

RAPID

Realtime Analysis and Publishing of IED Data

WEEKLY NEWS UPDATE

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



Huge Cache of Explosives Seized

Banjara Hills Task Force police displaying their catch of illegal explosive materials seized in Hyderabad, India.

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1. [Security, Pakistan] Explosive Device Defused

Saturday, December 29 2012

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-7-151175-Explosive-device-defused>

The police defused an explosive device planted near a house in the Kohat Development Authority (KDA) Colony on Friday.

Sources said that unidentified persons had planted an explosive device weighing one kilogram near the house of Dr Kosar Ali Shah in KDA Colony.

Acting on a tip off the police and personnel of the bomb disposal unit reached the spot and cordoned off the area before defusing the device.



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2. [Security, Afghanistan] Weapon Cache Discovered In Kandahar

Saturday, December 29 2012

http://www.wakht.af/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=7675%3Aweapon-cache-discovered-in-kandahar-police&catid=6%3Asecurity-a-crime&Itemid=17&lang=en

Afghan National Police launched an independent operation in the Pirwan village, Panjwaie District of southern Kandahar province, the ministry of interior said in a statement Saturday.

Police discovered and confiscated a weapon cache consist of 53 light round boxes, 35 mortar rounds, 30 mortars, 280 rockets, 14 light machine guns, three PK machine guns, one rocket launcher and one radio handset, the statement said.

Additionally, Afghan National Police discovered and defused two anti-vehicle mines which were placed by the enemies of peace and stability in the main road of Sangin district of Helmand province yesterday, according to the statement on the ministry's website.

The national police also detained a group of eight men aiming to kidnap a man in the Qala-e-Mohammad village, Farah city capital of Farah province yesterday, the statement concluded.

No independent source had so far confirmed the report.





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3. [Attack, Pakistan] Blast Targets Cinema In Peshawar

Sunday, December 30 2012

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-81680-Blast-targets-cinema-in-Peshawar->

A blast outside a private cinema left a man injured in Faqeerabad area of the city early in the morning, Geo News reported Sunday.

Police said that the blast took place near the gate of the cinema which was partially damage.

However, the police said the blast causes no loss of life. Nature of the blast was yet to be ascertained. The injured was taken to a nearby hospital for treatment.



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4. [Attack, Pakistan] Pakistan Blast Kills 20 Shia Pilgrims In Latest Sectarian Attack

Sunday, December 30 2012

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/12/30/us-pakistan-blast-idUSBRE8BS06O20121230>

A car bomb exploded on Sunday near a convoy of buses taking Pakistani Shia pilgrims to Iran, killing 20 people and wounding 24, officials said, the latest attack on the minority sect.

Witnesses said the blast occurred as the three buses were overtaking a car about 60 km (35 miles) west of Quetta, capital of sparsely populated Baluchistan province, site of many sectarian attacks, near the Iranian border.

"The bus next to us caught on fire immediately," said pilgrim Hussein Ali, 60. "We tried to save our companions but were driven back by the intensity of the heat."

An official at Mastung district hospital, said 20 people had been killed and 24 wounded.

Akbar Durrani, Baluchistan's home secretary, said rescue teams were trying to reach victims in the wreckage of the vehicles, one of which was still in flames some time after the attack. He said the death toll could rise.

A string of attacks on Shias underscores the government's inability to crack down on groups promoting sectarian violence.

In August, militants made passengers disembark from a bus in a northern province and shot 19 Shias dead after determining from their identity cards whether they were Shias or majority Sunnis.

New York-based Human Rights Watch has noted more than 320 Shias killed this year in Pakistan and said attacks were on the rise. It said the government's failure to catch or prosecute attackers suggested it was "indifferent" to the killings.

Pakistan has banned several militant groups that openly call for attacks on Shias. But their leaders move around openly, give interviews and often receive police protection. Rights groups say some groups have ties to Pakistani security agencies.

Pakistan is overwhelmingly Muslim, with most citizens Sunni, though about 20 percent of its 180 million population are Shia.





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5. [Security, Afghanistan] Ammunition, Explosive Materials Cache Of Taliban Discovered In Ghor

Monday, December 31 2012

<http://www.bakhtarnews.com.af/eng/security/item/5677-ammunition-explosive-materials-cache-of-taliban-discovered-in-ghor.html>

The security police of Ghor province discovered an ammunition cache of Taliban in that province. Abdul Raof Ahmad spokesman of west zone police said to BNA, this cache was discovered in the suburb of Cheghcheran city, center of Ghor province from a house. Eight gallons of explosive materials, tens missile rockets, rocket launchers and huge quantity of ammunition were hidden in this cache. Security officials of Ghor said, Taliban wanted to use these ammunitions in terrorist and destructive activities. According to the source, no one has been arrested in connection of the case yet.



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6. [Attack, Afghanistan] Afghanistan Bombing Sets Fuel Tankers Ablaze

Monday, December 31 2012

<http://www.laht.com/article.asp?CategoryId=12395&ArticleId=659721>

Nine fuel tankers supplying NATO-led international forces in Afghanistan burst into flames when a mine exploded in the eastern province of Nangarhar.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack.

“The nine tankers were destroyed by the fire,” the spokesman for the provincial government, Ahmad Zia Abdulzai, told Efe, adding that the explosion and fire caused no casualties.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack, and one of the insurgent group’s spokesmen, Zabiullah Muyahid, confirmed in remarks to Efe that the target was a military convoy.

The tankers that blew up belonged to a private firm that supplies fuel to the NATO forces in Afghanistan.

The assets of the companies that supply the international forces are frequently the targets of attacks by the insurgents, who accuse the firms of complicity with NATO forces.



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7. [Attack, Pakistan] At Least One Dead, 13 Wounded In Karachi Explosion

Tuesday, January 1 2013

<http://www.laht.com/article.asp?CategoryId=12395&ArticleId=659914>

At least one person died and 13 were wounded in an explosion Tuesday in the southern Pakistani city of Karachi, the local Dawn television station reported.

The blast, which could be heard several kilometers away, occurred next to a furniture factory in the district known as Federal B Area.

The TV station reported that the police cordoned off the site and that the injured were transported to several hospitals.

With more than 20 million residents, Karachi is Pakistan's largest city and one of the ones with the greatest amount of violence.

Criminal gangs and guerrillas incited by political parties and ethnic groups operate in Karachi, which is considered to be Pakistan's crime capital.



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8. [Attack, Pakistan] Aspiring Cricketer Dies In School Blast

Tuesday, January 1 2013

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/487158/planted-ied-aspiring-cricketer-dies-in-school-blast/>

An aspiring cricketer and school watchman was killed in a blast at a private girls middle school in Bakarabad area of Jamrud tehsil on Monday.

Akhtar Munir, the nephew of the school's owner, was sleeping in one of the building's rooms when the bomb planted by unidentified militants went off at around 12:10am and reduced the entire structure to debris.

The owner, Maweez Khan, reported the incident to the police saying he heard a huge blast and found the school in ruins when he reached the site.

A Khasadar official, Tehsenullah said Munir's body was pulled out of the debris by locals. "He was killed on the spot due to the impact of the blast," he added.

Munir was a well-known cricketer of the area and one of the key batsmen of Al Haj Cricket Club. He played first-class cricket and recently went on a tour to Bangladesh. He was also scheduled to play a match in the ongoing Assistant Political Agent Cricket Tournament at Jamrud Sports Ground at 11am on Monday.

The team's skipper Taimur said Munir was a humble and soft spoken person. "His favourite player was Saeed Anwar and he always wanted to play for the national team," added Taimur.

This was the second time the school was targeted. Earlier, two rooms were destroyed in a blast and the political administration claimed the two suspects were arrested.





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9. [Attack, Pakistan] Motorcycle Bomb Kills Four In Karachi

Wednesday, January 2 2013

<http://www.ndtv.com/article/world/motorcycle-bomb-kills-four-in-karachi-312149>

A motorcycle bomb exploded on Tuesday near the venue of a major political rally in Pakistan's largest city Karachi, killing four people and injuring 42 others, officials said.

The bombing appeared to be targeted at buses carrying supporters of the city's dominant political party, the Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM), which organised the rally attended by thousands of people.

"The latest report we have collected from hospitals said that four people have been killed and 42 are injured," provincial health minister Saghir Ahmad told AFP, updating the earlier toll of two dead and 25 injured. Another health official at Karachi's Abbasi Shaheed hospital confirmed the new toll.

"The bomb was planted in a motorcycle," said Asif Ijaz, a senior police official.

Imran Shokat, a police spokesman in the southern Sindh province of which Karachi is the capital, said the motorcycle was parked in a congested neighbourhood near the venue of the rally.

"Bomb disposal experts are investigating but preliminary reports said it was a remote-controlled bomb," Shokat told AFP.

Karachi, the commercial capital of Pakistan with an estimated population of 18 million, is in the grip of a long-running wave of political and sectarian violence.

Its Arabian Sea port is used by the United States and NATO to ship supplies to the war in neighbouring, landlocked Afghanistan.





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10. [Security, Pakistan] Seventy Kg Bomb Defused In Peshawar

Wednesday, January 2 2013

<http://newindianexpress.com/world/article1404582.ece>

A terrorism attempt was thwarted in Pakistan's Peshawar city when police defused a 70-kg bomb, Online news agency reported.

The bomb, found Tuesday in the Sarband suburb, had been planted in a drum outside a tribal elder's house.



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11. [Security, Pakistan] Mobile Phone Services To Remain Suspended On Thursday

Wednesday, January 2 2013

<http://dawn.com/2013/01/02/mobile-phone-services-to-remain-suspended-on-thursday/>

In a bid to thwart terrorists' plans of attacking processions on the occasion of Chehlum of Imam Hussain, the government has decided to suspend mobile phone services in up to 53 cities across the country on Thursday, DawnNews reported on Wednesday.

Reports from various sources suggest that wireless services along with pillion riding will also be banned in sensitive areas of the country including Karachi, Lahore and Quetta.

Eighteen cities of Sindh along with 12 in Punjab, 16 districts in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and seven cities in Balochistan will observe the ban.

Sources in Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) told DawnNews that after consulting all provincial authorities, the decision has been taken to block mobile phone services between 8 am and 10 pm on Thursday.

This is not the first time the government is imposing a suspension, as people in certain parts of the country had faced it previously on Eid-ul-Fitr, Eid-ul-Azha, Ashura and on New Year's Eve.



