri

Friday, July 27 2012

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201207280139.html>

Bomb blasts and sporadic gunshots were heard in parts of troubled Maiduguri Friday forcing many residents to scamper into the safety of their homes.

Many residents, who had thought the sanctity of the holy month of Ramadan, would bring relative peace to the troubled ancient town of Maiduguri which had been under the siege of Boko Haram for about two years now were proved wrong as the explosions made many flee the streets back to their homes.

This left most of the major roads in the town during the peak working hours deserted with people afraid of being caught up in the bomb blasts and gunshots, which no one knew the direction they were coming from.

Confirming the incident, the spokesman of the Joint Task Force, Lt. Col. Sagir Musa in a press statement said: "A JTF patrol vehicle was attacked at about 1300 hrs today (Friday) in Shehuri general area by suspected Boko Haram terrorists and the attack was resisted."

He added: "The incident led to the killing of two Boko Haram terrorists, two JTF personnel were wounded and are stable and are responding to treatment at UMTH.

"Twenty-five suspects have so far been arrested in connection with the episode."

Speaking further he said: "Similarly, an improvised explosive device was detected by our troops and detonated by the bomb disposal unit of the task force."

He said this incident "occurred at Bulumkutu area of Maiduguri metropolis today (Friday) at about 1130 hrs."

In a similar development, THISDAY learnt that a number of persons were killed between Thursday night and Friday morning in parts of the troubled town.

Sources said that seven individuals were killed at their residences by unknown gunmen at Gwange, Ajilari, Bulumkutu and Gomari; two persons were killed at Gwange, three persons at Ajilari and one person each at Bulumkutu and Gomari.

Heavy presence of soldiers was witnessed at the notorious Abbaganaram junction leading to the Maiduguri Railway Terminus where the Boko Haram sect used to have their headquarters before the 2009 clampdown.

Vehicles were turned back from the axis by stern looking soldiers leaving residents of the area with no other choice other than looking for alternative routes home.

8. [Attack, Nigeria] Suicide Bomb, Explosion Hit North Nigeria Police

Monday, July 30 2012

<http://www.foxnews.com/world/2012/07/30/suicide-bomb-explosion-hit-north-nigeria-police/>

Two explosions have struck two police stations in a major northwestern Nigerian city in the latest attack to target authorities, witnesses said Monday.

Smoke rose over a compound containing a police station and regional police offices in the city of Sokoto Monday morning.

The head of the regional office, Assistant Inspector General of Police Mukhtar Ibrahim said two people had died in the attack, including "the suicide bomber."

An injured man at Specialist Hospital Sokoto who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the matter said he saw a car race into the main gate of the compound. He was on a bicycle when the blast went off. He said the impact of the blast threw him off his bicycle and that he hurt his hand in the fall.

An Associated Press reporter heard another blast at the same time about two miles (four kilometers) away. Police then sealed off a road leading to a police station. Witnesses said that the station had also been hit.

It was not immediately clear what the cause of that explosion was or if there were casualties.

A Sokoto state police spokesman could not be immediately reached for comment.

The explosions come as Nigeria faces an increasing threat from a radical Islamist sect known as Boko Haram.

There has also been a spate of recent attacks targeting uniformed officers, some of which has been blamed on the sect.

Air Commodore Sani Ahmed, a Nigerian air force official in Kano, said motorcycle-mounted gunmen killed two air force officers Sunday.

The violence follows a Friday night clash in the northeastern city of Damaturu that left a policeman and a soldier dead.

Yobe state police spokesman Toyin Gbadagesin said police blamed members of Boko Haram for the Damaturu attack.

He said security officers then razed a house believed to be harboring sect members.

Witness Yau Zadawa said gunmen killed a policeman in the northeastern Nigerian city of Bauchi Saturday.

He said two motorcycle-mounted gunmen shot the policeman outside his house late Friday after he had closed from a shift guarding a local politician.

Meanwhile, army spokesman Lt. Col. Sagir Musa said suspected members of the Boko Haram sect shot dead a soldier in Maiduguri, a northeastern city 280 miles (460 kilometers) from Bauchi last week.

He said soldiers killed two of the assailants while fighting back.

Security officials are frequently targeted in violence in Nigeria's arid northeast. They have also been criticized for killing suspects in their attempt to stop spiraling sectarian violence.

9. [Attack, Somalia] Somalia: Bomb Blast Targets Somali Troops in Mogadishu

Tuesday, July 31, 2012

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201208010021.html>

A roadside bomb blast hit Tuesday a military vehicle carrying with pro-government soldiers in the capital Mogadishu, killing at least one soldier, Witnesses said.

The explosion tore through the truck at former Coca-cola factory, with some reports it also damaged another civilian car passing nearby the bomb site, but no civilian casualties reported.

"I heard at 10:30 a.m. local time a huge thud of blast following the blast and many injured people could be seen evacuating from the area that were rushed to the hospital for medical treatment," a Witness told Shabelle Media by phone.

No group has yet claimed responsibility for the attack. The aftermath of the blast the security forces of Somali government arrested at least 30 people in connection with the attack.

Since Al Shabaab withdrew from the capital last August, 2011 it has increasingly turned to suicide bombers and roadside bomb attacks to target government and African Union positions in Mogadishu.

10. [Attack, Libya] Libya Blast: Bomb Rips Through Military Intelligence Headquarters In Benghazi

Wednesday, August 01, 2012

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/08/01/libya-bomb-military-hq-benghazi_n_1727694.html

An explosion believed to have been caused by a bomb ripped through the military intelligence building in Libya's eastern city of Benghazi at dawn Wednesday, causing damage to the structure and nearby homes but no injuries, a security official said.

The blast took place hours after gunmen stormed a jail in Benghazi and freed Islamist militant Salem al-Obeidi, the suspected killer of former rebel chief Abdel-Fattah Younis, according to a second security official.

Younis served as Moammar Gadhafi's interior minister until he joined the anti-regime uprising last year. He was killed in July 2011.

The blast and the raid on the city's jail underline Libya's tenuous security situation nearly a year after Gadhafi's ouster. Former rebels have refused to lay down their arms and operate as the de facto government in many parts of the vast Arab nation.

The two officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the media.

Benghazi is the birthplace of the Libyan uprising that led to Gadhafi's ouster and served as the rebellion's capital throughout the months of civil war that ended with the dictator's capture and death last October.

11. [Security, Somalia] Somalia Bomb Attack Thwarted Just Before Approval of Constitution

Thursday, August 02, 2012

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2012/aug/1/somalia-bomb-attack-thwarted-just-before-approval/>

Somali leaders voted overwhelmingly Wednesday to adopt a new constitution that contains more individual rights and sets the country on a course for a more powerful and representative government.

The vote was held after two thunderous blasts at the gates of the meeting site from a failed suicide attack.

For more than a week, 825 Somali leaders, including the 645 voting delegates of the National Constituent Assembly, debated the constitution, which the assembly approved with 621 delegates for, 13 against and 11 abstentions.

The constitution, some eight years in the making, makes it clear that Islamic law is the basis for Somalia's legal foundation. No religion other than Islam can be propagated in the country, and all laws must comply with Shariah, or Islamic, law.

The constitution protects the right to an abortion to save the life of the mother and bans the circumcision of girls, a common practice in Somalia that opponents call female genital mutilation.

"Today, Somalia has put its feet onto a democratic and peaceful path. The new constitution will heal Somalia from war trauma and put it onto a more peaceful life," said Abshir Abdi, an assembly attendant.

The U.N. hopes to transition the country to a more representative form of government, but nationwide or even regional elections appear to be years away.

Still, the top U.N. representative to Somalia, Augustine Mahiga, said that a more representative era for Somalia is about to start after the vote by Somali leaders, or elders.

"Through their good work, the elders have proven their reputation as the custodians of the Somali nationhood and demonstrated their respect for a fair and legitimate process," he said.

Security concerns

The delegates voted about two hours after two suicide bombers tried to attack the Mogadishu meeting.

A police officer said security forces shot the two bombers at the gate to the meeting area. The two bombers were killed, and one Somali soldier was wounded, said Abdi Yassin, a police officer.

