



RAPID
Realtime Analysis and Publishing of IED Data

Weekly News Update

Volume 1, Issue 5

03 AUG 2011

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



Undated photo of RCIED found in Uruzgan, Afghanistan.
See [Suicide Team Kills 19 In Uruzgan](#).

UNCLASSIFIED

Afghanistan/Pakistan

1. [Render Safe] [600 Kg Explosives Recovered During Search Operation In Di Khan](#) (PT)
2. [Tech] [Blast Gauge Can Save Soldiers' Lives](#) (RIE)
3. [Trend] [Specialized Search Dogs Add New Weapon To Fight Against IEDs](#) (DVIDS)
4. [Attack] [Four Dead In Suicide Blast At Afghan Hotel](#) (Time)
5. [Attack] [Official: 7 Afghan Soldiers, Translator, Killed](#) (CBS)
6. [Attack] [Suicide Assault Team Kills 19 In Uruzgan](#) (LWJ)
7. [Attack] [Taliban Suicide Bomber Assassinate Mayor Of Khandahar](#) (LWJ)
8. [Attack] [Five NATO Soldiers Die In Afghanistan](#) (BNO)
9. [Attack] [Two Insurgents Died While Planting IED](#) (Wakht)
10. [Attack] [Corning Natives' Son Killed By IED](#) (SC)
11. [Attack] [Afghanistan IED Attack Kills 2 Okla. Soldiers](#) (Koco)
12. [Attack] [IED Kills 18 Afghan Bus Passengers](#) (UPI)
13. [Attack] [Roadside Bombs Kill 23 In South Afghanistan](#) (HT)
14. [Attack] [Roadside Bomb Kills NATO Soldier In Eastern Afghanistan](#) (BNO)
15. [Attack] [Suicide Bomber Hits Police Station In Afghan South](#) (LWJ)
16. [Attack] [Two Blasts Leave Bhara Kahu Scared](#) (Dawn)

Iraq

17. [Trend] [Weapons Retrieved From Iraq Point To Iran](#) (NYT)
18. [Attack] [Fifteen Killed, Thirty-Eight Injured In Twin Blasts In Central Iraq](#) (LT)
19. [Attack] [Iraqi Soldier Injured, U.S. Vehicle Damaged In Baghdad Attack](#) (AAI)
20. [Attack] [Three Civilians Injured In Baghdad Blast](#) (AAI)

World

21. [Render Safe: United States] [Water-Bottle Explosives Prompt Police Response In Sacramento](#) (SB)
22. [Trend: United States] [US To Propose Ammonium Nitrate Regulations](#) (AP)
23. [Trend: China] [Islamic Radicals Behind Kashgar Violence: China](#) (MG)
24. [Attack: Somalia] [Two AU Soldiers killed In Mogadishu Suicide Attack](#) (AHN)
25. [Attack: Yemen] [Suicide Bomber Kills 9 Yemeni Soldiers In Aden](#) (LWJ)
26. [Attack: Philippines] [Military: 2 Dead, 9 Hurt In Cotabato City Blast](#) (GMA)
27. [Attack: Algeria] [At Least Two Algerian Soldiers Killed In Bomb Attack](#) (TW)
28. [Attack: India] [Five Killed, 20 Injured In Manipur Blast](#) (HT)
29. [Render Safe: India] [IED Diffused Along Mendhar-Poonch Highway](#) (KD)
30. [Render Safe: India] [Three Powerful IEDs Recovered](#) (Ht)
31. [Render Safe: India] [Disaster Averted, IEDs Found In Jammu Bound Bus](#) (KO)
32. [Trend: Finland] [Police: Dozen Of Homemade Bombs Found Each Year](#) (YLE)

[Special Interest] [Overview of foiled Ft. Hood attack](#) (includes list of HME materials). Additional details may be found on RAPID website.

1. **600 Kg Explosives Recovered During Search Operation In DI Khan** (Pakistan Tribune)

Saturday, 30 July 2011

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/220664/600kg-explosives-recovered-during-search-operation-in-di-khan/>

Police recovered 600 kilogrammes of explosives during a search operation in Dera Ismail Khan from compounds that reportedly belonged to militants, *Express 24/7* reported Saturday.

The explosives recovered included rockets, grenades and different explosives and were defused by the Bomb Disposal Squad (BDS).

The material was placed in a police store room as evidence.

BSD defused the material near the Indus River in the presence of a civil judge.

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

2. **Blast Gauge Can Save Soldiers' Lives** (Rochester Independent Examiner)

Sunday, 31 July 2011

<http://www.examiner.com/independent-in-rochester/blast-gauge-can-save-soldier-s-lives>

A Blast Gauge developed at the Rochester Institute of Technology can save the lives of American servicemen and women serving in Afghanistan and Iraq.

An article in the July 28th Rochester Democrat & Chronicle, quotes David Bond, director of sponsored research services for RIT, who said the blast Gauge, which is about the size of a watch, "Gives the medics in the field information for the treatment" of Traumatic Brain Injury.

The Blast Gauge is a small device that can be attached the soldier's helmet, shoulder or chest area.

Because the Improvised Explosive Device (IED, or roadside bomb is the Taliban's weapon of choice in Afghanistan and Iraq, Traumatic Brain Injury, or TBI, is the signature wound of both wars.

According to the Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center 188,270 members of the US military have suffered a traumatic brain injury in the last decade.

A study published in the American Journal of Preventive Medicine reports that approximately 1.6 million members of the U.S. military have been deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq since September 2001, and 22% of the wounded soldiers evacuated from Afghanistan and Iraq have Traumatic Brain Injuries.

One third of those injuries involve loss of consciousness. Of the soldiers with Traumatic Brain Injuries evacuated to Walter Reed Army Medical Center between January 2003 and April 2005, 56% had moderate or severe (including penetrating) Traumatic Brain Injuries.

According to the United States Army Public Health Command, there are three categories of TBI.

- Type 1, the most severe form, includes diagnoses where "there is recorded evidence of an intracranial injury or a moderate or a prolonged loss of consciousness, or injuries to the optic nerve pathways.
- Type 2 includes injuries with no recorded evidence of intracranial injury, and loss of consciousness of less than one hour, or loss of consciousness of unknown duration, or unspecified level of consciousness."
- Type 3 includes diagnoses "with no evidence of intracranial injury, and no loss of consciousness."

The Blast Gauge is designed to help speed the diagnosis of Type 2 and Type 3 TBI, both of which have been linked to Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) in troops returning from Afghanistan and Iraq.

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

3. **Specialized Search Dogs Add New Weapon To Fight Against IEDs (DVIDS)**

Thursday, 28 July 2011

<http://www.dvidshub.net/news/74420/specialized-search-dogs-add-new-weapon-fight-against-icds#.Tjbm5WF2HNs>

Specialized search dogs have become a new weapon in the war on improvised explosive devices, roving more than 100 meters in front of their handlers to find the deadly devices before they can be triggered.

Specialized search dog handlers with Military Police Support Company, III Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group, III MEF worked with their dogs to perfect their detection abilities at Oura Wan beach at Camp Schwab July 26, clearing designated lanes of travel of explosive devices planted for training purposes, much as they would do on a combat deployment.

“We set up scenarios such as a possible improvised explosive device lane that friendly forces need passage through. The SSD handlers needed to clear the passage-way prior to the friendly forces going through,” said Cpl. Anthony J. Manfredini, combat tracking dog handler, MP Support Co. “We set up what we call ‘aids’. They are live explosives without the initiating system and I can either bury them or hide them under something.”

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

4. **Four Dead In Suicide Blast At Afghan Hotel** (Time)

Monday, 01 August 2011

<http://www.time.com/time/world/article/0,8599,2086448,00.html>

A suicide car bomber blew up his vehicle outside a small residential hotel frequented by foreigners just after dawn Tuesday, killing at least four guards in the latest of a rising number of attacks in northern Afghanistan.