AFPAC

12. [Special Interest, Afghanistan] Afghanistan's IED Complex: Inside The Taliban Bombmaking Industry

Wednesday, January 2 2013

<http://world.time.com/2013/01/02/afghanistans-ied-complex-inside-the-taliban-bomb-making-industry/>

"I am here in Kandahar on a short vacation," says the young man, about 27, who we will call Mullah Kalam. His beard is trimmed neat; he is wearing a black leather jacket and a striped beige turban. Kalam has been a student for five years at a religious seminary across the border in Chaman, in the Pakistani province of Baluchistan. Two years into his studies, as U.S. President Barack Obama ordered a surge of 33,000 troops in Afghanistan, much of it focused in the south, Kalam's family of 11 left their home in Panjwai district, about 40km from the city of Kandahar, to settle in Chaman.

But Kalam's "short vacations" home, at least twice every year, are no innocent excursions. Panjwai is considered one of the most heavily mined areas in the country. The Taliban have been known to place homemade bombs and booby-traps everywhere—on dirt roads, pomegranate trees, and vegetable fields—and have forced a curfew on locals between 8pm and 8am. Besides Kalam's religious studies, he has been spending time with "Pakistani explosive experts," he says. Putting that training to work, he has helped orchestrate about 20 Improvised Explosive Device (IED) attacks.

The U.S. troop surge and the increasing reach of the Afghan security forces have weakened the Taliban as a fighting force in recent years. But the Taliban, known for their tactical flexibility, has turned more and more to IEDs. These are easy to make, largely from fertilizer and simple materials that are easy to transport across the porous border with Pakistan.

The U.S. government has spent more than \$21 billion since 2006 in tackling the IEDs, which it considers a strategic weapon that will remain "an enduring threat." Marred with questions of inefficiency and mismanagement, the effort is led by JIEDDO, Joint IED Defeat Organization. The group has focused heavily on fielding technologies to address the problem in a three-pronged strategy: "attack the network, defeat the device, train the force." But the numbers on the ground suggest it has been a difficult, largely losing fight—and one that is increasingly asymmetric in terms of economic cost.

While in Iraq, use of IEDs plummeted after reaching a peak of 23,000 attacks in 2007, the trend in Afghanistan seems to be only heading upwards. The Pentagon is reporting an 80% increase in IED incidents over the past two years here. In 2012 alone, there have been nearly 15,000 IED incidents, causing about 1,900 U.S. casualties. Overall, more than 60% of U.S. casualties in Afghanistan are caused by IEDs. While the weapon will continue to take a heavy toll on the U.S. troops until their planned withdrawal in 2014, the larger victim will remain Afghan forces, who are ill-equipped and more prone to fall victim in mined areas. IEDs are responsible for about 85% of casualties in Afghan army and police forces.

Fighting the phenomenon through detective technology is unsustainable, analysts and officials say. The lethality of the weapon lies in its flexibility. The technology, developed through large defense contracts, simply cannot keep up. "The enemy is actually better equipped than my soldiers—they have night goggles, to see how they can cross the border at night," says Brigadier General Abdul Raziq, the 33-year-old police commander of Kandahar province who has survived about 40 attempts on his life, several of them by way of IEDs. "The enemy has been given the kind of explosives, triggers and remote controls that our equipment—not the new jammers and such, but equipment from 2010—cannot detect."

The Afghan police have 97 mine clearance teams across the country with very basic training and equipment designed for Soviet-era bombs. The force largely relies on human intelligence, which has been undermined by significant budget cuts over the past three years.

"The enemy has ISI money, narcotics money, and other sources," says Sediq Sediqqi, the spokesperson for the Af-



ghan Ministry of Interior, referring to Pakistan's intelligence service. "We need to be able to counter their investments."

More than 70% of the IEDs in Afghanistan are made with Calcium Ammonium Nitrate (CAN) produced in two factories in Pakistan. Urging regulation on the factories, dismantling the smuggling supply chain on the Pakistani side of the border, and disrupting the networks inside is really the only way. "While CAN is produced in other regional countries, I have seen no evidence to indicate the CAN used for IEDs in Afghanistan comes from any other country besides Pakistan," says Army Lt. Gen. Michael D. Barbero, director of JIEDDO.

The Pakistani military has taken measures to curb the problem, but only domestically, which has been spreading like the larger militancy. At least 900 IED attacks causing 3,700 casualties have been reported inside Pakistan. The U.S. government tried to reach out directly with the two factories in Pakistan, which has only resulted in "minor packaging, tracking, and marketing changes," according to Barbareo. But direct communication was halted by the Pakistani government. With the producing source and the supply chain intact, the Afghan and coalition forces have increased their crack down on IED material—particularly CAN—on the Afghan side of the border. In 2012 alone, 444 tons of IED material was seized in Afghanistan, but a large amount still continues to be smuggled in. "The enemy mixes ammonium nitrate in flour, in cement, in powder detergent, in passengers' luggage to carry it across the border," says General Raziq. "We can't always just knife people's goods." And Raziq's men do not even have control over all of Kandahar's 44-kilometer border with Pakistan, which is a small share of the vast 2,400km border.

"If I have 300 soldiers in Shorawak, there are 500 terrorists training in the open directly on the other side of the border in Panjpai," Raziq says. "Across the border, they have open headquarters, training grounds, and they bring their injured for treatment to hospitals there."

Once the material is in the country, there is a vast network of trained, active agents, disarmed former members of the movement, and ideological sympathizers that play a role along the way as the material is turned into explosives, and then planted. TIME spoke to some of these agents. A 35-year old, beefy commander, his beard trimmed short and his head half bald under his massive white turban, is in charge of a 10-member team just 70km outside Kandahar city. With training in Chaman two years ago, he leads the ten men in assembling the explosives—in oil cans, pressure cookers, and, most recently, in 1.5 liter soda bottles, which are easier to transport. A Kandahar intelligence official swore he had even seen IEDs carved into large copies of the Quran.

Then there are the facilitators, like the 38-year-old former member of the Taliban who helps by hiding IEDs at his home in Daman, and transports them on the back of his motorcycle. And, finally, there are people like the mustachioed 33-year-old from the lush Arghandab valley who has brought eight IEDs to the city in his truck, which he usually uses to deliver commercial fruits.

"For transporting the explosives, we use cars, animals, and even some government officials," the bald commander says, lowering his voice into a whisper during the last part, stretching his words with satisfaction. The use of vehicles for transporting explosives, and even carrying out attacks, is not unusual. The police chief of Nimroz province was reportedly killed last month by explosives placed in the door of his own official vehicle.

Locals in Panjwai claim the Taliban have also turned to subcontracting, so far a trademark of the coalition side of the war. The insurgents supply the explosives, they say, but unemployed youth plant them for cash. If they blow up an Afghan police vehicle, they get anything between 10,000 and 20,000 Pakistani rupees (\$100-\$200). If they blow up a coalition vehicle, the reward is as high as 100,000 Pakistani rupees. The claim is difficult to prove. But there does exist an internal Taliban bonus structure for operatives carrying out IEDs successfully. Mullah Kalam said he has gotten up to 20,000 PKR for blowing up U.S. vehicles, and 10,000 PKR for Afghan police vehicles. "We definitely have a bonus, a sweetener," Kalam says.

So the incentive means that not a day goes by in Afghanistan without reports of IEDs across the country. As in all wars, civilians bear the heavy brunt: the United Nations reports at least 967 civilians killed and 1,590 injured during the past four months, 56% caused by IEDs.



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13. [Trend, Pakistan] Human Bombs Killed 5,243 In 896 Attacks Since 2002

Wednesday, January 2 2013

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-2-152001-Human-bombs-killed-5243-in-896-attacks-since-2002>

The Pakistani military establishment's decision to join hands with the US in its war against terror has made the country suffer 896 deadly incidents of suicide bombings in the past 11 years which have killed 5,243 innocent people and injured 11,221 others between January 1, 2002 and December 31, 2012.

Statistically speaking, the staggering death toll (of 5,243) means that the human bombs were able to kill 476 people every year on average and 40 people each month since 2002. Likewise, Pakistan suffered an average 81 suicide bombings every year and seven attacks a month over the past eleven years.

Pakistan had experienced only one suicide bombing before 9/11 when the Egyptian Embassy in Islamabad was targeted. However, over the next 11 years between January 2002 and December 2012, the human bombs let loose a reign of terror in almost every nook and cranny of the country, killing over 5,000 people in almost 900 suicide attacks.

In a twisty path that leads from the Pakistani establishment's switch to Western allegiance to the 2007 Lal Masjid operation in Islamabad, Pakistan has literally been turned into the suicide bombing capital of the world, with the security forces and the intelligence agencies often being targeted by lethal human bombs. As a result, Pakistan's overall security situation seems to be in absolute turmoil.

The highly-secured headquarters of the Pakistan Army, Navy and the Air Force, the offices of the ISI, police stations, military training academies, check posts, government buildings (particularly state symbols) and mosques, imambargas, churches, hospitals, schools and markets have all become targets of the ruthless suicide bombers.

Suicide bombers in fact came to Pakistan in 2002 in the wake of the Musharraf regime's decision to become a US ally in the terror war by reversing the previous decade's policy of influencing Afghan politics through the Taliban militia. The reversal brought the Pakistani military establishment into conflict with jihadi organisations active in Afghanistan and Jammu and Kashmir.

The first attack of its kind occurred on March 16, 2002, when a suicide bomber blew himself up in a church in Islamabad, killing five people and injuring 40 others. Fifteen people died on May, 2002 when a bomber rammed his explosive-laden vehicle into a bus near the Sheraton Hotel in Karachi. Those killed in the attack included nine French engineers and five Pakistanis technicians who had been working on a naval project. The attacks placed Pakistan on the world map of countries marred by suicide bombings.

The next year, in 2003, a total of 70 people were killed and 114 injured in three suicide attacks, two targeting General Pervez Musharraf in December and one targeting former Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz in June, 2003. In 2004, 91 people were killed and 393 injured in seven incidents.

The death toll in 2005 was 86 people killed and 219 injured in four strikes, while 161 people were killed and 352 injured in seven attacks in 2006. The following year saw an unprecedented rise in suicide attacks, in the wake of the army's gory Operation Silence against fanatical Lal Masjid clerics and their followers in Islamabad.



A record number of 766 people were killed and 1,677 injured in 56 attacks in 2007. The perilous trend of suicide strikes targeting the Pakistani security forces touched alarming heights that year, averaging more than one hit a week as the military establishment lost control of extremist jihadi networks and the leaders it had allegedly nurtured to advance its agenda in Afghanistan and India.

The intensity of the suicide bombings in the aftermath of the Lal Masjid episode could be gauged from the fact that General Musharraf, as commander-in-chief, had directed the armed forces not to wear their uniforms in public, especially in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for fear of extremist backlash. Pro-al-Qaeda tribal leaders exploited the Lal Masjid operation to provoke more suicide attacks against the army in a bid to demoralise the troops.