The explosions are reminders that even as Somalia continues down a slow path of re-establishing a functioning government after two decades of near anarchy in this East African nation, al-Shabab militants who were pushed out of the capital last year still can infiltrate Mogadishu and wreak havoc.

Somali Prime Minister Abdiweli Mohamed Ali said the vote by the National Constituent Assembly means that Somalia has ended its period of transitional government.

The U.N. mandate for Somalia's current government — the Transitional Federal Government — expires Aug. 20. Somali leaders were tasked with voting on the constitution, voting in a 275-member parliament and electing a president before that date.

Security has improved markedly in Mogadishu over the past year, leading to a general revival of the seaside capital.

But militants of the hard-line Islamist group al-Shabab still infiltrate the city and carry out suicide attacks, particularly at high-profile events.

An offensive by African Union and Somali forces pushed al-Shabab fighters out of Mogadishu on Aug. 6, 2011.

12. [Security, Nigeria] Panic in Kano As Police Uncover Four Fresh Bombs Near Buk

Thursday, August 02, 2012

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201208020743.html>

There was pandemonium in Kano Wednesday following discovery of four high calibre Improvised Explosive Devices behind a popular bakery located along Bayero University Kano (BUK) road in Kano Municipality.

An eyewitness told our correspondent that at least 4 high calibre IED's were discovered around the vicinity of the Bakery at Janbulo Housing Estate by a resident of the area who immediately alerted the police.

There was similar discovery Tuesday morning at the lecture Hall of the Federal College of Education Kano that led to panic among the community and total disruption of academic activities at the institution.

The Incident at the Federal College of Education [FCE] had caused panic among motorists and commuters heading towards the area who were forced to change route for their personal safety, as security deployed to the area cordoned off the area while detonating the IED's.

It was gathered that the discovery of the IED's along the strategic Kano Gwarzo road halted movement towards the area as traffic was diverted along the road.

The diversion on the highway by security agent's further aggravated people's nervousness as several motorist and commuters were compelled to change route for safety.

However, the Police authority in Kano had admonished people to continue with their normal activities as there was no cause for alarm.

Kano State Police Public Relation Officer, DSP Rilwanu Muhammad Dutse said "there was no fresh bomb uncovered in the area", but what happened was the leftover of some IED's used by the extremist in a failed attack on our patrol vehicle last Sunday"

Rilwanu Dutse also said that "the deployment of anti- bomb squad to the scene on Wednesday was principally to defuse the IED's".

He said a sponsored message on one of the local radio station was aired forewarning members of the public not to panic upon hearing a loud sound of the detonated bombs.

He called on the general public to go about their normal business without fear or molestation as the police are ready to protect both lives and properties of the citizenry.

13. [Security, Somalia] Somaliland: Mayor's Assassination Attempt Fails

Thursday, August 02, 2012

http://somalilandsun.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1225:somaliland-mayors-assassination-attempt-fails&catid=29:community

Security personnel in Las Anod is in high alert following an assassination attempt on a civic leader.

Despite causing minor structural damages a suspected Improvised Explosive Device-IED meant to kill the mayor of Las anod Mr. Farah Abdi Yare failed to accomplish desired mission.

According to the Sool Regional Governor Mr. Mohamed Mahmoud Jiinyare unknown people threw an IED at the house of the mayor at around 9pm without causing any injuries on the mayor.

Governor Jiinyare informed that a police officer charged with the protection of the mayor sustained minor injuries from which he was treated at the local hospital and discharged. The officer's injuries were caused by tiny fragments that flew in various directions when the IED exploded.

The intended victim Farah Abdi Yare has been the mayor of Las anod for a fortnight only having assumed the office from his predecessor Keyse Mohamed Haji Hussein who resigned recently.

The ex-mayor Councillor Keyse Mohamed Haji Hussein officially resigned as the Mayor of Las anod local council in what he termed as a protest against his arrest on suspicion of corruption that was effected by the Sool regional governor.

The former mayor of Las anod and his deputy Ahmed Aden Elmi were put in detention at the town's central police station on the 18th July 2012 on orders of the Sool regional governor Mr. Mohamed Mahmoud Ali 'Jiinyare' who claimed that his arrest authority emanated from the minister of interior in Hargeisa Hon Mohamed Nuur Arale 'Duur'.

The Sool regional capital of Las anod is continuously becoming a risky post for public servants who seem to be targeted for assassination almost on a regular basis with the most recent attempt being against the regional intelligence chief.

The intelligence Chief Mr. Arab Qawdan escaped unscathed after a suspected hand grenade was thrown to his home in Las anod town around on 7th June at 10 pm (GMT +3) with a visiting relative and custodial corps officer losing his life in the process.

This was the second time for Mr. Arab Qawdan to escape an assassination attempt following the March 2011 attack in the same town where he sustained injuries while his then boss Assad Mire died on the spot. Mr. Qawdan was elevated to the top post as a replacement for the dead Mire.

The attack on the regional intelligence chief came exactly on the same day, same time a fortnight ago that the deputy regional prosecutor Mr. Ahmed Haji Mahmoud Aw Ali (Du'un Kalaha) was assassinated outside his house in the same town by now apprehended gunmen who peppered the late prosecutor with several bullets.

UNCLASSIFIED

Sool region has over the years been a near impossible posting for security officers who are forced to deal with life threatening missions on an hourly and daily basis, due to the constant threats against central government officials that emanate from anti-Somaliland elements under the pay of Puntland.

UNCLASSIFIED

14. [Attack, Yemen] Parcel Bomb Kills Yemen Tribal Chief Son

Sunday, July 29 2012

http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5g4CP7jynQ_vAv4__PAs1qaTVT4ng?docId=CN.G.174be06ad8ee4755308494817ef96f0e.631

A booby-trapped parcel has killed the son of a Yemeni tribal chief in an attack suspected to be the work of Al-Qaeda, police said on Sunday.

Ali Dahab, 14, died instantly when the parcel exploded after it was given to him to pass to his father, Sheikh Majed, as a present, police said in a statement carried by the official Saba news agency.

"Terrorists from Al-Qaeda could be behind this crime."

Sheikh Majed is a known opponent of Al-Qaeda, whose militants overran his native village of Radah, in the central province of Bayda, earlier this year, before being chased out by armed tribesmen.

15. [Attack, Iraq] Iraqi Police Killed In Bombing And Drive-By Shooting

Sunday, July 29 2012

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/07/29/iraqi-police-killed_n_1717169.html

Two bombings and a drive-by shooting Sunday killed seven Iraqi police in a former al-Qaida stronghold in the western part of the country, authorities said, another sign of the militants' resurgence.

The attacks before dawn around the city of Fallujah also wounded nine police. They come a week after the leader of al-Qaida in Iraq announced a deadly campaign to reclaim parts of the country the Sunni insurgency was forced to leave before the U.S. military pulled out last December.

After the attacks Sunday, security forces sealed off all roads leading into Fallujah and imposed a curfew on the city, 65 kilometers (40 miles) west of Baghdad.

Officials said two explosives-packed cars blew up within a few minutes of each other in Fallujah and the nearby village of Karma as security patrols drove by, killing three policemen. Fifteen minutes later, a gang of gunmen fired on a Karma police station, killing four. The gunmen escaped.

The casualties were confirmed by local hospital officials. All spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to release the information to reporters.

Fallujah was the site of some of the bloodiest battles of the war in 2004 between U.S. forces and the Sunni insurgency. In 2007, some local tribal leaders in Fallujah and elsewhere in Iraq's Sunni-dominated western Anbar region joined forces with the American troops and forced al-Qaida to retreat in what was a turning point of the war.

Now, however, al-Qaida in Iraq is seeking to make a comeback in Anbar and other Sunni areas, launching dozens of deadly attacks in the days since last weekend's statement by Islamic State of Iraq leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi that the militant group would push back into its former strongholds .

Al-Qaida's local wing in Iraq is known as the Islamic State of Iraq, and has for years had a hot-and-cold relationship with the global terror network's leadership.

Both shared the goal of targeting the U.S. military in Iraq and, to an extent, undermining the Shiite government that replaced Saddam Hussein's regime. But al-Qaida leaders Osama bin Laden and Ayman al-Zawahri distanced themselves from the Iraqi militants in 2007 for also killing Iraqi civilians instead of focusing on Western targets.

