



RAPID
Realtime Analysis and Publishing of IED Data

Weekly News Update

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



A member of a Thai bomb squad checks a car in Narathiwat province, south of Bangkok, 1 July 2011 (REUTERS/Stringer)

[See [Thai Insurgency: Google Bombing](#) for an overview of open source jihad and the development of AFPAK TTPs in Thailand]

UNCLASSIFIED

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1. **3/2 Holds Route Landy Nawa, Improves Travel Through Helmand** (DVIDS)

Sunday, 07 August 2011

http://www.dvidshub.net/news/75004/3-2-holds-route-landy-nawa-improves-travel-through-helmand-province#.Tj_fr2F2HNs

elmand province, Afghanistan - The road between Combat Outpost Shir Ghazay and Forward Operating Base Now Zad, known as Route Landy Nawa, is nothing more than tire tracks through powdery dirt. For miles in any direction there is nothing to be seen but the occasional dust devil and local citizens driving through.

This desolate road has been the cause of much turmoil for the Marines of Weapons Company, 3rd Battalion, 2nd Marines, as they try to traverse it. The road has claimed multiple vehicles to improvised explosive device explosions as they try to move between patrol bases. To combat this obstacle, the Marines with the Combined Anti-Armor Team, 3/2, and Tanks from 2nd Tank Battalion, have posted a 'picket line', vehicles lining the road to prevent tampering, screen traffic and guard it from the insurgency

“Right now in Shir Ghazay we have a picket line that exists to open up routes from here to Now Zad,” said Capt. Byron McCoy, the executive officer of Weapons Company, and a Liberty, Mo., native. “A couple functions that they serve are that we have a main road that can be used by local citizens as well as coalition forces. What that does is it secures the road. It eliminates people coming in and laying IEDs, which is a threat to Marines as well as local [citizens].“

The road is as helpful to the Marines as it is to the local citizens, who use it for travel and the delivery of goods to other districts. Residents of Musa Qal'eh have noticed a dramatic difference in the cost of goods being sold in the local bazaars, or market places. In addition to providing more security to combat the threat of IEDs, the picket line eliminates the insurgent's ability to create checkpoints along the route. These checkpoints illegally tax the people and commerce.

A local Afghan in the Musa Qal'eh District, between Shir Ghazay and Now Zad, was quoted saying that "market prices have dropped due to fewer insurgent check points. The price of gas was 1,000 Kaldar [local currency] a liter two months ago, now it's only 75 Kaldar a liter," according to reports from Marine patrols polling citizens of Now Zad District.

“By keeping this road secure and open, we have basically created a road from one company's battle area to another company's battle area; basically creating a roadway where we can move traffic that consists of local citizens movements as well as commerce from the southern part of the province up into some of the more isolated regions of the north,” McCoy, a 2008 Naval Academy graduate, said. “By doing this we increase the flow of goods; increase the ability of main commercial centers within Helmand. One of the effects we have seen because of this is that some of the prices in northern Now Zad within the markets have gone down because security has increased.”

The process of creating the picket line was difficult to establish. The road has been littered with IEDs waiting for vehicles to run over and detonate them. From Combat Outpost Shir Ghazay to Patrol Base Salaam Bazaar, the closest neighboring Marine base, there is only one likely route to be taken due to terrain restrictions. The insurgency knows the likely places to plant the IEDs.

“Our platoon started down here around May 25, and in a week and a half, we were averaging almost an IED every day because they just place them out there,” said Gunnery Sgt. Emmanuel Anglade, platoon sergeant, with the CAAT. “When we first came down here we had to secure a route from Shir Ghazay to Salaam Bazaar, and before we secured it, the platoon hit multiple IED’s in two weeks. The reason we stay out there on the picket is to prevent the insurgents from laying IEDs. If we don’t keep an eye on the road, they’ll destroy our equipment and possibly get somebody hurt. It’s our job to maintain the picket; so, we keep them from doing what they do best, laying IEDs.”

Lance Cpl. Zachary Smith, a driver with the CAAT, and York, Pa., native, routinely drives a Mine Resistant Ambush Protected All-Terrain Vehicle to the picket line to hold defense. He has personally seen multiple military trucks get blown up in the defense of the road. The road is now secured from the threat of enemy tampering, but it still holds potential threats.

“It took a couple weeks to clear this road up but there is still a threat,” Smith, a 2007 Central High School graduate, said. “A week and a half ago I was towing a blown up mine roller and I dug up an [unexploded] IED with it. There is still stuff out there but there is much less of a chance of hitting it.”

A company of Afghan National Army soldiers was recently introduced into the area to partner with 3/2.

“What we are looking to do is increase the Afghan National Security Force presence in the area, directly addressing some of the concerns by local citizens, talking about some of the things they would like to see from the government,” said McCoy. “By having this ANA company here, we will be able to facilitate greater empowerment of ANSF forces as well as facilitate future transition as the ANA becomes established and takes greater control and greater responsibility of these security routes; basically enabling and setting the ANA into a position where they will be able to sustain and provide security for these people for the long term future.”

The mission can be tedious and uneventful, but the Marines sitting in trucks and tanks 24/7 understand their purpose. Their actions allow the far-flung districts of Now Zad and Musa Qal’eh to tie into the commerce and prosperity of the rest of Northern Helmand province. The 3rd Battalion, 2nd Marines is working to spread the word amongst the people that they may once again drive where they choose.

“It may not look like we are doing that much every day but by keeping these roads secure and keeping a constant presence, we are keeping traffic for the local citizens and the Marines within this area safe,” said McCoy.

Editor’s note: The 3rd Battalion, 2nd Marines is a subordinate unit of Regimental Combat Team 8 that is currently assigned to 2nd Marine Division (Forward), which heads Task Force Leatherneck. The task force serves as the ground combat element of Regional Command (Southwest) and works in partnership with the Afghan National Security Force and the government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to conduct counterinsurgency operations. The unit is dedicated to securing the Afghan people, defeating insurgent forces, and enabling ANSF assumption of security responsibilities within its area of operations in order to support the expansion of stability, development and legitimate governance.

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2. **Afghan President Asks Clerics To Campaign Against Turban Bombs** (Reuters)

Tuesday, 09 August 2011

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/227540/afghan-president-asks-clerics-to-campaign-against-turban-bombs/>

Afghan President Hamid Karzai has asked the country's religious elders to use their influence to sway insurgents not to use turbans to hide suicide bombs in a bid to halt the deadly new tactic before it becomes more widespread.

Two separate turban bombings last month killed the mayor of the southern city of Kandahar, the birthplace of the Taliban, and a senior cleric in the city, raising questions about how to guard against this new ploy without causing religious offence.

Suicide bombers in Afghanistan and Pakistan have also used women's burqas to disguise themselves. Karzai recently met with members of ulema councils from around the country to discuss the issue, said Siyamak Herawi, a spokesman for Karzai.

"From our point of view, by misusing Islamic values (the insurgents) want to draw a bad picture of Islam for the people of the world," Herawi said.

He said Karzai asked the clerics to launch a campaign to convince insurgents not to use turbans and other religious attire to carry out suicide bombings, not to target mosques and to make them aware that suicide was un-Islamic.

Guards at some government ministries in Kabul are now asking men to remove their turbans for security checks.

Zabihullah Mujahid, a spokesman for the Taliban, said the group had never hidden a bomb in a turban. The group did not claim responsibility for the July 14 killing of the senior Kandahar cleric and four others at a funeral service for the slain brother of president Karzai.

While it did claim the killing of Kandahar mayor Ghulam Haidar two weeks later, Mujahid said the bomb had not been hidden in a turban.

"If using a turban is an Islamic, respectful and cultural issue, then why did Karzai put it on the head of many foreign generals in the past years?" Mujahid shot back.

Religion is at the core of the group's ideology and they have in the past denied any role in attacks on religious sites, even when they appear to further their military strategy.

But targeting funerals and mosques is a tactic that has been used before in other parts of the country, and insurgent networks are the only groups fighting in Afghanistan that use suicide bombers.

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3. In Afghanistan, More And More Roadside Bombs (Associated Free Press)

Sunday, 07 August 2011

<http://www.dawn.com/2011/08/07/in-afghanistan-more-and-more-roadside-bombs.html>

The use of roadside bombs in Afghanistan against foreign troops and civilians has reached record highs, with US forces struggling to cut off the flow of Pakistani fertilizer used to build them.

Taliban insurgents battling US and Nato-led forces for nearly a decade are now using a growing number of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) to strike personnel or vehicles along Afghanistan's dusty roads.

The Pentagon's Joint IED Defeat Organization (JIEDDO), a specialized body tasked with putting a stop to the use of the often remote-controlled roadside bombs, offered a bleak assessment of the situation now facing foreign forces.

"During the last 12 months, an unending supply of calcium ammonium nitrate, originating almost exclusively from Pakistan, has been used to produce IEDs in Afghanistan despite a countrywide ban" on importing the fertilizer, JIEDDO spokeswoman Irene Smith told AFP.

From April to June, 3,485 IEDs exploded or were found in the war-ravaged country, according to JIEDDO – a 14 per cent increase over the same period last year. In June, use of roadside bombs was 25 per cent higher than average.

The volatile southern province of Helmand, where the Taliban are entrenched, is the worst affected, along with Kandahar province and the country's east along the border with Pakistan.

Ground troops, who are trying to reach out to the population as part of the strategy to defeat the Taliban, are particularly vulnerable to IED attacks. Use of roadside bombs against them surged 59 percent in the spring. But coalition forces are not standing idly by. Nearly 1,900 weapons caches were discovered in the spring, three times more than in 2010, according to JIEDDO figures.

Nato-led troops have also seized 110 tons of homemade explosives and "removed over 300 high-value individuals" since the start of November, Major General James Terry, commander of ISAF forces in the south, told reporters.

In 2010, IEDs – the weapon of choice for lightly armed insurgents battling advanced militaries – were responsible for 60 percent of coalition deaths, even if only one in 10 bombs leads to casualties.

As of August 1, 738 US soldiers had been killed and 7,857 wounded by IEDs since the start of the war in Afghanistan to oust the Taliban in the wake of the September 11, 2001 attacks, according to Pentagon data. Two more soldiers, aged 19 and 21, were killed Wednesday when their vehicle drove over a roadside bomb in Wardak province, southwest of the capital Kabul – also the scene of the deadly Chinook incident late Friday.