The idea was to make the intensively Islamised military rank and file realise that the army was making a mistake by following the American dictates under the leadership of a “faithless” Musharraf and his fellow generals.

The suicide bombings multiplied further next year - in 2008 - killing 895 people and injuring 1873 in 60 incidents. There were 78 suicide attacks in 2009, killing 951 people and wounding 2,361. The ugly phenomenon peaked in 2010, when 1,172 people were killed and 2,204 injured in 51 such incidents. In 2011, a sharp decline was noticed in suicide bombings as well as the ensuing death toll. A total of 637 people lost their lives and 1,185 injured in 41 attacks across Pakistan.

These bombings further decreased in 2012, although slightly, with a total of 394 people losing their lives and 668 more wounded in 39 such incidents across Pakistan.

According to the monthly break-down of the 39 suicide bombing statistics for the year 2012, 15 people were killed in three attacks in January; 52 in three attacks in February; 65 in six attacks in March; six in a single attack in April; 32 in one attack in May; 52 in four hits in June; 11 in a single attack in July; 18 in two suicide bombings in August; 24 in three attacks in September and 22 more were killed in one incident of suicide bombing in October.

November 2012 saw a record number of nine suicide attacks, mostly targeting Peshawar and killing 61 people. Five more attacks were conducted in December which killed 36 people, including the courageous Bashir Bilour who was targeted on December 22, 2012.

Of the 39 incidents of suicide bombings in 2012 which killed 394 people, 21 were carried out in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, nine in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (Fata), four in Punjab, three in Sindh and one in Baluchistan. Peshawar suffered a record number of 14 suicide bombings. On average, 33 people were killed every month by human bombs in 2012. Almost 90 percent of these suicide bombings were claimed by the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan spokesman Ehsanullah Ehsan.



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14. [Attack, Afghanistan] Danish Soldier Killed By Explosion In Afghanistan's Helmand Province

Thursday, January 3 2013

http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia_pacific/danish-soldier-killed-by-explosion-in-afghanistans-helmand-province/2013/01/03/ebc7fbc8-5580-11e2-89de-76c1c54b1418_story.html

An elite Danish soldier has been killed in southern Afghanistan by an explosive device, military officials said Thursday.

The blast is said to have happened late Wednesday or early Thursday and came as members of Denmark's Ranger and Frogmen units were on a joint patrol with an Afghan police's elite unit.

The Ranger was airlifted by helicopter to a field hospital but his life couldn't be saved. Next of kin have been notified.

The soldier was from the northern Denmark city of Aalborg. His name or rank were not immediately released.

Denmark has about 600 troops in Afghanistan, mostly based in the volatile Helmand province. More than 40 Danish soldiers have been killed in Afghanistan since Denmark joined the U.S.-led coalition in 2002.

Denmark has begun withdrawing its combat units and is gradually shifting its role to training Afghan forces.



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15. [Attack, Pakistan] Blast Injures Five, Shatters Nerves At Peshawar Varsity

Thursday, January 3 2013

<http://dawn.com/2013/01/03/blast-injures-five-shatters-nerves-at-peshawar-varsity-2/>

Five students were injured slightly when an explosive device went off at University of Peshawar (UoP) here on Wednesday, sources said.

The blast created panic at UoP as students staged a protest demonstration after the incident, alleging that the campus had become unsafe. The protesting students also demanded suspension of officials at Campus police station for their failure to protect students.

About one kilogram of explosives were used in the blast occurred in the conference hall of Institute of Islamic and Arabic Studies, UoP, Campus police station SHO Saidullah Afirdi told Dawn.

However, UoP spokesperson claimed that nobody was injured in the blast as the conference hall was empty at the time of explosion. He said that the blast caused damage to the furniture, doors and windows of the hall and a nearby computer laboratory.

An official of bomb disposal squad said that the explosives were packed in a plastic container. "We found ball bearings from the blast site that created a crater and also caused a three feet wide hole in a corner of the wall of the main hall," he said, adding it was a time device, which went off after midday.

The UoP spokesperson said that the conference hall was used for faculty meetings and defence of theses by PhD scholars and researchers. He said that situation was under control and routine academic activities would continue as per schedule on the campus.

A teacher said that about five boys and girl students were injured slightly in the blast. They were hit by broken glasses of the windowpanes but they seemed traumatised after the incident, he added.

Sources said that the injured students were taken to Khyber Teaching Hospital for treatment. They were identified as Naheed Afridi, Mehnaz, Nasira, Sundas and Mohammad Tayyeb. However, they were discharged after giving first aid at the hospital, sources said.

It was second incident of bomb blast on the UoP campus as the first explosion had taken place in a laboratory of geology department on Dec 27 wherein two professors and a girl student had sustained injuries.

A reliable source said that the UoP campus had become an accessible place for suspected militants as they collected donations in the university mosques, spoke to people and also displayed banners and posters with no check from the authorities concerned.

Besides, he said, there was no check on the stay of outsiders in the university hostels. The administration was avoiding taking action against them, he added.

"We have time and again suggested that all the outsiders should be expelled from the campus but to no avail," a police official said. He added that police had no authority to expel anyone without permission of the relevant offi-



cials of the university.

The UoP spokesperson, however, rejected presence of outsiders in the hostels and said that no outsider was living permanently there.

Prof Shfiqur Rehmn, a senior university teacher, told Dawn that it was the second incident of its kind within a week. The teachers were concerned over the prevailing situation, he added.

“The teachers feel that the message is clear that such places are also not safe any longer,” he said. The UoP administration tried to downplay the blasts occurred in a laboratory of geology department and the recent incident of the same nature, the teacher said. The reasons could be only that the administration did not want to create panic among the students, he added.

After the blast, students affiliated with various organisations staged a protest against the incident. They chanted slogans against the university administration and officials of Campus police station for their failure to provide security to the students.





AFPAK

16. [Attack, Afghanistan] Bomb Kills ISAF Soldier

Friday, January 4 2013

<http://paktribune.com/news/Bomb-kills-ISAF-soldier-256250.html>

A bomb killed a soldier of International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in southern Afghanistan, the NATO-led force said Thursday.

The ISAF soldier died after an improvised explosion device attack, ISAF announced in a brief statement.

Like always, International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) did not disclose nationality of the fallen soldier and exact location of the incident in restive south.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility by Taliban or any other militant group.



AFRICOM

17. [Attack, Libya] Two Killed In Blast At Egyptian-Run Church In Libya

Sunday, December 30 2012

<http://english.alarabiya.net/articles/2012/12/30/257867.html>

Egypt's Foreign Ministry says an explosion at an Egyptian Coptic church in Libya's third largest city, Misrata, has killed two people and wounded two others.

The statement by the Foreign Ministry says Sunday's explosion killed two Egyptian citizens working at the church in preparation for traditional New Year's Eve mass.

Egypt's ambassador visited the church in the coastal city after the attack and urged Libyan security forces to ensure the property is guarded.

A Libyan security official says the deadly attack was caused by a bomb made from an explosive material that typically requires a detonator. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because the incident is still under investigation.

Tens of thousands of Egyptian workers have returned to work in Libya following last year's civil war, despite security dangers.



AFRICOM

18. [Attack, Libya] Bomb Hits Prosecutor's Office In Libya's Benghazi

Monday, December 31 2012

<http://english.alarabiya.net/articles/2012/12/31/257917.html>

An improvised bomb exploded outside the headquarters of the public prosecutor in the Libyan city of Benghazi causing material damage but no fatalities, a security source said Monday.

"Initial evidence suggests the device was a suitcase packed with high yield explosives (TNT)," an investigator at the scene told AFP, adding that there were no casualties.

The overnight blast marked the third attack on the site in 2012, he said.

It damaged the front of the recently renovated building, which once held the people's court, a special tribunal created by the former regime of Moamer Kadhafi to crack down on opponents, particularly Islamists.

The bomb also punched a hole in the ground and shattered the glass of adjacent vehicles and properties.

December marked a tumultuous month for Benghazi, cradle of the 2011 NATO-backed uprising that toppled the Kadhafi regime and ended in the killing of one of the region's veteran dictators.

A spate of attacks targeting police stations claimed the lives of seven officers this month and pushed the chief of staff to send reinforcements to bolster security there.

In 2012, Libya's second city witnessed a series of assassinations targeting security officials and judges, many of whom had served under the previous regime.

Benghazi has also emerged as a hub for jihadist groups, including militants who killed ambassador Chris Stevens and three other Americans in a September 11 attack on the U.S. consulate.

In a separate incident late Saturday, an explosion rocked a Coptic church near the city of Misrata, killing two Egyptians and wounding two others, according to local and diplomatic sources.





AFRICOM

19. [Attack, Somalia] Roadside Bomb Hits Amisom Patrol In Merka Town

Wednesday, January 2 2013

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201301030032.html>

A roadside bomb has hit a Burundian contingent of African union forces who were on a patrol in the beachside town of Merka in southern Somalia, according to residents in the town.

Eyewitnesses say that three civilians have been wounded in the explosion but residents could not confirm any casualty on the side of Amisom troops, who were the target of the attack.

Meanwhile the vice governor of in charge of security, who spoke to Shabelle media network told that there was not any casualty on Amisom forces from that roadside bomb attack and he stressed that security operations were underway in the town to find the perpetrators of the attack.

Merka was one of the major basins of Alshabab militants before they were forced out of the town by Somali national forces backed by Amisom troops.



CENTCOM

20. [Trend, Syria] Desperate For Weapons, Syrian Opposition Make Their Own

Monday, December 31 2012

<http://english.alarabiya.net/articles/2012/12/31/258024.html>

At a converted warehouse in the midst of a block of residential homes in a northern Syrian town, men are hard at work at giant lathes, shavings of metal gathering around them.

Sacks of potassium nitrate and sugar lie nearby.

In a neat row against the wall is the finished product, homemade mortars. Syrian rebels say they have been forced to make them because their calls for heavy weapons and ammunition to fight President Bashar al-Assad have gone unanswered.

"No one's giving us any support. So we're working on our own to strike Bashar," said a bearded man spinning the metal to create the warhead.

Using the Internet, the workshop of about seven men work together to try and perfect the crude weapons. For explosives, they pick out TNT from unexploded rockets that

Assad's forces have fired towards them and repackage them into their own weapons. Each gave different estimates of the mortars' range.

"We're volunteers, we were workers, we were never soldiers. They're locally made. They don't have the strength of the regime's rockets, but they are having good effects," said Abu Mohammed, who said the mortars created a 3-1/2 metre crater.

Another worker said the mortars, which take about a day to make, could reach a distance of 6 km (almost 4 miles).

