

RAPID

Realtime Analysis and Publishing of IED Data

WEEKLY NEWS UPDATE

Volume 3, Issue 4

25 JANUARY 2013

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



Improved Carriage Design Could Reduce Bomb- Related Injuries

Engineers at Newcastle University are hoping to reduce the risk of injury from terrorist attacks on trains by improving carriage design.



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1. [Attack, Afghanistan] Suicide Bomb Blast In Herat Province Of Afghanistan

Saturday, January 19 2013

<http://www.khaama.com/suicide-bomb-blast-in-herat-province-of-afghanistan-1262>

A heavy explosion rocked western Herat province of Afghanistan on Saturday. The incident took place in Guzara district.

Provincial security chief Hamidullah Hamidi confirming the report said the incident reportedly took place after a suicide bomber detonated his explosives.

Mr. Hamidi further added the suicide bombing was carried out by two suspected bombers riding a motorcycle.

In the meantime Guzara district chief Nisar Ahmad Popal said the two suicide bombers were looking to assassinate him however their explosives went off before they manage to enter the district government building.

He said Afghan civilians and security forces did not suffer any casualties following the incident.

No group including the Taliban militants has so far claimed responsibility behind the attack.





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2. [Security, Pakistan] Explosives Cache Discovered In Paktika

Saturday, January 19 2013

<http://wakht.af/en/index.php/security-and-crime/3125-explosives-cache-discovered-in-paktika.html>

A big explosives cache had been detected and seized through a search operation launched by the police fast reaction unit in southern province of Paktika, an official said Sunday.

The cache had been discovered at the vicinities of Sharan, the capital city of the province, where large quantity of different heavy and light bullets and mortars had professionally been replaced, police chief Daulat Khan Zadran told Wakht News Agency.

A would be involved in the case had also been arrested and put under police investigation, the sources said.

The incident takes place few days after nine people along with their heavy and light weapons and suicide vests had been arrested in the province.





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3. [Trend, Afghanistan] Afghan Family Suffer Casualties While Making Explosives

Sunday, January 20 2013

<http://www.khaama.com/afghan-family-suffer-casualties-while-making-explosives-2127>

According to local authorities in western Herat province of Afghanistan, at least five people were killed or injured following an improvised explosive device blast inside a residential house.

Police sources are saying that the incident took place while the members of the family were busy with making improvised explosive device.

Provincial security chief Hamidullah Hamidi said the family members were supporting the militants in this province by providing them with home made explosive devices.

Mr. Hamidi said the family was supported by an insurgent leader Mir Hamza who was killed along with his two sons and his wife and daughter were severely injured following the blast.

Herat is among the relatively peaceful province in western Afghanistan however militants have recently increased their insurgency activities in this province.

In the meantime local security officials are saying Afghan security forces thwarted two deadly bombing plots in this province.

Hamidullah Hamidi said Afghan forces seized a motorcycle packed with explosives along with a barrel of explosives before the militants manage to detonate the explosives.



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4. [Attack, Afghanistan] Taliban Suicide Assault Team Attacks Police Headquarters In Kabul

Monday, January 21 2013

http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2013/01/taliban_suicide_assa_11.php

The Taliban launched their second suicide assault against a security installation in the capital of Kabul in six days.

The suicide assault team targeted the traffic police headquarters in western Kabul at about 5:30 a.m. local time today. The five-man team was heavily armed with suicide vests, assault rifles, and hand grenades, according to reports.

The Interior Ministry stated that three policemen were killed in the initial attack. Two of the suicide bombers were shot and killed, and their explosive vests detonated afterward. The rest of the Taliban team entered the compound and fought for eight hours before being killed.

"Two suicide bombers were shot dead and their explosive vests went off shortly after the attack began and three other militants, who entered the building, were killed by security forces inside the facility during the counter-attack operation," the Ministry of Interior said, according to Xinhua.

Eight civilians and four policemen were wounded when a car bomb was detonated outside of the police headquarters. It is unclear if the car bomb was detonated remotely or by a suicide bomber.

Officials told Xinhua that the Taliban fighters fired rocket-propelled grenades at the nearby Afghan Border Police and Civil Order Police headquarters. The Interior Ministry did not report any casualties or damage to the two facilities.

The Taliban claimed credit for today's attack in Kabul, saying that four fighters carried out the attack. The Taliban identified the fighters as "Mohammad Nabi from Ghazni province, Amir Khan from Nangarhar, Habibullah from the Deh Sabz area of Kabul, and Abdul Latif from Baghlan," according to Pajhwok Afghan News.

The attack on the traffic police headquarters was the second against a security installation in the capital in six days. On Jan. 16, a suicide assault team attacked the National Directorate of Security headquarters in Kabul. All six fighters and one NDS guard were killed. The Taliban entered the compound before being repelled.

Today's attack, like the Jan. 16 assault on the NDS headquarters, took place in a high-security area of Kabul. Over the years, the Taliban have been able to penetrate sensitive areas of the capital to launch suicide bombings and assaults against Afghan ministries, ISAF headquarters, the US Embassy, hotels, and other targets.

The Taliban have also executed multiple suicide assaults against major ISAF bases outside of Kabul. The most successful attack against a major base took place on Sept. 14, 2012, when a suicide assault team attacked Camp Bastion in Helmand province. The 15-man Taliban team penetrated the perimeter at the airbase, destroyed six USMC Harriers and damaged two more, and killed the squadron commander and a sergeant. In the course of the assault, 14 of the 15 members of the assault team were killed, while the last was wounded and captured. Camp Bastion is a sprawling military base shared by US Marines and British troops that is located in the middle of the Dashti Margo desert in Helmand province.

Today's attack takes place as the Afghan government claims it is making progress on negotiations with the Taliban. But the Taliban have insisted that all foreign forces withdraw from the country before any agreement can be reached. Additionally, the Taliban have refused to denounce their ally, al Qaeda.





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5. [Attack, Pakistan] Blast In Mohmand Tribal Region Kills Two Security Personnel

Monday, January 21 2013

<http://dawn.com/2013/01/21/blast-in-mohmand-tribal-region-kills-two-fc-personnel-injures-nine-others/>

A blast in Mohmand tribal region's Dawezai area killed two security personnel and injured nine others, including three members of a peace committee, on Monday.

Assistant Political Agent Fahad Wazir said that the security forces vehicle was targeted in Kanra village of Dawezai in Pandjali Tehsil and that the vehicle was badly damaged in the attack.

"Two security personnel have died while five FC men and four khasadars were injured in the blast, which appears to a remote controlled blast." he added.

The injured were shifted to the Agency Headquarters Hospital Ghalanai from where they were airlifted to Peshawar via a helicopter.





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6. [Attack, Pakistan] ANP Leader Escapes Bomb Attack; Four Injured

Monday, January 21 2013

<http://paktribune.com/news/ANP-leader-escapes-bomb-attack;-four-injured-256710.html>

A local leader of Awami National Party (ANP), Muhammad Din Shah Afridi, on Sunday narrowly escaped a murderous attack carried out by exploding improvised explosive device (IED) through a remote control that left at least four people injured.

According to police, the bomb was planted in a motorcycle parked along a road in Khyber Chowk in Ittehad Town area within the limits of Mochko police station.

Police said that the explosive device went off when a vehicle bearing registration No ASE-386 passed from the blast site.

As a result, four people, Abdul Rehman, Kamran and Hussain traveling in a car with the ANP leader, and a passerby Imran received injuries.

The injured were rushed to hospitals for treatment.

Following the incident, a heavy contingent of Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) rushed to the scene and cordoned off the area to avoid any further untoward incidents.

The Bomb Disposal Squad (BDS) personnel also reached there.

A BDS official told media that the bomb weighed around eight kilogrammes.

It contained four kilogrammes of ball bearings and other explosive material.

He said that the explosive material was placed on the fuel tank of the motorcycle.

Besides partially damaging the vehicle of ANP leader, the powerful blast also damaged an ambulance, two rickshaws, a taxi, a nearby private hospital and a medical store.

The explosion also hit an electricity transformer installed there. Resultantly, smooth supply of electricity was suspended in the area.

ANP leader Basheer Jan, while talking to our sources, condemned the incident and demanded of the government to take stern action against the culprits behind the murderous attack.

He also demanded exemplary punishment to the perpetrators of the blast.

He said that Afridi, along with his cousin and security guards, was on his way to attend a Jirga, called by local business community and notables of the locality to devise a strategy against the rising anti-social activities, particularly extortions in the area.



He informed that Afridi was a contractor, besides being a social and political worker. He was also ex-councilor of UC-2, Baldia Town.

Police officials believed that Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) might have targeted the ANP leader. According to an official, Afridi himself was receiving telephones calls demanding extortion.



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7. [Attack, Pakistan] Three Hurt As Apartment Attacked In Karachi

Tuesday, January 22 2013

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-84854-3-hurt-as-apartment-attacked-in-Karachi>

Three persons including a woman were injured when some miscreants attacked a residential building in North Karachi area early Tuesday morning, Geo News reported.