The IEDs have not only been used against heavily-armed foreign troops, but also against the local population, accounting for a third of all civilian deaths in Afghanistan in the first six months of 2011.

“Civilian deaths from IEDs increased 17 per cent from the same period in 2010, making IEDs the single largest killer of civilians in the first half of 2011,” the United Nations said in a mid-year report on the conflict. On July 29, 18 Afghans were killed when a roadside bomb destroyed their minivan in Helmand province. Most of the roadside bombs are set to explode when a person or vehicle presses down on them.

“Most of the pressure plate IEDs used in Afghanistan contain approximately 20 kilos of explosive, more than twice that of a standard anti-tank mine – yet have the trigger weight of an anti-personnel mine,” the United Nations said.

JIEDDO says an overwhelming 84 per cent of IEDs used in Afghanistan are made from calcium ammonium nitrate, developed by fertilizer manufacturers as an alternative to pure ammonium nitrate that could not be detonated.

Smith explained that the substance is “reprocessed by insurgents and then used as a homemade explosive main charge.”

Better cooperation with Pakistan, whose relations with the United States have been tense, is seen as essential to ending the flow of fertilizer into Afghanistan.

“Unless we neutralize this network, through a whole-of-government approach, we will never defeat the IED threat confronting our troops in Afghanistan,” Smith said.

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4. **IED Attacks In Afghanistan Hit All-Time High** (National Journal)

Wednesday, 03 August 2011

<http://www.nationaljournal.com/nationalsecurity/ied-attacks-in-afghanistan-hit-all-time-high-20110803>

The number of IED attacks in Afghanistan has spiked to all-time high, U.S. military officials said, because of the free flow of critical bomb-making materials from neighboring Pakistan.

Senior military officials said there were more than 1,600 strikes involving so-called “improvised explosive devices” in June, setting a new record for the long Afghan war, and underscoring the dangers posed by militants operating inside both of the troubled countries. The number of IED strikes in June 2011 is nearly 25 percent higher than the monthly average for the conflict. In May, for instance, there were 1,250 IED attacks.

IEDs, crude bombs fashioned out of homemade explosives and simple triggering devices, are the primary cause of coalition fatalities in Afghanistan. So far this year, they have accounted for at least 158 of the U.S.-led coalition’s 283 battlefield fatalities in Afghanistan. And they are exacting a steadily climbing human toll: the bombs caused 1,248 coalition casualties between April and June, a 15 percent increase over the same period a year earlier.

Lt. Gen. Michael Barbero, the head of the military’s Joint IED Defeat Organization, said in an interview that the growing IED threat in Afghanistan is a direct result of Pakistan’s failure to prevent large quantities of fertilizer – the main ingredient of the bombs – from being smuggled into Afghanistan.

“We’re never going to be successful in focusing on the battlefield in Afghanistan and focusing on the IED networks in Afghanistan,” he said in the interview. “We’ve got to engage and do something about the source.”

In an interview with *National Journal*, Barbero said that 84 percent of the bombs in Afghanistan use calcium ammonium nitrate fertilizer produced at a pair of large factories inside Pakistan. He said U.S. officials had visited the facilities recently as part of a broad push to persuade Islamabad to “put some controls on the flow of this stuff,” but he noted that militants in Pakistan continue to send bomb components to their compatriots over the border in Afghanistan.

“The overwhelming majority of it comes from Pakistan ... and somehow makes its way into Afghanistan,” Barbero said.

The high-level U.S. belief that Pakistan is failing to take strong enough measures to limit the influx of fertilizer and other bomb-making components is the latest source of tension between Washington and Islamabad. Relations between the two nominal allies took a serious hit when U.S. forces mounted a unilateral raid that killed al-Qaida mastermind Osama bin Laden in the Pakistani garrison city of Abbottabad. Furious Pakistan officials responded by kicking out hundreds of American military trainers, leading the White House to hold up more than \$800 million in U.S. aid to Pakistan.

The fertilizer issue poses a particularly complex set of challenges for American and Pakistani policymakers. It is legal to produce fertilizer in Pakistan, an agrarian nation whose farmers are heavily reliant on the crop

stimulant. As a result, U.S. military officials acknowledge that any American effort to block the production or export of the fertilizer would spark fierce public fury within Pakistan. More practically, U.S. officials say there is virtually no chance that Islamabad would agree to such curbs.

The U.S. also has a paucity of useful intelligence about the militant networks inside Pakistan that purchase the fertilizer and then smuggle it into Afghanistan. In a late-June speech, Barbero said the nation's intelligence community needed to place more emphasis on the IED "supply chain" leading from Pakistan to its volatile neighbor.

"The intelligence community should make understanding the Pakistan [homemade-explosives] network a top priority," Barbero told a gathering of American intelligence officials. "Right now, it is not."

Specifically, the general told his audience that the U.S. needed to do more to identify the "key facilitators" who supply the IED pipeline into Afghanistan; the "funding streams" used to purchase the bomb components and pay for their shipment; and the "key financiers" who raise the money that makes the whole system operate.

IEDs have long been the primary killer of U.S. troops in Iraq, where the bombs are responsible for more than 2,700 American battlefield deaths. But the bombs are particularly dangerous in Afghanistan, a mountainous country where U.S. personnel conduct a significant percentage of their combat patrols on foot rather than inside an armored vehicle. The number of IED attacks against dismounted troops increased by more than 59 percent in April-June of 2011 when compared to the same period a year earlier. Militants are also building bigger bombs, making the IEDs even more dangerous for troops conducting foot patrols.

IEDs are no less deadly for Afghan civilians. A United Nations report last month found that 1,462 Afghan civilians had been killed from January to June, nearly one-third by insurgent IEDs. The U.N. found that civilian deaths from IEDs were up 17 percent compared to the same period a year earlier, making the bombs the "single largest killer of Afghan civilians in the first half of 2011."

In the interview with *National Journal*, Barbero said his command was trying to better protect U.S. forces from IEDs by rushing new portable bomb-detectors and jamming equipment to the war zone. So far this year, his command has spent more \$351 million to send more than 5,000 individual pieces of equipment and more than 600 bomb-sniffing dogs to Afghanistan.

On the ground in Afghanistan, Barbero and other senior commanders believe the U.S. is making halting progress in the counter-IED fight. American forces have worked to build detailed databases of bomb-making networks throughout the country, and Barbero said coalition forces are finding more insurgent weapons caches - and safely dismantling more roadside bombs - than ever before.

In response to requests from the field, meanwhile, Barbero's team has also identified six types of privately made bomb-detecting robots that can be safely used on Afghanistan's rugged terrains. The government is currently testing the lightweight machines - which have names like the Dragon Runner, the Armadillo and the Sand Flea - with an eye towards dispatching them to Afghanistan in October.

Still, the commander acknowledges that every U.S. move to better shield its forces from IEDs sparks an insurgent countermove to pierce the new defenses. In recent months, Barbero said Afghanistan's militants have begun surrounding villages with "belts" of IEDs to make it more dangerous for NATO or Afghan

personnel to enter the towns and mounting small-arms ambushes designed to draw coalition forces towards hidden bombs.

“This is an arms race, but the changes come every few months or every few weeks, not every few years,” Barbero said. “The enemy is smart and savvy, and they watch us and adjust to us, so we need to be equally agile.”

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5. **Canadian Forces Bring Forensics To The Battlefield** (The Globe and Mail)

Sunday, 07 August 2011

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/canadian-forces-bring-forensics-to-the-battlefield/article2121660/singlepage/#articlecontent>

When U.S. troops came to the village of Armul in eastern Afghanistan in June, 2007, there wasn't much left of three insurgents who had been blown up by their own bomb – torn clothes, body parts, a damaged AK-47, bits of metal and blue plastic.

But among the remains was a severed hand.

The soldiers took it back to their base and, using the sensor of a special biometric camera called the HIIDE, scanned the fingertips and retrieved two prints.

Even in death, the insurgent wouldn't escape the gigantic biometric net that the U.S. military had cast over the country.

Canada has ended its combat mission and left Kandahar. Other nations are scaling down their presence. A decade of fighting in Afghanistan and Iraq is closing in uncertain, ambiguous fashion. But the two major conflicts of the new century have altered military tactics, making them the first forensic wars.

The introduction of scientific methods has reshaped counterinsurgency tactics, mixing police and military work, creating a seamless bridge between evidence collected on the battlefield and courtroom prosecutions years from now. Last May, for example, the FBI arrested an Iraqi refugee in Kentucky, saying his fingerprints matched those on an improvised explosive device a U.S. patrol found in Iraq in 2005.

The bloodshed it suffered in Afghanistan has made Canada, along with the United States, Britain and Australia, a leader in countering IEDs, the French military magazine Doctrine says.

Canada opened its own forensic lab in Kandahar in 2009, one of the few nations with that in-theatre capability.

That facility is now history. But this spring, the Canadian Forces took delivery of a new deployable lab that can be loaded aboard a C-17 transport plane, with its own power generator, plumbing, optical-fibre wiring and supplies of gloves, swabs and evidence bags.

The new lab is fitted for the kind of conflicts Canadian soldiers will face again and again: wars with no front line, battlefields with no clear targets, enemies with no uniforms.

“We take away the enemy's ability to be invisible in a crowd,” the lab's commander, Navy Lieutenant Kevin McNamara, said in an interview.

Members of the European Defence Agency have gone a similar path, with their own deployable lab, built in Spain and shipped to Afghanistan this summer under French command.

The Canadian Forces also want to improve its ability to conduct “site exploitation,” the recovery of any items that could yield intelligence – weapons, computers, phones, documents.

National Defence issued last year a call for tenders to train soldiers in site exploitation, showing them how to record fingerprints, scan eyes and extract data from captured cell phones.

Bomb-disposal technicians, the cool-nerved operators chronicled in the film *The Hurt Locker*, haven’t simply defused IEDs in Iraq and Afghanistan.

They also photograph blast scenes, measure craters and test soil samples. They retrieve wires, circuit boards and triggers to reverse-engineer and identify a bomb maker’s technique, the way homicide detectives would reconstruct a killer’s *modus operandi*.

Canadian bomb-disposal teams, which came to Afghanistan with no formal forensic training, have been collecting fingerprints and DNA since at least 2006, according to *Clearing the Way* an oral history that Major Mark Gasparotto compiled about his squadron of combat engineers in Afghanistan.