Although the rebels, who are mostly Sunni Muslim fighters, have made big gains in the northern and eastern parts of Syria in the 21-month conflict, they are outgunned by Assad's forces.

Some rebel groups are receiving supplies from Gulf states, and Western countries say they are giving non-lethal aid. But many rebels say they have not received anything.

Colonel Abdel-Jabbar Oqaidi, who heads the rebels' military council in Aleppo province, told Reuters last week that his forces are fighting without any help from the Western and Arab governments which want Assad removed from power.

"We aren't able to get any weapons from abroad. We have nothing except for the rifle to fight with," said another man at the workshop.

The success rate of the weapons is questionable. Two men said the mortars hit 80 to 90 percent of the targets, but there have been problems. Sometimes the mortars do not detonate, other times they explode prematurely.

"The more we practice, the more experience we get," said one of the men, explaining how they discovered that if



they let the propelling agent mixture set for too long it absorbed humidity, which in turn stopped the mortar from detonating.

At one of the Aleppo frontline positions, rebels fired the mortars from a homemade tube, fashioned from piping on a mount made from a car axle.

The rebels have also been working on refurbishing weaponry acquired during takeovers of Assad's military bases.

Parked in a residential street, a group of men have been working on fixing a T-72 tank whose gear box was blown.

Abu Jumaa, one of the mechanics working on the 1970s tank, said fighters had taken it from an infantry college in north Syria that had recently fallen to rebel forces.

"We have no tanks, no planes, no artillery. All we have is what we get in spoils and we go to war against him (Assad) with what we get. That's the reality. We're forced to do this," he told Reuters.

"These tanks are useless in the first place. It can't be called a tank, it's a lump of scrap iron," he said gesturing at the chipped army green metal.

Rebel fighters on the frontline consistently complain of shortages of weapons and ammunition that have forced them to stop advances and focus on keeping the ground they have gained.

"We get 3,000 bullets a month. No anti-aircraft missiles ... everything is from the military bases (we take over)," said one young rebel fighter from the Supporters of Mohammed Brigade, wearing a plaid yellow and black turban.

Even though the rebels have managed to seize large quantities of weapons from military bases, they struggle with a chronic shortage of ammunition and weapons to target Assad's fighter jets.

"You see how the planes are striking all of us, not differentiating between old and young ... God has helped us, we've made these rockets and we're using them to hit back at them all over again," said Abu Mohammed.



CENTCOM

21. [Attack, Iraq] Bombs Kill 16 Across Iraq As Sectarian Strife Grows

Monday, December 31 2012

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/12/31/us-iraq-violence-idUSBRE8BU03320121231>

Explosions killed at least 16 people and wounded 76 across Iraq on Monday, police said, underlining sectarian and ethnic divisions that threaten to further destabilize the country a year after U.S. troops left.

Tensions between Shi'ite, Kurdish and Sunni factions in Iraq's power-sharing government have been on the rise this year. Militants strike almost daily and have staged at least one big attack a month.

The latest violence followed more than a week of protests against Shi'ite Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki by thousands of people from the minority Sunni community.

No group claimed responsibility for any of Monday's attacks, which targeted government officials, police patrols and members of both the Sunni and Shi'ite sects.

Seven people from the same Sunni family were killed by a bomb planted near their home in the town of Mussayab, south of Baghdad.

In the Shi'ite majority city of Hilla, also in the south, a parked car bomb went off near the convoy of the governor of Babil province, missing him but killing two other people, police said.

"We heard the sound of a big explosion and the windows of our office shattered. We immediately lay on the ground," said 28-year-old Mohammed Ahmed, who works at a hospital near the site of the explosion.

"After a few minutes I stood up and went to the windows to see what happened. I saw flames and people lying on the ground."

In the capital Baghdad, five people were killed by a parked car bomb targeting pilgrims before a Shi'ite religious rite this week, police and hospital sources said.

Although violence is far lower than during the sectarian slaughter of 2006-2007, about 2,000 people have been killed in Iraq this year following the withdrawal last December of U.S. troops, who led an invasion in 2003 to overthrow Sunni dictator Saddam Hussein.

SUNNIS PROTEST

Monday's violence also included a series of blasts that killed three people in Iraq's disputed territories, over which both the central government and the autonomous Kurdish region claim jurisdiction.

Two of those deaths were in the oil-producing, ethnically mixed city of Kirkuk, where a bomb exploded as a police team tried to defuse it.

Baghdad and Kurdistan are locked in a feud over land and oil rights and recently deployed their respective armies to the swathe of territory along their contested internal boundary, where they are currently facing off against one



other.

Efforts to ease the standoff stalled when President Jalal Talabani, a Kurd seen as a steadying influence, suffered a stroke and was flown abroad for medical care in December.

Maliki then detained the bodyguards of his Sunni finance minister, which ignited anti-government protests in the western province of Anbar, a Sunni stronghold on the border with Syria.

A lecturer in law at Baghdad University said the protests could help create the conditions for militant Islamist groups like al Qaeda to thrive.

"Raising tension in Anbar and other provinces with mainly Sunni populations is definitely playing into the hands of al Qaeda and other insurgent groups," Ahmed Younis said.

More than 1,000 people protested in the city of Samarra on Monday and rallies continued in Ramadi, centre of the protests, and in Mosul, where about 500 people took to the streets.

Protesters are demanding an end to what they see as the marginalization of Sunnis, who dominated the country until the U.S.-led invasion. They want Maliki to abolish anti-terrorism laws they say are used to persecute them.

On Sunday, Deputy Prime Minister Saleh al-Mutlaq, himself a Sunni, was forced to flee a protest in Ramadi when demonstrators pelted him with stones and bottles.

The civil war in neighboring Syria, where majority Sunnis are fighting to topple a ruler backed by Shi'ite Iran, is also whipping up sectarian sentiment in Iraq.

"The toppling of President Bashar al-Assad and empowerment of Sunnis (in Syria) will definitely encourage al Qaeda to regain ground," Younis said.



CENTCOM

22. [Attack, Iraq] Iraq Attacks Kill At Least 23

Tuesday, January 1 2013

<http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/breaking/2013/0101/breaking4.html>

At least 23 people were killed and 87 wounded in attacks across Iraq yesterday, police said, underlining sectarian and ethnic divisions that threaten to further destabilise the country a year after US troops left.

Tensions between Shia, Kurdish and Sunni factions in Iraq's power-sharing government rose during 2012. Militants struck almost daily and staged at least one big attack a month.

The latest violence followed more than a week of protests against Shia prime minister Nuri al-Maliki by thousands of people from the minority Sunni community.

No group claimed responsibility for any of the attacks, which targeted government officials, police patrols and members of both the Sunni and Shia communities.

Seven people from the same Sunni family were killed by a bomb planted near their home in the town of Mussayab, south of Baghdad.

In the Shia majority city of Hilla, also in the south, a parked car bomb went off near the convoy of the governor of Babil province, missing him but killing two other people, police said.

"We heard the sound of a big explosion and the windows of our office shattered. We immediately lay on the ground," said 28-year-old Mohammed Ahmed, who works at a hospital near the site of the explosion.

"After a few minutes I stood up and went to the windows to see what happened. I saw flames and people lying on the ground."

In the capital Baghdad, five people were killed by a parked car bomb targeting pilgrims before a Shia religious rite this week, police and hospital sources said.

Violence also hit Iraq's disputed territories, over which both the central government and the autonomous Kurdish region claim jurisdiction.

Three militants and one Kurdish guard were killed in the oil-producing, ethnically mixed city of Kirkuk, where militants driving a car packed with explosives tried to break into a Kurdish security office.

Earlier yesterday, two policemen were killed in Kirkuk when a bomb they were trying to detonate exploded prematurely. An army official and his bodyguard were also killed in a drive-by shooting in the south of the city.

Kirkuk lies at the heart of a feud between Baghdad and Kurdistan over land and oil rights, which escalated last month when both sides deployed their respective armies to the swathe of territory along their contested internal boundary.

Efforts to ease the standoff stalled when president Jalal Talabani, a Kurd seen as a steadying influence, suffered a



stroke and was flown abroad for medical care in December.

Mr Maliki then detained the bodyguards of his Sunni finance minister, which ignited anti-government protests in the western province of Anbar, a Sunni stronghold on the border with Syria.

A lecturer in law at Baghdad University said the protests could help create the conditions for militant Islamist groups such as al-Qaeda to thrive.

"Raising tension in Anbar and other provinces with mainly Sunni populations is definitely playing into the hands of al-Qaeda and other insurgent groups," Ahmed Younis said.

More than 1,000 people protested in the city of Samarra yesterday and rallies continued in Ramadi, centre of the protests, and in Mosul, where about 500 people took to the streets.

In the city of Falluja, where protesters have also staged large rallies and blocked a major highway over the past week, gunmen attacked an army checkpoint, killing one soldier.

Protesters are demanding an end to what they see as the marginalisation of Sunnis, who dominated the country until the US-led invasion. They want Mr Maliki to abolish anti-terrorism laws they say are used to persecute them.

On Sunday, deputy prime minister Saleh al-Mutlaq, himself a Sunni, was forced to flee a protest in Ramadi when demonstrators pelted him with stones and bottles.

The civil war in neighbouring Syria, where majority Sunnis are fighting to topple a ruler backed by Shia Iran, is also whipping up sectarian sentiment in Iraq.

"The toppling of President Bashar al-Assad and empowerment of Sunnis [in Syria] will definitely encourage al-Qaeda to regain ground," Mr Younis said.





CENTCOM

23. [Attack, Iraq] Iraq Bomb Kills One And Injures Ten

Wednesday, January 2 2013

<http://www.itn.co.uk/World/65001/iraq-bomb-kills-one-and-injures-ten>

One person has been killed and ten others wounded after a parked car bomb and three bombs exploded in Tuz Khormato town south of Kirkuk.

The blast caused serious damage to nearby houses and a fuel station.

One witness said: "The officials of government are busy with disputes while people are the victims. They are poor people that are living in this neighbourhood, not one of them is a member of a political party and there is no headquarters of a political party here.

"Does God accept such a work? The people were in their houses at night when the four explosions took place. Why has it happened? Because we are a simple neighbourhood?"

Tuesday's attack followed a day of bloodshed on Monday when at least 23 people were killed and 87 wounded in attacks across Iraq.

Kirkuk lies at the heart of a feud between Baghdad and Kurdistan over land and oil rights, which escalated last month when both sides deployed their respective armies to the swathe of territory along their contested internal boundary.

Efforts to ease the standoff stalled when President Jalal Talabani, a Kurd seen as a steadying influence, suffered a stroke and was flown abroad for medical care in December.