According to SSP North Karachi, unknown miscreants attacked a flat situated on the third floor of Pearl Apartment near Nagan Chowrangi with explosives material. Due to the blast, three persons including a woman and two brothers were wounded.

The injured were shifted to Abbasi Shaheed Hospital where they were identified as Aijaz, Altaf and Tahira Khatoon.

Police told that the explosives were fit into a tennis ball that was thrown outside the flat and caused low-intensity explosion.



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8. [Security, Pakistan] Explosives Seized In Sibbi

Tuesday, January 22 2013

http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2013\01\22\story_22-1-2013_pg7_8

A bomb and explosives were seized in Goth Ghulam Kathore area of Sibi. Frontier Corps on Monday seized an explosive in the Goth Ghulam Kathore area of Sibbi district, official sources said. They informed that the FC team on a tip off, conducted the raid in Sibbi and recovered four kilogrammes of explosive, however no arrest was made in this connection. Local administration is looking into the incident. Separately, law enforcement personnel arrested a person and recovered explosive devices and a bomb from his possession in the Notal area of Nasirabad district on Monday. According to LEA sources, acting on a tip off, they conducted raid at a place and apprehended the accused at Goth Ghulam Kator area. A 4kg explosive material and a 10kg bomb were recovered from his possession.



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9. [Attack, Pakistan] Pakistan Bomb Blast Kills Five Militants

Wednesday, January 23 2013

<http://www.news24.com/World/News/Pakistan-bomb-blast-kills-5-militants-20130123>

An explosion on Wednesday at a suspected bomb-making facility in north-western Pakistan killed at least five militants, an intelligence official said.

Three others were also injured in the blast in the Jandre Kalay area of Orakzai tribal district, the official said on condition of anonymity.

The identities of those killed were not immediately known, but Taliban-linked militants are known to have hideouts in Orakzai.

Homemade bombs triggered remotely have become one of their favourite weapons against military and other targets.

Elsewhere, an Afghan allegedly linked to the killings of several Taliban figures was found dead near a market in Wana, the main town in South Waziristan tribal district, security and local sources said.

They said Asmat Ullah was believed to have been involved in the death of Taliban commander Maulvi Nazir, who was killed by a US drone strike this month.

It was not immediately clear who killed Ullah, but Nazir's supporters have a strong presence in the region.

Independent confirmation of incidents in the tribal region is difficult to get because it is off-limits to journalists.





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10. [Attack, Afghanistan] Suicide Bomb Blast Rocks Herat In Western Afghanistan

Wednesday, January 23 2013

<http://www.khaama.com/suicide-bomb-blast-rocks-herat-in-western-afghanistan-1281>

A heavy explosion rocked western Herat province of Afghanistan on Wednesday after a suicide bomber detonated his explosives near the vehicles convoy of Afghan security forces.

According to reports the suicide bomber planted explosives in a cycle and attacked the convoy of Afghan police forces while they were crossing the area.

The explosion took place in Enjil district around eight kilometers away from the main Herat city.

Preliminary reports suggest at least 8 Afghan police officers have been wounded and two of them are in a critical health condition.

No group including the Taliban militants has so far claimed responsibility behind the incident.

In the meantime deputy spokesman for the provincial police chief Syed Ahmad Mohammadi said the incident took place following a remote controlled bomb blast.





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11. [Attack, Pakistan] Bomb Planted In Concrete Block Kills Two Police Officers, Injures Nine In Southern Pakistan

Thursday, January 24 2013

http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia_pacific/official-pakistan-holds-700-suspected-militants-without-charges-under-controversial-law/2013/01/24/9596bbdc-6605-11e2-889b-f23c246aa446_story.html

Police say a bomb planted in a hollow concrete block has killed two police officers and injured nine other people in southern Pakistan.

Senior police officer Alilm Jaffery says the victims responded to a report of an explosion near a garbage bin Thursday evening and then were killed by the second blast after they reached the scene in eastern Karachi.

There has been an uptick in violence in Karachi, including several such twin explosions.

Jaffery says two of the injured officers died on the way to the hospital and a third is in critical condition.

A police patrol vehicle and two ambulances were damaged in the blast.



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12. [Security, Afghanistan] Car Full Of Explosive Devices Seized In Kabul

Thursday, January 24 2013

<http://www.bakhtarnews.com.af/eng/security/item/5999-car-full-of-explosive-devices-seized-in-kabul.html>

The security forces in Kabul seized a car full of explosive devices and prevented from a terrorist incident.

A press source of interior ministry who denied his name said BNA reporter, 40 sacks full of explosive devices which were placed in a car was seized by security forces from Kampany area, 5th district of Kabul.

Three persons were arrested on charges of the case but their identities were not clear.



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13. [Attack, Afghanistan] Suicide Bomb Blast Rocks Kapisa Province Of Afghanistan

Friday, January 25 2013

<http://www.khaama.com/suicide-bomb-blast-rocks-kapisa-province-of-afghanistan-2147>

According to local authorities in eastern Kapisa province of Afghanistan, a suicide bomber detonated his explosives at Tagab district on Friday morning.

Deputy provincial governor Aziz-ur-Rahman Tawab confirming the reports said at least five civilians were killed and over ten others were wounded following the blast.

Mr. Tawab further added the suicide bomber was looking to target a convoy of the NATO troops however the bomber detonated explosives packed in the vehicle near a residential house.

The incident took place in Jalo Khel area at Tagab district.

In the meantime Taliban militants group claimed responsibility behind the incident and a spokesman for the Taliban group Zabiullah Mujahid claimed at least 12 US troops were killed and two tanks were completely damaged following the attack.

The NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) confirmed the attack. "According to our reports, there was a vehicle attack on the coalition convoy in Tagab district, but we have no reports of coalition deaths or injuries," said Les Carroll, an ISAF spokesman.





AFRICOM

14. [Security, Nigeria] Bomb Found Near Kano Bank

Monday, January 21 2013

<http://dailytrust.com.ng/index.php/news-news/48941-breaking-news-bomb-found-near-kano-bank>

A bomb was detected near a first generation bank around 1pm at Murtala Mohammed Way in Kano. Police anti-bomb squad cordoned off the area and detonated the device.

PPRO Musa Magaji Majia confirmed that it was a controlled explosion. He said the detonation was carried out successfully, adding that normal activities had resumed in the area.

Murtala Muhammad Way is home to many banks in the state.



AFRICOM

15. [Security, Ghana] Bomb Attack Foiled

Tuesday, January 22 2013

<http://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/NewsArchive/artikel.php?ID=262795>

Information reaching The Al-Hajj suggest that there was an attempt last week by some yet to be identified persons to blow up a National Security Communication Center which controls major official information of the intelligence services and government of Ghana.

The attempted bomb attack on the intelligence-gathering hub also known as the GCHQ situated in a prime location in the nations' capital was implicitly foiled by the anti-bomb squad of the Ghana Armed Forces (GAF).

A similar attempt, The Al-Hajj has gathered was early this year made on another national strategic installation which was also foiled. Confirming the latest particular incident to The Al-Hajj, a dependable source at National Security explained that its officials discovered that an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) was tied and planted under a transformer belonging to the Electricity Company of Ghana which shares wall with GCHQ, but added that "the anti-bomb disposal unit of the GAF was quickly alerted and they promptly deployed their personnel to the scene to defuse it."

The source noted that the explosive device, which was later found out to be packs of dynamites failed to deliver on its mission because "the dew quenched the fire that was set at a long string that was tied to it"

According to the source, the GCHQ is always manned by security operatives but they are always inside the building, adding "though the building is located at an open space within the vicinity, hardly will someone know that it belongs to National Security."

"I can't tell the motive behind this attack, but as I said, if the attackers had succeeded in bombing the facility, they would have jammed all government and national security information/communication and only God knows what the perpetrators of this heinous crime would have done afterwards?" he bellowed The source was quick to add that "we have an idea of those behind the dastardly act and we are on their trail...very soon we will arrest and deal with them according to the laws of the country. Reports are that a similar attempt was employed by some unidentified persons earlier this year to blow up another major facility of National Security significance, which also serves as a very vital tool and gateway for the nation "the intelligence service acted swiftly to avert the incidence." The fruitless attempt on the facility, which is said to have taken place just immediately after the swearing-in of President John Maham on 7th January this year, our source revealed, is no different from what took place at National Security Communication Center.

Meanwhile, some security experts who spoke to The Al-Hajj on the incidence argue that the current developments clearly cannot be divorced from the on-going political and legal tug-of-war between the ruling NDC and the main opposition NPP.

"This attack on the GCHQ is purely politically motivated...if you ask me", one analyst stated.

Another noted that the attack has a direct bearing on the just-ended election, which the NPP is in court challenging.