American troops across Iraq and Afghanistan have for a decade photographed faces, scanned eyes, collected fingerprints and swabbed for saliva or blood during patrols, at checkpoints and border crossings, on local conscripts or job seekers, on the bodies of dead enemies, even on populations of entire towns.

The U.S. military now has data on more than 2.2 million people, mostly Iraqis and Afghans, according to Myra Gray, head of the Pentagon’s Biometrics Task Force.

“Every day, thousands of records are collected and sent to either compare against existing records or to store,” she said in a speech last year.

Soldiers on patrols are outfitted with biometric cameras and spray cans of chemicals to test prisoners for explosives residue. The display window on their HIIDE cameras turns from blue to red if the person they screen matches someone on a watch list.

The list has five types of suspects, from Level 1, a “high-value target” who has to be detained immediately, to Level 5, someone with a criminal background who is just to be barred from entering military bases.

Such data helped U.S. soldiers capture 775 “high-value” suspects last year, General George Casey, who was U.S. Army chief of staff, told Congress this spring.

For example, a July 9, 2009, “Capture/Kill” night raid by the U.S. 4th Airborne Brigade netted a suspect who was scrutinized on the HIIDE, according to a military log released by WikiLeaks. The machine gave a 97-percent probability that the man was “Objective Russian Jack,” an insurgent leader named Rashid Bawari.

Canada’s special forces appear in a March 2, 2008, cable. It describes a helicopter-borne operation code-named Dropkick in which members of “CANSOF” (the Canadian Special Operations Forces) and Afghan troops would assault a compound and look for “Objective Yoda,” a bomb maker named Haji Sahib.

The biometric data also screens Afghans who enter coalition facilities. A June, 2009, cable mentions a case at Forward Operating Base Joyce, in Kunar province. “We have a local national worker on FOB Joyce that has a 100% fingerprint match that was taken off an IED a year ago,” the log noted at 8:33 a.m.

By noon, the worker was under arrest and waiting to be flown to the Bagram detention centre to be questioned.

Battlefield forensics often start in the chaos and bloodshed after an IED strike, even as locals scavenge metal fragments or ammunition cooks off in burning wreckage.

Civilian police can take days to canvass a crime scene, but in the battlefield “you may only have 30 minutes on the ground,” said Lt. McNamara, a Navy diver who did bomb-disposal duty in Afghanistan.

He recalls working in body armour in 50-degree heat, crawling in blood- and oil-splattered wrecks, the fingertips of his latex gloves puffed up from pooled sweat.

While the Canadian army is tight-lipped about how it processes the biometric information it collects, details about military forensics have appeared in specialized magazines and promotional videos of U.S. forces.

Take that severed hand that American soldiers recovered in Armul in 2007.

Fingerprints are wired to a Pentagon facility in Clarksburg, W.Va., to be added to a database of fingerprints, iris scans and facial photos of millions of Iraqis and Afghans.

The other remains – such as the blue-plastic fragments – were of interest because, three days before, an Arizona National Guardsman was killed by an IED made with ammonium nitrate and fuel oil packed in blue-plastic jugs.

The artifacts were sent to the American lab at Bagram Air Field near Kabul, to be triaged, X-rayed, photographed, measured and inspected for DNA or latent prints. In cases where the evidence is significant, it is shipped to the FBI labs in Quantico, Va., where the Terrorist Explosive Device Analytical Center keeps more than 71,000 IED artifacts.

Sifting through these artifacts is tedious and exhausting work. Military labs have to process the evidence to police-level standards, meaning that a chain of custody has to be recorded for each copper wire, every strip of tape, every cigarette butt, like cataloguing a giant junkyard.

One Canadian military police officer who worked in 2008 at the Bagram lab handled 14,300 artifacts in nine months. Another was commended for processing 500 pieces of evidence a week.

Forensic work is not a panacea. Sometimes troops aren't versed in the new procedures, and evidence is compromised.

During a road-clearance operation on Jan. 23, 2008, an IED blew up under a LAV III vehicle, killing a Canadian combat engineer, Corporal Étienne Gonthier. A bomb investigator later complained that the patrol touched the evidence with bare hands, contaminating it.

“It is clear that the patrol touched the objects that were collected without gloves. Team leaders and [commanders] must conduct more appropriate and valuable site exploitation,” an investigator wrote in a report found in the WikiLeaks logs.

Three months later, a convoy of the Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadian) regiment was travelling on a mud track when a Leopard tank rolled over a powerful IED that ripped off its tracks and wheels. The driver, Corporal Mark Fuchko, lost both legs.

A CEXC investigator arrived but got only 15 minutes at the scene before the soldiers prepared to leave.

“The On Scene Commander (OSC) did not believe the investigation to be of importance,” the technician complained in his report. “Not providing sufficient time to exploit a scene starves the CIED process of its source of intelligence.”

At the same time, the millions of biometric records and IED fragments already collected have created a data bottleneck.

Last May, two Iraqi refugees in Kentucky were arrested on terrorism charges. The FBI linked one of them to fingerprints on an improvised explosive device (IED) found six years ago in Iraq.

One suspect, Waad Alwan, obtained refugee status two years ago. But it was only last January, after he boasted to an informant that he had planted bombs in the Iraqi city of Bayji that the FBI checked an IED part recovered in the area in 2005 and made a fingerprint match.

An FBI spokesman later explained that the IED hadn't been examined before because it didn't explode and wasn't a priority case.

In other cases, forensic evidence hasn't held up to scrutiny.

The U.S. government had to apologize and pay a \$2-million settlement to an Oregon lawyer and Muslim convert after the FBI mistakenly linked him to prints found at the 2004 Madrid bomb attacks.

U.S. authorities also tried to connect two Syrian detainees at Guantanamo Bay to IED evidence. Military court documents alleged that they were extremists whose DNA matched hair found on IEDs near Mosul in northern Iraq.

However, the two were released without charges, a sign that the DNA link wasn't strong.

Ultimately, technology can only be a part of the solution. The U.S. created a special command to deal with the problem, the Joint IED Defeat Organization, which received \$17-billion in funding. Last fall, JIEDDO

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director Michael Oates noted in a media briefing that the IED threat would only disappear through civil reconciliation.

“If you don't work to mitigate the recruitment and the enticement for emplacement of IEDs, you will spend an enormous amount of blood and treasure dealing with each individual IED that is put against you,” Gen. Oates said. “It is not a winnable project just to kill emplacers or to just uncover the device.”

But Western armies have to embrace police investigative tools because increasingly they will wage war in failed states, battling snipers, suicide attacks or roadside bombs, said Queen’s University international security expert Anthony Seaboyer.

“There’s going to be more police work,” he said, “because you’re going to have to do much more research to identify who you’re dealing with.”

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6. [Trend] **ISAF Forces Seize Weapons, HME Materials (ISAFJC)**

Monday, 09 August 2011

http://www.army.mil/article/63204/Combined_force_in_Kandahar_kills_insurgents_detains_suspects/

A combined Afghan and International Security Assistance Force patrol killed several insurgents and detained numerous others in the Mya Neshin district of Afghanistan's Kandahar province yesterday, military officials reported.

The insurgent leader targeted in the operation facilitates attacks against Afghan and coalition forces, officials said.

Today in Kandahar province's Panjwai district, coalition forces found and destroyed 705 pounds of homemade explosives.

Also today, a coalition patrol approached a group of Afghan civilians who had found a cache of munitions. The Afghans turned the cache over to coalition forces without incident. The cache consisted of nine artillery shells, a hand grenade and 40 fuses.

In operations around Afghanistan yesterday:

-- A combined vehicle interdiction operation in Nimroz province's Khash Rod district resulted in the seizure and destruction of 353 pounds of opium, 88 pounds of precursor chemicals and some drug-making equipment.

-- A combined patrol found and destroyed 331 pounds of opium, small-arms ammunition and bomb components in Nangahar province's Achin district.

-- In Kapisa province's Tagab district, a combined patrol seized three rockets, three hand grenades, an assault rifle, seven assault-rifle magazines and 710 7.62mm rounds.

-- A combined force in Khost province's Gurbuz district seized three rockets, three rocket-propelled grenade launchers and an anti-tank mine.

-- A combined force killed two insurgents in Ghazni province's Wali Muhammad Shahid Khugyani district. The security force was searching for a Taliban facilitator when they were attacked by multiple insurgents. The security force returned fire, killing two insurgents.

During the search, one of the insurgents tried to use a child as a human shield. The force was able to safeguard the child. Following the engagement, numerous suspected insurgents were detained for questioning. The force confiscated blasting caps used for roadside bombs, grenades, assault rifles and chest racks.

-- In Kandahar province's Panjwai district, a combined force detained several suspected insurgents while searching for a Taliban facilitator responsible for receiving and distributing supplies for insurgents in the

district.

-- A combined Afghan and coalition security force in Paktia province's Zurmat district killed numerous Taliban insurgents during a search for a Taliban leader who directs key facilitators, plans attacks, coordinates operations and has been implicated in a July 5 attack resulting in the deaths of three U.S. soldiers. Several insurgents, who earlier in the day had forced their way into the home of a local resident, fired at the security force using machine guns and assault rifles. The force returned fire, killing the insurgents.

-- Also in Paktia province, a combined force detained several suspected Haqqani terrorist network insurgents in the Zurmat district. The target of this operation was a Haqqani leader who coordinates roadside-bomb attacks and provides support to Haqqani fighters.

In other news, a combined patrol in Helmand province's Lashkar Gah district detained several insurgents Aug. 6 while searching for an insurgent leader responsible for multiple attacks against Afghan and coalition forces.

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7. Shaving Cream Effort Helps Save Lives In Afghanistan (Gainesville Times)

Sunday, 07 August 2011

<http://www.gainesvilletimes.com/section/6/article/54101/>

Through a common, everyday household item, not a high-tech device with a big Pentagon price tag, area residents can help save military lives in one of Afghanistan's deadliest regions.

U.S. Marines in the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines' Cherokee Company, are using shaving cream for more than just facial hair in the Sangin district in the Helmand Province.

The white, foamy stuff has come in handy for marking suspected sites of roadside bombs, which have killed or seriously injured many U.S.-led coalition troops in the war-torn country.

It is "hands down the best marking tool available," said Casey M. Brock, commanding officer of C Company, which has some 200-plus Marines and U.S. Navy corpsmen.