After the bomber detonated his cache of explosives, two other militants stormed inside the hotel in Kunduz city and engaged police in a two-hour gunbattle, said Mubobullah Sayedi, a provincial spokesman.

"When the bomber blew himself up, the explosion shook everything," Sayedi said. "It broke glass everywhere."

Four Afghan building guards were killed and 10 other people, including an Afghan policeman, were wounded, he 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.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack. Zabiullah Mujahid, a spokesman for the insurgent group, said in a text message to The Associated Press that the assailants had attacked a "German intelligence center and security company."

The inn burned and several nearby buildings were damaged. Flames could be seen shooting up an exterior wall as police contained the area. A severed leg lay on the ground, while other body parts had been collected and tied up in a blanket.

"We heard a very big explosion that shook all of Kunduz," said Ahmadullah, a 30-year-old shopkeeper in Kunduz, who lives about 10 yards (meters) from the building. "It was a very strong explosion."

Ahmadullah, who uses just one name, said he and his family quickly ran out of the neighborhood to a relative's house nearby. Worried that they were still too close to the fighting, they moved even farther away to seek protection in another relative's house.

"All my children were so scared," he said. "We have never been so close to a suicide bombing."

Fighting has been focused in southern and eastern Afghanistan, but insurgents have been conducting a rising number of attacks in the once-peaceful north.

Late last month, a vehicle carrying the deputy governor of Kunduz province struck a roadside bomb, injuring three of his bodyguards. In June, a bombing at a bazaar in the province killed at least 10 people. Also in June,

UNCLASSIFIED

three policemen were killed when a suicide bomber blew himself outside a mosque and another bomber hit a German NATO convoy, killing three civilians.

In May, a suicide bomber infiltrated a high-level meeting in neighboring Takhar province and killed northern Afghanistan's top police commander, Gen. Mohammed Daoud, provincial police chief Shah Jehan Noori and two German soldiers. The German NATO commander in northern Afghanistan was wounded.

Late last year, a suicide bomber killed Kunduz Governor Mohammed Omar and 15 other people at a mosque in neighboring Takhar province.

On Monday, the governor of a province in northeastern Afghanistan claimed that an airstrike conducted by the U.S.-led coalition killed four police officers at a checkpoint in the remote, mountainous region. Jamaluddin Badar said the strike took place late Sunday in the Wama district of Nuristan province, a lawless, rugged area near the border with Pakistan. He said coalition forces detained 12 police officers following the airstrike.

NATO said it was aware of the reports of a friendly fire incident and was investigating.

Badar condemned the incident, which he said occurred "while the flag of Afghanistan flew from the checkpoint and all police were in uniform."

Mistaken airstrikes and night raids are the leading cause of tensions between the U.S.-led coalition and the Afghan government. President Hamid Karzai has demanded that the coalition take steps to ensure that airstrikes do not cause accidental deaths.

A NATO service member was killed Monday in an insurgent attack in southern Afghanistan, raising to 324 the number of foreign troops killed so far this year, according to a tally by The Associated Press.

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

5. **Official: 7 Afghan Soldiers, Translator, Killed** (CBS)

Saturday, 30 July 2011

<http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2011/07/30/ap/asia/main20085799.shtml>

An Afghan official says seven Afghan soldiers and a translator were killed alongside two NATO service members in a bombing and ambush in eastern Paktia province.

The deputy provincial governor of Paktia, Abdul Rahman Mangal, said Saturday the soldiers and a translator were killed on Friday while on patrol in the Zurmat district of the province.

NATO announced Friday that two of its service members were killed by a roadside bomb in eastern Afghanistan, but did not provide nationalities or any other details.

Mangal says the troops were on a joint patrol when a roadside bomb detonated. He added that the patrol was then attacked by insurgents. He did not have any further information on other casualties or wounded.

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

6. **Suicide Assault Team Kills 19 In Uruzgan** (Long War Journal)

Thursday, 28 July 2011

http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2011/07/suicide_assault_team_9.php

A suicide assault team stormed the governor's office and other government buildings today, killing 19 people and wounding 37 more in an attack in the capital of the southern Afghan province of Uruzgan. The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack.

The heavily-armed suicide assault team, estimated at six men strong, attacked the Governor's House, the police headquarters and the police highway battalion, and the Radio and Television Department in the provincial capital of Tarin Kot, according to Pajhwok Afghan News.

Three members of the suicide team detonated their explosives, and three more were killed while fighting Afghan forces in the city. The first suicide bomber, who was driving a car packed with explosives, penetrated the outer security cordon and slammed into the wall of the governor's compound, which is next door to a hospital, according to The New York Times. The blast caused a wing of the hospital that treated women and children to collapse. Ten children and two women were reported killed in the attack, Xinhua reported.

Two other members of the Taliban assault team then occupied the deputy governor's office and battled Afghan forces. Khodai Rahim, the deputy governor, is an important power broker in Uruzgan. He was not hurt in the attack.

A bombing also took place at the home of Matiullah Khan, a controversial power broker in the province, whose uncle, Jan Mohammed Khan, was killed in a suicide assault in Kabul on July 17 [see LWJ report, Key adviser to Karzai, member of parliament assassinated in suicide assault in Kabul].

In a statement released on their website, Voice of Jihad, the Taliban claimed credit for today's attack and said that "a team of 6 martyrdom-seeking Mujahideen of the Islamic Emirate" executed the operation. The Taliban claimed that 50 policemen, six US troops, and "9 high ranking puppet officials" were killed. In their press releases, the Taliban routinely exaggerate the results of their operations.

Also, the Taliban claimed that they assassinated Tor Mullah, Uruzgan's Minister of Hajj and Religious Affairs. "Mujahideen of [the] Islamic Emirate gunned him down in Tarin Kot" as he traveled to his home, the Taliban claimed at Voice of Jihad. Tor's death has not been reported in the Afghan press. A US official told The Long War Journal that Tor was wounded in the attack but survived.

Today's suicide assault was likely carried out by the Mullah Dadullah Mahaz, or the Mullah Dadullah Front, a radical Taliban subgroup based in the south that is closely linked to al Qaeda. The Mullah Dadullah Front has adopted al Qaeda's tactics and ideology, a US intelligence official told The Long War Journal in December 2010. The Taliban faction is led by Mullah Abdul Qayoum Zakir, the former Guantanamo Bay detainee who has since been promoted as the Taliban's top military commander and co-leader of the Taliban's Quetta Shura.

UNCLASSIFIED

The suicide assault in Uruzgan is the latest in a string of Taliban attacks that are targeting the top levels of the Afghan government and security forces. The Taliban have displayed the ability to penetrate sensitive installations and compounds to attack senior government officials. Just yesterday, a suicide bomber killed the mayor of Kandahar City in an attack in his compound.

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

7. **Taliban Suicide Bomber Assassinate Mayor Of Kandahar** (Long War Journal)

Wednesday, 27 July 2011

http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2011/07/taliban_suicide_bomb_29.php

The Taliban carried out yet another high-profile assassination today in southern Afghanistan, killing the mayor of Kandahar city in a suicide attack.

Mayor Ghulam Haidar Hamidi was killed by a suicide bomber who detonated his explosives in a hallway near the mayor's office. One of Hamidi's bodyguards was wounded in the attack.

The spokesman for Kandahar province told Reuters that the suicide bomber appeared to have hidden the bomb in his turban. According to Kandahar's chief of police, Hamidi was meeting with tribal leaders to discuss the deaths of women and children when buildings were razed in the city.