Campaigners claim a total of 4,471 civilians have died in Iraq's festering "low-level war" with insurgents in 2012, the first annual climb in the death toll in three years.



CENTCOM

24. [Attack, Lebanon] Suspected Bomb Found At South Lebanon Refugee Camp

Wednesday, January 2 2013

<http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Local-News/2013/Jan-02/200547-bomb-found-at-south-lebanon-refugee-camp.ashx#axzz2GqYI9sDd>

A suspected bomb with no detonator was found in the Palestinian refugee camp of Ain al-Hilweh near the southern city of Sidon Wednesday morning.

The device was discovered by locals at a parking lot on the lower road to Ain al-Hilweh, an official at the camp told The Daily Star.

Two wires were attached to the bomb, which weighed 250 grams, according to experts who examined the device.

However the bomb was not set to blow up, they said.

The device, which was later handed over to the Lebanese Army for examination, was found to contain powder used in fireworks in addition to a piece of metal.





CENTCOM

25. [Attack, Iraq] Car Bomb Blast Kills At Least 20 Iraq Pilgrims

Thursday, January 3 2013

<http://www.irisht Examiner.com/breakingnews/world/car-bomb-blast-kills-at-least-20-iraq-pilgrims-579855.html>

A car bomb explosion tore through a crowd of Shiite pilgrims returning home from a religious commemoration in Iraq killing at least 20, officials said.

The blast erupted in the town of Musayyib, about 60 kilometres (40 miles) south of the Iraqi capital Baghdad.

It targeted worshippers returning from the Shiite holy city of Karbala following the climax of the religious commemoration known as Arbaeen.

Children were among the 20 people confirmed killed, according to police. At least 50 people were wounded.

The explosion went off in the middle of a gathering of pilgrims changing buses coming from Karbala on their way to other destinations in the country.

Today marked the height of Arbaeen, when hundreds of thousands of Shiite pilgrims converged on Karbala to mark the passing of 40 days after the anniversary of the seventh century martyrdom of the revered Shiite saint Imam Hussein, the grandson of the Prophet Mohammed.

Shiite pilgrims are one of the favourite targets for Sunni insurgents during Shiite religious events. Iraqi authorities typically tighten security in Karbala and along routes used by pilgrims, but security forces acknowledge they are unable to prevent all attacks.

As in previous years, the pilgrims practised the ritual of self-flagellation on the streets, hoisted Shiite religious flags on trees and lamp posts and served food from tents pitched on street corners.

State television earlier aired video of Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki walking among the pilgrims.

The attack came after Iraqi authorities ordered the release of 11 women facing criminal charges and pledged to transfer other women prisoners to jails in their home provinces

The move appeared aimed at addressing a main demand during a wave of protests by the country's Sunni minority against the Baghdad government.

The demonstrations erupted following the arrest of bodyguards assigned to Finance Minister Rafia al-Issawi, one of the central government's most senior





Sunni officials.

The protests tap into deeper Sunni feelings of perceived discrimination and unfair application of laws against their sect by Shiite Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's government.



CENTCOM

26. [Attack, Syria] Car Bomb Hits Damascus Petrol Station, 11 Killed

Thursday, January 3 2013

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/01/03/us-syria-crisis-explosion-idUSBRE9020PO20130103>

At least 11 people were killed and 40 wounded when a car bomb exploded on Thursday at a petrol station in the Syrian capital Damascus, opposition activists said.

The petrol station was packed with people queuing for fuel that has become increasingly scarce during the country's 21-month-long civil war, the activists said.

The bombing took place in the Barzeh al-Balad district, whose residents include a mix of majority Sunni Muslims and several other religious and ethnic minorities.

The semi-official al-Ikhbariya television showed footage of 10 burnt bodies and Red Crescent workers searching for victims at the site.

The opposition Revolution leadership Council in Damascus said the explosion was caused by "a booby-trapped car". There was no immediate indication of who may have been responsible.

An activist who lives in the area said he saw ambulances loading burnt bodies and wounded people with severe burns before he was ordered away by security forces surrounding the station. Tow trucks removed destroyed vehicles, he added.

"The station is usually packed even when it has no fuel. There are lots of people who sleep there overnight, waiting for early morning fuel consignments," said the activist, who did not want to be named.

He said brawls have increased lately at the petrol station between militia loyal to President Bashar al-Assad and ordinary citizens waiting for fuel, but it was not known who carried out the attack.





CENTCOM

27. [Security, Egypt] Egypt Seizes Gaza-Bound, US-Made Missiles

Friday, January 4 2013

<http://english.al-akhbar.com/content/egypt-seizes-gaza-bound-us-made-missiles>

Egyptian security forces have seized US-made anti-tank and surface-to-air missiles destined for Gaza, where militants have said they would acquire more weapons to use against Israel, security officials said on Friday.

The officials said six missiles were found hidden in the Sinai, which borders both the Gaza Strip and Israel, after security forces were tipped off to the hiding place.

Sinai, a scarcely populated peninsula home to both lucrative tourist resorts in the south and shadowy Islamist militants in the north, is a major transit point for arms smuggling to Gaza.

The Islamist Hamas rulers of the Palestinian enclave had said they would continue to acquire weapons after agreeing an Egyptian-brokered ceasefire with Israel in November that ended an eight-day conflict.

The militants have acknowledged receiving missiles from Israel's archenemy Iran, and are thought to have improved their arsenal with smuggled weapons from Libya, which borders Egypt to the west.

Egypt has sought to crack down on smugglers' tunnels to Gaza, with limited success.



CENTCOM

28. [Attack, Lebanon] Syrian Jets Bomb Historic Border Castle

Friday, January 4 2013

http://www.upi.com/Top_News/Special/2013/01/04/Syrian-jets-bomb-historic-border-castle/UPI-86761357309256/

Syrian fighter jets flew over Lebanese territory Friday as they conducted raids on villages and historic sites along the shared border, security sources said.

Security officials in Lebanon told The Daily Star newspaper that Syrian fighter jets made several passes over the Lebanese border during attacks on Homs Gap in southern Syria. The security officials said Syrian fighters were targeting Krak des Chevaliers, a historic castle from 11th century.

Syrian influence dominated Lebanese political affairs before the Cedar Revolution in 2005 loosened the grip of Damascus. Fighting in Syria has sparked concerns about Lebanese stability.

Civil war in Syria has claimed at least 60,000 lives since early 2011, the United Nations said. Fighting in and around Damascus has raised concerns about the durability of the regime of Syrian President Bashar Assad.

At least 11 people were killed and another 40 were wounded when a car bomb detonated at a commercial fuel station in Damascus late Thursday. Activists said Friday the Syrian military bombed areas near Damascus, al-Jazeera reports.



CENTCOM

29. [Attack, Syria] Syrian Forces Target Damascus Suburbs; Car Bomb Blows Up Near Military Post

Friday, January 4 2013

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/world/article6937312.ece>

Syrian ground and air forces bombarded rebel strongholds on the outskirts of Damascus and other areas around the country Friday while anti-government forces targeted a military post near the capital with a car bomb, activists said.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said warplanes targeted neighbourhoods around the capital including Douma, which troops have been trying to recapture for weeks. Two air raids there Thursday killed 12 people and caused heavy damage.

The Observatory added that a car bomb blew up outside a military intelligence building in the northern Damascus suburb of Nabk but had no immediate word on casualties.

An amateur video posted online showed a strong explosion with black smoke billowing from Nabk and the narrator said the blast targeted the military intelligence facility. The video appeared genuine and corresponded to other AP reporting on the events depicted.

The violence came two days after the UN said that more than 60,000 people have been killed since Syria's crisis began in March, 2011 — a figure much higher than previous opposition estimates.

Damascus-based activist Maath al-Shami said government troops were firing rockets and mortars from the Qasioun mountains overlooking the capital down at orchards near the southern suburbs of Daraya and Kfar Sousseh. The Observatory says troops were also fighting rebels in Aqraba and Beit Saham, also south of Damascus, near the capital's international airport.

The army command said in a statement Thursday night that troops carried out operations in suburbs of the capital including Douma and Daraya.

"Regime forces are facing very strong resistance in Daraya," said al-Shami via Skype, but said that government forces had been able to advance down the main street in the suburb.

The government capture of Daraya would provide a boost to the regime's defence of Damascus. It is close to a military air base as well as the government's headquarters and one of President Bashar al-Assad's palaces.

In the north, rebels resumed a week-old offensive against regime-held airbases. The government's air power poses the biggest obstacle to advances by opposition fighters.

Activists said there were battles around the military air base of Taftanaz in the northern province of Idlib close to the Turkish border and near the international airport of Aleppo, Syria's largest city and commercial centre.

Fadi al-Yassin, an activist based in Idlib, said the rebels killed on Thursday the commander of Taftanaz air base, a brigadier general.

"The battles now are at the gates of the airport," Mr. al-Yassin said via Skype. He added that it has become very difficult for the regime helicopters to take off and land at the base.

He said warplanes taking off from airfields in the central province of Hama and the coastal region of Latakia are participating in attacking rebels around Taftanaz.

The Syrian Army General Command said troops directed "painful strikes" against the "armed terrorist groups" of Jabhat al-Nusra, a group the U.S. claims is linked to al-Qaeda. The Syrian military says the extremist group is carrying out the Taftanaz attack, and that dozens of fighters were killed.

Aleppo airport has been closed since Monday. A government official in Damascus said the situation is relatively quiet around the facility, adding that it is up to civil aviation authorities to resume flights.

A man who answered the telephone at the information office at the Damascus International Airport said, "God willing, flights will resume to Aleppo very soon."



Syrian rebels are fighting a 21-month-old revolt against the Assad regime. The crisis began with pro-democracy protests but has morphed into a civil war.



EUCOM

30. [Trend, Northern Ireland] Car Bomb Attempt On Northern Irish Policeman Foiled

Sunday, December 30 2012

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/12/30/us-irish-bomb-idUSBRE8BT09O20121230>

An attempt by militant nationalists to kill a Northern Irish policeman was foiled when a booby trap bomb was found under his car, police said on Sunday.

The attack was the latest by splinter groups of Irish republicans opposed to British rule of the province and a 1998 peace agreement that ended 30 years of sectarian conflict.

It came two months after the first murder of a prison officer in almost 20 years and followed two weeks of rioting by pro-British loyalists protesting against restrictions on the flying of Britain's union flag from Belfast City Hall.

The bomb was discovered under the policeman's car near the Northern Irish parliament in east Belfast. His home and those of his neighbors were evacuated while army bomb disposal experts defused the device.

"Obviously there are people out there who are still intent on causing murder and mayhem. Attacks on police officers are attacks on the entire community and cannot be allowed to continue," Assistant Chief Constable George Hamilton said in a statement.