He and others under his command, including Lt. Paul Herdener, a 2004 North Hall High School graduate, have detailed how important the shaving cream is to safety.

"Our supply of this much-needed item has run dangerously low, and we literally are living day to day on (it)," Brock said in a letter provided by Herdener's father, Tony Herdener of Hall County.

Herdener, chief financial officer for the Northeast Georgia Health System, started talking up the need in Hall County several months ago. Now a full-blown community campaign led by Herdener and others is in force.

J&J Foods is setting up displays at its stores showcasing the effort, which is known as "Operation Shaving Cream." Shoppers can buy a 12-can case for \$12 and pay no additional charge for taxes or shipping. All three locations of J&J Foods - two in Gainesville and one in Dahlonega - are participating.

The displays will explain the shaving cream's war zone purpose and that the item is "saving lives and protecting bodies and limbs," said Darrell Wiley, president and CEO of J&J Foods.

"We want to be part of that," he added.

Kipper Tool Co. at 2375 Murphy Blvd., Gainesville, which supplies industrial-quality tools to businesses, industry and government, will help in "getting that stuff where it needs to go," said Danny Sears, chief operating officer.

"We believe in our troops and what they do," he said. "... We back our military - that's our customer." The North Georgia Community Foundation at 615-F Oak St., Gainesville, is accepting tax-deductible monetary donations "for the timely purchase and shipping" of the shaving cream, said president and CEO Jim Mathis Jr.

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"I think it's important to note that this is an ongoing need," even after Paul Herdener has returned home, Mathis added. "We hope to continue for as long as (military personnel) are there and as long as there's a need."

Also, people can drop off shaving cream cans or caseloads at Milton Martin Honda, 2420 Browns Bridge Road, or the Northeast Georgia History Center, 322 Academy St., both in Gainesville.

Herdener said The Shipping Depot, which has locations at E.E. Butler Parkway and Thompson Bridge Road, is set up to package and mail cans dropped off at their location and can take the hassle out of the process for those who want to mail their own.

So far, "people have been very responsive," Herdener said of the campaign.

"A lot of people have made (buying and shipping the cans) a weekly ritual. Others have used it as a way ... to teach (their children) about what service is and what it means."

The local effort has a goal of 850 cases, or 10,200 cans.

Herdener first learned about the need from his son, whose company is based at Camp Pendleton, Calif. Marines had tried several things to mark possible bomb locations, but nothing seemed to work as well as shaving cream.

Spray paint, for example, left more of a permanent mark, which is "dangerous, because the Taliban can use it against you," Herdener said.

"They can put a (bomb) where the spray paint is," he said.

Typically, "shaving cream stays on the ground about 20 to 30 minutes until it dissipates," Herdener said. In searching an area for bombs, a combat engineer typically leads the patrol, swinging a metal detector in a radius of two or three feet.

"A big pillow of cream marks an IED," or improvised explosive device, the military's term for a roadside bomb, Herdener said.

"A stripe of cream means (Marines need to) stay within a couple feet of that. If you wander off, you could step on (a bomb)."

The Sangin district has become particularly dangerous ground.

"There are three times the number of IEDs in that region than the rest of Afghanistan," Herdener said. In a July 29 letter to his parents, Paul Herdener likened the Marines' use of shaving cream to 101st Airborne soldiers using a metal device that created a cricket noise in the Normandy invasion during World War II.

The 101st Airborne used those simple devices as a way to identify themselves to fellow soldiers as they operated in the cover of night.

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"Wars are not won by technology alone," said Paul, who has been in Afghanistan since March and will return to the U.S. in late October or early November.

They "are won and lives are saved by the ingenuity of soldiers and Marines doing more with less and finding solutions to problems that technology cannot overcome," he said.

Butch Miller of Milton Martin Honda said he is pleased to see the community rallying around the military in a time of need.

"The downside of this is we have young men and women serving our country there that are in harm's way," he said.

Thankfully, he added, "American ingenuity, the drive to succeed and thrive and survive, has led these young men and women to come up with improvised tactics."

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8. **Toy RC Truck Helps Save Lives In Afghanistan** (Daily Tech)

Saturday, 06 August 2011

<http://www.dailytech.com/Toy+RC+Truck+Helps+Saves+Lives+in+Afghanistan/article22373c.htm>

A bit of luck and a gift from a serviceman's family member helped save six U.S. service members currently deployed in Afghanistan.

U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Christopher Fessenden used a basic RC truck with an attached wireless video camera able to scout ahead while out on patrol. After loaning the truck to a different unit, the little RC vehicle set off a 500-lb. IED blast triggered by a hidden trip wire.

Since he first received the device in 2007, it helped locate multiple suspected IEDs designed to cause as much devastation as possible. Staff Sgt. Fessenden's brother and shop friend plan to try and create a new truck that can be shipped for use in Afghanistan.

It may sound silly that a small RC toy truck is being used to detect IEDs, but troops on the ground are willing to accept any help they can. Techniques have ranged from trained dogs to sniff out IEDs to better intelligence from locals that run the risk of repercussion from the Taliban.

The U.S. Air Force continually uses high-resolution cameras to try and locate IEDs, while ground troops use metal detectors and similar devices to find IEDs. Growing use of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) has also helped identify insurgents planting roadside bombs, along with pinpoint precision strikes to destroy the munitions.

Insurgents routinely use IED attacks -- including booby-trapped items and bodies -- before sometimes launching small-arms attacks on soldiers.

Unfortunately, soldier amputations from Afghan IED attacks have dramatically increased as soldiers dismount armored vehicles to carry out foot patrols.

Using cell phones, devices with on-off switches, or connecting wires to set off IEDs, insurgents are very familiar with U.S. patrol tactics -- an important lesson to military officers trying to stifle the catastrophic damage from IEDs.

U.S. lawmakers and Pakistan are already testing the boundaries of a weary relationship with growing concern that about 84 percent of ammonium nitrate used in IEDs comes from two Pakistani plants.

Questions related to IED attacks should remain a major topic as the number of killed and wounded by these sometimes sophisticated devices continues to increase.

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9. Task Force Spartan Combat Engineers Keep Roads Safe With New Technologies (Task Force Spartan)

Friday, 05 August 2011

http://www.army.mil/article/62914/Task_Force_Spartan_combat_engineers_keep_the_road_safe_with_new_technologies/

Kandahar, Afghanistan—A combat engineer company's standard mission on deployment is route clearance. Typically, a route clearance mission consists of patrolling roads in the brigade's area of operations and clearing them of improvised explosive devices, or IEDs, before a convoy uses the road. The purpose of a route clearance patrol, or RCP, is to allow other units to accomplish their mission without obstacles or unnecessary injury or enemy contact.

Due to the unique mission requirements in 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division's area of operations, Spartan combat engineers in Alpha Company, 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, have adapted to meet the requirements of Kandahar province, Afghanistan.

Instead of being an RCP for example, many of the combat engineers are being attached to infantry units on dismounted patrols and using new technologies to clear the route ahead of the unit.

"In Iraq, I did RCP, so I was mounted all the time," said Spc. David Reynolds, a combat engineer and Doking operator in Alpha Company, 3rd BSTB. "Coming here and being dismounted, there is definitely a lot more to do."

The Doking MD4, a tracked vehicle which looks similar to a miniature armored personnel carrier, is operated with a remote control by a Soldier following the vehicle either on foot or in an armored vehicle. By putting the Doking before the patrol, the chances of a Soldier stepping on an IED are decreased drastically.

"It's one of the Army's remote operated arsenals. It's a robot with separate attachments," said Sgt. Adonys Lendof, squad leader in Alpha Company, 3rd BSTB. "It has a flail, a mine roller, and a blade, and we use it to clear in front of us, so we are not actually stepping on any IEDs."

The Doking is about three feet high and about seven feet long. The engineers have four in their inventory that they can use every time a battalion in the Spartan brigade requests its presence on a patrol.

"It hasn't hit any (IEDs) yet, but it keeps us and the infantry from being the first ones down the route," said Lendof.

Alpha Company Soldiers have a standard way of completing their mission as a team.

"We take our whole squad (on mission)," Lendof said. "The Doking is in the front, the operator behind it with his security detail, and another engineer behind that with a mine detector."

The Soldiers are still adapting to their new mission in Afghanistan, and even though they are effectively using the equipment to clear roads of IEDs, most of them had never even seen the Doking until they deployed last

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March. However, they quickly learned how to use the equipment, and are glad for the added safety it brings them and other Spartan Soldiers.

“I didn’t even know it existed until we got here, but it’s pretty easy to get the hang of,” said Pfc. Nate Oncea, a combat engineer in Alpha Company, 3rd BSTB. “(I) feel a lot safer walking down a route after [the Doking] has been down it.”

Alpha Company Soldiers play an important role in the overall Spartan mission in Afghanistan, and their new equipment is helping them accomplish that mission.

“We are providing mobility, counter-mobility (and) survivability to the infantry,” Oncea said proudly of his mission in Afghanistan.

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10. **Fourteen Insurgents Killed In Afghanistan** (Philstar)

Wednesday, 03 August 2011

<http://www.philstar.com/Article.aspx?articleId=712922&publicationSubCategoryId=200>

Afghan police during operations eliminated 14 Taliban and detained 43 more insurgents elsewhere in the country over the last 24 hours, Interior Ministry said in a statement on Wednesday.

"Afghan National Police (ANP) with the assistance of the Afghan army and Coalition Forces launched 12 joint and independent operations over the past 24 hours in Nangarhar, Baghlan, Kandahar, Helmand, Maidan Wardak, Ghazni, Khost, Paktika and Paktia provinces," said the statement issued by Interior Ministry.

"As a result of these operations, 14 armed insurgents were killed, four wounded and 43 other armed insurgents were arrested,"

Police also found and defused a total of 17 Improvised Explosive Device (IED) and anti-vehicle mines elsewhere in the country over the same period of time, the statement further said.

In a separate incident, two more insurgents, who had the intention of planting an anti-vehicle mine along a road, were killed when their mine exploded prematurely in Dilaram district of the country's western Farah province on Tuesday, the statement added.

Taliban insurgents have yet to make comments.

The Taliban outfit, fighting Afghan and NATO-led troops, have intensified their activities against government interests and security forces since beginning May when the militants group announced to launch spring offensive against security forces all over the country.