“Why, we know how they planted series of bombs at vantage points and on innocent children to be thrown at Dr Kwame Nkrumah; we’ve not forgotten how they connived with the CIA to make the country ungovernable for the founder of this nation and later succeeded in staging a coup d’état in 1966 that overthrew him...all of us know their history. “They are professional bomb-throwers; I won’t be surprise if it turned out that they are behind the attack on the GCHQ,” the commentator averred. Reacting to the incidence, a source close to the National Security Coordinator, Lt. Col Larry Gbevlo discloses to The Al-Hajj that the security service has taken over the matter, adding that “investigation is ongoing to reveal the motive behind the attack and possibly apprehend those who masterminded it.” The source said, the deployment of the anti- bomb squad of the GAF to the scene last week was principally to defuse the Improvised Explosive Devices and also to embark on preliminary investigation into the incidence. “Everybody should go about their normal duty peacefully and without fear as the various security agencies have been resourced adequately to deal with any person or group of persons who tries to destabilize the country through extremist attacks,” the source advised

The NPP rejected results of the December 7 and 8 elections, claiming the elections were rigged in favor of President John Dramani Mahama and are currently challenging the results at the highest court of the land, the Supreme Court.

Leaders of the party insist there was ‘incontrovertible evidence’ of widespread irregularities which favored the president and greatly impacted the final outcome of the poll.

Prior to filing their petition at the Supreme Court, irate supporters of the party gathered at the 'Obra Spot' in Accra to vent out their grievances leading to fatal attacks of some journalists and perceived supporters of the National Democratic Congress (NDC).



AFRICOM

16. [Security, Nigeria] Plateau Police Destroy 140 IEDs In Jos

Wednesday, January 23 2013

http://premiumtimesng.com/regional/116745-plateau-police-destroy-140-ieds-in-jos.html?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=plateau-police-destroy-140-ieds-in-jos

The Anti-bomb Unit of the Plateau Police Command on Wednesday in Jos destroyed 140 Improvised Explosive Devices, IEDs, recovered from failed bomb attempts.

The unit Commander, Abel Mbibi, who supervised the destruction exercise, said that the bombs did not explode before they were discovered and defused by men of the unit in Jos and parts of Bauchi State.

Mr. Mbibi stated that the IEDs, which were recovered over time, were kept for public awareness purposes and identification by sister security agencies.

“The idea is to educate sister agencies to help them in identify IEDs because they take various forms and shapes,” he said.

The unit commander said that 90 per cent of the enlightenment on the bombs had been achieved and that there was need to destroy the IEDs as some had started deteriorating

He said the IEDs that were destroyed are homemade and refined grenades, unexploded military stores (another type of explosive), compressors, gas cylinders and cone iron pipes.

“Also here are some devices manufactured inside vegetable tins, plastic cans, coca cola tins and several others in different shapes,” he added.

Mr. Mbibi said the destruction of the IEDs was a routine exercise, aimed at saving the society from their harmful effects.

To ensure the safety of people around the Quarry area in Zaramaganda, Jos, where the exercise was carried out, he said that the unit gave several days notice, advising people to steer clear of the vicinity between 6:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

“We took time to ensure that nobody was anywhere close to the quarry to avoid any casualty as a result of the blast,” he said.

Mr. Mbibi assured members of the public that the unit would not rest on its oars in a bid to ensure a bomb-free society.

He called on the public to always assist the police and other security agencies with useful information that would lead to the recovery of bombs before they exploded.



AFRICOM

17. [Attack, Mali] Mali Militants Blow Up Strategic Bridge Leading To Niger

Friday, January 25 2013

<http://dawn.com/2013/01/25/mali-militants-blow-up-strategic-bridge-leading-to-niger/>

Militants have dynamited a strategic bridge near the Niger border on the road to Gao, one of the main towns in northern Mali occupied by extremists, sources said Friday.

“The Islamists dynamited the Tassiga bridge. No one can pass to Niger or come to Gao,” said the owner of a transport business, Abdou Maiga.

A security source from neighbouring Niger confirmed the bridge’s destruction.

“Since this morning, no vehicle has left the border for Gao because the Islamists destroyed the Tassiga bridge with dynamite. No one can pass anymore,” he said.

Tassiga is a Malian town situated 60 kilometres from the Niger border.

The destruction of the bridge comes as 2,000 Chadian and 500 Niger soldiers are planning to enter eastern Mali from Niger to open up a new front against the Islamists who have occupied northern Mali for 10 months.

French warplanes that have bombarded Islamist positions for two weeks in a bid to oust the extremists struck their bases in Ansongo, 40 kilometres from Tassiga on the road leading to Gao, on Wednesday night.

French and Malian troops were also carrying out patrols in the area.



CENTCOM

18. [Security, Egypt] Rising Concerns Over Foreign Militants In The Sinai As More Explosives Seized

Saturday, January 19 2013

http://www.longwarjournal.org/threat-matrix/archives/2013/01/concern_that_militants_from_al.php

Egyptian authorities today seized one ton of explosives that were in transit to the Sinai. A security official told DPA that they were likely destined for the Gaza Strip. The driver of the truck is being detained, along with the 50 crates of explosives, according to Ma'an News Agency.

Meanwhile, Egyptian officials are reportedly worried that militants from Algeria and Libya are now operating in the Sinai Peninsula. These concerns were reported by the Los Angeles Times as Algerian forces were winding up their siege of the In Amenas gas facility.

The existence of foreigners among the jihadist groups operating in the Sinai has been known since at least June 2011, when Adi Saleh Abdullah al Fudhayli al Hadhli (a.k.a Abu Hudhayfa al Hudhali), a Saudi member of the Mujahideen Shura Council in the Environs of Jerusalem (MSC), was killed after carrying out an attack that killed one Israeli civilian. However, in recent weeks officials have increasingly noted the existence of foreigners among the jihadist groups. According to one report, Western officials now estimate that there are at least several hundred jihadists, some of whom are from Yemen and Somalia, now operating in the Sinai.

Since the beginning of the so-called Arab Spring, a number of Salafi jihadist groups linked to al Qaeda have sprouted up in the Egyptian Sinai. The terror groups have conducted attacks against the Egyptian military and policemen, Israel, UN peacekeepers in the Sinai, and a pipeline transporting natural gas to Israel and Jordan. Israeli intelligence believes that most of the attacks originating in the Sinai have been carried out by Ansar Jerusalem, also known as Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis.

In recent weeks, Egyptian authorities have seized a number of weapons and explosives in the Sinai believed to be destined for the Gaza Strip, including short-range rockets and antiaircraft and antitank missiles.

On Jan. 7, Egyptian authorities foiled a car bomb plot in the city of Rafah, near Gaza; the intended target is still unknown. Following the incident, Egyptian authorities issued a security alert for the Sinai as intelligence services received information about potential attacks by extremist groups in the Sinai.

Recent press reports have indicated that Egyptian authorities are worried that Islamist militants in the Sinai may soon resume attacks in response to the Egyptian army's statements that it does not intend to stop its operations or negotiate with the militants.



CENTCOM

19. [Trend, Syria] Russian Government To Evacuate More Than 100 Russians From Syria

Monday, January 21 2013

http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle_east/syrian-regime-says-rebel-attack-on-main-power-line-causes-overnight-blackout-in-damascus/2013/01/21/1990329c-63a4-11e2-889b-f23c246aa446_story.html

Russia said Monday it is sending two planes to Lebanon to start evacuating its citizens from Syria, the strongest sign yet that President Bashar Assad's most important international ally has serious doubts about his ability to cling to power.

The Russian announcement came as anti-government activists reported violence around the country, including air raids on the town of Beit Sahm near Damascus International Airport, just south of the capital.

Russian officials said about 100 of the tens of thousands of Russian nationals in the country will be taken out overland to Lebanon and flown home from there, presumably because renewed fighting near the airport in Damascus has made it too dangerous for the foreigners to use that route out of the Syrian capital.

Assad has dismissed calls that he step down. He has proposed a national reconciliation conference, elections and a new constitution, but the opposition insists he play no role in a resolution to the conflict. The U.N. says more than 60,000 people have died in the civil war since March 2011.

Russia has been Assad's main ally since the conflict began, using its veto power in the U.N. Security Council to shield Damascus from international sanctions.

Russia recently started to distance itself from the Syrian ruler, signaling that it is resigned to him losing power. Russian President Vladimir Putin said last month that he understands Syria needs change and that he was not protecting Assad.

Russian officials say the evacuation of thousands of its citizens from Syria — many of them Russian women married to Syrians — could be by both air and sea.

A squadron of Russian Navy ships currently is in the Mediterranean for a planned exercise near Syrian shores later this month. Military officials earlier said that the exercise will simulate marines landing and taking people on board from the shore.

Earlier this month, Lakhdar Brahimi, who is the joint U.N.-Arab League envoy for Syria, said that Russia seemed as determined as the United States to end Syria's civil war, but that he didn't expect a political solution to emerge anytime soon.

The Arab League chief said Monday that Brahimi's mission had not yielded even a "flicker of hope."

In Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, Nabil Elaraby proposed that the heads of state gathered there at an economic summit call for an immediate meeting of the U.N. Security Council. He suggested the security council adopt a resolution calling for a cease-fire in Syria and establish a monitoring force to ensure compliance.

Syria's defense minister said Monday that the army would keep chasing rebels all over the country "until it achieves victory and thwarts the conspiracy that Syria is being subjected to."

Gen. Fahd Jassem al-Freij's comments came as activists reported air raids and shelling around the nation.