"Our belief is that this attempted murder was carried out by those opposed to peace from within dissident republicanism. They don't care who they attack, they don't care who they kill."

More than 3,600 people were killed in Northern Ireland when Catholic nationalists seeking union with Ireland fought British security forces and mainly Protestant loyalists determined to remain part of the United Kingdom.

Militant nationalists have stepped up attacks in recent years. As well as last month's killing of the prison officer, two soldiers and a policeman were shot dead in March 2009 and another policeman was killed by a car bomb in April 2010.





EUCOM

31. [Attack, Northern Ireland] Bomb Is Left Near Armagh Police Station

Tuesday, January 1 2013

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/local-national/northern-ireland/terror-alert-bomb-is-left-near-armagh-police-station-16256287.html>

Police are on high alert after dissident republicans were suspected of planting an explosive device close to a police station in Co Armagh.

Just a day after a device was discovered under the car of a PSNI constable, a pipe-bomb was found close to the gates of a police station in Tandragee, near the homes of elderly residents, yesterday morning.

Residents were evacuated from their homes for a number of hours while Army technical officers examined the object, which was later declared a viable device.

The Tandragee incident happened just five days after another pipe-bomb device was found in the Mid-Ulster area.

The suspicious object left in the Toberhewny Hall area of Lurgan on Boxing Day was also declared a viable pipe-bomb device by Army bomb experts.

Newry and Armagh DUP MLA William Irwin condemned those behind yesterday's incident.

"This is a very concerning incident especially in a rural town like Tandragee and it is especially concerning when so many residents, many of whom are elderly, have had to leave their homes while this suspect device is dealt with," he said.

"No one in Tandragee wants this type of disruption, and indeed, considering the threat to our police officers remains so high at the moment, having devices left at police stations is extremely reckless and totally abhorrent.

"Young families also go for walks out the Armagh Road and pass the station gates, which only adds to the risk this device could have posed."



EUCOM

32. [Attack, Ireland] Pipe Bomb Alert In West Belfast

Tuesday, January 1 2013

<http://www.breakingnews.ie/ireland/pipe-bomb-alert-in-west-belfast-579601.html>

A viable pipe bomb has been thrown at a house in west Belfast.

Dozens of homes in the Glenalina Park area of Ballymurphy were evacuated during the alert just after 10pm last night.

Residents were moved to the nearby Whiterock Community Centre but were allowed back into their houses at about 12.30am.

Army technical experts were called to the scene and declared the object a viable device.

A spokeswoman for the PSNI said the pipe bomb had been taken away for further examination.

Sinn Fein councillor in west Belfast, Stephen Corr condemned the attack and said the community was outraged.

He said: "This community is angry and annoyed that this has been visited upon them."



EUCOM

33. [Trend, Northern Ireland] Northern Ireland Police Chief Says Officers Will Face Fresh Wave Of Bomb Attacks In 2013

Wednesday, January 2 2013

<http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/articles/419802/20130102/psni-bombs-northern-ireland.htm>

Police officers in Northern Ireland have been urged to be vigilant as they will be targets for bomb attacks in 2013. The warning was issued by the chairman of the country's Police Federation, Terry Spence, after a constable found a bomb attached to his car in east Belfast.

The officer discovered the explosive device after leaving a restaurant with his family on 30 December. Less than 24 hours later, a bomb was placed outside a police station in County Armagh.

Both devices were made safe with no injuries. Police arrested three men, aged 25, 34 and 41, in connection with the car bomb plot.

Speaking to the Police Oracle website, Spence said: "Sadly we are going to see terrorists continuing to operate in 2013, so it is vital that our officers are extremely vigilant and highly cautious at all times.

Speaking about the officer who discovered the bomb, Spence continued: "The vigilance of this man undoubtedly saved his life.

"It is absolutely incumbent on all officers to make sure that they check their vehicles at every opportunity, even if they are left unoccupied for short periods.

"Terrorists can leave a device on a car within a few seconds - all they have to do is ensure that the magnets are attached and then flick a switch."

A Police Service of Northern Ireland spokesperson said early indications suggest the car bomb "was a viable device placed below an officer's car sometime in the last 48 hours.

"It was clearly intended to kill the police officer. His family and neighbours in the vicinity were also put at risk of serious harm."



EUCOM

34. [Attack, Turkey] Three Students Wounded By Bomb In Turkey

Wednesday, January 2 2013

http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/world/2013-01/02/content_16076485.htm

A bomb exploded in a high school in Turkey's southeastern province of Sirnak on Wednesday, leaving three students injured, local Dogan News Agency reported.

A home-made noise bomb was planted in a hall on the third floor of the school building, the report said.

The three wounded students were immediately sent to the State Hospital for treatment.

An investigation is underway, the report said.





EUCOM

35. [Law Enforcement, Northern Ireland] Third Arrest Over Car Bomb

Wednesday, January 2 2013

<http://www.news24.com/World/News/N-Ireland-3rd-arrest-over-car-bomb-20130102>

A third man was arrested in Northern Ireland on Tuesday over the attempted murder of a police officer who found a bomb underneath his car.

A 41-year-old man was detained in west Belfast, police said, after two men aged 34 and 25 were arrested on Monday in the Belfast area.

The targeted officer found the viable device underneath his vehicle in Belfast on Sunday. Army bomb disposal experts carried out a controlled explosion.

Senior officers have said the attack could have killed the off-duty policeman and his family.

A dissident republican group calling itself the "New IRA" (Irish Republican Army) claimed responsibility for the attack.

Sporadic unrest

Dissident republicans want Northern Ireland to leave the United Kingdom and join the Republic of Ireland to the south, but have not given up violence as a means of achieving their aims.

The IRA declared a formal end to its armed campaign in 2005, saying that it would pursue its aims through peaceful means.

Its political wing Sinn Fein is now part of the power-sharing government in Belfast, formed of Catholic and Protestant parties.

Around 3 500 people died in Northern Ireland's three decades of violence between Protestants, favouring continued union with Britain, and Catholics seeking a unified Ireland.

A 1998 peace agreement largely ended the conflict, but sporadic unrest and bomb threats continue as dissident offshoots remain violently opposed to those accords.



EUCOM

36. [Attack, Northern Ireland] N. Ireland Rioters Petrol Bomb Police

Thursday, January 3 2013

<http://uk.news.yahoo.com/n-ireland-rioters-petrol-bomb-police-004028622.html#NWE4Jko>

Eight police officers were injured in Belfast on Thursday after being pelted with petrol bombs in the latest violence sparked by the city council's decision not to fly the British flag all year round.

Police said one officer needed hospital treatment as around 100 loyalist protesters attacked police on the city's Albertbridge Road, Castlereagh Street and Mountpottinger Street.

Tensions have risen in the British province since councillors voted on December 3 to limit the number of days the Union Jack can fly over the City Hall to 17, outraging loyalists who believe Northern Ireland should retain strong links to Britain.

Loyalists have held protests, often violent, in several parts of Northern Ireland since the ruling.

Some 3,500 people died in the three decades of violence between Northern Irish Protestants favouring continued union with Britain, and Catholics seeking a unified Ireland.

A 1998 peace agreement largely ended the conflict, but sporadic unrest and bomb threats continue as dissident offshoots remain violently opposed to the power-sharing government in Belfast, formed of Catholic and Protestant parties.



PACOM

37. [Security, Thailand] Weapons Cache Found In Narathiwat

Saturday, December 29 2012

<http://www.bangkokpost.com/breakingnews/328465/>

Security forces have discovered a large cache of assault rifles and ammunition buried in a rubber plantation in Narathiwat's Cho Airong district.

About 200 officers from the 48 Rangers Regiment and border patrol police carried out the search around 11pm Friday in the southern province. They unearthed five assault rifles, including four M16s and an AK, with seven magazines and 382 bullets, including M16 and AK rifle bullets, shotgun shells and M60 machine-gun bullets.

The weapons and ammunition were found in eight large fertiliser sacks and plastic bags, each one buried under a rubber tree, said Lt Col Issara Chantakrayom, deputy commander of the 48 Rangers Regiment.

The search was carried out after authorities interrogated a key figure from the Runda Kumpulan Kecil (RKK) separatist group, identified as Ruslan Salae, age 35. Ruslan, wanted on two arrest warrants, was arrested in Cho Airong on Thursday.

Officials also discovered four metal plates used for assembling an improvised explosive device (IED), as well as medicine, during the operation which took more than three hours.

A verification of the firearms showed three M16s had been stolen from the fourth military development unit in Cho Airong district in 2004.

All of the seized firearms were well-maintained and ready to use at any time, said Lt Col Issara.

When explosive ordnance disposal officers searched the site on Saturday morning, they found two more M16 rifles with 50 bullets, a backpack and a handheld ICOM radio, said Lt Col Issara.

Authorities believed Ruslan and his associates intended to use the weapons in planned attacks during the New Year holiday period.





PACOM

38. [Security, India] Huge Cache Of Explosives Seized

Monday, December 31 2012

<http://newindianexpress.com/cities/hyderabad/article1401741.ece>

The Task Force police on Sunday seized a huge cache of explosives, including 1,300 gelatin sticks and 2,825 detonators at Nagarjuna Circle here and arrested two persons in this connection.

Acting on a tip-off, Task Force sleuths apprehended Maddi Madhusudhan Reddy and Gandikota Ramesh when they were trying to deliver the explosives illegally, police said.

Police said Reddy, a native of Valigonda mandal in Nalgonda district, set up a firm Mahalaxmi Enterprises to supply explosives to construction and quarrying sites.

The firm has legal license issued by the office of Chief Controller of Explosives, Nagpur.

As per the license terms, he can purchase gelatin sticks and detonators but cannot sell it in the open market.

He can use the explosive material to blast heavy rocks at the sites where he is working by taking prior permission from the authorities concerned.

Reddy, however, soon took to illegal selling of the explosives to quarrying sites.

“He used to sell the material mainly to quarry operators,” additional deputy commissioner, Task Force, P Rameshaiah said.

According to police, another accused Ramesh, a stone cutter, used to earn commission of Rs 2 on each gelatin stick and detonator as a middleman by liaising with Reddy and quarry operators who used to purchase explosives.

The license holder should transport the explosive material in a magazine vehicle by taking all precautions.

But the accused has violated his license conditions and transported the huge quantity of explosives in a Swift car endangering the lives of many people on the way.

“Any slight pressure or electrical impulse may cause a huge explosion on the road,” the additional DCP said.