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11. Suicide Assault Team Strikes Guest House In Kunduz (Long War Journal)

Tuesday, 02 August 2011

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

The Taliban launched another suicide assault in Afghanistan, this time targeting a small hotel in Kunduz City in the north. Today's attack was executed by three suicide bombers. The first rammed a car packed with explosives into the gate, breaching the outer wall and allowing two other heavily armed fighters to enter the compound. From The Associated Press:

Four Afghan building guards were killed and 10 other people, including an Afghan policeman, were wounded, Sayedi said. Foreigners staying at the two-story hotel escaped through the rear of the building, he said.

Sarwar Hussein, a provincial police spokesman, said German aid workers often stayed in the house, but that it was not clear who the foreigners staying there when the attack took place were. The Interior Ministry said the house was used by GIZ, a German development and assistance organization that contracts mostly with the German government.

A GIZ spokesman said the building is used by a security company called Kabora, which provides security for the German organization, and that the building is not used to house GIZ employees. While there are GIZ international and Afghan staff living in Kunduz, they live in other houses, he said.

"GIZ was not the target," spokesman Hans Sterling said. He said his reports show the building was used as an office rather than a hotel. Officials with Kabora could not immediately be reached for comment.

The Taliban claimed the attack, in a statement released at Voice of Jihad. In the statement, the Taliban named the three suicide bombers and said they struck a "compound of [the] German intelligence agency in Kunduz city."

The group of three martyrdom-seeking Mujahideen armed with heavy and small arms stormed the compound at predawn. In the first in the German intelligence agency in Kunduz, Mujahid Ashiqullah one of the three loins of Islam, blew up the gate with explosive-laden car, killing and wounding several enemy soldiers, allowing the other two, Sharafddin and Nazifullah, to enter the compound who fought for hours using hand grenades, rockets, heavy machine guns killing or wounding some 35 German invaders and local minions besides damaging the facility a great deal.

While not stated by the Taliban or in the press reports, the al Qaeda-linked Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan was likely involved in today's attack. The IMU maintains a significant network in Kunduz and the neighboring provinces of Baghlan and Takhar. IMU commanders serve in senior positions in the Taliban's shadow government. And the IMU is integral to the training and deployment of suicide bombers in the north. In the month of July, ISAF targeted three IMU leaders and facilitators who were active in the suicide network [see ISAF's operational updates for July 30, July 21, and July 17].

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12. **Ten Police Die In Southern Afghanistan** (Associated Free Press)

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5js2rL4o54uVVPZZVB3ftWfzzWQYQ?docId=CN.G.5461b9ba016d10bd037873b0126a788c.bb1>

Separate bomb blasts in volatile southern Afghanistan killed 10 police and wounded nine civilians, officials said on Sunday.

The police were killed late on Saturday when their vehicle hit an improvised explosive device (IED), or home-made bomb, in Kandahar province, the spiritual home of the insurgent Taliban.

"The police were travelling in a police vehicle which struck an IED and some of the police died and some of them were injured. The injured died later in hospital," said General Abdul Raziq, the Kandahar police chief. In the city of Lashkar Gah on Sunday, in the neighbouring province of Helmand, another improvised bomb wounded nine people, interior ministry spokesman Siddiq Siddiqi told AFP.

The latest southern unrest comes at a critical juncture in the nearly 10-year war on Taliban-led insurgents, as thousands of US surge troops prepare to go home and other Western nations announce limited withdrawals of soldiers.

All foreign combat forces are due to leave Afghanistan by the end of 2014.

NATO is meanwhile probing the Taliban's claim that they shot down a helicopter late on Friday killing a team of 30 American troops, many of whom were special forces, and seven Afghan commandos.

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13. **Child Among Three Dead In Kandahar IED Blasts** (Wakht)

Wednesday, 03 August 2011

<http://www.wakht.com/en/021002.php>

Three civilians including a child have died in two separate IED explosions in Southern Province of Kandahar the other day.

A statement issued to Wakht News Agency Wednesday by the Kandahar Media Center the first explosion took place at Yakochi locality of the city when a child stepped over an improvised explosive device planted by the insurgents.

As a result he died on the spot.

The second incident took place at Spin Boldak district when two nomads fell victim to another roadside bomb emplaced by the insurgents.

Insurgents have not yet claimed responsibility for the explosions.

It is worth mentioning that Taliban insurgents have been excessively using IEDs and roadside bombs to target the Afghan and Coalition forces. In most cases civilians fall prey to these bombs.

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14. Army Staff Sergeant Is Killed In Afghanistan (LA Times)

Sunday, 07 August 2011

<http://www.latimes.com/news/obituaries/la-me-kristofferson-lorenzo-20110807,0,4055388.story>

Kristofferson Bernardo Lorenzo would drive for hours for two passions: Filipino food and the company of friends.

The Army staff sergeant who left Manila as a child had a perennial smile, said those who knew him. Lorenzo, who was married and the father of two young boys, was also a whiz mechanic, fixing buddies' brakes in exchange for a good meal or some laughs, said his wife, Leah Liza Lorenzo.

A 33-year-old infantryman from Chula Vista, Lorenzo was killed with three other soldiers May 23 in eastern Kunar province, Afghanistan, when their vehicle struck an improvised explosive device.

The men were assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. It was Lorenzo's third deployment to a war zone.

When Lorenzo's casket was unloaded at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar last month, his 4-year-old son, Keane, stood at attention, his tiny arm locked in a salute to the "hero" he had kissed goodbye just two months earlier.

"We explained to Keane that Dad was a soldier and that his job required him to leave and protect this country," said Leah Lorenzo, 30. "So he was our hero for keeping us safe."

While Lorenzo didn't always like it, his wife said, "He was very good at being a soldier. We prepared ourselves, we talked about it, and that's why I am able to live life because he told me that I will be strong for the kids even without him."

Born in Manila, Lorenzo was close to his older sisters and cousins. He loved cars and admired David Hasselhoff's tricked-out, talking Pontiac Trans-Am on the TV show "Knight Rider," one cousin recalled on a Facebook tribute page.

As he grew up, Lorenzo and his family paid visits to Europe and the U.S. and lived for one year in Nigeria, where his father worked as an architect. In 1985, his mother died of childbirth-related complications, along with his newborn brother. Two years later, the family moved to San Diego. Lorenzo was 10.

After he graduated from Spring Valley's Mount Miguel High School, he and several buddies enlisted in the military.

Lorenzo, who went by "Kris," landed at Fort Bragg, N.C., after basic training. There, Justin Farris noticed the plates on the newcomer's black Toyota pickup and invited him to hang out with a group of Golden State refugees. They worked on their cars, racing in their spare time.

"He was always happy and energetic," Farris, 35, said of Lorenzo. "He was somebody you could trust."

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Lorenzo's greatest pleasures, his wife said, were family, friends and food (pork sinigang soup was a favorite). He took pride in his heritage, donning shirts decorated with the stars of the Filipino flag and striking up conversations with Filipino strangers.

Lorenzo left the Army after a few years and returned to California to work as a mechanic.

About the same time, he reconnected with Leah, whom he had met at a mall when she was 12 and he was 15. She soon left to live in the Philippines but at age 19, she moved to Seattle and dug up the number of another boy from her youth. Kris was around too, the boy told her, and would want to chat.

The two tied up the phone line so much in calls and online chat that Kris resorted to old-fashioned letters. "That's when I realized he was such a good guy," Leah Lorenzo said. When she flew down to visit, "He swept me off my feet after that first kiss."

Lorenzo was called up as a reservist in 2002, a day after Leah moved to San Diego to be with him. A year spent guarding a Utah power plant left him restless, however. He craved an active role in the war so he reenlisted and was deployed to Iraq.

The pair married after his return in 2006. The next year, he was off again, to Afghanistan. He returned in 2008 for a long home stint in Fort Jackson, S.C. Tristan, now 18 months old, was born, and Lorenzo embraced fatherhood, his wife said.

In April, he left for his second Afghan deployment, ending up at Pirtle King, a remote combat outpost. "Before they deployed, he said, "This doesn't look good. I have a bad feeling," Leah Lorenzo recalled.

At 2 p.m. May 22, just hours before he was killed, Lorenzo chatted with his wife by computer.

"He was very calm and happy to see me and his younger son," she said. "We told each other how much we loved one another. I couldn't have asked [for] a better way to say goodbye."

Lorenzo is buried at Miramar National Cemetery.

In addition to his wife and sons, his survivors include his father and stepmother, Saturnino Lorenzo Jr. and Aurora Lorenzo, of San Diego; his sisters, Catherine Lorenzo-Ligason, of San Diego, and Charina Lorenzo-Dela Cruz, of Camarillo, and many relatives in San Marcos and the Philippines. Friends have started a college fund for his sons.

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15. **Senior Afghan Intelligence Official Killed In Bomb Attack** (CNN)

Thursday, 04 August 2011

<http://edition.cnn.com/2011/WORLD/asiapcf/08/04/afghanistan.provincial.intelligence.official.killed/>

A senior Afghan intelligence official was killed Thursday when a bomb exploded in the country's northern Kunduz province, according to a provincial council chief.

Payenda Khan -- who headed up a district in Kunduz for the National Directorate of Security -- was killed, and three children were injured in the blast, said Mahbobullah Mahbob.

Khan was killed in the Afghan district of Bander Khanabad, and the Taliban has claimed responsibility for attack.

His death is latest in a series of high-level officials who have recently been killed across the country.

The most high-profile strike occurred in July when the Taliban also claimed responsibility for the death of the president's half-brother, Ahmed Wali Karzai.

The Kandahar provincial council chief was considered an influential power-broker and key presidential ally in the country's southern provinces.

Last week, militants stormed the compound of the governor of Afghanistan's Uruzgan province.

A least 19 people were killed and 37 wounded, including three police officers, in that attack.

The governor, Muhammad Omar Shirzad, managed to escape after being surrounded by security guards, while a gun battle raged for several hours.

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16. **Kansas Soldier Killed By IED In Afghanistan** (Fox 4 KC)

Friday, 05 August 2011

<http://www.fox4kc.com/news/wdaf-kansas-soldier-killed-by-ied-in-afghanistan-20110805,0,3076709.story>

A U.S. soldier from Kansas was killed by an improvised explosive device while on patrol in Afghanistan, the Department of Defense said on Friday.

Private First Class Cody G. Baker, 19, of Holton, Kansas, was killed along with another soldier on August 3rd in the Wardak Province of Afghanistan. He was assigned to A Company, 2nd Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 10th Mountain Division and was stationed in Fort Polk, Louisiana. He had joined the U.S. Army just last year.