Monday's fighting included a helicopter raid in the northeastern town of Tabqa that killed eight people, according to the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

The Observatory also reported a car bombing in the Damascus neighborhood of Dumar and said another car bomb exploded late Monday in central Syria, killing at least 30 pro-government gunmen in Salamiyeh.

In addition, the group said there were clashes in the town of Ras al-Ayn near the border with Turkey between fighters from the Kurdish Democratic Union Party, or PYD, which leans in favor of Syria's government and anti-government rebels, who entered the town in November.

Tensions have flared between Syria and Turkey after shells fired from Syria landed on the Turkish side of the bor-



der. As a result, Germany, the Netherlands and the United States decided to send two batteries of Patriot air defense missiles each to protect Turkey, their NATO ally.

On Monday, German soldiers unloaded trucks carrying the missile systems at the port of Iskenderun, while another ship, carrying the Dutch shipment, waited its turn anchored at the harbor.

The U.N. said that there are an estimated 4 million people were in urgent need of humanitarian assistance in Syria, including at least 2 million who are internally displaced. With harsh winter conditions, people are facing heavy rains and sub-zero temperatures, often without adequate food, shelter, water or access to medical care.

The McClatchy news organization published a report on Monday, supporting activists' claim that Syrian forces have been targeting bakeries. According to data compiled by the news organization, government forces attacked bread lines and bakeries at least 80 times last year, causing hundreds of casualties and in most cases destroying the bakeries.

The Syrian government, meantime, blamed a rebel attack on a key power line for a blackout that hit Damascus and much of the country's south overnight, leaving residents cold and in the dark amid a fuel crisis that has stranded many at home.

The Syrian capital's 2.5 million residents have grown used to frequent power cuts as the country's conflict has damaged infrastructure and sapped the government's finances. But some said Monday that the overnight outage was the first to darken the entire capital since the conflict began.

The blackout hit residents especially hard because of rampant fuel shortages and below-freezing temperatures. "We covered ourselves from the cold in blankets because there was no diesel or electricity for the heaters," said retired teacher Mariam Ghassan, 60. "We changed our whole lives to get organized for power cuts, but now we have no idea when the power will come or go."

By midday Monday, power had returned to more than half of the capital, and Electricity Minister Imad Khamis said authorities were working to restore it in other areas.



CENTCOM

20. [Attack, Iraq] Two Blasts, Suicide Attack Kill 17 In Baghdad

Tuesday, January 22 2013

<http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Middle-East/2013/Jan-22/203289-iraq-suicide-car-bomb-kills-five.ashx#axzz2lisByikZ>

Three blasts, including a suicide bomber attack near an army base, killed least 17 people across Baghdad on Tuesday, the latest violence as Shiite Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki faces increasing pressure from a political crisis.

The most deadly explosions took place in Taji, 20 km (12 miles) north of Baghdad, where a suicide bomber driving a car packed with explosives detonated his bomb near an army base, killing at least seven people and wounding 24.

Another parked car bomb exploded in a crowded market in the Shiite neighbourhood of Shula, northwestern Baghdad, killing 5 people and wounded 13, police and hospital sources said.

In Mahmudiya, a town 30 km (20 miles) south of Baghdad, a car bomb attack near an army checkpoint killed five people, including two soldiers and wounded 14 more, including four soldiers.

Violence in Iraq has eased since the widespread sectarian carnage of 2006-2007, but Sunni Islamist insurgents still launch frequent attacks, seeking to reignite confrontation between the Shiite majority, Sunni Muslims and ethnic Kurds.

Shiite premier Maliki's government is trying to ease mass Sunni protests that erupted a month ago and his central government is also locked in a dispute with the country's autonomous Kurdistan region over control of oilfields.





CENTCOM

21. [Attack, Syria] Syrian Car Bomb Kills 30, Separate Blast Rocks Capital

Tuesday, January 22 2013

<http://nwww.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20130122000546>

A suicide car bombing in central Syria killed at least 30 people on Monday, a watchdog said, also reporting a powerful blast in Damascus, as the Arab League said U.N. efforts to end the conflict had failed to bring even a “glimmer” of hope.

The United Nations said it would conduct a major humanitarian operation in the war-torn country, with its mission to Syria describing the need for it as “enormous,” having found people in dire need of medical and alimentary aid.

Moscow, one of President Bashar al-Assad’s last remaining supporters, announced it would send two planes to Lebanon to evacuate more than 100 Russians out of Syria.

The suicide bombing that targeted a building used by pro-regime militiamen in Salmiyeh, a town in the central province of Hama, killed more than 30 people, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

State news agency SANA also reported the blast, saying that “a terrorist suicide car bomb was detonated in the heart of Salmiyeh, leaving a number of people killed and others wounded.”

The Britain-based Observatory simultaneously reported a deadly powerful explosion in Damascus’s upscale Dumar neighborhood, but gave no further details and was unable to provide an immediate death toll.

The blasts came as Arab League chief Nabil al-Arabi said the mission of the international peace envoy to Syria, Lakhdar Brahimi, had so far not even “yielded a glimmer of hope” to end the 22-month conflict.

The head of the 22-member bloc urged the Arab leaders to call “the U.N. Security Council for an immediate meeting and to issue a resolution enforcing a ceasefire to stop the bloodbath.”

He also called for an “international monitoring force to make sure that fighting has stopped.”

More than 60,000 people have been killed in the conflict that erupted in March 2011 as a popular uprising against the Assad regime, according to the United Nations.

The U.N. mission assessing the “enormous” humanitarian needs in Syria found people — especially children — in dire need of food, medical care and clean water, and said it would conduct a major humanitarian operation.

Martin Nesirky, spokesman for U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, said a team from seven humanitarian agencies visited the city of Homs and on Monday morning crossed conflict lines into Talbiyeh.

“It has to be a big U.N. humanitarian operation in Syria. That is what the people expect of this mission,” said John Ging, director of operations for the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, who headed the team.

About four million Syrians, half of them driven from their homes by the fighting, are in urgent need of aid, the U.N. says.



But the opposition Syrian National Coalition warned following talks in Istanbul that it would pressure the U.N. to stop the delivery of any form of aid to the Assad regime.

“The participants decided to form a committee to move diplomatically and pressure the United Nations to stop delivery of any aid, approved under a plan to respond to Syria humanitarian needs last month, to the official Syrian institutions,” it said.

Meanwhile staunch Assad ally Moscow, which has repeatedly vetoed U.N. resolutions to impose sanctions on Damascus, said it would send two planes to help evacuate Russian citizens from Syria via Lebanon.

Russia “will send two planes to Beirut in Lebanon so all the Russians who wish to can leave Syria,” Irina Rossious, spokeswoman for the emergency situations ministry, was quoted as saying by Interfax news agency.

“More than 100 Russians are expected to leave Syria on board these planes,” she said, without giving any more details.

In New York, U.N. leader Ban Ki-moon and Brahimi hit out at “outside powers” for providing arms to rebels and the government that are fuelling the murderous death toll.

They both expressed “anguish” at the carnage in the 22-month-old conflict and the major powers’ failure to agree to a stance on the war to push the two sides into talks, said Ban’s spokesman.

The U.N. did not name any countries.

Russia and Iran are key arms suppliers to President Assad, however. The Syrian government in turn accuses Qatar, Turkey and other Gulf states of arming the opposition.

On the ground, fierce fighting raged between rebels and forces loyal to Assad, including militias, as the Observatory reported the formation of a new paramilitary force of men and women, some trained by key ally Iran, to fight what is now becoming a guerrilla war.

The Observatory, which relies on activists and medics on the ground for its information, said the National Defense Army gathers together existing popular committees of pro-regime civilian fighters under a new better-trained and armed hierarchy.

The Observatory gave an initial toll of 142 people killed nationwide on Monday, including 34 civilians and the 30 killed in the Hama car bombing.



CENTCOM

22. [Attack, Iraq] Suicide Bomb Blast At A Shiite Mosque In Iraq Kills 42

Wednesday, January 23 2013

<http://www.ndtv.com/article/world/321411>

A suicide bomb at a funeral in a Shiite mosque in north Iraq killed at least 42 people on Wednesday, the latest in a spate of deadly violence amid a political crisis engulfing the country.

The attack, which also left 75 people wounded, struck at the Sayid al-Shuhada mosque in Tuz Khurmatu, 175 kilometres (110 miles) north of Baghdad, and targeted the funeral of a relative of a politician who was killed a day earlier.

No group claimed responsibility, but Sunni militants often launch attacks in a bid to destabilise the government and push Iraq back towards the sectarian violence that blighted it from 2005 to 2008.

Niyazi Moamer Oghlu, the secretary general of the provincial council of Salaheddin, which surrounds Tuz Khurmatu, put the toll from the attack at 42 dead and 75 wounded.

"Corpses are on the ground of the Husseiniyah (Shiite mosque)," said Shallal Abdul, mayor of Tuz Khurmatu, which lies 175 kilometres (110 miles) north of Baghdad. "The suicide bomber managed to enter and blow himself up in the middle of the mourners."