Taliban spokesman Qari Yousuf Ahmadi claimed the attack and said that Hamidi was on the Taliban's "hit-list," according to Reuters. Ahmadi also claimed the attack was to avenge the deaths of the civilians who were killed when the buildings were destroyed.

Ryan Crocker, the new US Ambassador to Afghanistan, said that people should not be quick to accuse the Taliban of the attack as a demonstration was underway outside of the Mayor's office.

But the Taliban carried out a very similar attack using a bomb hidden in a turban just two weeks ago at a memorial service in a mosque for President Hamid Karzai's brother, Ahmed Wali Karzai. The suicide bomber killed Hikmatullah Hikmat, the chief of Kandahar's Ulema Council, which governs religious issues; another senior cleric; and a child.

US military intelligence officials contacted by The Long War Journal said that today's attack, like previous suicide operations carried out by the Taliban in Kandahar this year, was likely carried out by the Mullah Dadullah Mahaz, or the Mullah Dadullah Front, a radical Taliban subgroup closely linked to al Qaeda. US military intelligence officials told The Long War Journal that this subgroup is suspected of having carried out the recent attacks in Kandahar.

The Mullah Dadullah Front is a wing of the Taliban in the south that has adopted al Qaeda's tactics and ideology, a US intelligence official told The Long War Journal in December 2010. The Mullah Dadullah Front is led by Mullah Abdul Qayoum Zakir, the former Guantanamo Bay detainee who has since been promoted as the Taliban's top military commander and co-leader of the Taliban's Quetta Shura.

The Taliban have killed two other senior power brokers in the Afghan south this month. On July 12, the Taliban claimed to have assassinated Ahmed Wali Karzai, the president's brother. Ahmed Wali was gunned down in his office. Officials originally dismissed claims that Ahmed Wali was killed by the Taliban but later found evidence that linked his death to the group.

UNCLASSIFIED

On July 17, a suicide assault team killed Jan Mohammad Khan, the former governor of Uruzgan province who had become one of Karzai's top advisers, and Mohammad Hashim Watanwal, a parliamentarian from Uruzgan, in an attack on Khan's compound in Kabul.

The Taliban have successfully executed other high-profile assassinations in Kandahar in the recent past. Since the spring of 2010, the list of those killed in the Taliban's assassination campaign in Kandahar includes the provincial chief of police, the deputy governor of Kandahar, the district chief for Arghandab, and the deputy mayor of Kandahar City.

In the Afghan north, the Taliban have also targeted senior military, police, and government officials, assassinating four senior leaders in the region over the past nine months. In October 2010, a Taliban suicide bomber killed Kunduz Governor Muhammad Omar as he worshiped in a mosque in Takhar province. Omar had been vocal in his opposition to the Taliban, and had consistently warned of the spread of the Taliban and allied terror groups in the Afghan north. In March 2011, a suicide bomber killed General Abdul Rahman Sayedkhili, the provincial chief of police for Kunduz. And in May, a suicide bomber killed General Dawood Dawood, the top commander for the Afghan National Police in the north; and Mawlawi Shah Jahan, the chief of police for Takhar province. Major General Markus Kneip, Regional Commander North for the International Security Assistance Force, and the governor of Takhar were also wounded in the attack.

Background on the Taliban's spring offensive

The Taliban are seeking to roll back Afghan and Coalition gains made in the southern provinces of Helmand and Kandahar over the past year, and to reinforce the perception that Taliban forces can strike in all areas of Afghanistan. The Taliban are also trying to break the will of the Afghan security forces as well as intimidate local Afghans.

In their announcement of the Badar offensive, the Taliban said the primary targets would be "foreign invading forces, members of their spy networks and (other) spies, high-ranking officials of the Kabul Puppet Administration, both military and civilian, members of the cabinet, members of the parliament, Heads of foreign and local companies working for the enemy and contractors." The Afghan High Peace Council was also singled out.

The Taliban said Badar would focus on "military centers, places of gatherings, airbases, ammunition and logistical military convoys of the foreign invaders in all parts of the country." Their tactics would include "group and martyrdom seeking attacks," or suicide attacks and assaults; "group offensives," or massed assaults; "city attacks," ambushes, and IED attacks.

The Taliban also said that "strict attention must be paid to the protection and safety of civilians during the spring operations by working out a meticulous military plan."

The Taliban maintain they have no shortage of suicide bombers to carry out attacks. In April, a commander in the Pakistani Taliban claimed that more than 1,000 suicide bombers train at camps in the Mir Ali area of North Waziristan.

UNCLASSIFIED

The Pakistani government refuses to strike the terror groups in North Waziristan despite the known presence of al Qaeda and other foreign terrorist organizations in North Waziristan, as well as requests by the US that action be taken against these groups. The Pakistani military has indicated that it has no plans to take on Hafiz Gul Bahadar, a senior Taliban commander in North Waziristan, or the Haqqani Network, which is also based there. Bahadar and the Haqqanis are considered "good Taliban" by the Pakistani military establishment as they do not carry out attacks inside Pakistan. Yet Bahadar, the Haqqanis, and other Taliban groups openly shelter groups that carry out attacks in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

8. **Five NATO Soldiers Die In Afghanistan** (BNO News)

Sunday, 31 July 2011

<http://channel6news.com/2011/07/five-nato-soldiers-die-in-afghanistan-isaf/>

Five coalition service members were killed in eastern and southern Afghanistan on Sunday as a result of three separate incidents, the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) said.

ISAF said three of its service members were killed in western Afghanistan as a result of a non-battle related injury. Another service member was killed in an insurgent attack in southern Afghanistan, while a fifth died in eastern Afghanistan as a result of an improvised explosive device (IED) attack.

As usual, the multinational force gave no other details about the incidents, including the exact locations and the nationalities of the service members involved. "It is ISAF policy to defer casualty identification procedures to the relevant national authorities," a brief statement said.

Coalition casualties in Afghanistan have been rising sharply in recent years, with a total coalition death toll of 709 in 2010, making it the deadliest year for international troops since the war began in response to the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the United States.

So far this year, at least 335 coalition service members have been killed in Afghanistan. Most troops are killed in the country's south, which is plagued by IED attacks on troops and civilians. Most of the casualties are American.

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

9. **Two Insurgents Died While Planting IED** (Wakht)

Saturday, 30 July 2011

<http://www.wakht.com/en/020921.php>

Two insurgents who wanted to plant a roadside bomb died when the bomb they were planting exploded at the Southern Province of Farah, official said Saturday.

Farah Security Chief Syed Mohammad Roshandil told Wakht News Agency that the dead insurgents were planting the improvised explosive device beside a road at Khake Sufaid district of the province when it exploded prematurely killing both of them on the spot.

The police recovered an AK 47 and a number of rounds from the spot.

Insurgent groups have not yet confirmed the incident.

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

10. **Corning Natives' Son Killed By IED** (Steuben Courier)

Friday, 29 July 2011

<http://www.steubencourier.com/topstories/x242964100/Corning-natives-son-killed-by-IED>

Army Spc. Frank R. Gross, the son of two former Corning residents, was killed July 16 in Afghanistan. Gross, 25, of Oldsmar, Fla., was killed when an improvised explosive device caused the vehicle he was riding in to roll over in Khowst province.

Gross – whose parents, Craig L. Gross and Antonia Hankey Gross, formerly lived in Corning – was stationed at Fort Hood, Texas. He was posthumously promoted to the rank of corporal.

Gross was a member of the elite special forces and worked in the communications field. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 38th Cavalry Regiment, 504th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade.

A 2004 graduate of Indian Rocks Christian School in Florida, Gross received a scholarship to play college baseball and earned a master's degree at age 23. He enlisted in the Army immediately upon graduation. He planned to become an Army officer.