"Americans are forever indebted to Pfc. Baker for his service to our country and sacrifice on our behalf," said U.S. Sen. Jerry Moran in a statement. "My heart goes out to his family as they mourn this tragic loss, and I ask all Kansans to join me in keeping his family and friends in their thoughts and prayers during this difficult time."

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17. Two Soldiers Killed In Laddha IED Blast (Dawn)

Tuesday, 02 August 2011

<http://www.dawn.com/2011/08/03/two-soldiers-killed-in-laddha-ied-blast.html>

Two soldiers were killed in a roadside blast in South Waziristan Agency on Tuesday while three people received injuries when unidentified persons attacked Nato vehicles in Khyber Agency.

Officials said that soldiers were patrolling Tengar area of Laddha tehsil in South Waziristan when an improvised explosive device hit their vehicle. Two soldiers were killed in the blast, they added.

In Khyber Agency, three persons were injured when unidentified gunmen fired at Nato containers in Landi Kotal on Monday, officials said.

They said that the incident occurred near government degree college on Landi Kotal-Torkhan Bypass when a group of unidentified persons riding in a car opened indiscriminate firing on Nato containers parked in the area.

The windscreens of at least four vehicles were smashed in the attack that also caused injuries to at least three persons, who had taken shelter inside their vehicles.

Local sources said that about 150 containers, supplying goods to Nato forces in Afghanistan and some of them taking Pakistani export items, were parked along the road as custom authorities delayed their clearance at Torkham.

Accusing the custom authorities of adopting delaying tactics, local transporters demanded of the political administration to ensure their security when they were denied exit at the border owing to no-clearance. Meanwhile, Khasadar Force found a dead body in Jalaldin area of Jamrud. Officials said that the bullet-riddled body was placed at tehsil office for identification for some time but was later buried at a local graveyard as no one came to claim it.

Meanwhile, Zakhakhel elders extended support to local administration for restoration of peace in their area. Addressing a press conference here on Tuesday, Malik Medak Murad said that they would not allowed any militant organisation to operate in their area.

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18. **Bomb Destroys 16 NATO Tankers In Pakistan** (Associated Free Press)

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5hiwhwNN--F-vnBHMz2PAJX-ck8JA?docId=CNG.5627fa58da39e8defdcfa0e95ccde02f.161>

A bomb destroyed at least 16 tankers on Saturday carrying fuel for NATO troops in neighbouring Afghanistan, Pakistan police said, the latest in a string of attempts to disrupt supplies.

A total of 28 NATO oil tankers were parked at a terminal on the outskirts of Peshawar, the main city in Pakistan's northwest, at the time of the explosion, which triggered a fire that engulfed 16 of the vehicles.

"We are trying to move away other oil tankers. We are not clear whether the bomb was planted in the terminal or with a tanker," police official Khurshid Khan told AFP from the site. "Sixteen tankers were completely destroyed."

There were no reports of any casualties, he added.

Mohammad Ijaz Khan, another senior police officer in Peshawar, said fire fighters were frantically trying to control the blaze. He said three explosions were heard before the fire swept through the parked tankers.

No group has claimed responsibility but the Taliban have in the past said they carried out such attacks to disrupt supplies for more than 130,000 US-led international troops fighting in Afghanistan.

Taliban and Al-Qaeda-linked militants frequently launch attacks across northwestern Pakistan and the lawless tribal belt on the Afghan border, which Washington has branded the most dangerous place in the world.

Most supplies and equipment required by soldiers in Afghanistan are shipped through Pakistan, although US troops increasingly use alternative routes through Central Asia.

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19. **Seven Killed In Twin West Iraq Blasts** (Associated Free Press)

Wednesday, 03 August 2011

http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5jvSpsM9UimxKB3QAXyOo_bABEKWw?docId=CNG.83ebdec4d2e1a22dd215defd7decffc1.2d1

Twin bomb attacks in the western Iraqi city of Ramadi killed seven people and wounded 13 others on Wednesday evening, part of nationwide violence that left 10 dead, security officials said.

A roadside bomb exploded at around 5:30 pm (1430 GMT) in the south of Ramadi, 100 kilometres (60 miles) west of Baghdad, wounding five people, a police officer said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

A second bomb went off as people gathered to help the wounded, the policeman said, adding that the two blasts killed seven and injured 13.

Also on Wednesday, gunmen attacked a checkpoint in Mosul in northern Iraq, shooting dead two soldiers, according to a military officer who did not want to be named.

An interior ministry official also said that one Iraqi policeman was killed and three Iraqi translators wounded in a bomb attack on the Al-Rusafa prison complex in Baghdad.

Late Tuesday, meanwhile, successive bombings targeting an alcohol shop in Baghdad's western outskirts killed three policemen.

The blasts also left 14 other people wounded, including three policemen, the interior ministry official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Meanwhile, unidentified gunmen on Tuesday evening shot dead Iraqi army Lieutenant Colonel Azad Mohammed Ahmed in the south of the disputed northern city of Kirkuk while he was driving home with one of his guards.

Violence in Iraq has declined from its peak in 2006 and 2007, but attacks remain common. A total of 259 Iraqis were killed in attacks in July, the second-highest figure for 2011.

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20. **IED Goes Off In A Civilian Car In Babel** (National Iraqi News Agency)

http://www.ninanews.com/english/News_Details.asp?ar95_VQ=FHJDHG

An improvised explosive device went off last night in a civilian car in Aliskandariya district of, north of Babel province.

According to a police source in Babel NINA correspondent said: "an attached device to a civilian car parking in a street of 17 Tammooz in the area neighborhood exploded , without causing casualties, but damaged a number of cars near the site". [sic]

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21. **Police Vehicle Destroyed In North Baghdad** (National Iraqi News Agency)

Monday, 08 August 2011

http://www.ninanews.com/english/News_Details.asp?ar95_VQ=FHJEHK

A police vehicle destroyed when an improvised explosive device went off on Monday evening, Aug. 8, against a police patrol in Tarmiya area, north of Baghdad.

Police source told NINA that an improvised explosive device emplaced in central Tarmiya, 40 km north of Baghdad, went off when a police patrol was passing destroying the vehicle without causing in casualties.

The source pointed out that a joint police and military force searched the area in pursue of those who carried out the attack. [sic]

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22. **Attack Wounds At Least 20** (CNN)

Tuesday, 02 August 2011

<http://religion.blogs.cnn.com/2011/08/02/church-bombing-wounds-at-least-20/>

A car bomb exploded outside a Catholic church in central Kirkuk early Tuesday, wounding at least 20 people, authorities said.

The attack took place in Kirkuk's Shatterlo neighborhood around 5:30 a.m., according to a police official who spoke to CNN on condition anonymity, because he's not authorized to speak to the media.

The wounded included staff from the Holy Family Church and people with homes nearby.

Police said at least 20 people were injured in the attack, while the Interior Ministry put the number at 23.

The explosion damaged the church and a number of nearby houses, police said. Kirkuk is an ethnically divided mixed city located about 240 kilometers (150 miles) north of Baghdad.

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23. **Explosions in Haswa and Mosul** (Reuters)

Monday, 08 August 2011

<http://www.trust.org/alertnet/news/factbox-security-developments-in-iraq-august-8/>

Following are security developments in Iraq at 1600 GMT on Monday.

HASWA - A bomb planted inside a policeman's house in Haswa, 50 km (30 miles) south of Baghdad, wounded four of his family members, a police source said. The policeman was not around at the time of the blast.

MOSUL - A roadside bomb went off near an Iraqi army patrol, killing a child and wounding a soldier in western Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, a police source in Nineveh province said.

BAGHDAD- Two bombs exploded in succession, late on Sunday, and wounded eight people, including three soldiers, in Amiriya district of western Baghdad, an Interior Ministry source said.

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24. **Unmanned 'River Drones' Could Be Used For IED Detection, Port Security** (Stars and Stripes)

Wednesday, 03 August 2011

<http://www.stripes.com/news/unmanned-river-drones-could-be-used-for-ied-detection-port-security-1.151058>

The U.S. military is preparing to launch a “river drone” that will move upstream ahead of special operations troops to conduct surveillance missions and look for ambushes and improvised explosive devices.

The 6-foot, 85-pound Modular Unmanned Surface Craft Littoral will be tested by personnel from the U.S. Navy’s Riverine Force Group 1 in Norfolk, Va., this summer, according to Capt. Duane Ashton of the Navy’s Unmanned Maritime Systems Program Office.

“This approach will add needed flexibility and reduce risk to our most expensive human assets,” said retired Lt. Col. David Johnson, executive director of the Center for Advanced Defense Studies.

Three of the river craft — which are small enough to be carried — were built by the Navy for \$700,000 each, although production costs would likely change if they were manufactured in bulk by a defense contractor, Navy officials said.

Such vessels could be useful tools for U.S. forces, who can expect to operate on rivers during future operations, Johnson said in an email.

“Many of the world’s largest port facilities are on rivers near densely populated urban centers,” he said. “In emerging economies, the river transportation network is essential to economic development.

Further, rivers are a vital source of water and food in an increasingly competitive world.”

U.S. forces operated on rivers in Vietnam and, more recently, in Iraq.

A remotely-operated river craft could be useful for a variety of missions, including port and dam security, counter-piracy operations, military deception, computer network operations and maritime operations in extreme conditions, Johnson said.

The U.S. military has used unmanned aircraft to perform numerous missions in Iraq and Afghanistan. However, a river drone might have advantages over an unmanned aircraft for certain missions and in certain weather conditions, Johnson said. For example, a river drone might have the ability to sample water conditions beneath the surface.

“Rivers are not the only part of the littoral where these could operate,” he said. “Deltas, estuaries, lakes and canals are part of the ecosystem.”

The drones could counter criminal and terrorist infiltration and strategic actions by a conventional enemy, he said.

“Can these boats be used to protect a pontoon bridge used by a land force crossing a river? Possibly,” he said. “Could they be used to attack such a bridge or a dam under obscure and difficult conditions without risking manpower? Definitely.”

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25. **How Did Insurgents Master Bomb Making: By Using Google** (Global Post)

Wednesday, 27 July 2011

<http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/regions/asia-pacific/thailand/110721/buddhists-arms-part-1>

***NOTE:** The link (above) includes a video clip of a bomb technician attempting to dismantle a VBIED.

The Pattani sultanate perished long before today's separatists were born. Still, they nostalgically recall it as an Islamic Eden. And once the occupying Siamese are driven back to Bangkok, Kasturi said, its eminence shall be restored.