Generally, al-Qaida in Iraq does not launch attacks or otherwise operate beyond Iraq's borders. But in early 2012, al-Zawahri urged Iraqi insurgents to support the Sunni-based uprising in neighboring Syria against President Bashar Assad, an Alawite. The sect is a branch of Shiite Islam.

There is evidence of al-Qaida involvement in the Syrian civil war, especially the appearance of suicide bomb attacks.

16. [Attack, Iraq] Car Bomb in Iraq kills six

Monday, July 30 2012

<http://www.straitstimes.com/breaking-news/world/story/car-bomb-iraq-kills-6>

Bombings in Iraq killed six people on Sunday, including two policemen, and wounded 21 others, security and medical officials said.

A car bomb in a market in Al-Muqdadiah, 90km north-east of Baghdad, killed four people and wounded 13 others, a local police officer and a doctor said.

Another car bomb killed two policemen and wounded three others east of Fallujah, Lieutenant Colonel Abed Awda Ismail of the Fallujah police and doctor Assem al-Hamdani from Fallujah Hospital said.

Also in Fallujah, located west of Baghdad, a roadside bomb wounded four people, they said.

17. [Trend, Yemen] Yemeni Warplanes Bomb Two al-Qaida Hideouts

Sunday, July 29 2012

http://usa.chinadaily.com.cn/world/2012-07/29/content_15628390.htm

Yemeni fighter jets bombed two al-Qaida hideouts in the southern province of Abyan on Saturday, a security official told Xinhua without giving the number of casualties in raids.

The air forces bombed two compounds belonging to the al-Qaida militants near Mahfad town in Abyan province, while they were preparing to launch a fresh assault at government soldiers patrolling the restive area, the security official said on condition of anonymity.

"It was not immediately clear if any of the al-Qaida militants or some of their local leaders were killed in the air strikes. The bombing was in response to Wednesday's al-Qaida attack on pro-government checkpoints," the official said.

A local resident told Xinhua anonymously that "huge black smokes and fire erupted in one of the targeted compounds after military aircrafts fired some rockets on it".

"An abandoned al-Qaida training site was also pounded in the air shelling," he added.

The Yemeni government forces have been fighting al-Qaida militants in the southern province of Abyan for years, and hundreds of soldiers have lost their lives.

In the past two months, a US-backed offensive managed to expel al-Qaida militants from their major strongholds in the southern province of Abyan, which they had controlled for nearly one year during the political unrest in Yemen.

However, the al-Qaida militants still have a strong presence in the Mahfad town and some mountainous areas in Abyan.

Fighting al-Qaida militants in the restive south is one of the challenges confronting current Yemeni President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi, who has promised to launch a national dialogue to settle disputes among all political factions and to uproot the Yemeni branch of al-Qaida.

18. [Attack, Yemen] “Al-Qaeda” Bombing Wounds Yemeni Colonel

Monday, July 30 2012

<http://www.nowlebanon.com/NewsArticleDetails.aspx?ID=423708>

A Yemeni army colonel was seriously wounded when a bomb exploded inside his car in the southern city of Aden on Monday, in an attack the security services blamed on Al-Qaeda.

Colonel Taha Hussein al-Sabihi was hospitalized in a serious condition following the bombing, which left a large crater in the ground in the center of the city, officials said.

One source said the explosive device had been planted inside his car by members of Al-Qaeda, which has been stepping up attacks against army officers and police in the south since being ousted from the province of Abyan in June.

Colonel Sabihi had recently been charged with coordinating security measures around Aden, the largest city in the south, the same source said.

19. [Attack, Iraq] Bombs Kill 21, Underlining Iraq Chaos

Wednesday, August 01, 2012

<http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/story/2012-07-31/iraq-bomb-karradah/56609198/1>

A double bombing struck at an upscale neighborhood Iraq's capital Tuesday, killing at least 21 even though police stopped three attackers storming a counterterror unit, as the government strained to control al-Qaida-based chaos gripping the country.

The bloody explosions came on the same day that Iraq's government discussed security issues with Iran, a measure of Tehran's growing influence.

Two cars parked in the mostly-Shiite shopping district of Karradah exploded during the afternoon rush hour. Most of the dead were store owners and passers-by, although the blasts hit near two police headquarters and a security checkpoint, killing six policemen.

The bombs sent plumes of black smoke over the neighborhood, located across the Tigris River from the Green Zone, and the sounds of gunshots could be heard from blocks away.

The violence brought the July death toll to 245 people killed in shootings and bombings, approaching the carnage in January, when 255 people were killed following the U.S. pullout.

Al-Qaida has claimed responsibility for nearly all the attacks as it seeks to take advantage of political instability in Iraq and move back into areas it was forced to abandon before the U.S. military left the country last December.

Security forces and government offices are top targets for insurgents seeking to prove how unsafe Iraq remains.

Tuesday's second bomb exploded outside an Iraqi passport office, a few blocks away from the Interior Ministry's major crimes unit headquarters. Fifteen people were killed and 35 wounded, officials said.

Saadoun Hussein was selling cigarettes in a small shop nearby when the roof partially caved in from the second blast. He escaped unharmed.

"I think that terrorists were intending to attack the passport directorate, but failed to reach their target because of the traffic jam," said Hussein, 23.

Police said two suicide bombers and a gunman broke into the crimes unit, which also handles counterterror cases, but they were killed before they could unleash widespread damage.

The Interior Ministry said in a statement that the three aimed to free terror suspects who were being held there. It said three security force members were killed in a shootout. Authorities had control of the situation by Tuesday evening, said Col. Dhia al-Wakil, spokesman for the operations command in Baghdad.

Five minutes earlier, the first bomb went off outside a restaurant at a busy intersection, down the street from a police station and a security checkpoint. Six people were killed and 21 wounded.

Police and health officials confirmed the casualties but spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to release the information to reporters.

Earlier this month, al-Qaida's leader in Iraq threatened to push back into areas the group was driven out of after sectarian fighting peaked in 2007. A day after al-Qaida issued the threat, shootings and bombings killed 115 people in Iraq's deadliest day in more than two years.

Tuesday's explosions struck as Iraqi officials announced two efforts to make their country safer — and both were linked to Iran.

Iraqi state TV said deputy Interior Minister Adan al-Asadi met in Baghdad with Iran's chief police official to discuss joint efforts to curb smuggling and drug traffic between the two countries. Also Tuesday, Iraqi National Security Adviser Faleh al-Fayadh warned an Iranian exile group to quickly move to a refugee camp on Baghdad's outskirts, or his government will take matters into its own hands.

Al-Fayadh, who called on foreign diplomats to help speed the process, declined to say what would happen if the People's Mujahedeen Organization of Iran refuses to leave Camp Ashraf in northeast Iraq — although he said Iraq's government "is keen on keeping things away from violence and in line with human rights."

Still, "this is the last warning," al-Fayadh said at an almost two-hour-long meeting with foreign diplomats about Ashraf's fate. The exiles ignored a July 20 deadline to leave the camp.

The exile group, also known by its Farsi name, Mujahedeen-e-Khalq, have already moved about 2,000 of its residents to the Baghdad refugee camp, which is a former U.S. military base. The group says it will not transfer its remaining 1,200 members until it sees proof of more water, increased electricity, better facilities for sick and disabled people and other improvements to the base. The U.N. says the services there are already far better than at most other refugee camps worldwide.

The exiles seek the overthrow of Iran's clerical rulers. They have been labeled everything from a cult to a terrorist organization — although one that has provided the U.S. with intelligence on Iran. The group says it renounced violence in 2001, after carrying out bloody bombings and assassinations in Iran in the 1980s.

The Iraqi government considers them a terrorist group that is in the country illegally. Over the last six months, the U.N. has tried to mediate, and helped broker an agreement to close Ashraf and temporarily move the exiles into the refugee camp. Ultimately, Iraqi and U.N. officials want to give the Ashraf residents refugee status and resettle them outside of Iraq.

The distrust between the exiles and Iraq's government has always been palatable, but it peaked after security forces led deadly raids in Ashraf twice in the last four years.

