

RAPID

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WEEKLY NEWS UPDATE

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



Bomb Attacks Kill 16 In Northwest Pakistan

Pakistan army soldiers examine weapons of militants that attacked a police station in Bannu.

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AFPAK

1. [Attack, Afghanistan] Roadside Bomb Kills Six Afghan Civilians

Saturday, February 9 2013

<http://news.yahoo.com/roadside-bomb-kills-6-afghan-civilians-104743255.html>

A government official says a roadside bomb has struck a car in southern Afghanistan, killing six civilians.

The spokesman for the governor of southern Helmand province said Saturday two women and four men were killed in the blast in the Nad Ali district.

Spokesman Ahmad Zeerak says those killed were all "innocent civilians and from one family." He says they were driving home from a nearby village in their own car when the explosion occurred at about 7 p.m. Friday.

Helmand province has been the focus of several U.S.-led offensives, but it remains one of the most dangerous areas in the country.



AFPAK

2. [Attack, Pakistan] One Killed In Pakistan Bomb Blast

Saturday, February 9 2013

<http://www.ndtv.com/article/world/one-killed-in-pakistan-bomb-blast-328712>

At least one person was killed and three others injured in a bomb blast that hit Pakistan's southwestern provincial capital of Quetta Saturday evening, local media and police said.

According to the reports, the explosion took place when a suspected suicide bomber tried to attack the Kuchlak police station of the city but he exploded his explosive jacket mistakenly before reaching the target, Xinhua reported.

The suicide bomber was killed in the blast while three passersby were injured.

Security forces cordoned off the area for search operation and found an abandoned explosive-laden vehicle parked near the police station. The bomb disposal squad defused the bomb.



AFPAK

3. [Attack, Pakistan] Bomb Blast Damages SSGC Substation

Tuesday, February 12 2013

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-4-159455-Bomb-blast-damages-SSGC-substation>

A massive explosion near the KPT Interchange Flyover on Korangi Road on Monday evening damaged a gas supply substation and injured a police constable.

The loud blast sent shivers down the spines of the residents of the area and nearby localities including Defence View, Qayyumabad, Akhtar Colony and Korangi. District South SSP Nasir Aftab told The News that a bomb weighing 200g was concealed inside a container-like structure near the storm-water drain that passes through the area.

“It was a time bomb and only contained explosives,” he added. “If there had been ball bearings in the bomb, there could have been casualties.” A police constable, 35-year-old Abdul Aziz, posted at the Brigade police station, was standing nearby and injured when the bomb went off.

A spokesperson for the Sui Southern Gas Company told The News that the target of the attack was their substation. “The recorder, ceiling, and grill of the town border station were damaged by the blast, but the supply line passing beneath it remained safe,” he added

“Gas supply to the areas connected to the substation was also unaffected. “The spokesperson said the attack was similar to one on the gas company’s substation near NIPA flyover in Gulshan-e-Iqbal on February 3.



AFPAK

4. [Attack, Pakistan] Bomb Rocks College In Mardan

Tuesday, February 12 2013

http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2013\02\13\story_13-2-2013_pg7_9

The Government Postgraduate Degree College, Mardan, was rocked by a mild intensity bomb on Tuesday afternoon; however, no casualty was reported. According to police, the bomb which weighed five kilogrammes was placed in the veranda of the Physics Department on the second storey of the college building and exploded with a big bang, damaging the windowpanes of two classrooms. Luckily, the students were not present in the classroom at the time of the explosion. Police and Rescue 1122 responders started a search operation following the blast.



AFPAK

5. [Security, Afghanistan] Seven Hundred Kg Of Explosive Seized

Wednesday, February 13 2013

<http://www.bakhtarnews.com.af/eng/security/item/6286-700-kg-of-explosive-seized.html>

The Afghan and NATO forces in a combined operation seized 700 kg of explosive from Zormat district of Paktia province.

According to ISAF, the Afghan and NATO forces discovered and seized the explosives which armed insurgents kept in their hideouts.



AFPAC

6. [Attack, Pakistan] Bomb Attacks Kill 16 In Northwest Pakistan

Thursday, February 14 2013

<http://www.thenational.ae/news/world/south-asia/bomb-attacks-kill-16-in-northwest-pakistan-officials>

Three separate bomb attacks in northwest Pakistan killed at least 16 people yesterday, including five security personnel in a suicide blast at a checkpoint, officials said.