"In the water, you have fish. In the field, you have rice. In the mountains, there is rubber," said Kasturi, speaking through phone static from his home-in-exile in Scandinavia.

"Pattani is very rich. We have petrol too. Nobody is talking about this," he said. "We could be more rich than Brunei!"

More suit-and-tie emissary than guerilla rebel, Kasturi seldom speaks to the media. When he does, he offers the only public face of an extremely opaque insurgency. Thai generals concede they have no idea who actually orders the violence.

Americans accustomed to Taliban-style jihad may be startled to hear some of Kasturi's proclamations. Despite the Thai army's U.S. backing — a State Department agent acknowledges providing "equipment, training and advice" — Kasturi insists his mujahideen are America friendly.

"I'm very sure that if America looked after our conflict, the solution would come very quick," he said. Besides, after the revolution, the sultanate will want a slice of Thailand's lucrative foreign tourist trade. "We have such nice beaches!"

Kasturi also counters allegations that his network has loose ties to Al Qaeda or regional Islamic terror groups. "We don't need them," he said. "We don't want to be blamed as part of them or praised either."

So just where did insurgents gain the expertise to stage nearly 2,000 bomb attacks since 2004, many detonated through mobile phones or walkie-talkies? And how did they manage in 2007 to pull off 91 bomb deaths, 13 more than that year's U.S. and coalition troop bomb deaths in Afghanistan?

"Google," Kasturi said. "Our young people are clever enough. You just Google it: 'How To Make a Bomb.'"

Whatever their sources, insurgent bombers have in recent years turned the Thai-Malaysia border into Asia's most bombed-scarred region.

Just eight years ago, their explosives reflected "neither exceptional sophistication nor much innovation," according to Anthony Davis, an expert on the conflict with Jane's Intelligence Review. Bombs were assembled from an over-the-counter explosive agent called "Powergel" and stuffed into tupperware casings with handfuls of rusty nails.

They have since graduated to methods seen in Iraq or Pakistan: car bombs, mobile phone detonators and difficult-to-jam radio triggers. Bombs planted in cheap motorbikes, Davis said, have become a “southern Thai speciality.”

Multi-wave attacks first wipe out unlucky civilians. Then they hit responding bomb squads with secondary charges planted nearby. Bombers even pulled off a triple-stage attack in late June. “To put it tritely but succinctly,” Davis said, “they are getting leaner and meaner.”

Inside Pattani province’s heavily fortified Camp Inkayut, the man responsible for thwarting insurgent bombers operates from a cement-walled office.

In the corner is a golden Buddha so heavy two men would struggle to lift it. In the hallway are a dozen-odd mugshots of known insurgent bombers. Some faces are X’d out in red.

“In the beginning, these guys used small bombs,” said Col. Thaweesak Chantrasint, commander of the Royal Thai Army’s Explosive Ordinance Disposal unit. “It was like they were just learning to put them together.”

Now, the colonel said, “they use six types of bomb techniques that are constantly revolving. We currently use mobile phone jammers, so they’re switching to different methods” such as two-way radio detonators. “And when we stop using phone jammers as much, they’ll go back to using cell phones.”

It is a high-stakes game of whack-a-mole. Only the elite can bear the mental and physical strain, he said. The commander’s men are subjected to at least four months of training that culminate in a gut-wrenching final exam: defusing a live bomb.

“I pressure my men with everything: hunger, fatigue, fear for their lives and sleeplessness,” the colonel said. “We pressure them until they are able to make decisions even when they’re in peril.”

Throughout the region, the steady threat of death-by-bomb has visibly altered the landscape. Driving through the deep south means navigating an obstacle course of candy-striped barricades and spot checks enforced by whisker-lipped recruits.

Those with enough cash have steel plates welded to their pick-up truck undercarriages. Those who’ve retained a sense of humor can buy the latest in infant wear from shops in frequently bombed Yala city: tiny T-shirts that say “Yala Kids Don’t Like Bombs!”

“We’re used to this. Our kids are used to it,” said Chalermkwan Choosaeng, 38, the proprietor of a snack shop across the street from a Yala elementary school.

Just hours before, a radio-detonated bomb had flecked her storefront with shrapnel. The target, a school traffic cop, took buckshot to the face. He ran blind into her shop, blood pouring from his eyes, and collapsed on her floor.

“None of the kids got hit. It wasn’t that bad,” she said.

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The worst one, on this street at least, was three years back. That explosion, a car bomb, left a man's shirt hanging in the tamarind trees. His severed arm sailed clear over the school gates. It was discovered by schoolchildren two days later.

"That was clearly worse than the one this morning," Chalermkwan said. She released an exasperated groan. "All this and I haven't eaten breakfast yet."

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26. **Four Troops Hurt In 20 Kg Bomb Blast** (Bangkok Post)

Saturday, 30 July 2011

<http://www.bangkokpost.com/news/local/249442/four-troops-hurt-in-20kg-bomb-blast>

A bomb planted on a road between Ban Parehlubo and Ban Kue Rong in tambon Maruebo in Narathiwat's Cho Airong district went off about 10am as a pick-up truck carrying an army major and three other soldiers passed by.

The explosion caused their truck to swerve off the road and plunge into a ditch. The four officers sustained minor head injuries.

They are Maj Samatchai Plaengsai, deputy chief of the Narathiwat 31 special task force; Capt Adisorn Khamchuai; Sgt Sirichai Treesat and Sgt Theeraphong Buntam.

Cho Airong police said the bomb was a homemade explosive, assembled in a fire extinguisher and weighing about 20 kilogrammes.

The explosion left a hole in the road measuring about one metre deep and 1.8 metres wide. The detonator was discovered in a bush about 20 metres away. Cho Airong police chief Pol Col Suthon Sukwiset said that as his team was inspecting the bomb scene, another bomb went off on the roadside about 200 metres away.

The second bomb weighed about 5kg and was detonated by a mobile phone. No one was injured.

Elsewhere in the same district, four M-79 grenades were fired into an outpost of the 31-6 peace development unit next to Ban Cho Ko mosque yesterday morning. No casualties were reported.

Capt Nalucha Buntam, a company chief in the Narathiwat 31 special task force, and three subordinates travelled in a pick-up truck to inspect the scene.

A roadside bomb, detonated by mobile phone, went off, but no one was hurt. The bomb damaged the truck's body and a side window.

In another development, rail services in Narathiwat are set to resume today following the completion of repairs to bomb-damaged sections of track.

Trains have been suspended since Wednesday when four bombs went off on a section of track in Rangae district. A railway worker lost his leg when he stepped on a mine as he took a break from repairs to the track, damaged in earlier blasts.

Manop Muanpreecha, chief at Tanyongmas station in Rangae district, said railway staff entered the bombed areas yesterday to repair sections of track damaged by the blasts.

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Repairs finished last night and services are set to resume today after earlier being suspended.

Several intending passengers turned up at Tanyongmas station yesterday to ask State Railway of Thailand officials when services will resume.

Internal Security Operations Command Region 4 deputy director Maj Gen Akara Tiproj said the blast was probably the work of a drugs trafficking ring. Earlier, railway security personnel seized 60,000 methamphetamine pills and arrested two suspects in Hua Hin, one of them from Rangae.

The drug seizure and the bomb blasts could be linked, police say.

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27. **Two Policemen Wounded In South Thailand's Yala Bombing** (MCOT)

Monday, 08 August 2011

http://www.mcot.net/cfcustom/cache_page/249387.html

Two border patrol police officers were wounded in a bombing at a 7-Eleven convenience store near the Southern Border Provinces Police Command Centre in Thailand's southernmost province of Yala.

The two injured police, identified as Pol Sen Sgt-Maj Somwong Niraro and Pol Sen Sgt-Maj Nipatcharaporn Kosuma, were going to work at the Command Centre in Phung Mueang 5 Road in Yala municipality. They were sent to Yala Hospital for treatment.

Set off by a radio signal, the explosion blew out a shallow hole about one metre wide in the road, with fragments of the radio and bomb scattered across the site.

Vehicles and nearby buildings were also damaged.

Police found a suspicious object, a small ice carrier wrapped in brown tape which they inspected and destroyed by robot. The bomb squad found only sand inside the carrier.

It was believed that the tape-wrapped ice carrier was a decoy to draw police to the scene before setting off an actual bomb to kill or wound the police.

Police are reviewing closed-circuit television (CCTV) coverage to identify the bombers, but believe a group of suspected insurgents led by Madaree Arong may be behind the attack as they are active in the area.

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28. **Bomb Blast Rocks Cotabato** (Phil Star)

Sunday, 07 August 2011

<http://www.philstar.com/Article.aspx?articleId=714285&publicationSubCategoryId=200>

A bomb exploded yesterday evening at the residence of a gun store owner in the southern Philippines, where a homemade bomb killed two people and wounded 10 others four days ago, officials said today.

Lawyer Cynthia Guani-Sayadi, city administrator, said the explosion occurred around 8 p.m. Saturday outside the house of JV Martinez along De Mazenod Street in the southern city of Cotabato occurred but no casualty was reported.

"The explosive was left outside Martinez residence. He was not around that time," said Sayadi. Martinez is the owner of a gun store along the city's Quezon Avenue where a bomb went off Tuesday killing two people and wounding 10 others.

"He (Martinez) already gave his side to the police. He told investigators that he has no idea why his shop was attacked. But we know that he has several grudges," said Sayadi.

"It's not enough. We wanted him to cooperate with the police who will dig deeper into the case. There's something fishy," Sayadi added.

Authorities were still determining the kind of bomb used in the latest attack.

Police said the twin attacks has nothing to do with terrorism but the military said the explosion outside the gun shop was carried out by students of militant leader Basit Usman of Jemaah Islamiyah.

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29. **FARC Kills s Civilian In Bomb Attack** (Columbia Reports)

Monday, 08 August 2011

<http://colombiareports.com/colombia-news/news/18157-farc-kill-civilian-in-bomb-attack.html>

One civilian was killed and three others injured in the northeastern department of Antioquia after alleged members of Colombia's guerrilla group FARC detonate a hidden explosive device, various local media reported Monday.

The explosive device was hidden in a load of brown sugar.