UNCLASSIFIED

"The government of Iraq receives all of its orders on Ashraf from the Iranian regime, refrains from implementing this simple and practical plan, and it's planning for the third massacre at Ashraf," the exiles said in a statement Tuesday.

The top U.N. envoy in Iraq urged Ashraf residents to prepare to move.

"Today I heard the government say it will not use violence," U.N. envoy Martin Kobler said after the meeting with al-Fayadh. "That is very important. But I am in favor of a rapid move, and for the residents to start preparing for it right away."

20. [Security, Bahrain] 5 Tonnes of Bomb Materials Seized

Wednesday, August 01, 2012

<http://www.gulf-daily-news.com/NewsDetails.aspx?storyid=335078>

Security authorities have examined 1,000 pieces of evidence seized from an alleged bomb-making factory in Salmabad.

Three more suspects wanted for questioning have also been identified, said Public Security Chief Major-General Tariq Al Hassan.

They were named as Hussain Al A'ali (arrested), Ahmed Jaffar (at large) and Mohammed Yousif Mohammed Al Mughni (arrested).

Forensic experts from London's Metropolitan Police were earlier flown in to assist an investigation after the seizure of explosive materials during a series of raids last month.

"There is no timeframe for this investigation because this terrorist plan aimed to cause a massacre in Bahrain and all aspects related to it are being studied with the help of UK investigators," said Maj-Gen Al Hassan.

"Five tonnes of materials used in making bombs and 110 litres of chemicals that were seized in the operation last month are being studied at the forensic laboratory.

"The materials represent a serious threat to lives as they were stored in a residential area near a Ma'atam."

Maj-Gen Al Hassan said as part of the investigation police inspected 14 locations and raided several after completing legal procedures.

He said some of these searches were conducted late at night or early in the morning. Some residents were upset and in some cases made allegations of improper police procedure. Opposition groups have also alleged serious police misconduct, including thefts of large sums of money.

The minister takes these allegations seriously and while having full confidence that investigators conducted themselves properly, understands that an individual officer might have acted in an inappropriate way, he said.

"Families of the suspects were informed about the case and they showed no co-operation with security forces," he said.

"We have examined the confessions of the accused arrested in the case."

Three suspects had earlier been identified as Radhi Ali Radhi Abdulrasool, Jaffar Hussain Mohammed Yousif Eid and Dhafir Saleh Ali Saleh, two of them still on the run.

Maj-Gen Al Hassan said the suspects appeared to be part of a sophisticated operation.

"They were trained as they are using mobiles, fire extinguishers and other homemade explosives to cause harm," he said.

"But whether a foreign element is involved or who is behind it is still being investigated and any further details if revealed could hinder the investigation process."

Maj-Gen Al Hassan said police were still discovering bomb-making factories.

"At the moment, except the Salmabad illegal factory there is no other high-end bomb-making location," he said.

"But we are constantly discovering low-end factories where pipe bombs, fire extinguishers and other materials are hidden aiming to cause harm. "There are many places and we are now tracking them down."

21. [Attack, Bangladesh] Three Held With Cell Phone Bombs

Monday, July 30 2012

<http://www.thedailystar.net/newDesign/news-details.php?nid=244130>

Detectives in the capital have arrested three men carrying bombs that could be activated by mobile phones.

The arrestees had links with the July 17 bomb explosion inside a woman's handbag, according to Detective Branch of police.

Ayesha Siddique, an assistant programme officer of Bangladesh Computer Council, was injured when a bomb exploded in her handbag at Agargaon in Dhaka. Police suspected that the explosive had been activated by a mobile phone.

A team of DB police, acting on a tip-off, raided Kazipara in Mirpur and Bhashantek areas Saturday night and made the arrests, said Mashiur Rahman, additional deputy commissioner of DB (west).

The arrestees are Sohrab Hossain Ujjal, 27, Khandakar Enamul Haque Mitul, 27, and SM Abu Hossain Sarowar, 32. A laptop, Tk 1.10 lakh and some bomb making materials were also seized from their possessions.

Sarowar is a mechanic and has expertise in making highly technological and sophisticated bombs activated by mobile phones.

Mashiur said that if the criminals had used a bomb with a higher destructive power, the damage would have been much more than that caused by the explosion in the handbag.

Criminals could use such bombs to carry out destructive activities, he said, expressing concern.

Following the blast on July 17, police detained Ayesha, her colleague Zubayer Ahmed and his friend Nurul Islam, and a case was filed with Agargaon Police Station.

Zubayer and Nurul had been taking part in Tabligh Jamaat activities, the DB official said, adding, however, that police had not found any militant or political connection with the detainees yet.

Zubayer had confessed to planting the explosive in Ayesha's bag "to teach her a lesson," Mashiur said.

He quoted Sarowar as saying that he had sold the bomb to Mitul for Tk 25,000 and then Zubayer bought it from Mitul a day before the explosion. Sarowar had made three more such bombs for purposes of experimentation and exploded them to test their power.

Zubayer had told DB police that he had a crush on Ayesha and proposed to her. As she had been refusing to accept his overture, he chalked out a plan to exact revenge on her. He had shared this thought with his friend Nurul, who promised to help him.

Later, Nurul contacted Ujjal and Mitul. They planned to kill Ayesha by exploding the bomb, the DB official said.

Mitul and Ujjal via Nurul negotiated an agreement with Zubayer to sell the bomb for Tk 3 lakh. Zubayer paid Tk 1.6 lakh in advance and promised to pay the rest after the job was done, Mashiur said.

Meanwhile, a Dhaka court yesterday remanded Ujjal, Mitul and Sarowar for four days and Zubayer and Nurul for two days.

Earlier, Zubayer and Nurul were on remand for seven days after their arrests.

22. [Attack, India] Roadside Bomb Attack by Rebels Kills Two Soldiers in India's Troubled Northeast

Tuesday, July 31 2012

<http://www.calgaryherald.com/news/Roadside+bomb+attack+rebels+kills+soldiers+Indias+troubled+northeast/7015201/story.html>

An official says a roadside bomb attack by rebels in India's troubled northeast has killed two soldiers and injured several others.

Assam state Home Secretary G.D. Tripathi says the attack on an army convoy took place Tuesday near Goalpara, 150 kilometres (95 miles) west of Gauhati, the state capital.

He says no one has claimed responsibility for the blast. More than two dozen rebel groups are fighting in India's northeast for independence or wide autonomy.

23. [Attack, India] Day After Chidambaram's Visit, Bomb Blast Rocks Assam

Tuesday, July 31 2012

<http://news.oneindia.in/2012/07/31/bomb-blast-rocks-assam-a-day-after-chidambaram-s-visit-1045130.html>

Just a day after Union Home Minister P Chidambaram's visit to the state, a bomb blast on Tuesday, Jul 31 rocked Goalpara in Assam.

An army truck was attacked in an IED blast in the lower region of the state and at least eight people were injured. Meanwhile, sources informed that one jawan among those eight injured people died.

There is no information yet about the group who triggered the blast. However, army sources suspected that it was a terror attack.

Earlier on Monday, Chidambaram met victims of ethnic violence in a camp for refugees in Assam's strife-torn Kokrajhar district and assured them of all possible assistance.

The Home Minister, who flew in from Guwahati in a special helicopter, met refugees in the camp at the Titaguri High School here. The visit comes two days after Prime Minister Manmohan Singh visited the district and announced Rs 300 crore package.

Chidambaram was accompanied by Union Minister of state for Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) Paban Singh Ghatowar and state Transport Minister Chandan Brahma. He will meet top district officials and is expected to visit camps in neighbouring Dhubri district where also thousands of people have been displaced in clashes between Bodos and minorities.

In another development, the state government has shunted out deputy commissioners of Kokrajhar and Chirang districts. In an administrative reshuffle following the violence in the Bodoland Territorial Areas Districts (BTAD), Kokrajhar DC D Gilfilon and Chirang DC UN Bora have been moved out.

Rastriya Madhyamik Siksha Abhiyan Mission director Jayanta Narlekar has been named as the new DC of Kokrajhar. Commissioner of the Guwahati Municipal Corporation Puru Gupta been named as the new DC of Chirang.