A bomber detonated a vehicle he was driving loaded with explosives at a checkpoint in Hangu district, near the tribal areas where militants linked to the Taliban and Al Qaeda have strongholds, police spokesman Fazal Naeem said.

"At least seven people have been killed and 23 injured. It was a suicide attack, the death toll may rise," he said.

Mian Mohammad Saeed, police chief for Hangu district said five security personnel were among the seven dead.

Earlier in the day, a roadside bomb struck a bus carrying members of a pro-government militia from the tribal district of Khyber, where fighting has recently intensified in a long-running Pakistan military operation against insurgents.

The explosion in the village of Hassanzo in the neighbouring tribal district of Orakzai killed seven people and wounded 13, officials said.

"According to initial information, the van was hired by a local peace committee from Khyber and 20 members of the peace committee were on board together with the driver," top Orakzai administration official Mehmood Hasan said.

Peace committees are armed groups operating in the restive northwest with the aim of protecting local communities on behalf of the government.

In another attack in the same place, a van carrying civilians was hit by a blast which killed two people and wounded 10, Mr Hasan said.

Security officials confirmed the attacks and the death toll.

Pakistani troops have been locked in deadly battles for years with domestic insurgents in the northwestern tribal belt, where militants also plot attacks on Afghan and western targets.

Islamabad says more than 35,000 people have been killed as a result of terrorism in the country since 2001.





AFPAK

7. [Attack, Pakistan] Bomb Kills Seven Pakistan Pro-Government Militia

Thursday, February 14 2013

<http://www.scmp.com/news/asia/article/1150151/bomb-kills-7-pakistan-pro-government-militia>

A bomb attack killed at least seven members of a Pakistani pro-government militia and wounded 13 others on Thursday as they were travelling to a garrison town in the northwest, officials said.

Twenty militiamen were travelling by bus from the tribal district of Khyber, where fighting has recently intensified in a long-running Pakistan military operation against the Taliban and other Islamist insurgents on the Afghan border.

A roadside bomb struck the bus in the village of Hassanzo in the neighbouring tribal district of Orakzai as it was on its way to Kohat, one of the main garrison towns for the Pakistan army in the northwest, officials said.

“As a result of the blast, the passenger van was completely destroyed and seven people were killed and 13 others are wounded,” top Orakzai administration official Mehmood Hasan told reporters, warning the death toll could rise.

“According to initial information, the van was hired by a local peace committee from Khyber and 20 members of the peace committee were on board together with the driver,” he said.

Peace committees are armed groups operating in the restive northwest with the aim of protecting local communities on behalf of the government.

Security officials confirmed the attack and the death toll.

Pakistani troops have been locked in deadly battles for years with domestic insurgents in the northwestern tribal belt, where Taliban and al-Qaeda-linked militants also plot attacks on Afghan and Western targets.

Islamabad says more than 35,000 people have been killed as a result of terrorism in the country since the 9/11 attacks on the United States.



AFRICOM

8. [Attack, Somalia] Shebab Suicide Bomber Kills Four In Central Somalia

Monday, February 11 2013

<http://dawn.com/2013/02/11/shebab-suicide-bomber-kills-four-in-central-somalia/>

Somalia's Shebab insurgents said Monday they carried out a suicide attack using a car bomb targeting senior police officials in the central Galkayo region, killing at least four people.

"There are at least five people dead, including the bomber," said Mohamed Abdullahi, a police officer in the town, which straddles the border between the northern breakaway state of Puntland and the self-proclaimed region of Galmudug.

Security sources said that a senior Puntland police official was wounded in the blast, but the reports could not be independently confirmed.

"The mujahedeen have today carried out a martyrdom operation in Galkayo, targeting senior Puntland officials," the al Qaeda-linked Shebab said in a message posted on their Twitter account.

The Shebab claimed that six soldiers were killed and nine were wounded in the blast, the latest in a string of attacks in the region, where tensions are high between rival political and clan groups.

Shebab insurgents also operate in the wider area, and have carried out a series of guerrilla style attacks, but have tended to target mainly the capital Mogadishu.

Newly elected President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, who took office in September after being chosen by the country's new parliament, faces multiple challenges in efforts to restore peace to the war-torn Horn of Africa nation.