Among the wounded were officials and tribal leaders, including Ali Hashem Mukhtar, the deputy chief of the Iraqi Turkman Front and a provincial councillor in Salaheddin, which surrounds Tuz Khurmatu.

The funeral had been for Mukhtar's brother-in-law, who was shot dead in Tuz on Tuesday afternoon. Wednesday's suicide bomb came after a wave of attacks in and around Baghdad and in northern Iraq killed 26 people and wounded dozens more, shattering a relative calm after a spate of deadly violence last week.

The unrest comes amid a political crisis that has pitted Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki against several of his erstwhile government partners and with more than four weeks of anti-government protests in Sunni majority areas hardening opposition against the Shiite leader's rule.



CENTCOM

23. [Attack, Syria] Syrian Islamist Rebels Detonate Car Bomb Near Israel Border

Friday, January 25 2013

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/01/25/us-syria-crisis-bomb-idUSBRE9000FB20130125>

Eight members of Syria's military intelligence were killed by an Islamist militant car bomb on Thursday night near the southern frontier with the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights, opposition activists and a violence monitoring group said on Friday.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the bomb was planted by Al-Nusra Front, a rebel unit fighting to oust President Bashar al-Assad that the United States has labeled a terrorist group.

"We think the blast might have killed a colonel who has been leading the fight against rebels in the area," Rami Abdelrahman, head of the Britain-based Observatory said. The building targeted is in the town of Saasa, 14 miles from the frontier with the Golan Heights, he said.

He added that death toll was likely to rise as several security personnel were in a critical condition.

Syrian rebels have been battling Assad's army for months in towns inside and adjacent to the Area of Separation between Israel and Syria, along the disengagement line from the 1973 war.

State-run Israel Radio aired what it said was an interview with an unnamed man from Saasa saying the explosion was close to Israel. "I heard an explosion. I did not see it, I heard it. It was a very large explosion," he said.



CENTCOM

24. [Attack, Syria] Car Bombs Kill Eight In Syrian Golan As Assad's Regime Calls On Refugees To Come Back Home

Friday, January 25 2013

http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle_east/syrian-government-calls-on-dissidents-citizens-who-fled-civil-war-to-return-home/2013/01/25/53a54c80-66c7-11e2-889b-f23c246aa446_story.html

Twin car bombs in the Syrian-controlled part of the Golan Heights have killed eight people, activists said Friday as the government called on those who fled the country during the civil war to return, including regime opponents. The persistent violence and the moribund peace plan offered by President Bashar Assad — now enforced by his appeal to refugees and political opponents to come back — underlines the intractable nature of the 22-month conflict that has killed more than 60,000 people and left the international community at a loss to find a way to end the bloodshed.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said two cars packed with explosives blew up near a military intelligence building in the town of Quneitra on Thursday, killing eight. Most of the dead were members of the Syrian military, the Observatory said. The Syrian government has not commented on the attacks.

There was no claim of responsibility for the blasts. Car bombs and suicide attacks targeting Syrian troops and government institutions have been the hallmark of Islamic militants fighting in Syria alongside rebels trying to topple Assad.

Quneitra is on the cease-fire line between Syria and Israel, which controls most of the Golan Heights after capturing the strategic territory from Syria in the 1967 war.

Since the conflict began, more than half million Syrians have fled to neighboring Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey.

Those who left include opposition activists and defectors, both ordinary soldiers and army officers who switched to the rebel side, which is fighting to topple Assad, whose family has ruled Syria for more than four decades.

The state-run SANA news agency said the government will help hundreds of thousands of citizens return whether they left “legally or illegally.” Syrian opposition figures abroad who want to take part in reconciliation talks will also be allowed back, according to an Interior Ministry statement carried by SANA late Thursday.

If they “have the desire to participate in the national dialogue, they would be allowed to enter Syria,” the ministry said.

The proposed talks are part of Assad’s initiative to end the conflict that started as peaceful protests in March 2011 but turned into a civil war. Tens of thousands of activists, their family members and opposition supporters remain jailed by the regime, according to international activist groups.

Opposition leaders, who have repeatedly rejected any talks that include Assad, could not immediately be reached to comment the Syrian regime’s latest appeal. The opposition — including the rebels fighting on the ground — insists he must step down. Their demand is backed by the international community, but Assad clings to power, vowing to crush the armed opposition.

Both sides remain convinced they can win militarily, and while Assad’s forces maintain control over the capital, the rebels have in recent weeks captured large swaths of territory in the country’s north and east, including parts of Aleppo, Syria’s largest city and its main commercial hub.

Also Friday, regime troops shelled Homs and soldiers battled rebels around the central province with the same name, which was a major frontline during the first year of the revolt. An amateur video posted online by activists showed rockets slamming into buildings in the rebel-held town of Rastan, just north of the provincial capital, Homs. The sound of heavy gunfire could be heard in the background.

Another video showed thick black and grey smoke rising from a building in the besieged city. “The city of Homs is burning... Day and night, the shelling of Homs doesn’t stop,” the narrator is heard saying.

Troops also battled rebels around Damascus in an effort to dislodge opposition fighters who have set up enclaves



in towns and villages around the capital. The troops fired artillery shells at several districts, including on Zabadani and Daraya, according to the Observatory.

Another activist group, the Local Coordination Committees, said regime warplanes carried out airstrikes on the suburb of Douma, the largest patch of rebel-held ground near Damascus.

Both groups depend on a network of activists on the ground around the country.

As violence in the past weeks continued unabated in the south and in central Syria, thousands have been fleeing their homes daily, according to aid agencies, seeking shelter in Jordan and Lebanon, where authorities have struggled to cope with the unprecedented refugee influx.

The Britain-based Save the Children said Friday that 10,000 Syrians, mostly women and children, fled to Jordan over the last 24 hours due to intense fighting between troops and rebels in southern parts of the country, including in Daraa, where the uprising against Assad first erupted.

More than 3,000 of those have reached Jordan's overcrowded Zaatari refugee camp, where five buses, crammed with "frightened and exhausted people who fled with what little they could carry," pull up every hour, according to Saba al-Mobasat, an aid worker of Save the Children in Zaatari.

Last month, the United Nations refugee agency said it needed \$1 billion to aid Syrians in the region, while \$500 million was required to help refugees in Jordan. The UNHCR says 597,240 refugees have registered or are awaiting registration with the agency in Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq and Egypt. Some countries have higher estimates, noting many have found accommodations without registering.

Jordan hosts more than 300,000 Syrians.



EUCOM

25. [Attack, Greece] Makeshift Bomb Injures Two At Greek Shopping Mall

Sunday, January 20 2013

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/01/20/us-greece-blast-idUSBRE90J04A20130120>

A makeshift time-bomb lightly injured two security staff at a large shopping center near Athens on Sunday, in escalating political violence in the crisis-hit country.

The blast followed gun and bomb attacks on political figures and journalists in recent weeks, some claimed by anti-establishment leftists angry about Greece's financial woes.

The device, which exploded shortly before 11 a.m. (4.00 a.m. ET), was left in a rubbish bin close to a National Bank branch at The Mall shopping center in the middle-class Maroussi area, said police. There have been no claims of responsibility so far.

The time bomb contained about 1.5 kilos (3.3 lb) of gelatinous dynamite and a mixture of ammonium nitrate and fuel oil, known as ANFO, according to a police official who declined to be named.

While shops are closed on Sunday, cafes, cinemas and restaurants in the center were open for business. Police evacuated the mall after two warning calls to a newspaper and a news site, made about half an hour earlier.

Maroussi mayor George Patoulis told state Net TV about 200 people were in the shopping center.

"We were doing inventory in our shop and the police told us to evacuate. We ran out and in 10 minutes we heard the blast. It all happened really fast," a shop clerk told SKAI radio.

Police shut down a metro station, combed the center for other bombs and checked security cameras. Authorities said the two security guards suffered minor cuts from shattered glass.

A camera showed two persons, probably male, placing a bag in the rubbish bin about half an hour before the warning call to the newspaper and then leaving the site, police said.

All major political parties condemned the attack, the first to cause injuries in several years.

"We are dealing with a new type of terrorism that not only picks symbolic targets but wants blood and death," the co-ruling Socialist PASOK party said in a statement.

The country's public order ministry urged the political class to work together to end the violence.

"It is not enough to verbally condemn the incident, there must be an absolute isolation of violence and terrorism by the political system. The message is our democracy cannot be terrorized," it said in a statement.

The government has said in the past Syriza, the radical leftist main opposition party, tacitly backs anti-establishment groups. Syriza, which condemned Sunday's attack, denies this.

"The attack shocked us. It is the first time commercial areas are targeted. This scares consumers and hurts the mar-



ket at a time when social peace is needed," the president of the Confederation of Greek Commerce, Vassilis Korkidis, told Reuters.

Greece is in the sixth year of a recession that has fuelled anger against banks, foreign lenders and politicians, blamed by Greeks for bringing the country close to bankruptcy.

The U.N. refugee agency, UNHCR, says racist attacks have also risen to alarming levels in Greece during the crisis, and hundreds of demonstrators in Athens on Saturday paraded the coffin of a Pakistani immigrant who was stabbed to death.