PACOM

39. [Attack, India] Crude Bomb Found Near Home Of Delhi Rape Suspect

Wednesday, January 2 2013

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-1-151827-Crude-bomb-found-near-home-of-Delhi-rape-suspect>

Indian police arrested a man on Tuesday as he tried to plant a crude bomb near the home of one of the suspects in the New Delhi gang-rape case as a backlash against widespread sex crimes gathered steam.

As protests against harassment and violence against women continued, a chart-topping Indian rapper known for his sexually explicit lyrics also became embroiled in a growing campaign against sexism and misogyny in Indian society.

Yo Yo Honey Singh, whose hits include “My home my village”, saw his New Year’s Eve concert in New Delhi cancelled following an online campaign which highlighted lyrics allegedly inciting abuse of women.

His 2007 track “Prostitute” refers to him having violent sex with a woman after he forces her to “dance naked” and includes the line: “You will scream and run but where can you go... I will take your life”. The furore over the rap star comes as the country comes to terms with the December 16 gang-rape in which a 23-year-old medical student was repeatedly assaulted and violated with an iron bar while being driven around in a bus for 40 minutes.

She died from internal injuries in a Singapore hospital at the weekend and her ashes were immersed Tuesday in the holy Ganges river by her family near their native village in northern Uttar Pradesh state. The unnamed girl, whose parents had sold land to fund her studies, had been out to the cinema with her boyfriend when she was lured onto the bus by a gang of reportedly drunk joyriders. Sexual violence and gang-rapes are commonplace in India, but the case has brought simmering anger — particularly among young urban women — to the boil and led to protests in the capital and calls for the death penalty for rapists.

Police said they had arrested a 37-year-old man on Tuesday in the narrow by-lanes of a slum in southwest Delhi after he allegedly tried to plant a crude bomb near the house of one of six suspects detained by police for the Delhi rape. The low-grade device was filled with explosives usually used in firecrackers, a police official told AFP. Protests in India, which continued on Monday and on New Year’s Eve, have also spilled to other parts of the world with people taking to the streets in Hong Kong, Islamabad, London and Kathmandu.

On Tuesday, about 30 women’s rights activists protested outside the Indian consulate in Hong Kong, urging authorities to enact tougher laws to punish sex crimes.

The government, which has faced a wave of anger, has set up a panel headed by a former chief justice to recommend changes to the criminal law dealing with sexual crimes.

The panel, which was set up last week, had already received more than 17,000 suggestions until Monday, The Indian Express newspaper reported.



PACOM

40. [Attack, India] Police Seize Homemade Explosives Outside Bus Driver's House

Wednesday, January 2 2013

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2255980/Revealed--plot-bomb-India-gang-rapists-Police-seize-homemade-explosives-outside-bus-drivers-house.html>

Indian police have arrested a man who tried to blow up the house belonging to the driver of a Delhi bus on which a 23-year-old was gang-raped, as lawyers refuse to defend the accused rapists.

A man was arrested on Monday after he was found with two homemade bombs outside the house of bus driver Ram Singh in south Delhi's RK Puram area. Two other men escaped arrest.

Hearings are expected to begin on Thursday at the Saket district court in south New Delhi, where police will formally present a 1,000-page charge sheet against Singh and five others accused of raping the victim on December 16.

'We have decided that no lawyer will stand up to defend the rape accused as it would be immoral to defend the case,' Sanjay Kumar, a lawyer and a member of the Saket District Bar Council, told AFP.

It comes as the Indian government proposed to name a revised anti-rape law after the victim, a move her family referred to as an 'honour'.

The father and brother of the girl said that 'if the government names the revised anti-rape law after her, we have no objection and it would be an honour to her'.

Kumar said the 2,500 advocates registered at the court have decided to 'stay away' to ensure 'speedy justice', meaning the government would have to appoint lawyers for the defendants.

Five men are expected to face charges including rape, murder and kidnapping in the Saket court, with the prosecutor likely to seek the death sentence.

A sixth suspect is believed to be 17 years old, meaning he would be tried in a juveniles' court, but police are conducting bone tests to determine his age.

The rape victim died at the weekend after 13-day struggle to survive injuries so severe that the majority of her intestines had to be removed.

She was gang raped and violated with an iron bar on a bus before being thrown from the moving vehicle at the end of a 40-minute ordeal.

As protests about violence against women grow louder in India, a 17-year-old school student has come forward to claim she was sedated and raped by two men in the upscale south Delhi colony of Safdarjung Enclave on New Year's Eve.

The two men in their late 20s were arrested and sent to Tihar Jail.

The men, identified as Rajesh and Naveen Jain, work in IT companies, police said. They were arrested Monday night and sent to Tihar after they were produced at the Saket court.

The victim had met one of the accused on a social networking site.

She met the man on Dec 31 at a south Delhi market and then asked her to accompany him to a flat in Safdarjung Enclave. There he was joined by his friend, police sources said.

The two are then said to have sedated her and took turns in raping her. They also warned her of dire consequences if she revealed anything.



NORTHCOM

41. [Security, United States] Two Alleged Terrorists Extradited From Canada To Brooklyn By DOJ

Saturday, December 29 2012

<http://www.thecuttingedgenews.com/index.php?article=78102&pageid=20&pagename=Security>

Two alleged operatives of the Sri Lanka-based terrorist group, Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), a designated foreign terrorist organization popularly referred to as the Tamil Tigers, were arraigned Thursday before United States Magistrate Judge Lois Bloom at the federal courthouse in Brooklyn, N.Y., following their extradition from Canada.

In 1997, the LTTE was designated by the U.S. State Department as a Foreign Terrorist Organization and therefore may not legally raise money or procure equipment or materials in the United States.

Piratheepan Nadarajah, 36, was charged with conspiring and attempting to acquire \$1 million worth of anti-aircraft missiles, missile launchers, and other military equipment and conspiring and attempting to provide material support to the LTTE. Meanwhile, Suresh Sriskandarajah, 32, was charged with conspiring to provide material support to the LTTE and dealing in the property of a specially designated terrorist group.

At the request of the United States, Nadarajah and Sriskandarajah were arrested in Canada for the purpose of extraditing both suspects to the United States.

According to the U.S. Justice Department records, the LTTE is the only terrorist group in the world that at one time possessed its own 'Military' -- the Tigers (infantry), the Sea Tigers (sea wing) and Air Tigers (air wing). It started its paramilitary campaign in Sri Lanka for a separate Tamil homeland in 1983. The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in its January 10, 2008 report said that the LTTE is one of the most dangerous and deadly extremist outfits in the world and the nations should be concerned about the outfit as they had 'inspired' networks worldwide, including al-Qaeda in Iraq.

As detailed in court filings, between July 1, 2006 and August 19, 2006, Nadarajah and several co-conspirators engaged in negotiations with an undercover FBI agent to purchase and export \$1 million worth of high-powered weapons and military equipment for the LTTE, including 20 SA-18 heat-seeking, surface-to-air, anti-aircraft missiles; 10 missile launchers; and 500 AK-47s.

Nadarajah and his associates attempted to acquire these weapons at the direction of senior LTTE leadership in Sri Lanka, including Pottu Amman, then the LTTE's chief of intelligence and procurement and the top deputy to then-LTTE leader Velupillai Prabhakaran. The anti-aircraft weapons were to be used by the LTTE to shoot down Sri Lankan military aircraft.

Sriskandarajah used students as couriers to smuggle prohibited items into territory in Sri Lanka that at the time was controlled by the LTTE. Additionally, Sriskandarajah helped the LTTE in laundering their proceeds in the United States and elsewhere.

Over the past 20 years, the LTTE has conducted approximately 200 suicide bombings resulting in the deaths of hundreds of victims, and has carried out numerous political assassinations, including the May 1991 assassination of former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi; the 1993 assassination of the President of Sri Lanka, Ranasinghe Pre-



madasa; the July 1999 assassination of Neelan Thiruchelvam, a member of the Sri Lankan parliament; the June 2000 assassination of C.V. Goonaratne, the Sri Lankan Industry Minister, and other terrorist acts, according to the FBI.

If convicted of all charges, Nadarajah faces a minimum sentence of 25 years and a maximum sentence of life in prison, and Sriskandarajah faces a maximum sentence of 25 years of imprisonment.



NORTHCOM

42. [Attack, United States] Homemade Bomb Explodes In Ewa Beach Neighborhood, Sends Teen To Hospital

Sunday, December 30 2012

<http://www.khon2.com/news/local/story/Homemade-bomb-explodes-in-Ewa-Beach-neighborhood/GDi68xBuKEmNbgvhDe99yw.csp>

A loud explosion rocked an Ewa Beach neighborhood.

It wasn't illegal fireworks, but rather, an illegal homemade bomb.

Police say one person was injured, and it turns out, he's the one who set off the bomb.

It all happened Saturday night at the intersection of Laupapa Street and Place.

"I was driving home, just finished work, and all of a sudden there was a big flash right next to my house and a loud boom. Then when I pulled up, there were block, cinder blocks everywhere," said Ewa Beach resident Alex Gonzales.

"It was in a cinder block I guess. I think the pipe was at least this this big, black PVC plastic pipe," said Ewa Beach resident Arnold Valdez.

"My neighbor said it sounded like it was hailing on the roof, and they just got solar panels," Gonzales says.

Police say 18-year-old Roman Tamayo, who lives on Laupapa Place, set off the homemade bomb and got injured in the process.

Police say some of the shrapnel hit Tamayo in the behind as he was running away.

He was taken to the Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center with non-life threatening injuries and was arrested for having a prohibited explosive and for criminal property damage.

"It was kind of scary. A lot of kids were playing too when it happened. People were having a party," Valdez says.

Luckily no bystanders were injured.

Tamayo remains in police custody and has not been charged yet.



NORTHCOM

43. [Law Enforcement, United States] "Hippie" Couple Busted For Explosive Powder, "Terrorist Encyclopedia" In W. Village Apartment

Monday, December 31 2012

http://gothamist.com/2012/12/31/couple_arrested_for_possessing_expl.php

Police arrested a graduate of one of Manhattan's most elite prep schools and her Harvard-educated boyfriend yesterday after allegedly finding explosive powder and a sawed-off shotgun in their Greenwich Village apartment. According to court documents, Morgan Gliedman, 27, who attended the Dalton School, and Aaron Greene, 31, are charged with felony possession of an explosive with intent to use, and felony criminal possession of a weapon. The criminal complaint also claims that a "collection of pages" entitled "The Terrorist Encyclopedia" was found in the apartment.

We spoke with a neighbor who resides in the couple's walk-up apartment at 8 West 9th Street: "They're hippie types," he said. "She's always very friendly, very nice. She looks like she's eight months pregnant. He's kind of cold, not the type of person who encouraged politeness. He never said a word to me."