Large parts of the country has been carved up by rival militia forces who have developed autonomous regions that pay little if any heed to the weak central government in Mogadishu.

But Shebab fighters are on the back foot, having fled a string of key towns ahead of a 17,000-strong African Union force, which is fighting alongside Somali government troops to wrest territory from the militants.

Ethiopian troops are also battling the Shebab in the southwest of Somalia.

The Shebab remain a potent threat, still controlling rural areas as well as carrying out guerrilla attacks in areas apparently under government control.



AFRICOM

9. [Attack, Mali] Bomb Blasts, Street Battles In Mali City Following French Declaration Of Success

Monday, February 11 2013

<http://rt.com/news/france-mali-gao-insurgency-883/>

Blasts and street violence continue in Mali's largest northern city after Islamist insurgent guerrilla raids. France has responded with an air strike, according to AFP. The violence throws into question claims of stability after the city's recapture.

A large explosion hit Gao early on Monday morning, near a city checkpoint which has also been the subject of two previous attacks over the past three days, reported AFP. A French helicopter bombed the area following the blast, said the agency, citing witnesses at the scene.

The police station, which had been the setting of Sunday's gunfire, was destroyed and body parts were left lying in the debris, according to an AFP reporter.

The broad-scale guerilla assault began on Sunday, less than 10 days after French President Francois Hollande flew out to Mali to declare the apparent success of the campaign.

Islamist troops used canoes to cross the Niger River in their armed offensive on the Malian army, a French general told Reuters. The extremists, who were headed towards the police station wielding AK-47s, were confronted by Malian soldiers wielding rocket-propelled grenades.

The ensuing gunfire prompted residents to take cover in their homes and crouch behind walls, and French military helicopters scattered bullets on the Movement for Unity and Jihad in West Africa (MUJWA) extremists from above. MUJWA is considered a faction of Al-Qaeda's North African wing AQIM, which the French have been fighting against after the Islamist group seized control of northern Mali for 10 months, following the military coup of March 2012/

Fighting also broke out around the governor's office, and machine-gun fire could be heard late into the afternoon. A precise death toll has not yet been established. However, both Reuters and AFP witnesses report two bodies, both of which may have been civilians.

This recent eruption of fighting has illustrated the insurgents' enduring strength in the face of early successful French offensives. Despite a fairly easy fight on the ground, the French strongholds still remain highly vulnerable to insurgency and terrorist attacks.

"Despite the news reports of the French army having taken over Gao, Timbuktu and Kidal, there is still a long way to go before Jihadists are ousted from the country," journalist Gonzalo Wancha, told RT after being given exclusive access to civil defense camps.

One soldier spoke on behalf of his fellow civilian volunteers, stating clearly that they did not support the methods of the French and Malian forces, despite sharing goals.

"What they did was a really bad service to us," he said, "Al-Qaeda has been operating on Malian territory for a number of years now. They have arms, and they keep getting more by kidnapping white people for ransom. France pays them to have its citizens returned, and then the terrorists have cash to buy weapons....there's no way the army can fight it."

"One thing all these paramilitary groups have in common is their patriotism and zeal to protect their country, and drive away the narco-terrorists. But this is a losing fight, given the financial resources and ammunition stock they have," Wancha said.

The Islamist extremists had fled into the remote surrounding desert two weeks ago, following a French-led military mission which forced them to flee from their northern Mali city strongholds. Insurgents have also been successful in blending in with the general population through the removal of insignia which might identify them to adversaries.



“I believe France will stop these attacks for a while, but when the French troops leave, they’ll start all over again, because the criminals are still out there, hiding among the civilians – not all of them have been caught,” another civil defense soldier said.

The undercover MUJWA strike follows separate terrorist incidents over the weekend. Earlier on Sunday, a suicide blast in Gao killed the bomber and injured a Malian soldier, whilst on Saturday night, a suicide bomber detonated explosives at a Gao checkpoint, injuring another Malian soldier. The blast on Monday morning was ‘possibly’ at the same checkpoint, according to AFP.

The security post in question was also attacked on Friday by a 15-year-old boy, injuring one other in what was the first terrorist attack in the country’s history. MUJWA claimed responsibility for the incident.