On Monday, unidentified attackers opened fire on the Athens headquarters of Greece's co-ruling New Democracy party with a Kalashnikov assault rifle.





EUCOM

26. [Attack, Turkey] Blast Hits Kirkuk-Ceyhan Pipeline, Oil Flows Continue

Monday, January 21 2013

<http://english.alarabiya.net/articles/2013/01/21/261688.html>

An explosion rocked the Kirkuk-Ceyhan pipeline carrying crude oil from Iraq to Turkey on Saturday night but oil flows were continuing and exports were not affected, Turkish energy officials said on Monday.

The blast occurred in the southeastern Turkish province of Mardin, the officials said. The cause was not immediately clear. The pipeline is hit intermittently by sabotage, for which Kurdish militants have in the past claimed responsibility.

“One of the lines suffered damage but the flow is continuing without problem through the parallel line. Exports have not been affected by the situation,” one energy official told Reuters.

Turkey’s southeast, through which the pipeline runs, is the scene of a conflict between Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) militants and the Turkish state. More than 40,000 people have been killed in the fighting since the PKK took up arms in 1984.

The PKK said its militants had carried out an attack on the pipeline in the Midyat district of Mardin on Friday night, according to a statement on the website of the group’s armed wing. It did not refer to any attack on Saturday night.

The oil at Kirkuk, in northern Iraq, is also at the center of a crisis within the Iraqi government of Sunni, Shi’ite and Kurdish parties over control of oil revenues, oilfields and territory. Kirkuk sits on the internal border between Iraq and the autonomous region of Kurdistan.

Kirkuk output has slumped to 280,000 (barrels per day) bpd from 900,000 bpd in 2001.





EUCOM

27. [Special Interest, England] Improved Carriage Design Could Reduce Bomb-Related Injuries

Wednesday, January 23 2013

<http://www.theengineer.co.uk/sectors/rail-and-marine/news/improved-carriage-design-could-reduce-bomb-related-injuries/1015305.article>

Engineers at Newcastle University are hoping to reduce the risk of injury from terrorist attacks on trains by improving carriage design.

The researchers have developed a series of measures that can be retrofitted to train or metro carriages in order to reduce injuries caused by bomb explosions, particularly those related to shrapnel.

The work was carried out as part of a three-year EU-funded project called SecureMetro, led by Newcastle's NewRail research centre, as the precursor to developing new standards for carriage design that could be easily implemented.

'The European Commission raised a security call based on the terrorist attacks in Madrid and London and it was felt more research was needed in this area,' project leader Conor O'Neill told The Engineer.

'We had a look at how vehicles can respond and what can be done from a design perspective to [reduce] the number of injuries and fatalities.'

One of the key improvements was the development of a tethering system to prevent heavy items such as speakers, emergency handles and even ceiling panels from flying around the carriage should their joints become detached in a blast.

As well as preventing them from hitting people or creating shrapnel, this should also prevent them from becoming debris and blocking a passenger's escape route or preventing rescuers from entering the carriage.

'We've been looking at a number of things [to create tethers] but even a simple method such as a thin wire cord is very effective, or even just building in a bit of flexibility around the joint areas allow the panels to move but they're not so rigid that they end up being pulled out,' said O'Neill.

Other changes include the use of anti-graffiti film on the windows to prevent them from shattering and lighter-weight and more energy-absorbent materials to reduce the impact of a blast.

The researchers carried out a full-scale test explosion in order to assess how the blast impact travelled through the vehicle and its effects on the structure and interior, filming and playing the explosion back in slow motion to analyse its progress.

Other members of the research consortium in Spain conducted tests of individual components to assess a blast's impact on different materials, joints and subassemblies.

The Newcastle team then used the results to build (and then destroy) a full-





scale prototype carriage featuring the new adaptations, the results of which will now be used to make design recommendations to European standards bodies.

‘These aren’t big, heavy solutions and they’re not costly solutions either,’ said O’Neill. ‘We were very much of the mindset that these had to be retrofit solutions but they also had to be cost effective in order to ensure that later down the line they get implemented in vehicle design.’

Click the link below to watch the researchers carry out full-scale controlled explosions on two test carriages and their prototype SecureMetro vehicle:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2ekd7BJYIZs>



EUCOM

28. [Attack, Cyprus] Bomb Blast

Wednesday, January 23 2013

<http://www.cyprus-mail.com/blast/bomb-blast/20130123>

A homemade device exploded at around midnight on Monday outside the home of a policeman in Nicosia causing damage to a garage door, police said. According to a police spokesman the bomb did not cause damage to the car parked in the garage while the damage to the garage door has yet to be estimated. The policeman, who works at Nicosia Central Prisons, is the second target in recent weeks of attacks on members of the police working at the prison according to police spokesman Andreas Angelides.



EUCOM

29. [Attack, Switzerland] Anti-Davos Activists Bomb Glencore Boss Ivan Glasenberg's Swiss Home

Friday, January 25 2013

<http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/articles/428022/20130125/bomb-attack-glencore-credit-suisse-ivan-glasenberg.htm>

Activists have claimed responsibility for two bombs in Switzerland targeting the home of Glencore boss Ivan Glasenberg and investment bank Credit Suisse, in protest against the World Economic Forum meeting in Davos. Police confirmed that a window was smashed in an explosion at a Credit Suisse branch in the Hottingen area, causing several thousand Swiss francs worth of damage.

Meanwhile Glasenberg's postbox at his property in the Rueschlikon suburb was blown up. Nobody was hurt in either attack.

In a letter cited by Reuters, activists said the attacks were in retaliation for poor working conditions at commodities trading giant Glencore, which operates a number of mines across poor parts of the world.

Credit Suisse was a target for its banking activities, such as food price speculation and "betting against the Greek people".

Both firms were criticised in the letter for supporting the WEF.

In 2011 activists operating under the name Revolutionary Perspective targeted Davos with an explosion that broke some hotel windows, but caused no injuries.



PACOM

30. [Security, India] Landmines, Explosives Hidden By Maoists Recovered

Monday, January 21 2013

http://www.moneycontrol.com/news/wire-news/landmines-explosives-hidden-by-maoists-recovered_811113.html

Security forces recovered a cache of explosives and firearms of the Maoists from forests under two police station areas in Midnapore West district today, the police said. Three landmines, an improvised rifle, 30 rounds of ammunition and 20 kg of explosives were found hidden under the earth from two forests, the sources said. Acting on a tip off, CRPF personnel and police searched Pathri forest under Salbani police station and Banisole under Lalgah police station and found the explosives hidden by Maoist ultras.



PACOM

31. [Attack, India] Crude Bomb Goes Off At Kanpur Station, No One Injured

Tuesday, January 22 2013

<http://www.ndtv.com/article/cities/crude-bomb-goes-off-at-kanpur-station-no-one-injured-320870>

A crude bomb exploded at Kanpur Railway Station on Tuesday afternoon sparking panic but no one was injured, police said.

A second crude bomb was defused by the bomb disposal squad, IGP (Law and Order) B P Singh told reporters in Lucknow.

The crude device went off near platform number eight, he said.

A ragpicker picked up an object from a garbage dump near the water cooler and threw it on the ground, the IGP said.

The bomb-like object went off triggering panic among commuters but no one was injured, he said.

Prima facie it appeared to be a mischievous act, the IGP said.



PACOM

32. [Attack, India] Cop Hurt In Crude Bomb Attack By Chautala Supporters

Tuesday, January 22 2013

<http://in.news.yahoo.com/cop-hurt-crude-bomb-attack-chautala-supporters-120402179.html>

A constable was injured Tuesday when angry supporters of former Haryana chief minister Om Prakash Chautala and his son hurled stones and crude bombs near a court complex here after the two were given 10 years jail in a graft case.

Around 2,000 supporters of the Chautalas gathered outside the Rohini court complex in north Delhi from early morning and started shouting slogans, which forced police to ban the entry of media, lawyers and others into the complex and court room.

During the protests, supporters of Chautala and his son Ajay started pelting stones and crude bombs on police, injuring a constable.

Police lobbed teargas shells and resorted to a cane-charge, in which one protestor was injured. The injured were taken to Ambedkar Hospital.

Special CBI Judge Vinod Kumar did not allow anyone -- other than the 55 accused in the graft case, their counsel, prosecutors and the court staff -- to enter the court room during the hearing citing "safety reasons".

"Many Chautala supporters tried to enter the court premises. The crowd calmed down for a while, but started throwing stones and crude bombs as soon as the ruling was delivered," a police official said.

"We have not detained anyone so far," the official added.

Apart from deployment of over 1,000 police personnel in and around the court, barricades were placed near court room number 406 where the Chautalas and other accused were given the 10-year jail term.

District Judge S.K. Sarwaria, along with some judges and police official, earlier inspected the court security.

Around 11.30 a.m. a lawyer came out of the court room and informed the media about the order and supporters of the Chautalas, waiting outside the court complex, started shouting slogans and threw crude bombs inside the complex, forcing police to lob tear gas shells at them.