The neighbor, who requested that his name be withheld because the seven-unit building is "very small, and we all respect each other's anonymity," said that recently the couple had refused to let the building's management into their apartment to perform repairs. "The super had been trying to put a new counter-top in for them, but all of a sudden two weeks ago, they wouldn't let him in the apartment, so it's just sitting outside their door."

Residents were roused by the police at around 7:30 a.m. on Saturday and relocated while police executed a search warrant. Gliedman, who is pregnant, is also charged with four counts of felony grand larceny for credit card theft that police say occurred in February of this year, and a warrant squad was making the arrest when they noticed "a white powdery substance" in a plastic container in the living room.

Investigators say that substance is Hexamethylene Triperoxide Diamine (HMTD), which was one of the components in the explosives to be used by Ahmed Ressam, the "millennium bomber" who planned to bomb LAX on New Year's Eve in 1999. HMTD was also likely to be used in the foiled bombings of transatlantic flights in 2005. Sergeant Michael DiMarzio of the NYPD's bomb squad tested the powder, and the results yielded a positive for HMTD, according to the complaint.

The second Google search result of "HMTD" (after its Wikipedia page) is a link entitled "Megalomania's Method of Making HMTD." The website notes the chemical's "extreme sensitivity to heat, shock, and friction" and describes it as "a poor choice for the lesser skilled home chemist...HMTD does not store well, so deal with it immediately." This video purports to demonstrate the chemical's volatility:

<http://youtu.be/KhJum1gXpf4> (YouTube)

And a search for "The Terrorist Encyclopedia" yields this TextFiles document, penned by "Metamorphosis," which reads like an abridged Anarchist Cookbook.

Greene was arraigned on Sunday afternoon, and is being held without bail until his next hearing on January 4. Gliedman had yet to be arraigned as of Sunday night. According to court records Gliedman was charged with marijuana possession in February, but had taken an Adjournment in Contemplation of Dismissal [ACD], and her next scheduled court appearance for those charges is on January 10.

According to Gliedman's Facebook page, she attended The Dalton School, NYU's Gallatin School, and received an MFA in creative writing at the Art Institute of Chicago. The Post reports that Greene "attended Harvard as an undergraduate and did his graduate work at the university's Kennedy School of Government" and has "five prior run-ins with the police, with the charges including, assault, and weapons possession."



The longtime resident of the West 9th Street building, who said they interacted with the couple in the hallways and in passing, told us their rent-controlled one-bedroom apartment is "very beautiful." The resident said they had lived in it for around five years, but noted they kept it messy. "It was crammed with lots of stuff. Lots of furniture, clothing, it just looked to be in disarray." Otherwise they were described as being relatively normal neighbors.

When asked if the accusations of bomb-making in the stately apartment—which is home to authors, journalists, and a former executive at Christie's—was at all surprising, the resident replied, "I'm not that surprised."

"Every time this happens they interview the dumb neighbors and they always say, 'Oh, I would have never thought they could do this!' But everyone who lives in the Village will tell you about the bomb explosion," the neighbor said, referring to the Weathermen's bomb factory at 18 West 11th Street that blew up on accident in 1970. "It's crazy that this happened, but anything can happen. Nothing surprises me anymore."





NORTHCOM

44. [Security, United States] Arkansas Cops Find Bombs Hidden In Spider-Man Lunch Box

Wednesday, January 2 2013

<http://www.nydailynews.com/news/national/spider-man-lunch-box-fashioned-bomb-article-1.1231564>

A Spider-Man lunch box discovered on an Arkansas street on Monday was fashioned into a homemade bomb, according to a local report.

An unidentified woman in Jonesboro, in northeast Arkansas about an hour from Memphis, found the lunch pail explosive at around 11 a.m. and called police, local KAIT8.com reported.

Inside, cops found several prescription pill bottles filled with gunpowder, nails, buckshot and other lethal projectiles, cops said.

Three names were listed on the bottles, and those people were listed as suspects, the station said. Their names weren't released.



NORTHCOM

45. [Special Interest, United States] Tsunami Bomb Feasible, Secret WWII Test Showed

Thursday, January 3 2013

<http://www.theage.com.au/national/tsunami-bomb-feasible-secret-wwii-test-showed-20130102-2c5n5.html>

The US and New Zealand conducted secret tests in the 1940s of a "tsunami bomb" designed to destroy coastal cities by using underwater explosions to trigger tidal waves.

The tests were carried out in waters around New Caledonia and Auckland during World War II and showed the weapon was feasible. A series of 10 large offshore blasts could potentially create a 10-metre tsunami capable of inundating a small city.

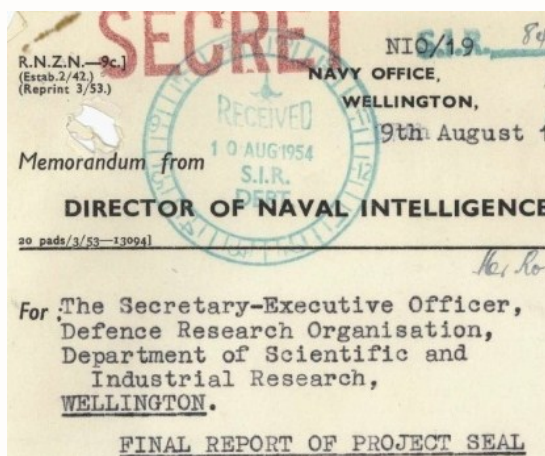
The top-secret operation, "Project Seal", tested the doomsday device as a possible rival to the nuclear bomb. About 3700 bombs were exploded during the tests in New Caledonia and on Whangaparaoa Peninsula, near Auckland.

The plans came to light during research by a New Zealand author and filmmaker, Ray Waru, who examined military files buried in the national archives.

"It was absolutely astonishing," Waru said, "first that anyone would come up with the idea of developing a weapon of mass destruction based on a tsunami ... and also that New Zealand seems to have successfully developed it to the degree that it might have worked."

Waru said initial tests were positive but the project was shelved in early 1945.

Experts concluded that a successful tsunami bomb would require about 2 million kilograms of explosive arrayed in a line about 8 kilometres offshore.





NORTHCOM

46. [Security, United States] What Does It Take To Make A Bomb? Police Teach Businesses To Be Alert

Thursday, January 3 2013

<http://www.orlandosentinel.com/news/local/fl-bomb-making-awareness-campaign-20130103,0,5362567.story>

Anyone who wants to make a bomb can find instructions on the Internet. But local law enforcement says it's trying to prevent access to the components and chemicals a terrorist would need to inflict mayhem.

Some investigators, like those with North Miami Beach Police, are attending courses taught by the Department of Homeland Security or FBI. They take that new knowledge to beauty shops, pool cleaning suppliers, hardware and other chemical vendors to help businesses recognize suspicious purchases or behavior.

Pompano Beach's firefighters and emergency management staff have also taken such courses, city spokeswoman Sandra King said.

"We've been doing that for years," Broward Sheriff Al Lamberti about deputy training and community outreach. "Ever since the Oklahoma City bombing."

He called the 1995 incident — when Timothy McVeigh was convicted of murder charges after making a bomb with fuel and fertilizer that blew up the facade of a federal office building and killed 168 and injured hundreds more — "the eye opener."

Talking with businesses that sell acids, fertilizers and acetones, among other chemicals, "became a matter of routine after 9/11, and is part of community awareness, investigations and intelligence gathering and good old-fashioned police work," Lamberti said.

A 2011 incident that drew federal investigators involves Martin Morgenroth, who was charged Dec. 19, 2012, with illegal storage of highly explosive peroxide compounds.

The Palm Beach Post reported that a tip from a pool company worker led to the discovery of the compounds in his mother's Ibis Golf and Country Club home in West Palm Beach.

If convicted, Morgenroth, who was 18 at the time, could face a maximum one year in prison, \$100,000 fine and a year of supervised release. His lawyer could not immediately be reached for comment.



NORTHCOM

47. [Attack, United States] Pipe Bomb Explodes In Treasury Official's Mailbox

Friday, January 4 2013

<http://www.newsleader.com/viewart/20130104/NEWS01/301040002/Pipe-bomb-explodes-Treasury-official-s-mailbox>

Officials are investigating an apparent pipe bomb that destroyed a mailbox at the Virginia home of the Treasury Department's inspector general, but a department official says there's no reason to suspect it was linked to the inspector general's work.

No one was injured when the device exploded at the Fairfax County home of Eric M. Thorson between midnight and 12:30 a.m. Monday. Richard Delmar, counsel to the inspector general, says officials have no reason to suspect the bombing was linked to Thorson's work at the department.

An investigation is ongoing. Thorson joined the department as inspector general in 2008.



SOUTHCOM

48. [Attack, Colombia] At Least Four Injured In Southwest Colombia New Year Attack

Tuesday, January 1 2013

<http://colombiareports.com/colombia-news/news/27556-at-least-4-injured-in-southwest-colombia-new-year-attack.html>

Four people were injured Tuesday in an attack on a southwestern Colombia police station.

Colombia's new year began with an act of violence when an explosive device was launched against a police station in Guapi, Cauca at about midnight. At least four people, including two police officers, are said to be injured and in hospital.

Police said they suspect the attack was launched by left wing FARC guerrillas. They are still investigating the incident.

The FARC, who are participating in peace talks in Cuba, have promised a unilateral ceasefire until January 20, though their commitment to the ceasefire has been questioned by the armed forces.



SOUTHCOM

49. [Attack, Colombia] Midnight Attack On Colombian Police Station Injures Six

Friday, January 4 2013

<http://www.laht.com/article.asp?CategoryId=12393&ArticleId=659922>

Unknown attackers used explosives to strike a National Police station in Guapi, a town in Cauca province in Colombia's Pacific coastal region, wounding six people, civil authorities reported.

"The attack was against the police station located in the center of town," Guapi Education Secretary Dimas Orjuela told Caracol Radio.

The injured include two policemen, two adult civilians and two children, all of whom were taken to hospitals in the city of Cali and Buenaventura, the country's main Pacific port.

Guapi Interior Secretary Edith Milena Cabezas told the Cali daily El Pais that the attack took place a few minutes before midnight on Monday in an area where residents had gathered to welcome the new year.

Although authorities are still investigating the attack, Cauca police commander Col. Ricardo Augusto Alarcon told reporters that initial indications are that the strike was staged by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC.

The explosion of multiple homemade bombs caused damage to the windows and doors of the police station.

The FARC, which is involved in peace talks with the government, declared a unilateral cease fire from Nov. 20, 2012, through Jan. 20, 2013.

However, according to a study released last Thursday by the CERAC center for conflict analysis, the guerrillas have staged at least 13 attacks since the cease fire supposedly went into force, most of them in the southwestern part of the country.