The army explained that "the improvised explosive device was left in a store, hidden in a load of brown sugar and was activated remotely by radio frequency," which killed a 26-year-old woman and injured another three people. Two people injured in the attack have been confirmed as Colombian soldiers.

According to reports gathered by the authorities from villagers, the woman was known for her "social work in the community of Manzanillo," where the attack occurred. Her brother was also killed by members of the FARC in 1999.

Authorities have attributed the attacks to the FARC's 36th Front, which is known to operate in this region.

Anti-explosives experts have been dispatched to areas surrounding the town, where the three wounded victims have been transported via helicopter to nearby hospitals.

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30. **Mail Bomb On Mexico Campus Injures 2 Professors** (Fox News)

Tuesday, 09 August 2011

<http://latino.foxnews.com/latino/news/2011/08/09/mail-bomb-on-mexico-campus-injures-2-professors/>

A mail bomb that exploded in a Mexican campus injured two professors, authorities said.

The prosecutor's office for the state of Mexico says a messenger service delivered the package Monday to the cubicle of one of the victims at a campus of Monterrey Technological Institute.

Prosecutor's spokesman Alfredo Albiter says investigators are trying to determine whether the bomb was detonated with a timer or by touch.

There was no indication of the motive.

Mexico's Interior Ministry says the professors suffered second- and third-degree burns. It says they were able to get themselves to a hospital and are listed in stable condition. Their names haven't been released.

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31. **Fresh Bomb Rocks Maiduguri, Kills 2** (Vanguard)

Friday, 05 August 2011

<http://www.vanguardngr.com/2011/08/fresh-bomb-rocks-maiduguri-kills-2/>

Two people were confirmed dead yesterday while two others were seriously injured in a bomb blast that rocked Maiduguri, the Borno State capital, even as Islamic sect, Boko Haram, accused northern governors of hypocrisy in their inconsistent policies.

The blast which occurred at about 7 a.m., along Baga Road within the metropolis, was followed by gun fire from suspected members of Jamaatyul Ahlis Sunnah lid Daawa wal Jihad popularly known as Boko Haram.

Confirming the incident, spokesman for the Joint Task Force, JTF, Lt-Col.Hassan Mohammed, said some suspected members of the Boko Haram planted an Improvised Explosive Device, IED, on the main road leading to Tashan Baga area.

Hassan said immediately after the blast, members of the JTF rushed to the scene of the incident and saw two persons dead and two others injured.

The injured, according to the JTF spokesman, were rushed to the University of Maiduguri Teaching Hospital for treatment.

Meanwhile, Boko Haram has accused Governor Patrick Yakowa of Kaduna State and other northern governors of hypocrisy and inconsistency in policy formulations.

The sect in a statement posted on its website said the Kaduna governor and the other northern governors approved money for the feeding of poor Muslims in their states last year to curry the favour of the electorate as elections were near then.

The statement said: "Now that they are in power, they have not deemed it fit to re-introduce the feeding programme for the less-privileged. Hypocrisy of the highest order.

Only Bauchi State government has so far approved N339 million for this year's feeding programme for the less-privileged in the state. And with this gesture, we will consider ceasing hostility in Bauchi State, except when provoked or under fire from the enemy."

In another development, Arewa Consultative Forum, ACF, has announced the donation of one N1 million to the victims of the Boko Haram in Borno State.

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32. **Police Defuse Explosive Device In Bauchi** (Next)

Monday, 09 August 2011

http://234next.com/csp/cms/sites/Next/Home/5738396-146/police_defuse_explosive_device_in_bauchi.csp

Residents of the busy Anguwar Ngas in Yelwa area of Bauchi metropolis were thrown into confusion Tuesday morning when they woke up to discover a device, suspected to be a bomb, planted near a gutter in the area.

The discovery of the device came two days after a bomb was detonated by unknown gunmen at a police check point near Central Market in the Bauchi State capital.

A resident of the area, who pleaded anonymity, said he saw the device at about 6am near the area where locally made gin (popularly called burukutu) was prepared and sold.

"We were shocked and afraid when we saw it and everybody ran away," he said.

The eye witness said that an unidentified boy was able to de-assemble the wired device and prevented it from exploding.

When journalists visited the area at about 8am, a team of Police bomb squad attached to the Government House, Bauchi was seen fiddling with the object.

A panic-stricken crowd gathered and watched from a distance as the busy road was barricaded by police who cleared the device and took it away.

Speaking with journalists later in his office, the State Commissioner of Police, Ikechukwu Aduba said it was a time-bomb device made from an air-conditioner compressor with all the components of a bomb.

Mr Aduba said that if it detonated, it would have caused a maximum damage within one and a half kilometers radius.

"It was dropped in a gutter in an area people normally take locally-made gin. We sent our bomb experts to the area who successfully detonated the bomb," he added.

Mr Aduba described the last three days in the state as "tough" for the command in terms of security challenge.

The Police Commissioner recalled that his men were ambushed in a heavily populated area on Saturday while on patrol. He said his men were undertaking a stop-and-search operation when a bomb was hurled into their patrol vehicle.

"Five of our men were injured and were taken to the hospital and have been discharged," he said.

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The commissioner of police however said the command would not be deterred by what was going on, saying that he regarded those perpetuating the criminal acts as "hoodlums".

He called on the public to help the police with vital information that would help in fighting crime.

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33. **Police: Man Arrested with IED In Inglewood** (Associated Press)

Wednesday, 03 August 2011

<http://www.sacbee.com/2011/08/03/3815842/police-man-arrested-with-ied-in.html>

Police say a 27-year-old man was arrested in Inglewood on suspicion of possessing an improvised explosive device that could have been fatal if detonated at close range.

Police Lt. James Madia says Leonardo Cejas Vargas was arrested Saturday night during a traffic stop.

Madia says officers found Vargas in possession of methamphetamine and some sort of device with a fuse protruding from it.

Sheriff's bomb squad investigators confirmed that it was an improvised explosive device with 15 to 20 times the amount of pyrotechnic powder contained in an M-80 firecracker.

Vargas is being held without bail. He could face up to seven years in prison if convicted.

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34. **Rural Mailbox Bombs Explode Near St. Joseph County's Lake Templene** (Mlive)

Tuesday, 09 August 2011

http://www.mlive.com/news/kalamazoo/index.ssf/2011/08/rural_mailbox_bombs_explode_ne.html

Two makeshift pressure bombs exploded in rural mailboxes in St. Joseph County over the weekend, and federal authorities plan to pursue the incidents until arrests are made, said Tom Picker, customer service supervisor at the [Sturgis Post Office](#).

Picker said a bomb placed in a heavy duty steel mailbox of the 63000 block of Balk Road was discovered by an elderly customer after it had gone off, leaving bits of tin foil in the box.

"She was quite shaken," Picker said.

A second device was discovered in a box on the 62000 block of Nottawa Road, again apparently after it went off, blowing the rear door of the box open, he said. It had been fashioned from a camouflage-style energy drink bottle, he said.

The bombs are generally made from household chemicals mixed in soda-pop bottle and left to build up pressure until they explode, Picker said. That can happen in a few minutes or hours later, and, depending on the size of the blast, can actually blow mailboxes apart, creating shrapnel from the torn box materials.

"We're quite concerned for the safety of our customers and our carriers," Picker said.

Both incidents were reported to the Postal Inspection Service, and to the St. Joseph County Sheriff's Department, he said.

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35. **USPS Worker Suffers Burns from Soda-Bottle Bomb** (Lehigh Valley Live)

Tuesday, 09 August 2011

http://www.lehighvalleylive.com/nazareth/index.ssf/2011/08/us_postal_service_worker_in_bu.html

A U.S. Postal Service worker suffered minor chemical burns Thursday in Bushkill Township when liquid from an exploded soda-bottle bomb dripped on her hand, police said.

Patricia Matolyak, 49, of Saylorsburg, was delivering mail about 10:20 a.m. in the 300 block of Sexton Road when she opened a mailbox and a bubbling yellowish-brown liquid dripped onto her hand, police said.

"I got splashed with this liquid and I don't know what it is," police said Matolyak told them.

A second soda-bottle bomb was found Monday morning in the township, but police don't know if it's related to the mailbox incident.

According to Bushkill Township Police Capt. Michael McLouth:

Inside the mailbox was a 16.9-ounce water bottle, foil and the liquid, which is suspected to be drain cleaner. The liquid was pooled in the box and came out when the door was opened. Police don't know when the bomb exploded.

Matolyak experienced a burning sensation on her hand then white dots appeared. She sought treatment on her own and is OK.

No arrests have been made in the case. Matolyak works out of the Wind Gap post office.

Another soda-bottle bomb was found about 7:30 a.m. Monday near Muschlitz and West Douglasville roads. A doll was found with three soda bottles duct-taped to it. Two of the bottles had exploded, but a the third was still under pressure.

Typically police would shoot the bottle with a .22-caliber gun, but they were worried about a ricochet from the road. They ended up running it over with a police vehicle. Fire crews cleaned up the liquid and disposed of the bottles. No arrests have been made in that case either.

Police ask anyone with information on either incident to call 610-759-9588.

Robert Cain, a bomb technician and firefighter with the Bethlehem Fire Department, said explosions from soda-bottle bombs don't usually create much damage. He said the danger is liquid inside the bottle, which can be shot out during the explosion causing a cloud or a mist.

The explosion force and sensitivity of the bombs all vary on the type of bottle used and how much chemical is inside, Cain said. Drinks are trending toward environmentally-friendly bottles, which are made with thinner plastic. Thinner walls means the bomb will blow faster, Cain said.

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Cain said people should call authorities if they see these types of devices, especially if they are bubbling or fizzing. He said nine times out of 10 they will explode within the first few minutes of them being sealed.

"Your best bet is to leave it alone and get out of the area," Cain said.

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36. **MD Governor to Sign Executive Order To Encourage Bomb Squad Coordination** (Associated Press)

Tuesday, 09 August 2011

http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/omalley-to-sign-executive-order-to-encourage-bomb-squad-coordination/2011/08/09/gIQAtzCw3I_story.html?wpisrc=emailtoafriend

Gov. Martin O'Malley is signing an executive order to encourage regional bomb squad coordination.

O'Malley will be discussing bomb squad readiness on Tuesday in Bowie at the Prince George's Public Safety Communication Center.

The executive order is going to encourage collaboration between federal, state and local law enforcement partners.

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