Among Gross' survivors are his aunt and uncle Peggie Gross Stinson and Larry Stinson of Bath, and uncle Harold Gross of Corning.

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

11. **Afghanistan IED Attack Kills 2 Okla. Soldiers** (Koco)

Sunday, 31 July 2011

<http://www.koco.com/mostpopular/28722531/detail.html>

Two Oklahoma National Guard soldiers are dead after an improvised explosive device exploded while they were on patrol in Afghanistan.

The Department of Defense identified the soldiers as 2nd Lt. Jered Ewy, 33, of Edmond, and Spc. Augustus Vicari, 22, of Broken Arrow.

Officials said the men died while on foot patrol in Janak Kheyl.

The DOD said two other Oklahoma soldiers and a Mississippi Air National Guardsman were also injured in the attack.

Officials said Ewy was a member of Company B, 1st Battalion, 279th Infantry, 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, headquartered in Vinita. Vicari was a member of Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 279th Infantry, 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, headquartered in Sand Springs.

Oklahoma Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Myles Deering said, "This loss of life has shaken every member of the Oklahoma National Guard to their core. We have lost two very brave men who once raised their hands and took an oath to defend our nation. They courageously gave everything they had to ensure our freedom and safety and their sacrifice will not be forgotten."

Deering said casualty assistance teams are helping the families of the soldiers deal with their loss. "Our hearts, prayers and support go out to their families and everyone else who has been affected by this tragedy," Deering said.

The commander of the 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Col. Joel P. Ward, said, "The thoughts and prayers of all Thunderbirds are with the families of our brothers who lost their lives in defense of our nation and way of life."

The DOD said the 1st Battalion, 279th Infantry is made up of about 500 Oklahoma Guard soldiers. The unit was mobilized in March and left for duty in Afghanistan with the 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team in June.

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

12. **IED Kills 18 Afghan Bus Passengers** (UPI)

Friday, 29 July 2011

http://www.upi.com/Top_News/World-News/2011/07/29/IED-kills-18-Afghan-bus-passengers/UPI-26681311937088/

A passenger bus struck an improvised explosive device Friday in south Afghanistan's Helmand province, leaving at least 18 people dead, an official said.

The bus was traveling from Nahr-e-Saraj to the provincial capital of Lashkar Gah when the bomb went off, CNN reported, quoting Dawood Ahmadi, a spokesman for the provincial governor.

The explosion wounded several people, the report said.

The attack came a day after insurgents killed at least 22 people in the southern province of Uruzgan before being repelled by Afghan forces. The Taliban took responsibility for that attack carried out by eight people, three of them suicide bombers.

Those killed in Thursday's attack included Ahmed Omed Khpulwak, a reporter for the Pajhwok news agency and the BBC Pashto service.

Lashkar Gah was one seven places where security responsibility was transferred to Afghan security forces by the United States and NATO recently, a process scheduled to be completed by the end of 2014 as foreign forces withdraw from Afghanistan.

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

13. **Roadside Bombs Kill 23 In South Afghanistan** (Hindustan Times)

Friday, 29 July 2011

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/11-civilians-killed-in-roadside-bomb/Article1-726893.aspx>

Roadside mines killed 23 civilians in southern Afghanistan on Friday when a minibus and a tractor separately struck explosives in Helmand province, officials said. The minibus was travelling from Nahr-e-Saraj district to the provincial capital of Lashkar Gah when it hit a mine and all 19 people inside were killed, said Kamaludden, head of the National Directorate of Security in Helmand.

When security forces arrived at the scene they were attacked by Taliban insurgents, said Hekmatullah Akmal, a highway police commander.

He said it appeared at least 17 people had been killed, but the devastation caused by the blast made it difficult to determine how many people had been on the bus.

In Garmsir district, south of Lashkar Gah, a tractor also hit a roadside bomb, killing four civilians, officials said.

The first half of this year was the deadliest six months for civilians in Afghanistan since the near decade-old war began, according to the UN mission in Afghanistan.

Civilian deaths between January and June were up 15% compared to the first half of 2010, due to roadside and suicide bombings, increased ground fighting and more deaths from air strikes.

The minibus and tractor deaths in Helmand province come a day after at least 17 civilians were killed, including 12 children aged between four and 13, when suicide attackers targeted government buildings in neighbouring Uruzgan province.

Two policemen were also killed in that attack.

Helmand has been the site of some of the most vicious fighting of the war. Far more foreign troops have died there than in any other province and there are still several Helmand districts dominated by the Taliban.

Afghan security forces took over security control this month for Lashkar Gah, the most contentious of the first seven areas for which foreign troops handed over responsibility. The gradual transition of security control to Afghan forces is due to be completed by the end of 2014.

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

14. **Roadside Bomb Kills NATO Soldier In Eastern Afghanistan** (BNO News)

Thursday, 28 July 2011

<http://channel6news.com/2011/07/roadside-bomb-kills-nato-soldier-in-eastern-afghanistan/>

A roadside bomb killed a coalition service member in eastern Afghanistan on Thursday, the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) said.

ISAF said one of its service members was killed as a result of an improvised explosive device (IED) attack in eastern Afghanistan. As usual, the multinational force gave no other details about the incident, including the exact locations.

The nationality of the service member was also not immediately disclosed. "It is ISAF policy to defer casualty identification procedures to the relevant national authorities," a brief statement said.

Coalition casualties in Afghanistan have been rising sharply in recent years, with a total coalition death toll of 709 in 2010, making it the deadliest year for international troops since the war began in response to the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the United States.

So far this year, at least 328 coalition service members have been killed in Afghanistan. Most troops are killed in the country's south, which is plagued by IED attacks on troops and civilians. Most of the casualties are American.

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

15. **Suicide Bomber Hits Police Station In Afghan South** (Long War Journal)

Sunday, 31 July 2011

http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2011/07/suicide_bomber_hits_2.php

The Taliban have claimed credit for a suicide car bomb attack that hit a police headquarters today in the city of Lashkar Gah, the provincial capital of Helmand in the Afghan south.

The suicide bomber detonated his sports utility vehicle, which was packed with explosives, at the main gate of a police station in the southern city. Ten policemen and a child were killed in the blast, and another 10 Afghans were wounded, according to Pajhwok Afghan News.

In a statement released on their propaganda website, Voice of Jihad, the Taliban took responsibility for the suicide attack. The Taliban claimed that Muhammad Gul, a "resident of Nad Ali district" in Helmand, carried out the suicide attack. The Taliban also claimed that 40 "puppets," a term used to describe Afghans working for the government, were killed, and that two police pickup trucks and a "tank" were also destroyed. On a daily basis, the Taliban wildly inflate the number of Afghans and members of the Coalition forces killed in their operations.

The suicide attack in Lashkar Gah was likely carried out by the Mullah Dadullah Mahaz, or the Mullah Dadullah Front, a radical Taliban subgroup based in the south that is closely linked to al Qaeda. The Mullah Dadullah Front has adopted al Qaeda's tactics and ideology, a US intelligence official told The Long War Journal in December 2010. The Taliban faction is led by Mullah Adbul Qayoum Zakir, the former Guantanamo Bay detainee who has since been promoted as the Taliban's top military commander and co-leader of the Taliban's Quetta Shura. The terror group has executed numerous high-profile suicide attacks and assaults as well as assassinations in the southern Afghan provinces of Helmand, Kandahar, and Uruzgan.

Today's suicide attack follows a deadly IED attack and ambush by the Taliban in Helmand on July 29 that killed 17 Afghan civilians. The Taliban destroyed a bus as it traveled from the district of Nahr-e-Saraj to Lashkar Gah, then ambushed the rescue team that was attempting to recover the dead and wounded.