24. [Attack, Malaysia] Woman Nabbed for Throwing Explosive Over Unpaid Debt

Tuesday, July 31 2012

<http://www.theborneopost.com/2012/07/31/woman-nabbed-for-throwing-explosive-over-unpaid-debt/>

A 44-year-old woman was detained Saturday after she threw an explosive at a house in Taman Tang Ling, Simpang Ampat which killed a puppy, purportedly over an unpaid debt.

South Seberang Prai police chief Supt Shafien Mamat said the woman was detained at 10am the same day at her house in Simpang Ampat after investigation found her to be involved in the incident.

“The incident took place at 3.30am when the 46-year-old victim was still asleep. The victim said the explosion was very loud.

“The explosion also killed a puppy which was outside the house,” he said, here, yesterday.

He said forensic investigation found the explosive was made by putting together, in large number, a type of firecrackers (mercun bola), which produced sparks and a very loud sound.

Shafien said preliminary investigation found the suspect hurled the explosive because the victim failed to repay a RM6,000 debt.

“Before throwing the firecrackers, the woman also threatened to hurt the victim,” he said.

He said the suspect was remanded to help in investigation under Section 428 and 527 of the Penal Code.

25. [Attack, Philippines] Suspected ASG Members Bomb Jolo Cathedral

Wednesday, August 01, 2012

<http://www.philstar.com/nation/article.aspx?publicationscategoryid=200&articleid=833919>

Tension gripped Jolo when suspected Abu Sayyaf militants bombed with a grenade the Mt. Carmel Cathedral in the downtown of the city, capital town of Sulu Wednesday night, according to security officials.

Sr. Supt. Antonio Freyra, Sulu Police provincial commander, said no one was reported hurt from the explosion that hit the roof of the church along Gen. Arolas Street in downtown of Jolo about 6:30 p.m.

Military reports disclosed that residents, most of them were going home as night fell in the downtown and shops were closing, heard the explosion that reverberated across the town.

Freyra said police and marine forces discovered that the attack was directed at the cathedral by still unidentified suspects.

Investigation disclosed that the suspects were believed to be on board a motorcycle and lobbed the fragmentation grenade at the roof of the cathedral, but exploded before falling on the target.

The police also suspected that the attack was hastily staged as the cathedral had been guarded by the military since it was previously attacked by Abu Sayyaf militants.

Freyra said police were trying to determine the motive of the attack and if it was related to the previous bombing incidents when militants were tagged as suspects.

He added that the police and military explosive and ordnance disposal (EOD) personnel said the grenade used in the attack was the safety lever pin. Shrapnel fragments were recovered in the site.

The police and marines have doubled the security in the downtown of Jolo and other populated areas to preempt attempts by lawless elements to sabotage the security while the Muslim dominated province is observing the fasting period of Ramadan.

26. [Security, India] Op Failed, IEDs Didn't Go Off as Planned

Friday, August 03, 2012

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/India-news/NewDelhi/Op-failed-IEDs-didn-t-go-off-as-planned/Article1-907333.aspx>

Investigators are calling the low-intensity Pune serial blasts a failed operation as the improvised explosive devices (IEDs) didn't go off as planned.

Sources said the IEDs contained shrapnels in a metal container, a paste of ammonium nitrate in some oil, a nine-volt battery and a

wristwatch as timer. Initial reports suggest the IEDs didn't work properly because of dampness.

"We have received preliminary forensic reports. The two unexploded IEDs recovered in the city have been found to be very complex in nature. It has forced us to investigate the matter more seriously," said a senior union home ministry official, requesting anonymity as he is not authorised to speak to the media.

In an earlier terror operation in Surat in July 2008, around two-dozen IEDs had not exploded due to faulty integrated chips. In May 2011, an IED planted outside the Delhi high court had failed to explode properly due to dampness.

According to sources, terror outfit Indian Mujahideen (IM) was currently the prime suspect behind the Pune blasts. After the killing of Qateel Siddiqui, an alleged IM operative, by two petty criminals in Pune's Yerawada jail almost two months ago, intelligence agencies had picked up some 'chatter' of a revenge strike being planned, sources told HT.

Qateel was strangled by two fellow inmates and gangsters Sharad Mohol and Alok Bhalerao on June 8. Qateel was suspected to be part of Delhi's Jama Masjid firing (September, 2010) and Bangalore's Chinnaswamy stadium blasts (April, 2010).

"There were inputs about some kind of revenge act being planned by the IM in the wake of Qateel's killing, but there was no clarity about the target," said a source.

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) is helping the Pune police in the investigation of blasts. "So far, no decision has been taken to entrust the investigation to the NIA. The state police will remain the leading investigation agency," said home ministry official.

Intelligence sources said IM targeting Pune did not come as surprise. The city was used as a base by Bhatkal brothers — Iqbal and Riyaz — who are now said to be in Karachi.

As a member of religious organisation Tablighi Jamaat, Iqbal Bhatkal would come to Pune to preach at city mosques. He and Riyaz would then hunt for local 'talents' during these sessions.

Pune-based techie Mohammad Mansoor Asghar Peerbhoy, the alleged head of IM's media cell that sent out emails after several bombings in 2008, was spotted by the Bhatkals during such visits.

27. [Security, United States] U.S. Looking for Upgraded Underwear Bomb with Different Type of Explosive, TSA says

Friday, July 27 2012

http://www.cbsnews.com/8301-201_162-57481607/u.s-looking-for-upgraded-underwear-bomb-with-different-type-of-explosive-tsa-says/

U.S. security officials are on the lookout for a new type of explosive, after analysis of an upgraded underwear bomb intercepted by a CIA operation in Yemen.

Transportation Security Administrator John Pistole told an audience at the Aspen Security Forum that the device smuggled out by a double-agent in an operation earlier this year was an upgrade from the underwear bomb carried by Nigerian Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab, to try to bring down a Detroit-bound airliner which was on route from Amsterdam on Christmas 2009. Abdulmutallab was one of the 300 people were on board Northwest Airlines Flight 253. At his trial, he called the underwear bomb a "blessed weapon" to avenge poorly treated Muslims.

"We found in the Underwear Plot, Part 2...that a different type of explosive had been used than the previous one," Pistole said, "so we have gone back and recalibrated all the equipment and we have been working with our canine to detect this different type of explosive."

The CIA intercepted the device earlier this year, thwarting an ambitious plot by al Qaeda's affiliate in Yemen to destroy a U.S.-bound airliner around the one-year anniversary of the killing of Osama bin Laden. The device was made of the same explosive material PETN that is normally used in al Qaeda bombs, that would not be detected by airport metal detectors. However, an ex-TSA administrator told CBS News that the full body scanners would have detected the device.

The new model also had a more sophisticated trigger mechanism, an apparent attempt to fix the defective trigger that burned the bomber but failed to ignite the bomb in the Christmas attack.

28. [Trend, United States] Boy, 14, Charged with Making Pipe Bombs

Tuesday, July 31 2012

<http://www.wsbradio.com/news/news/canton-police-boy-14-charged-making-pipe-bombs/nP7CG/>

Canton police say a 14-year old boy has been charged with making and possessing destructive devices, after his house was searched by members of the GBI bomb squad and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives Monday.

Canton Deputy Police Chief Todd Vande Zande said the boy had built what appeared to be several pipe bombs in the house.

“From their appearance, they looked to be extremely dangerous,” he told reporters outside the home in the 100 block of Woodbury Lane.

The GBI detonated one of the bombs in the backyard. The ATF took the rest back to their lab to be analyzed.

The boy, who can't be identified because he is a minor, was detained by Canton Police.

29. [Trend, United States] Rodents May Detect Explosives

Monday, July 30 2012

<http://www.military.com/daily-news/2012/07/30/research-may-teach-rodents-to-detect-explosives.html?comp=7000023468004&rank=2>

A rat may never be man's best friend, but the Rugged Automated Training System research sponsored by scientists with the U.S. Army Research Laboratory, in collaboration with engineers at West Point and the Counter Explosives Hazards Center, will determine if and how these animals can be trained to save Soldiers' lives.

In July, Barron Associates Inc., Charlottesville, Va. was selected for an award under the Small Business Technology Transfer, or STTR, program to develop and test a rugged, automated and low-cost system for training rats to detect improvised explosive devices and mines, said Micheline Strand, chief of the Army Research Office's Life Sciences Division, which manages the program.