There were traffic jams in the area as all roads leading to the court complex were packed with vehicles of the supporters of the Indian National Lok Dal chief and his legislator son.

Around 1 p.m., police took the accused with them to Tihar Jail under tight security.

The accused were sentenced to jail for their involvement in a 1999-2000 recruitment scam involving junior basic training teachers in Haryana.



PACOM

33. [Attack, Thailand] Pattani Bomb Injures Two Rangers

Tuesday, January 22 2013

<http://www.bangkokpost.com/news/local/332000/>

Two paramilitary rangers providing security for teachers were slightly wounded by a bomb explosion on a road in Pattani's Khok Pho district on Tuesday morning, police said.

The home-made bomb was buried near the local road in front of Ban Pa Bon school of Khok Pho district and exploded about 9am, slightly injuring two rangers patrolling on the road.

Police blamed separatist militants.

More than 5,000 people have been killed and over 9,000 hurt in more than 11,000 incidents, or about 3.5 a day, in the three southernmost provinces and the four districts of Songkhla since the violence erupted afresh in January 2004, according to Deep South Watch.



PACOM

34. [Attack, India] Youth Killed In Crude Bomb Blast

Tuesday, January 22 2013

http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2013-01-22/kolkata/36483754_1_crude-bomb-bomb-squad-team-garage-owner

A 28-year-old was killed when a crude bomb exploded in a bicycle garage adjacent to Sodepur railway station near Khardah in North 24-Parganas late on Sunday.

Police suspect Biswanath Sarkar was making bombs when one exploded. Locals took him to Khardah Balaram State General Hospital, where he succumbed to injuries.

The cops are looking for the garage owner Pintu Das who has gone into hiding.

On Monday morning, a police team led by Biswajit Ghosh, the additional deputy commissioner of police, Barrackpore, visited the spot. Some explosives were also seized. "After a probe, we have come to know that the youth was making bombs along with others who fled the spot after the bomb went off. We are looking for the garage owner," said a senior police officer.

A 28-year-old youth was killed after a bomb exploded in a cycle garage adjacent to the Sodepur Railway station near Khardah in North 24 Parganas late on Sunday night. Police suspect that the victim identified as Biswanath Sarkar, a resident of Chakdah in Nadia was killed in the explosion while he was making bombs in the garage. Police are looking for the garage owner Pintu Das, who has reportedly gone into hiding after the incident occurred.

The incident occurred around 12.30 am on Monday while some locals heard the blast and rushed to the cycle garage. They found Sarkar lying in a pool of blood bearing several splinter injury marks. He was rushed to the Khardah Balaram State General Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries early on Monday.

After being informed a police team led by Biswajit Ghosh, additional deputy commissioner of police, Barrackpore came to the spot on Monday morning for investigation. A bomb squad team also arrived at the spot and they seized some explosives from the garage. "After an investigation we have come to know that the youth was making bombs with others who fled the spot soon after a bomb exploded. We are looking for the garage owner," a senior police official said.

Police also suspect that Sarkar, from Nadia was hired for making bombs. "A raid is being also conducted to nab the others who were also involved in making bombs in the garage," the official also added. Police seized the cycle garage.



PACOM

35. [Attack, Philippines] Bicycle Bomb Wounds Nine In Southern Philippines; Official Says Feud, Extortion Possible Motives

Tuesday, January 22 2013

<http://www.canada.com/news/Bicycle+bomb+wounds+southern+Philippines+official+says+feud/7848302/story.html>

Philippine officials say a homemade bomb strapped to a bicycle has exploded in a commercial district of a southern city, wounding at least nine people and damaging a car and a nearby store. Authorities say a local feud or extortion may be the motive for the attack in Iligan city.

Mayor Lawrence Cruz says the bomb exploded Monday on a sidewalk, wounding passers-by and damaging a car and a nearby pawnshop. He says the bomb was wrapped in cloth and attached to a parked bicycle.

Cruz says police have strengthened security in Iligan following the attack.

Officials say investigators are trying to identify the attackers and determine the motive, including extortion by an armed gang or a local feud.

Muslim rebels were blamed for a past bomb attack in Iligan.



PACOM

36. [Security, Sri Lanka] Arms Cache In Batticaloa

Tuesday, January 22 2013

<http://www.dailynews.lk/2013/01/22/news55.asp>

An arms cache was detected in Thoppigala, Batticaloa District on Thursday.

Among the arms cache were RPG - 20, 60 round motors - four, RPG bomb - four and 60 round motor chargers - six wrapped in bags of manure.

Chief Inspector of Police, Valaichchenai H Ratnayake made the detection following information received by ASP Lal Seneviratne.

The Police said the arms may have been hidden by the L T T E.

Investigations are continuing.



PACOM

37. [Security, India] Explosives Seized

Wednesday, January 23 2013

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/hyderabad/Explosives-seized/articleshow/18140787.cms>

Task Force sleuths arrested two persons at Tolichowki and seized huge quantity of explosive materials from their possession on Tuesday.

Acting on a specific alert, police arrested Yadaiah, a construction worker and Srinivasa Reddy, an explosives supplier from Tolichowki, while they were trying to deliver explosives to some customers on Tuesday night. Police seized 1495 gelatine sticks, 750 detonators and 50 boosters from their possession.

According to Task Force inspector Ramchandra Reddy, the accused, Srinivasa Reddy, had license to purchase explosives for use in construction blasting. "He violated the license by selling the explosives to outsiders," the inspector said. The accused along with the seized material was handed over to Golconda police for further probe.



PACOM

38. [Special Interest, North Korea] North Korea To Target US With Nuclear, Rocket Tests

Thursday, January 24 2013

<http://www.egyptindependent.com/news/north-korea-target-us-nuclear-rocket-tests>

North Korea said Thursday it would carry out further rocket launches and a nuclear test that would target the US, dramatically stepping up its threats against a country it called its "sworn enemy."

The announcement by the country's top military body came a day after the United Nations Security Council agreed to a US-backed resolution to censure and sanction North Korea for a rocket launch in December that breached UN rules.

"We are not disguising the fact that the various satellites and long-range rockets that we will fire and the high-level nuclear test we will carry out are targeted at the United States," North Korea's National Defense Commission said, according to state news agency KCNA.

North Korea is believed by South Korea and other observers to be "technically ready" for a third nuclear test, and the decision to go ahead rests with leader Kim Jong-un, who pressed ahead with the December rocket launch in defiance of the UN sanctions.

China, the one major diplomatic ally of the isolated and impoverished North, agreed to the US-backed resolution and it also supported resolutions in 2006 and 2009 after Pyongyang's two earlier nuclear tests.

Thursday's statement by North Korea represents a huge challenge to Beijing as it undergoes a leadership transition with Xi Jinping due to take office in March.

China's Foreign Ministry called for calm and restraint and a return to six-party talks, but effectively singled out North Korea, urging the "relevant party" not to take any steps that would raise tensions.

"We hope the relevant party can remain calm and act and speak in a cautious and prudent way and not take any steps which may further worsen the situation," ministry spokesperson Hong Lei told reporters at a regular press briefing.

North Korea has rejected proposals to restart the talks aimed at reining in its nuclear capacity. The US, China, Russia, Japan and the two Koreas are the six parties involved.

"After all these years and numerous rounds of six-party talks we can see that China's influence over North Korea is actually very limited. All China can do is try to persuade them not to carry out their threats," said Cai Jian, an expert on Korea at Fudan University in Shanghai.

Analysts said the North could test as early as February as South Korea prepares to install a new, untested president or that it could choose to stage a nuclear explosion to coincide with former ruler Kim Jong-il's 16 February birthday.

"North Korea will have felt betrayed by China for agreeing to the latest UN resolution and they might be targeting [China] as well [with this statement]," said Lee Seung-yeol, senior research fellow at Ewha Institute of Unification



Studies in Seoul.

US urges no test

Washington urged North Korea not to proceed with a third test just as the North's statement was published Thursday.

"Whether North Korea tests or not is up to North Korea," Glyn Davies, the top US envoy for North Korean diplomacy, said in the South Korean capital of Seoul.

"We hope they don't do it. We call on them not to do it," Davies said after a meeting with South Korean officials. "This is not a moment to increase tensions on the Korean peninsula."

The North was banned from developing missile and nuclear technology under sanctions dating from its 2006 and 2009 nuclear tests.

A South Korean military official said the concern now is that Pyongyang could undertake a third nuclear test using highly enriched uranium for the first time, opening a second path to a bomb.

North Korea's 2006 nuclear test using plutonium produced a puny yield equivalent to one kiloton of TNT — compared with 13–18 kilotons for the Hiroshima bomb — and US intelligence estimates put the 2009 test's yield at roughly 2 kilotons.

North Korea is estimated to have enough fissile material for about a dozen plutonium warheads, although estimates vary, and intelligence reports suggest that it has been enriching uranium to supplement that stock and give it a second path to the bomb.

According to estimates from the Institute for Science and International Security from late 2012, North Korea could have enough weapons grade uranium for 21–32 nuclear weapons by 2016 if it used one centrifuge at its Yongbyon nuclear plant to enrich uranium to weapons grade.