As US and NATO forces begin their drawdown in Afghanistan, Afghan forces are increasingly being placed on the front lines to provide security in Afghan hotspots. Lashkar Gah is among the five cities and two provinces that have recently undergone the transfer of security responsibility from Coalition to Afghan forces [see LWJ report, Karzai announces July transfer of responsibility from ISAF to Afghan National Security Forces].

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

16. **Two Blasts Leave Bhara Kahu Scared** (Dawn)

Monday, 01 August 2011

<http://www.dawn.com/2011/08/02/two-blasts-leave-bhara-kahu-scared.html>

Two explosions a day before Ramazan on Monday panicked the people living in Bhara Kahu, though it turned that one was because of destroying explosives and the other was a “cracker blast”.

According to a handout issued by the capital’s administration, under the “supervision and presence of experts, explosives were disposed of in the area of Bhara Kahu...recovered from the anti-social elements from time to time.”

The first blast was heard around 11:30am. Senior police officials, bomb disposal squad and the ambulances rushed to the spot – a bridge near Athal Chowk.

Police said the explosive was detonated at the Murree Road’s divider, which created two feet deep crater. According to the bomb disposal squad, the blast was caused by a cracker, adding that it had less than a kilogram explosive of low intensity.

Terming it an “improvised device”, police’s initial probe said the cracker was blown up deliberately.

Police searched for the injured in and around the area but found no one. However eyewitnesses claimed that at least one person was injured while some vehicles, including a Pick-up, were damaged. Police suspect that the injured man may be behind the cracker blast, adding that it seems the “people” behind the explosion wanted to spread terror among residents.

A similar blast on June 12 this year in Mulpur injured three people.

The second blast was heard near Simly Dam shortly after the Ramazan moon was sighted. But quickly it was clarified that it was because of destroying explosives seized in 2008 in a raid in Dhok Kala Khan.

A senior police officer said the personnel of security forces along with the bomb disposal squad destroyed explosives weighing 900kg. About 200kgs of explosives were thrown into the waters of Krung Nullah, while 700kgs were blow up. He said about four improvised explosive devices (IEDs) made in a pressure cooker were also destroyed.

The explosives were recovered when police and security officers had impounded three vehicles during the raid three years back.

Later, the explosive laden vehicles – two Land Cruisers (LXH-7860 and JH-175), and a car (JS-574) – were shifted to village Pehont located in the area of Nilor police station and parked at an agriculture land adjacent to the Anti-Terrorist Training Centre, Simily Dam.

UNCLASSIFIED

In a letter to District Police Officer Rawalpindi on March 18 this year, the capital's Senior Superintendent of Police said "vehicles are full of explosives material and any untoward incident could be take place as they are lying in an open place." The letter had requested to remove the vehicles to some safer place immediately.

Earlier a letter by a villager – Abdul Majeed – to SSP Islamabad in March alleged that the vehicles were brought and parked there by Federal Investigation Agency.

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

17. **Weapons Retrieved From Iraq Point To Iran** (New York Times)

Monday, 25 July 2011

<http://atwar.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/07/25/weapons-retrieved-in-iraq-point-to-iran/>

Arrayed on a table in an air-conditioned room are the killing tools from attacks on American soldiers over the last several months – the detritus of munitions smuggled in from Iran, according to the soldiers here whose job it is to conduct the forensic analysis of evidence collected from the battlefield.

One item, a firing system for a 240-millimeter rocket used in a recent attack that killed American soldiers, sits next to photographs of the dump truck from which it was seized. Forensic analysis of this evidence led to a member of Kata'ib Hizballah, which is one of three Shiite militant groups that frequently attack Americans and is linked to the Iranian government. The suspect is now in American custody. (The other two groups are the Promised Day Brigade, which answers to the anti-American cleric Moktada al-Sadr, and Asa'ib Ahl al-Haq, a splinter group formed by onetime allies of Mr. Sadr.)

It is the work here conducted by a group of Army, Air Force and Navy personnel – called Combined Joint Task Force Troy – that provides the evidence to buttress the recent claims of top American officials, from Leon E. Panetta, the secretary of defense, to James F. Jeffery, the American ambassador in Iraq, that Iran is behind the recent deadly attacks on American troops.

In June, 14 American soldiers were killed by enemy attacks, the most in three years. The three Iranian-backed Shiite groups are responsible for 12 of these deaths, say American officials. (The other two deaths came in northern Iraq at the hands of a group called the Men of the Army of Al Naqshbandia Order, commonly referred to as J.R.T.N., a Sunni group of insurgents once loyal to Saddam Hussein.)

After the 2003 invasion and the failure of the Bush administration to find the unconventional weapons it said was a reason for the war, the subsequent claims by the American military that Iran was supplying weapons and training to Shiite militias to attack American forces were met with abundant skepticism by the American public and other countries.

Partly to blunt that skepticism, which persists today, and the continued denials emanating from Tehran, the military has invited reporters to view the evidence and discuss – both on background and on an off-the-record basis – the forensic indicators that the group of military and civilian officials who work here have lifted from the battlefield, evidence that they say proves that the weapons originated from factories in Iran.

They are reticent to betray any secrets of the trade for publication.

One of the lead military explosives experts – all of the officials here spoke on the condition that they be identified only this way – who is in charge of compiling evidence of Iranian complicity in the attacks on Americans likened his work to that of a “antique car dealer.” By this, he meant that his long experience allowed him to spot “distinguishing characteristics” on munitions that are trademarks of Iranian manufacturing. (He declined to allow any elaborations on this for publication.) When pressed to say more, he said, “a gemologist can look at a diamond and say it’s a diamond.”

When the EFP is triggered the cone turns into molten metal that can penetrate armor. In 2005, a particularly deadly version of the roadside bomb called an explosively formed penetrator, or E.F.P., came in to wide use, and the components of one recently recovered in Iraq sits on the table. These devices have the ability to pierce even the armor used in a tank, and, according to the explosives expert, “they have always come from Iran, and continue to come from Iran.”

Sometimes the evidence collected here is turned over to the Iraqi judicial system, and often these military technicians testify in court. Still, Iraqi courts are far less accepting than American courts of physical evidence. Convictions here are more commonly based on confessions or the testimony of witnesses.

Maj. Gen. Jeffrey S. Buchanan, the top military spokesman here, took part in the presentation and did speak on the record. He said the volume of weapons coming from Iran was the highest in years. “It’s new stuff, and a lot of it coming across,” he said.

Particularly alarming, he said, is that much of it seems to be entering Iraq through official ports and border crossings, even though he said he was sure that some of it was smuggled through the swampy borderlands of southern Iraq.

“We think a significant portion of it comes across the ports of entry,” he said.

So the Americans, just months ahead of what is scheduled to be the final withdrawal of American forces, are working with the Iraqis to tighten up the ports and improve the border guards’ ability to find weapons in transit.

But there has always been frustration – elevated in the wake of the recent attacks – on the part of Americans who believe that the Iraqi government, dominated by Shiites and friendly with Iran, is not as aggressive in combating the militias that attack Americans as it is against Sunni groups like Al Qaeda in Mesopotamia that typically single out Iraqi civilians.

In 2008, Prime Minister Nuri Kamal al-Maliki cemented his hold on power by launching major operations against the Shiite groups in Basra and in Baghdad, but in the ensuing years his government has become friendlier with Iran, a troubling development for the American government as it winds down its military role here.

An IRAM (Improvised Rocket Assisted Mortar) that did not fire and was defused by U.S. forces. American officials believe that the impending withdrawal has been an opportunity for Iran to step up its support for militias here, leaving the Iraqi government to hedge its bets between Iranian and American influence.

“Things like these attacks are geared, potentially, to put space between us and the Iraqis,” General Buchanan said.