"The automated system we're developing is designed to inexpensively train rats to detect buried explosives to solve an immediate Army need for safer and lower-cost mine removal," said William Gressick, senior research engineer and the project's principal investigator at Barron Associates. "Beyond this application, the system will facilitate the use of rats in other search tasks such as homeland security and search-and-rescue operations. In the long-term, the system is likely to benefit both official and humanitarian organizations."

"If we can demonstrate that rats can be trained inexpensively to be reliable detectors, then this method would not only lower costs for the Army but would also create new opportunities for using animals to detect anything from mines to humans buried in earthquake rubble," Strand said.

It is well established that animals are capable of identifying explosives at lower concentrations than abiotic systems. The Department of Defense currently relies on dogs as the animal of choice for explosives detection. The goal of this STTR program is not to replace the use of dogs, but to expand the Army's detection capabilities.

"Training dogs is very expensive. If we can significantly reduce the cost of a trained animal, then we could provide more animals to protect soldiers." Strand explained.

Trained rats would also create new opportunities; rats can search smaller spaces than a dog can, and are easier to transport.

Landmines kill between 15,000 and 20,000 people a year, and continue to kill adults and children decades after a conflict ends. An automated system to train rats to find mines could accelerate worldwide efforts to clear mined areas and return mined land to farming or other productive uses.

30. [Security, United States] Warrant Leads Officers to Homemade Explosive Device

Monday, July 30 2012

<http://www.gcdailyworld.com/story/1876315.html>

Police found a homemade explosive device at the residence of a Linton man Friday night while they were serving an arrest warrant on another charge.

Sean D. Neal, 24, who became unruly prior to a medical examination at Greene County General Hospital in June and threatened two police officers, was arrested by Indiana State Police Trooper Richard Klun because he failed to show up in court for his initial hearing.

However, the arrest was not routine.

When three officers from the Linton Police Department -- Paul Clark, Josh Goodman and Brock Garrison -- Heath Murray, a deputy from the Greene County Sheriff's Department, and Klun went to the residence on SE 5th St. at 11 p.m. on Friday they found what was described as a "homemade grenade," according to the offense reported filed by LPD Det. Paul Clark.

Officers then secured a search warrant and more materials to make other explosive devices were found in the residence, according to Clark.

The Indiana State Police EOD explosive team was called in to disassemble the device.

Neal was booked into the Greene County Jail in Bloomfield on a preliminary new charge of possession of a destructive device. He is being held without bond until he makes a court appearance.

Neal was previously charged with two counts of intimidation on a law enforcement officer - both class D felonies; and one count of disorderly conduct, a class B misdemeanor.

He was scheduled to be in Greene Superior Court for an initial hearing on July 9, but failed to show up. Judge Dena Martin then issued a warrant for his arrest.

Neal previously was arrested June 30 after Linton Police Officer Thomas Jerrels and LPD Reserve Officer Rodney Bredeweg were dispatched to GCGH on a report of an unruly male patient who was refusing to be examined.

Neal allegedly was sitting in the passenger seat of a vehicle in the parking lot with fists closed and threatening to punch Bredeweg when he attempted to calm the man who was yelling obscenities down, according to a probable cause affidavit filed by Jerrels.

When Jerrels also tried to defuse the confrontation, Neal allegedly tried to shut the door on the police officer.

"I advised Sean to exit the vehicle and he refused saying 'get out of here or I'm going to come out swinging'," Jerrels wrote in the probable cause affidavit.

UNCLASSIFIED

Neal soon surrendered and was taken into the hospital for the evaluation and later transported to jail.

He was later released after posting \$850 cash bond.

Also on July 9, the Greene County Probation Department filed a petition to revoke a previously suspended sentence.

On July 2, 2008, Neal was convicted of one county of burglary - breaking and entering a structure used for religious worship, a class B felony - as part of a negotiated plea agreement.

Neal, who was charged in the burglary and theft at Bibleway Church on East Vincennes St. in October 2007, was sentenced to 10 years with the Indiana Department of Correction.

He was released in that case on April 20, 2010, according to DOC records.

On Nov. 10, 2010, he was sentenced for a class B burglary charge for the second time. He was given two years with the DOC and released on parole March 11, according to DOC records.

31. [Security, United States] Homemade Explosives Found at Sacred Heart School

Monday, July 30 2012

<http://owingsmills.patch.com/articles/homemade-explosives-found-at-sacred-heart-school>

Baltimore County Police recovered three homemade explosives at Sacred Heart School.

Police found three plastic bottles containing unknown chemicals at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, July 25, at the Reisterstown school. One of the three devices went off, but no individuals or property were harmed. A man mowing the grass in one of the school's fields reported the devices to police.

"They're explosive devices that are typically made in plastic water bottles, and they're made with household cleaning materials," said Lt. Stephen Doarnberger, assistant commander of the Baltimore County Police's Franklin Precinct.

Patch obtained a police incident summary Monday morning.

The police's hazardous devices unit picked up the devices from the scene and is investigating the incident.

Homemade explosives of this nature can be quite dangerous because they can go off during construction, or soon after construction. The strength can vary depending on the size of the bottle and composition of the explosives, Doarnberger said.

"If they would go off just after being constructed, when the maker is still holding the device, they can cause a lot of injury," he said.

32. [Technology, United States] Pentagon to Recruit Bomb-sniffing Rats

Wednesday, August 01, 2012

<http://rt.com/usa/news/rat-de-miner-us-army-588/>

A pet rat that can sniff out explosives could become standard gear for future American soldiers. The Pentagon is conducting research into teaching rats to detect mines and explosives, in hopes of saving lives and reducing military expenditures.

Scientists at the US Army Research Laboratory, supported by West Point Military Academy and engineers at the Counter Explosive Hazards Center busy studying rat psychology, reported army.mil, the US Army's official website.

These researchers are working with Barron Associates, Inc., a defense contractor that has been won a bid to produce a cheap and reliable training program for rats that can detect explosives in hostile environment.

The Rugged Automated Training System's (RATS) chief aims are low cost and ease of production. The program, managed by the Life Sciences Division of the Army Research Office, is expected to "solve an immediate Army need for safer and lower-cost mine removal," said William Gressick, senior research engineer at Barron.

Despite being at least as intelligent and scent-savvy as bomb-sniffing dogs, rats are also much more mobile, easier to transport and consume much less food. They can also infiltrate hard-to-reach openings.

Animals remain the most reliable explosives detection system, capable of identifying bombs at much higher rates than mechanical systems. RATS could also be used for non-military purposes. In the future, rats might be deployed by emergency teams on search-and-rescue operations.

The program "would also create new opportunities for using animals to detect anything from mines to humans buried in earthquake rubble," said Micheline Strand, chief of Army Research's Life Sciences Division.

"Training dogs is very expensive. If we can significantly reduce the cost of a trained animal, then we could provide more animals to protect soldiers," Strand said.

The US is not the first country to consider using rodents to sniff out explosives. Several media outlets reported last year that Israel was training mice to detect bombs and drugs at airports. A report was released earlier this year detailing how Colombian police are training lab rats to detect hidden explosives.

Between 15,000 and 20,000 people die annually worldwide because of landmines, which sometimes stay active for decades. Rats could become an indispensable tool for clearing minefields, making them safe for civilian use.

33. [Technology, United States] US Army Seeking New Shooter Game Featuring Suicide Bombers, by 2013

Wednesday, August 01, 2012

<http://www.wired.co.uk/news/archive/2012-08/01/us-army-shooter-game>

Despite the US stating it plans to withdraw from Afghanistan by 2014, reports reveal it is looking to spend £28.5 million upgrading its army game training first-person shooter to feature, among other things, depictions of Arab and Afghan suicide bombers by 2013.

The US army's Program Executive Office for Simulation, Training and Instrumentation (PEO STRI) has published a draft proposal for a game that would meet current industry standards and replace Bohemia Interactive's Virtual Battlespace 2 as its primary FPS training platform -- used to "develop, train, and evaluate the decision making processes for the individual leaders as well as enhance teamwork at all levels" -- reports Kotaku. Seven US-based companies have already expressed their interest in providing such a game, which would see the winning bidder receive £28.5 million over five years.