North Korea gave no time frame for the coming test and often employs harsh rhetoric in response to UN and US actions that it sees as hostile.

Its long-range rockets are not seen as capable of reaching the US mainland, and it is not believed to have the technology to mount a nuclear warhead on a long-range missile.

The bellicose statement Thursday appeared to dent any remaining hopes that Kim Jong-un, believed to be 30 years old, would pursue a different path from his father Kim Jong-il, who oversaw the country's military and nuclear programs.

The older Kim died in December 2011.

"The [UN Security Council] resolution masterminded by the US has brought its hostile policy towards the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea [North Korea] to its most dangerous stage," the commission was quoted as saying.



PACOM

39. [Security, Indonesia] Bomb Squad Dispatched To Soekarno-Hatta Airport To Examine Suspicious Package

Friday, January 25 2013

<http://www.thejakartaglobe.com/home/update-bomb-squad-dispatched-to-soekarno-hatta-airport-to-examine-suspicious-package/567575>

Personnel from the Jakarta Police's anti-bomb brigade were on Friday rushed to a post office at Soekarno-Hatta International Airport following reports of a package thought to contain a bomb.

National Police spokesman Insp. Gen. Suhardi Alyus said airport security personnel notified police after the package caught inspectors' attention as it was put through X-ray checks.

"We suspect it to be a bomb, but what were the explosive materials and so forth, I am still awaiting reports from those teams on site," Suhardi said.

He said that after it was deconstructed by the anti-bomb squad, nails and cables were found in it.

Jakarta Police spokesman Sr. Comr. Rikwanto said the package contained black powder, Rp 1 million (\$104) in cash, nails, red and black electric cables, a wooden box, a switch network, the recipient's address and the spokes of motorcycles and bicycles as well as a bronze coil.

He said the package had been sent by land from Pekalongan, Central Java, and was to be air-mailed to a textile shop in Merauke, Papua.

Suhardi pointed out that the package had managed to escape detection at the Central Post Office, through which it was routed before arriving at the airport.

"This is a lesson for the post office too. Imagine if this package had made its way on board an aircraft and things occurred that we do not want take place. If it is a mere fish bomb, why are there nails?" Suhardi said.

Tempo Interaktif had earlier on Friday quoted airport police spokesman Adj. Comr. Agus Tri as saying police suspected the package, labeled as containing fish food, actually contained a bomb used for blast fishing.

The package, if it had passed the X-ray examination, would have been carried to Merauke on a Garuda Indonesia commercial flight.



NORTHCOM

40. [Security, United States] Springs Police Detonate Bomb Found In Rental Home

Tuesday, January 22 2013

<http://denver.cbslocal.com/2013/01/22/springs-police-detonate-bomb-found-in-rental-home/>

Colorado Springs police have detonated a bomb left in the garage of a rental home.

Authorities say the bomb was discovered Sunday when a man moving into the house discovered a suspicious package in the garage.

The bomb exploded when bomb squad technicians tried to disarm it, but no one was injured and no damage was reported.



NORTHCOM

41. [Security, United States] Explosive Devices Found In Home Near Morrison

Thursday, January 24 2013

<http://www.9news.com/rss/article/312347/222/Explosive-devices-found-in-home-near-Morrison>

Police roped off an area in the 4600 block of South Swadley Way near Morrison in Jefferson County as they executed a federal search warrant.

According to police, they notified the neighborhood that there were explosive devices inside the home. They entered the home with the explosive devices in it around 10:30 a.m.

Everyone was out of the house. The whole park is roped off also.

One person has been arrested, but their connection to the ATF situation is unknown at this time. That person was later identified as Richard Sandberg, 35.

A neighbor said he saw police take Sandberg into custody around the corner from his home around 8 a.m. The neighbor said Sandberg moved into the home just last year. He said he would see Sandberg building cages and welding items in his driveway into the late evening. The neighbor told 9NEWS he thought Sandberg is a Marine.

A woman registered to the same address as Sandberg told 9NEWS "I have no statement. I'm sorry. I have no statement."

This entire situation stemmed from an ongoing investigation with ATF and Denver Police.



SOUTHCOM

42. [Trend, Colombia] FARC Planned To Bomb Police, Military Targets In Bogota

Friday, January 18 2013

<http://colombiareports.com/colombia-news/news/27757-farc-planned-to-bomb-police-military-targets-in-bogota.html>

Colombia's National Police on Friday claimed that FARC, the country's largest left-wing rebel group, planned to attack police and military academies in Bogota.

The National Police uncovered a weapons cache in the town of Palma, near Bogota, which reportedly contained more than 550 pounds of explosives, six grenades, over 49 feet of detonating cord and, the most crucial piece of evidence, maps of three military and police academies.

Colombia's National Police director, Jose Roberto Leon Riaño, confirmed the amounts of the contraband found during the operation.

"We found a load that contains 250 kilos (550 pounds) of anfo -- explosives of high destructive power, 6 grenades, a few maps of the terrorist targets," said Riano.

Police suspect that Luz Yenny Hernandez, alias "La Caponera," was responsible for planning the attack. It is alleged that Hernandez had been trying to reestablish FARC's '22 Front' bloc in the central department of Cundinamarca. Hernandez is wanted by police on charges of homicide and treason.

The weapons discovery occurred during 'Operation Flash' -- an expansive anti-terrorism operation between the National Police and Bogota's metropolitan police force.



SOUTHCOM

43. [Attack, Colombia] FARC Launch Several Attacks After Ceasefire Ends

Monday, January 21 2013

<http://www.colombiareports.com/colombia-news/news/27783-farc-launch-several-attacks-after-ceasefire-ends.html>

Colombia's largest rebel group, FARC, launched a series of attacks after ending their two-month unilateral ceasefire.

The first attack took place in the northern Norte de Santander department, where guerrilla fighters from the 33d Front attacked an army outpost in the Hacari municipality with machine guns and homemade mortars. The attack left four soldiers wounded, according to the army.

In the southwestern Putumayo department, FARC rebels destroyed electricity towers in the Orito municipality, leaving several municipalities without light on Sunday, while other FARC rebels sabotaged oil installations in the La Hormiga municipality.

In the same department early on Monday, FARC rebels destroyed an oil pipeline belonging to the Ecopetrol oil company.

Meanwhile, in the southwestern Cauca department, rebels from the FARC's 45th Front launched a grenade on a police station in the Piamonte municipality, while other FARC rebels attacked a Bell transport helicopter further north in Caloto.

Colombian police said security had been reinforced in several Colombian regions to prepare for a possible FARC offensive in the coming days.

"We are on the offensive. We had an open discussion and I received a lot of intelligence information about suspected operations of this organization had planned and is planning after this moment [and we are] taking all the precautions, all the measures to make sure these actions are neutralized," said Colombian president Juan Manuel Santos on Sunday.

Colombian Interior Minister Fernando Carillo said on Monday that "any FARC action is proof of cowardice," referring to the latest rebel actions.

Ivan Marquez, the chief rebel negotiator at the peace talks with the government, has ruled out an extension of the truce unless the government agrees to make it bilateral.

FARC rebels and government negotiators are currently engaged in peace talks in the Cuban capital of Havana to put an end to the country's half a century old conflict.



SOUTHCOM

44. [Attack, Colombia] FARC Kills One Soldier In Northern Colombia

Monday, January 21 2013

<http://colombiareports.com/colombia-news/news/27793-farc-kill-1-soldier-in-northern-colombia.html>

An attack attributed to Colombia's largest rebel group, FARC, on Monday left one army soldier dead in the northern Norte de Santander department.

The assault took place in the municipality of Tarra, close to the Venezuelan border, reported radio station Caracol.

According to reports, the rebels attacked army soldiers with mortars and machine guns, leading to the death of the non-commissioned officer.

The army said reinforcements had been sent to the area to deal with the threat of more FARC attacks.

The attack was the second in the department in just a few hours. FARC rebels on Monday morning attacked a military outpost in a neighboring municipality, wounding three soldiers.



SOUTHCOM

45. [Attack, Colombia] FARC Bombs Gas Pipeline In Northern Colombia

Friday, January 25 2013

<http://colombiareports.com/colombia-news/news/27857-farc-bombs-gas-pipeline-in-northern-colombia.html>

The FARC, Colombia's largest rebel group, on Friday bombed a gas pipeline in the northern La Guajira department, leaving thousands of people in the area without gas.

The attack on the Ballenas-Barrancabermeja pipeline, property of the Colombian-based TGI company, occurred early Friday morning.

Authorities said the FARC's 59th Front could be behind the attack, as it is believed to move with ease between the La Guajira department and the Venezuelan state of Zulia.

Local authorities said the attack on the pipeline left several municipalities in the area without service. Service also had to be suspended to the center of Colombia.

The Ballenas-Barrancabermeja pipeline runs from the departments of La Guajira and Santander and historically has been the target of rebel attacks.

According to the Colombia Reports conflict monitor, the FARC rebels have launched a total of 24 attacks since declaring the end of the unilateral ceasefire on Sunday.