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

18. **Fifteen Killed, Thirty-Eight Injured In Twin Blasts In Central Iraq** (Lincoln Tribune)

Thursday, 28 July 2011

<http://lincolntribune.com/?p=17031>

At least 15 people were killed and 38 others injured on Thursday in two suicide explosions in the Iraqi city of Tikrit in Salah al-Din Province, Aswat al-Iraq news agency reported.

A source from the Salah al-Din's Operations Command said the first suicide bomber targeted police and Army forces near a central Iraqi bank in Tikrit, 140 kilometers (87 miles) northwest of Baghdad. The second attack occurred when medical personnel were assisting the victims of the first blast.

"The semi-final result of two suicide explosions on Thursday morning in central Tikrit early has reached 15 killed, including 4 police and Army men and more than 38 wounded," a medical source told Aswat al-Iraq news agency. It was reported that Salah al-Din's Operations Command had imposed a curfew on Tikrit city, while security forces were still inspecting the site of the explosion.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the blasts.

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

19. **Iraqi Soldier Injured, U.S. Vehicle Damaged In Baghdad Attack** (Aswat al-Iraq)

Monday, 01 August 2011

http://en.aswataliraq.info/Default1.aspx?page=article_page&id=144070&l=1

An Iraqi soldier has been injured in an attack against a joint Army and Police patrol in central Baghdad on Monday, whilst a U.S.Army vehicle was damaged in an explosive charge blast in the city, a security source reported.

“A group of unknown gunmen have attacked a joint Iraqi Army and Police patrol in central Baghdad’s al-Wathba Square,” the security source said, adding that the attack had injured an Iraqi soldier, who was driven to a nearby hospital for treatment.”

In a separate incident, an explosive charge blew off against a U.S.Army patrol in east Baghdad’s Canal Street, causing damage to one of its vehicles, the security source said, expecting that the blast could have caused human casualties among the patrol’s men.

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

20. **Three Civilians Injured In Baghdad Blast** (Aswat al-Iraq)

Saturday, 30 July 2011

http://en.aswataliraq.info/Default1.aspx?page=article_page&id=144018&l=1

Three Iraqi civilians have been injured in an explosive charge blast in southern Baghdad on Friday night, a security source reported.

“An explosive charge blew off on Friday night in southern Baghdad’s Saydiya district, wounding 3 civilians, the security source told Aswat al-Iraq news agency.

The security source gave no further details.

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

21. [Render Safe: United States] **Water-Bottle Explosives Prompt Police Response In Sacramento**
(Sacramento Bee)

Tuesday, 02 August 2011

<http://blogs.sacbee.com/crime/archives/2011/08/water-bottle-ex.html>

Several water-bottle explosives were discovered outside a north Sacramento hotel Monday night, prompting the Sacramento Police Department's EOD team to respond and render one of the explosives safe.

Officers were called to the hotel in the 300 block of Bercut Drive shortly before 10:30 p.m., after security personnel reported the devices, said police department spokesman Sgt. Norm Leong.

Responding officers found one device had exploded near a person in an outer stairwell, Leong said. Two other devices were found in the parking lot with their caps already opened by a passerby, thereby disarmed, he said.

A fourth device was located under a truck in the parking lot. A police bomb squad unit responded and rendered the device safe around 11:30 p.m., by shooting it with a pellet, Leong said.

No injuries were reported, Leong said. Because the devices - "chemical agent bombs" meant to explode with pressure or the opening of the caps - do not have a large blast radius, the hotel was not evacuated, he said.

No arrests had been made as of 11:30 p.m.

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

22. [Trend: United States] **US To Propose Ammonium Nitrate Regulations** (Associated Press)

Tuesday, 02 August 2011

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5j7QccIqSCz43J-4Mvcf9FEQ0ynTA?docId=58e733bc9cab47b3be7f4be077ce7200>

More than 15 years after a fertilizer bomb was used to blow up a government building in Oklahoma City, killing 168 people, the federal government is proposing to regulate the sale and transfer of the chemical ammonium nitrate.

The proposal comes nearly four years after Congress gave the Homeland Security Department the authority to develop a program to regulate the compound.

Ammonium nitrate is one of the most common farm fertilizers in the world, and instructions for turning it into a bomb are available on the Internet. Its deadly potential was once again realized on July 22, when a Norwegian man allegedly blew up a government building in his country, killing eight people with a bomb that investigators believe was made with ammonium nitrate.

On Tuesday, the Homeland Security Department's proposal is expected to be posted on the Federal Register website and the public will have 120 days to comment.

As it's proposed, the "Ammonium Nitrate Security Program" would require those who purchase, sell or transfer at least 25 pounds of the chemical in the U.S. to register with the government so that they may be screened against U.S. terror watch lists, according to a homeland security official who spoke on condition of anonymity because the proposal had not formally been published. Oklahoma City bomber Timothy McVeigh used 4,000 pounds of ammonium nitrate to blow up the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in 1995.

The Homeland Security Department would give registration numbers to those who are approved to buy, sell or transfer ammonium nitrate. The registrants would also be required to keep records and report the theft or loss of the chemical within 24 hours of discovering it missing.

A number of countries, including Germany, Colombia, Ireland, the Philippines and China, have banned ammonium nitrate fertilizer. And some U.S. states started to regulate its use after the chemical was used in the Oklahoma City bombing. Last year, the Afghan government banned ammonium nitrate, as the chemical most often used in bombs targeting American soldiers in Afghanistan. Such "fertilizer bombs" have also been used in Iraq in attacks against government security forces.

In late 2007, Congress passed a law requiring the department to develop a regulation program. The department missed its 2008 deadline to publish a final rule, and instead that year, it posted an advance notice in the Federal Register that it would eventually post a proposal for regulating ammonium nitrate. The public had 120 days to comment then, as well. Among the concerns was that farmers who use fertilizer with ammonium nitrate don't have the computers or computer skills to adhere to the federal government's reporting requirements.

UNCLASSIFIED

In a September 2010 letter to the top Republican on the House Homeland Security committee, DHS Secretary Janet Napolitano said the department held "listening sessions" with stakeholders and created a government task force for input into the regulation.

The department already requires that businesses storing certain dangerous or combustible chemicals, including ammonium nitrate, provide regular reports on the security of those materials. But those regulations are centered on the security of the facility and not the sale and transfers of the chemical.

The bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives already regulates explosive mixtures that include ammonium nitrate. The homeland security proposal is designed not to duplicate other federal efforts, the homeland security official said.

After the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing, ATF partnered with the industry group, The Fertilizer Institute, and other members of the agriculture industry to launch a voluntary reporting program for people to report suspicious activities, including thefts of ammonium nitrate.

Studies were done to see whether the explosive properties of ammonium nitrate could be made inert, said Kathy Mathers, spokeswoman for the Fertilizer Institute. That was not possible, she said, and over the years it became clear that there needed to be a formal regulating program.

"At this point, it's necessary," Mathers said of the proposed regulation. "We're lined up with Congress and DHS on this one."

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

23. [Attack: China] **Islamic Radicals Behind Kashgar Violence: China** (Montreal Gazette)

Tuesday, 02 August 2011

<http://www.montrealgazette.com/news/Islamic+radicals+behind+Kashgar+violence+China/5190822/story.html>

Chinese authorities said Monday that Islamic radicals trained in Pakistan to wage "holy war" were responsible for attacks over the weekend in the western city of Kashgar that left at least 19 dead.

The violence in Kashgar - along with a similar incident last month in the nearby city of Hotan in which 20 people were killed - are the most serious in the region since 2009. Kashgar was under a strict curfew Monday, with most schools and many businesses closed.

Kashgar's local government said on its website Monday that one of the perpetrators had confessed to receiving training in explosives and firearms at a camp in Pakistan run by the East Turkestan Islamic Movement, a group opposed to Chinese rule in western China.