The game, the document states, should incorporate the capabilities of Virtual Battlespace 2, but be upgraded with "new gaming technologies available in the commercial market". These include "higher fidelity graphics, an ability to move across PC-platforms, web-based and mobile, and an improved interoperability capability to integrate seamlessly into the live-virtual-constructive environment".

The army also wants to be able to generate custom scenarios that will help provide training and education in "stability operations, cultural awareness, language, combat lifesaver skills, improvised explosive device (IED) recognition and defeat".

The draft states that, since 2008, it has hacked Virtual Battlespace 2 to fit its requirements, introducing "insurgent methodology training scenarios, an improved cultural and language training capability and a terrain database plug-in". The new product, the draft explains, needs to be able to function with existing and future add-ons via an API.

Descriptions of the proposed game suggest the emphasis is on real-time decision-making and strategy related to the kind of close-contact counter-insurgency operations ongoing in Afghanistan. So despite the "Enduring Strategic Partnership Agreement" President Obama recently signed with President Hamid Karzai in relation to the 2014 withdrawal target, the army looks set to prepare itself for all eventualities. Afghanistan has taught the US that wars cannot always be won from the air or from base, and the focus on cultural awareness and language now seems just as important as IED training -- the original incarnation of Virtual Battlespace 2 lacked these features.

The draft by no means bypasses the heavy artillery, however, with the 243-page document featuring a list of weaponry to make an FPS gamer drool, including M1 and Russian T-72 tanks, Apache helicopters and Predator drones. But there is also a focus on civilian vehicles, with the more than 50 types flagged up including truck brands frequently used by the Taliban and bicycles.

UNCLASSIFIED

The terrain and urban environments required also suggest the game is tailored specifically to Afghanistan, or other similarly close-contact based wars. These include factories and mosques, as well as equipment used in urban environments to stop traffic, such as spike strips and speed bumps.

The draft has attracted attention mainly from small businesses -- and not yet Bohemia Interactive -- and one interested party appears to work in the digital production of major motion pictures. Whoever ends up picking up the contract, if the army does in fact bring it to the bidding stage, will be in for a profitable future, however -- war is big business, and Britain, Canada and Australia, along with other Nato nations, also use Bohemia Interactive's game.

34. [Special Interest, United States] House Panel Probes Army IED Review

Thursday, August 02, 2012

<http://hamptonroads.com/2012/08/house-panel-probes-army-ied-review>

The Army is under congressional investigation for altering an internal review of an intelligence-gathering software program popular with many troops in Afghanistan.

The House Committee on Oversight and Investigation launched a probe of the review, which initially included positive comments about a software program that aids troops analyze data that helps them predict where improvised explosive devices might be planted and where enemy targets are likely to be found.

The review, written in April, was replaced in May with a revised version that omitted many of the favorable comments, and the original was ordered “destroyed.”

The software was created by Palo Alto, Calif.-based Palantir Technologies, and many troops in Afghanistan have praised its effectiveness over the Army’s own software that’s used in its Distributed Common Ground System-Army (DCGS-A), which tracks and analyzes data.

“These actions could be construed as limiting positive feedback on Palantir’s system, in an effort to justify the continued use of a more expensive and less effective program,” the committee said in a letter to Defense Secretary Leon Panetta on Wednesday.

“Through FY 2012, the Army has spent over \$2.3 billion in procurement and research and development to fund DCGS-A. Reports indicate, however, that DCGS-A is ‘unable to perform simple analytical tasks,’” the letter said.

The letter was written by Oversight Committee Chairman Darrell Issa (R-Calif.) and Rep. Jason Chaffetz (R-Utah), chairman of the Subcommittee on National Security, Homeland Defense and Foreign Operations. It requests information and documentation regarding the changes to the review to be submitted to Congress by 5 p.m. on Aug. 15.

At the Pentagon. Army spokesman Lt. Col. Todd Breasseale said the Army recently signed a “cooperative research and development agreement” to try to integrate the Palantir software into the Army’s system, but declined to comment on the investigation.

“What I can tell you,” he said, “is that we will continue to work appropriately with the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and their Subcommittee on National Security, Homeland Defense, and Foreign Operations.”

Commanders in the 82nd Airborne Division in Afghanistan requested the Palantir software, but were initially denied by Army officials, according to the letter. And sources familiar with the procurement process in Afghanistan told POLITICO that commanders with the 3rd Infantry Division and the 101st Airborne Division were also met with “strong resistance” by Army officials when they requested the software.

“There are ground combat units in Afghanistan clamoring for something other than DCGS and the Army is basically saying tough, and forcing the use of a platform that’s less effective than what the Marines, Air Force and Special Operators are using,” said Rep. Duncan Hunter (R-Calif.), a captain in the Marine Corps Reserves who served in both Iraq and Afghanistan. “What this reveals, from ground combat commanders being denied resources after repeated requests to a substantively altered report favoring alternative technology, is a significant flaw in the acquisition process that, in the end, disadvantages our military men and women.”

In April, the Army Operational Test Command conducted a survey of Palantir’s product. Of the 100 service members and contractors surveyed, 96 of them recommended it, according to internal documents obtained by POLITICO. The Army recommended offering a one-week training course and adding more servers to support the software.

In May, Col. Joseph Martin, who directs the Operational Test Command, sent an internal memo redacting the report and replacing it with another one that simply recommended further study of the program. It also deleted some of the positive remarks by those surveyed.

“Upon destruction of the previous report, please confirm to me in an email that all copies of the original report dated 25 April has been destroyed,” Martin wrote. “If possible, can you please provide me the names of the individuals that the 25 April report was sent to.”

The Army, which is also conducting its own internal review of the situation, declined to comment on the congressional investigation.

“It would not be appropriate for me to comment on a letter from the Congressman to the Secretary of Defense,” said Lt. Col. Freddie Mack, a Pentagon-based Army spokesman.

35. [Special Interest, United States] C-IED: Multiple U.S. DOD Organizations are Developing Numerous Initiatives

Thursday, August 02, 2012

<http://www.defpro.com/news/details/38149/?SID=796987f06c34780437f07cfa2b5031b5>

Improvised explosive devices (IEDs) are the enemy's weapon of choice (e.g., 16,500 IEDs were detonated or discovered being used against U.S. forces in Afghanistan in 2011) and, according to the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) will probably be a mainstay in any present and future conflict given their low cost to develop coupled with their potential for strategic impact. Multiple DOD components, including the military services, have been pursuing counter-IED (C-IED) efforts leading up to June 2005 when DOD established the Joint IED Defeat Task Force followed in 2006 with the establishment of the Joint IED Defeat Organization (JIEDDO) to lead and coordinate all DOD actions to defeat IEDs. From fiscal years 2006 through 2011, JIEDDO has received over \$18 billion in funding, however, DOD has funded other C-IED efforts outside of JIEDDO, including \$40 billion for Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles.

We reported in February 2012 that DOD does not have full visibility over all of its C-IED efforts. DOD relies on various sources and systems for managing its C-IED efforts, but has not developed a process that provides DOD with a comprehensive listing of its C-IED initiatives and activities. In response to our recommendation that the Secretary of Defense direct JIEDDO to develop an implementation plan for the establishment of DOD's C-IED database including a detailed timeline with milestones to help achieve this goal, DOD officials said that a revision of DOD's Directive 2000.19E will contain a new task requiring combatant commands, the military services, and DOD agencies to report C-IED initiatives to JIEDDO. This would include programming and funding pursued by a military service, combatant command, or other DOD component, in addition to activities funded by JIEDDO. In January 2012, DOD estimated it would complete draft revisions to DOD Directive 2000.19E in early 2012, but as of July 2012, Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) officials stated that the revised draft was under review at the OSD level, and therefore, not issued. In addition, according to JIEDDO officials, DOD is conducting an ongoing review of C-IED capabilities across the Department that may affect JIEDDO and the contents of the draft directive.

This report responds to your request asking us to examine the potential for overlap and duplication in DOD's C-IED efforts. Because DOD lacks a comprehensive database of C-IED initiatives, we conducted a department-wide survey to determine (1) the number of different C-IED initiatives and the organizations developing them from fiscal year 2008 through the closing date of our survey, January 6, 2012, and the extent to which DOD is funding these initiatives, and (2) the extent and nature of any overlap that could lead to duplication of C-IED efforts. In July 2012, we briefed committee staff on the results of our survey and analysis.

WHAT GAO FOUND

We identified 1,340 potential, separate initiatives that DOD funded from fiscal year 2008 through the first quarter of fiscal year 2012 that, in DOD officials' opinion, met the above definition for C-IED initiatives. We relied on our survey, in part, to determine this number because DOD has not determined,

and does not have a ready means for determining, the universe of C-IED initiatives. Of the 1,340 initiatives, we received detailed survey responses confirming that 711 initiatives met our C-IED definition. Of the remaining 629 initiatives for which we did not receive survey responses, 481 were JIEDDO initiatives. JIEDDO officials attribute their low survey returns for reasons including that C-IED initiatives are currently not fully identified, catalogued, and retrievable; however, they expect updates to their information technology system will correct this deficiency. Our survey also identified 45 different organizations that DOD is funding to undertake these 1,340 identified initiatives. Some of these organizations receive JIEDDO funding while others receive other DOD funding. We documented \$4.8 billion of DOD funds expended in fiscal year 2011 in support of C-IED initiatives, but this amount is understated because we did not receive survey data confirming DOD funding for all initiatives. As an example, at least 94 of the 711 responses did not include funding amounts for associated C-IED initiatives. Further, the DOD agency with the greatest number of C-IED initiatives identified—JIEDDO—did not return surveys for 81 percent of its initiatives.

Our survey results showed that multiple C-IED initiatives were concentrated within some areas of development, resulting in overlap within DOD for these efforts—i.e., programs engaged in similar activities to achieve similar goals or target similar beneficiaries. For example, our survey data identified 19 organizations with 107 initiatives being developed to combat cell phone-triggered IEDs. While the concentration of initiatives in itself does not constitute duplication, this concentration taken together with the high number of different DOD organizations that are undertaking these initiatives and JIEDDO's inability to identify and compare C-IED initiatives, demonstrates overlap and the potential for duplication of effort. According to JIEDDO officials, the organization has a robust coordinating process in place that precludes unintended overlap. However, through our survey and follow-up with relevant agency officials, we found examples of overlap in the following areas: (1) IED-related intelligence analysis: two organizations were producing and disseminating similar IED-related intelligence products to the warfighter, (2) C-IED hardware development: two organizations were developing similar robotics for detecting IEDs from a safe distance, and (3) IED detection: two organizations had developed C-IED initiatives using chemical sensors that were similar in their technologies and capabilities.

Our survey results showed that a majority of respondents said they communicated with JIEDDO regarding their C-IED initiatives; however, JIEDDO does not consistently record and track this data. Based on our prior work, JIEDDO does not have a mechanism for recording data communicated on C-IED efforts. Therefore, these data are not available for analysis by JIEDDO or others in DOD to reduce the risk of duplicating efforts and avoid repeating mistakes.

36. [Attack, United States] Blacksburg Police, Feds Investigating IED Explosion

Thursday, August 02, 2012

<http://www2.wsls.com/news/2012/aug/01/27/blacksburg-police-feds-investigating-ied-explosion-ar-2100510/>

A red Chevrolet Blazer was towed away from a home on Harrell Street in Blacksburg. The vehicle appears to be the focus of an investigation after police say an improvised explosive device, or I.E.D. was detonated early Wednesday morning causing damage to the SUV.

The Associated Press is reporting it was a pipe bomb. Neighbors say whatever it was woke them up.

"I thought it was thunder but I woke up and it was still ringing outside my window, and I heard sirens a few minutes later," said Daniel Shull.

The ATF says they are treating the incident as a criminal investigation and do not believe there are any ties to terrorism. Although the s-u-v was littered with Virginia Tech stickers and parked blocks from campus, authorities say in no way was the university a target.

Police are not yet telling us about the size of the explosive device, whether it was a small explosive or something much larger. They do not yet have a motive and no suspects were immediately identified. Bomb sniffing dogs helped sweep the area and did not find any other devices

"We searched this entire area. This block, this block, all the way up to Main Street," said Chief Kim Crannis with the Blacksburg Police Department.

Until investigators find the person responsible, the overnight explosion has put some in the community on alert.

37. [Security, Norway] U.S. Practice Bomb Prompts Oslo Police to Evacuate Downtown

Tuesday, July 31 2012

<http://www.businessweek.com/news/2012-07-31/u-dot-s-dot-practice-bomb-responsible-for-norwegian-scare-police-say>

A practice explosive device used by the U.S. embassy in Oslo caused mobilization of the bomb squad and the evacuation of the Royal Palace a year after Norway's capital was rocked by its deadliest peace time terror attack.

Police cordoned off parts of downtown Oslo today for about two hours after U.S. embassy personnel warned of a car with a suspicious package. The device was found to be a harmless "practice bomb," local police said.

"The car has been used for internal practice purposes at the embassy and the find can be linked to this," the police said in a statement. "Oslo police regret the consequences of this but had to act as if the situation was real."

The embassy is located not far from the Norwegian prime minister's office, which last July was partially destroyed by a car bomb set off by Anders Behring Breivik and that killed eight people. Breivik, who then attacked a Labor Party youth conference on the island of Utoeya killing 69 people, has admitted to the murders.

The city expects to be compensated for costs related to the deployment of security personnel if the bomb scare turns out to have been caused by a mistake by U.S. embassy personnel, said Stian Berger Roesland, head of the Oslo city council.

"If carelessness is the cause of today's drama in Oslo, an apology and an offer of economic compensation must be expected," he wrote on his Twitter Inc. account.

The U.S. embassy doesn't comment on matters of security, spokesman Patrick Geraghty said by phone from Oslo. The embassy plans to release a statement later today, he said.

38. [Attack, Serbia] 2 Serbian Soldiers Killed in Cluster Bomb Explosion on Border with Kosovo

Wednesday, August 01, 2012

http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/2-serbian-soldiers-killed-in-cluster-bomb-explosion-on-border-with-kosovo/2012/08/01/gJQAGK3uOX_story.html

Officials say two Serbian soldiers have been killed in the explosion of an old NATO cluster bomb on Serbia's border with Kosovo.

The defense ministry says the officers died Wednesday while clearing a mine field near their barracks on Mount Kopaonik in southern Serbia that was left over from the 1999 war in Kosovo.

Hundreds of mine fields, including unexploded cluster bombs, were left in Serbia following NATO's 78-day bombing campaign that ended the war and stopped the crackdown by Serb forces on Kosovo Albanian separatists.

Kosovo declared independence from Serbia in 2008.

39. [Technology, United Kingdom] MoD in Search of IED Sensors of the Future

Thursday, August 02, 2012

<http://www.eurekamagazine.co.uk/article/44050/MoD-in-search-of-IED-sensors-of-the-future.aspx>

Experts at the MoD's Defence Science and Technology Laboratory (Dstl) are accepting applications to work with them and take part in a series of IED detection demonstration days which will take place between 3 September 2012 and 31 January 2013.

Dstl is interested in concepts at a very early stage of development, through to those at the prototype stage. Industry and academia with the most promising and sufficiently developed submissions will be invited to a Dstl site where the innovations will be tested against a representative threat. In particular, the sensing challenges will focus on concealed IEDs, either worn by a person or hidden in a vehicle, buried by or in the roadside or hidden in a wall, box, bag or another container.

Organisations with a selected submission will work with Dstl and military subject matter experts to design a scenario suited to the technological maturity of their proposed sensing solution. Dstl will provide feedback to each applicant, regardless of success. There is also the possibility of funding for the most promising concepts.

Dstl Security Sciences department senior fellow, Don Hardy commented: "We're looking for innovative ideas ranging from conceptual studies to pieces of equipment, regardless of technological maturity, which could be used to improve the detection of concealed IEDs. Following the demonstration days, technical and military subject matter experts will review the performance of each concept and identify projects which have performed to a level worthy of further research."

The final deadline for submissions is 31 October 2012, but interested parties are encouraged to apply as soon as possible to ensure consultation over logistics can begin. Application forms can be found on the Dstl website and should be sent to demodays@dstl.gov.uk when complete.