Uyghurs, a Turkic minority that once dominated northwestern China, call the region East Turkestan, and many of them resent an influx of ethnic Han Chinese migrants, who they say received the best pickings of jobs and housing.

"The suspects harboured thoughts of religious extremism. The outbreak of violence was absolutely no random occurrence," the Kashgar municipality said Monday. "They wanted to disturb social stability, incite ethnic hatred and create conflicts between ethnic groups in order to split Xinjiang from the motherland." It was impossible to independently confirm Chinese accounts.

Officials said the attack Saturday involved the hijacking of a van stopped at a light that was then used to plow into a crowd. On Sunday, perpetrators created a decoy at a restaurant with homemade explosives and then used knives to attack police and firefighters who rushed to the scene, authorities said.

Rohan Gunaratna, a Singaporebased professor, agreed the violence could have been conducted or influenced by the East Turkestan Islamic Movement.

"These attacks in Kashgar might have been inspired by its ideology, or they might have received some technical training (from the movement)," said Gunaratna, one of the few experts on the group.

He added, though, that the movement had been weakened by the killing of its leader, Hasan Mahsum, in a counterterrorism operation conducted by the Pakistani Army in 2003. "Keep in mind that the (East Turkestan Islamic Movement) today is a very weak organization with under two dozen members who travel back and forth between China and Pakistan," he said.

Kashgar, which lies 300 kilometres from Pakistan, has been designated a special economic zone by the Chinese government with the hope it can be turned into a manufacturing and trade hub along the lines of Shenzhen.

UNCLASSIFIED

"Police are everywhere in the city. We do feel scared, but less so because of the police presence," Liu Liming, 32, a hotel clerk, who had migrated to Kashgar from Hunan province, said Monday.

Chinese authorities virtually closed down the city on Monday. Most photographs and witness accounts were immediately deleted from Twitter-like microblogs.

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

24. [Attack: Somalia] **Two AU Soldiers killed In Mogadishu Suicide Attack** (AHN)

Tuesday, 02 August 2011

<http://www.allheadlinenews.com/articles/90055994?Two%20AU%20soldiers%20killed%20in%20Mogadishu%20suicide%20attack>

“Two suicide bombers dressed in Somali Transitional Federal Government (TFG) uniform were killed today before they were able to detonate their suicide vests. They had attempted to infiltrate behind the frontline held by AMISOM in Mogadishu,” the African Union forces in Somalia (AMISOM), said in a statement.

The incident happened in Wardhigley district near Florenza Junction. In an exchange of gunfire with the suicide bombers, two AMISOM soldiers were wounded but died later of their injuries. The incident happened at approximately 4 p.m. local time.

“In the midst of a famine seizing Somalia the extremists are choosing to focus on killing, not saving life,” said Lt. Col. Paddy Akunda, AMISOM spokesperson

“The extremists are using desperate measures to achieve their ends through their willingness to use brutal violence during the Holy Month of Ramadan. Make no mistake, we will not allow this sort of terrorism to succeed,” he said. “AMISOM Forces are in the middle of conducting security operations in the capital to increase the areas of the capital under government control and safeguard Somalis.”

Each year, during the month of Ramadan, the extremists have attacked civilians and AMISOM troops using suicide bombers.

The Al Shabaab militant group claimed responsibility for the attack, adding that they had killed eight AMISOM soldiers and three American officers.

AMISOM denied that any U.S. officers were killed in the suicide attack.

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

25. **Suicide Bomber Kills 9 Yemeni Soldiers In Aden** (Long War Journal)

Sunday, 24 July 2011

http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2011/07/suicide_bomber_kills_56.php

An al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula suicide bomber killed nine Yemeni soldiers in an attack on a military convoy in the southern province of Aden today.

The suicide bomber rammed a car packed with explosives into the military convoy as it was stopped at a checkpoint near the provincial capital of Aden. The convoy was enroute to assist Yemeni troops in breaking AQAP's hold on the city of Zinjibar in the neighboring province of Abyan.

"The suicide attack by al Qaeda hit a convoy headed to Abyan ... the attacker died and his limbs were scattered around the area," the Yemeni Defense Ministry said, according to Reuters.

The suicide bombing in Aden is the second major attack in the city within the past several days. On July 20, terrorists killed a British citizen who worked as a marine surveyor. The Brit was killed after an explosive device was detonated in his car. Police arrested four suspects in the attack yesterday.

Today's suicide attack takes place just weeks after Yemen's defense minister said troops have been deployed around Aden to prevent the city from falling to al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula.

For the past several months, Yemeni security forces have been battling AQAP and allied Islamist groups for control of the south. AQAP is known to have openly taken control of areas in Abyan, Shabwah, Hadramawt, Marib, and Lahj since the onset of large anti-government protests in March. The cities of Zinjibar and Azzan in Shabwa province are under AQAP control.

For more information on AQAP and its front group Ansar al Sharia's war against the Yemeni government, and US airstrikes in Yemen, see LWJ report, [US airstrike kills 6 al Qaeda fighters in Yemen: report](#).

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

26. **Military: 2 Dead, 9 Hurt In Cotabato City Blast** (GMA News)

Tuesday, 02 August 2011

<http://www.gmanews.tv/story/228155/regions/military-2-dead-9-hurt-in-cotabato-city-blast>

Two people were killed and at least nine others were wounded when an improvised explosive device went off in Cotabato City on Tuesday afternoon, a Mindanao-based military official said.

Col. Prudencio Asto, the public affairs officer of the Army's 6th Infantry Division, identified one of the fatalities as Jimmy Ali. He said one of the fatalities could be the child who was brought to the hospital following the blast.

"Yung bata kasi 50-50 na nung dinala sa ospital," he said in a phone interview.

Local police authorities in Cotabato City said the blast happened near the Yuan Pharmacy and Diagnostic Laboratory and the CWAT Guns and Ammunition Store along Quezon Avenue at about 2:10 p.m.

Authorities said most of the victims were passengers of a red Toyota Townace vehicle.

Investigators said the bomb was placed on a motorcycle that was parked outside the pharmacy store.

No group has claimed responsibility for the attack as of posting time, but past bombing incidents in the south had usually been carried out by the Abu Sayyaf, a group of Islamic fundamentalists with links to the al Qaeda terrorist network.

Asto, however, said linked the bombing to the Jemaah Islamiyah. "This is a handiwork of the group of Basit Usman, a special operations group of the Jemaah Islamiyah," he said.

The explosion occurred on the second day of Ramadan, but the military said the attack will not affect the observance of the Islamic Holy Month.

"Hindi naman siguro kasi isolated [incident] naman ito," said Lt. Gen. Arthur Tabaquero, commander of the Armed Forces' Eastern Mindanao Command, when asked if the attack would affect the observance of Ramadan.

Police Director Felicisimo Khu of the Philippine National Police's Directorate for Integrated Police Operations in Western Mindanao said the CWAT gun store was reportedly owned by a certain Martinez, who is said to be a friend of the Ampatuans, a clan implicated in the Nov. 2009 massacre of 57 people in Maguindanao province. GMA News Online, however, has yet to independently confirm this as of posting time.

In Manila, PNP spokesman Chief Superintendent Agrimero Cruz Jr. identified four of the wounded victims as Nancy Lagamon, Datu Ike Karudin, Delio Tomandag, and Cherry Danosniya. They were rushed to the Cotabato Medical Center for treatment.

Other victims were identified as Bryan Go, a security guard of the pharmacy; Nestor Luna; and a certain

UNCLASSIFIED

Kauras, who are all currently being treated at the Cotabato City Medical Specialist Hospital.

An investigation by operatives from the Explosives and Ordnance Division and Scene of the Crime Operation from the regional police in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao is still on going, Cruz said.

Cotabato City administrator Cynthia Guiani-Sayadi has already appealed to bystanders to stay away from the area as the possibility of another IED explosion is high.

"For your sake, please don't gather around the site. Leave the place as soon as possible," Sayadi said in an interview aired over Catholic-ran dxMS in Cotabato City.

Investigators have yet to determine who could be behind the explosion.

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

27. At Least Two Algerian Soldiers Killed In Bomb Attack (Turkish Weekly)

Tuesday, 02 August 2011

<http://www.turkishweekly.net/news/120629/at-least-two-algerian-soldiers-killed-in-bomb-attack.html>

At least two Algerian soldiers were killed and several injured in a bomb attack on a military convoy in the north-west of the country, the latest in a string of such attacks, dpa reported with reference to local media.

Unknown attackers remotely detonated the explosive Sunday as the convoy was passing on a road often used by the military in Tihammamet, around 340 kilometres west of the capital Algiers, the reports said.

The Tout sur l'Algerie (Everything on Algeria) news website reported that three soldiers had been killed and five injured. El Watan, a Francophone daily, said two soldiers had been killed and at least eight injured.

The attack, which took place on the eve of the start of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, came days after security forces killed three suspected extremists in Boumerdes province, some 65 kilometres east of Algiers. El Watan reported the militants were travelling in explosives-laden cars.

The army and police in northern Algeria have experienced several attacks in the past month.

At least two people were killed and 15 wounded in a suicide bombing by a suspected Islamist extremist outside a police station in the northern city of Bordj Menaïel in mid-July. In two separate bomb attacks in the north-east in late June two soldiers were killed.

Algeria has a history of Islamist violence. More than 100,000 people were killed in a bloody civil war between the state and Islamic militants in the 1990s.

Although the violence has eased, there has been a series of attacks recently, which the state blames on al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), a terrorist group formed out of the remnants of a group that fought in the civil war.

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

28. **Five Killed, 20 Injured In Manipur Blast** (Hindustan Times)

Monday, 01 August 2011

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/Five-killed-20-injured-in-Manipur-blast/Article1-728106.aspx>

At least five persons including two girls were killed and 10 injured in a bomb explosion in Imphal East district of Manipur on Monday. The bomb, suspected to have been fitted to a two-wheeler parked at the busy Sangakpham Bazar under Heingang police station, exploded around 1.50pm. Police suspect militants' involvement in the blast.

State director general of police Y Joykumar Singh said, "We are trying to find out the details. Let the proper examination be conducted first"

The state police chief, however, hinted that it was an IED (improvised explosive device) blast.

No militant group had claimed responsibility for the blast, which occurred around 3 km north of the state police headquarters, at the time of going to press.

A barber and his son and one unidentified person were among those dead.

"There was a very loud blast. We rushed out and saw mutilated bodies scattered around," said Y Ibomcha, a goldsmith in a nearby jewellery shop.

Chief minister O Ibobi Singh and irrigation and flood control minister N Biren and MLA Bijoy Koiyam visited the blast site.

The CM and governor Gurbachan Jagat condemned the blast. "Such senseless targeting of innocent citizens is a sheer act of barbarism and must be strongly condemned by all, as such incidents have no place in the modern civilised world," Jagat said.

The CM said, "The director general of police has been directed to launch an intense search to nab the culprits. Inquiry has already begun. I assure that the culprits will be booked and tried under the law."

The state government announced an ex-gratia of Rs 1 lakh to the next of kin of the deceased and Rs 75,000 to persons who have suffered permanent disability.

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

29. **IED Diffused Along Mendhar-Poonch Highway** (Kashmir Dispatch)

Monday, 01 August 2011

<http://www.kashmirdispatch.com/more-news/01085017-ied-diffused-along-mendhar-poonch-highway-army.htm>

Army on Monday claimed to have averted a major tragedy by diffusing an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) in Mendhar area of district Poonch in Jammu division.

A road opening party of 160 Territorial Army detected an IED near Chotta Shah area, 12 km from the Mendhar town early this morning, sources said.

After the recovery of the IED, Army stopped the traffic on the Mendhar-Poonch highway and pressed into service the bomb disposal squad. After two hours, the IED was diffused and the road link was thrown open for traffic.

“The IED was planted on the highway early this morning. Our men detected the IED on time and diffused it,” Army’s 16 Core spokesmen, Lt Colonel, Imraan Mousvi said.

Meanwhile, Army claimed to have busted a hideout in Kandi area of the district today.

Army sources said that 40 RR and Special Operations Group (SOG) of police during a search operation at KP Nala, Sajwayan busted a hideout and recovered huge cache of arms and ammunitions.

They said one AK-56 Rifle, one magazine and 36 rounds, one Chinese Pistol with 3 magazines, 2 RPG rounds, 7 RPG boosters, 4 IED cells, 4 Chinese grenades, 3 UBGL grenades, 2 kg RDX, 20 detonators with wire, one pouch, 2 bags, 1 water bottle, two hand gloves and two monkey caps were recovered from the hideout.

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

30. **Three Powerful IEDs Recovered** (Hindustan Times)

Tuesday, 02 August 2011

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/Three-powerful-IEDs-recovered/Article1-727666.aspx>

A major disaster was averted on Sunday when three powerful Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) were defused from the busy Vehbari area in Assam's Kamrup (Rural) district. Police said the three explosives were detected during a joint patrol by the Army and police at Vehbari near Bagsa.

The Army's bomb defusal squad defused the IEDs.

One Mustafa Ali has been detained in this connection.

Investigations are on to ascertain who had planted the explosives in the busy market area.

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

31. **Disaster Averted, IEDs Found In Jammu Bound Bus** (Kashmir Observer)

Friday, 29 July 2011

http://www.kashmirobservers.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=8284:ieds-found-in-jammu-bound-bus&catid=2:local-news&Itemid=3

Police on Friday claimed to have averted a major tragedy by detecting and defusing three Improvised explosive devices (IEDs) from a Jammu bound bus near Qazigund on Srinagar-Jammu highway.

A police official said that police found the IEDs near Gulab-bagh Toll Post in Qazigund town in Anantnag district. “These explosives were kept in 3-pressure cookers of 1- litre each, wrapped in a polythene bag and kept in a haversack, inside a video coach bus (JK01C-9547), which was on way to Jammu from Srinagar,” the police official said.

He said the explosives were later removed from the bus and defused by bomb disposal squad.

“Thus a major tragedy was averted. A case has been registered and further investigations are on,” they added.

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

32. **Police: Dozen Of Homemade Bombs Found Each Year** (YLE)

Tuesday, 02 August 2011

[http://www.yle.fi/uutiset/news/2011/08/police dozens of homemade bombs found each year 2761653.html](http://www.yle.fi/uutiset/news/2011/08/police_dozens_of_homemade_bombs_found_each_year_2761653.html)

Finnish police arrest around 50 people each year for the preparation or detonation of homemade explosives. It is possible, however, that the police only catch a fraction of the true number of Finland's explosives enthusiasts.

Typically, those arrested for these offences are men aged between 14 and 30. Perpetrators often find instructions on the internet, but the information can be inaccurate and unreliable.

“The quality and concentration of the ingredients varies, so the reactions can be unpredictable,” said police inspector Marko Savolainen.

Police remind people that homemade explosions are dangerous and illegal. Crimes relating to explosions can be punished by up to two years in jail.

The police follow discussions on the topic online. Savolainen says that parents should report any suspicions as soon as they notice something amiss, for instance jars and packages for which there is no logical explanation.

“Young people can be eager to experiment without understanding the dangers that these explosive ingredients present to themselves and the environment.”

[\[Back to Top\]](#)