On February 2, President Hollande visited Timbuktu as the Mali intervention was declared successful. He was presented with a baby camel by the government of Mali as a token of thanks. However, the recent blasts may signify the possibility of a longer and more drawn-out insurgency than previously anticipated.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said on Sunday that France was reaping in Mali what it had sown in Libya by arming rebels who fought against Muammar Gaddafi.

“France is fighting against those in Mali whom it had once armed in Libya against Gaddafi in violation of the embargo ordered by the UN Security Council,” Lavrov told the Sunday Night with Solovyov program.

He went on to comment on France’s ground successes, whilst underlining the challenge the country faces from such insurgents.

“France is marching across Mali with relative ease, virtually in a parade manner, occupying positions abandoned by the terrorists. It will soon liberate the whole of the state. The question is: Where are these guys no one had been able to subdue? They may turn out to be fine in the neighboring countries, where expeditionary decisions will have to be made,” he said.





AFRICOM

10. [Security, Mali] Russia Arming Mali, More Islamist Attacks Feared

Wednesday, February 13 2013

<http://nz.news.yahoo.com/a/-/world/16134765/troops-defuse-600-kilo-bomb-in-north-mali/>

Russia revealed Wednesday it is supplying guns to Mali's government, as French troops discovered a massive homemade bomb in the largest city in the north, highlighting the threat Islamist rebels still pose.

The head of Russia's arms export agency said it had delivered small amounts of light weapons for Mali's poorly equipped and deeply divided army, which is struggling to restore security after a French-led military intervention helped it push out Al-Qaeda-linked rebels who had seized the country's north.

"We are in talks about sending more, in small quantities," said Rosobornexport chief Anatoly Isaikin, quoted by the Interfax news agency.

In the northern city of Gao, the scene of twin suicide bombings and a downtown street battle in recent days, French troops defused a homemade bomb they said contained 600 kilogrammes (1,300 pounds) of explosives in the city centre.

The bomb, which was made of four metal barrels filled with explosives and connecting wires, was in the courtyard of an abandoned house, an AFP correspondent said.

The bomb had been there since at least Monday, the reporter said.

The United Nations said Wednesday it was working on a "regional strategy" for the Sahel, the semi-arid region south of the Sahara desert, where analysts say a dangerous mix of Islamist extremism, kidnapping, drug trafficking and organised crime are fuelling unrest including the Mali crisis.

The UN special envoy for the Sahel, Romano Prodi, and UN west Africa representative Said Djinnit were to begin a three-day visit to the region Wednesday to discuss the situation in Mali with the presidents of its neighbours Senegal, Mauritania, Burkina Faso and Niger.

UN rights chief Navi Pillay warned Tuesday that Mali risked descending into a cycle of violence, not only by rebel groups but also by the army and black majority waging revenge attacks on light-skinned Tuaregs and Arabs accused of supporting the insurgents.

"Attacks and reprisals risk driving Mali into a catastrophic spiral of violence," Pillay told the UN Security Council.

Rights groups have accused the Malian army of killing suspected rebel supporters and dumping their bodies in wells, and Tuaregs and Arabs have also come under attack from their black neighbours in northern towns such as Timbuktu.

Many Arabs and Tuaregs have fled the north.

In all, the crisis has caused some 377,000 people to flee their homes, including 150,000 who have sought refuge across Mali's borders, according to the UN.



"The recent developments in the conflict have sown panic among these people, who have fled for fear of being trapped between two fires," Nawezi Karl of aid group Doctors Without Borders (MSF) said Wednesday.

The organisation warned the refugees are living in precarious conditions, threatened by hunger and having taken few belongings with them.

Mali imploded after a March coup by soldiers who blamed the government for the army's humiliation at the hands of north African Tuareg rebels, who have long complained of being marginalised by Bamako.

With the capital in disarray, Al-Qaeda-linked fighters hijacked the Tuareg rebellion and took control of the north.

France launched its intervention on January 11, after Mali's interim government called for help fending off the Islamist insurgents as they made incursions into government territory.

But after pushing the rebels from the towns under their control, France is eager to wind down the operation in its former colony and hand over to United Nations peacekeepers.

US President Barack Obama highlighted Washington's support for France's Mali operation in his annual State of the Union address Tuesday.

Obama warned that Al-Qaeda affiliates and allied extremist groups pose an "evolving" threat in regions including Africa.

"We will need to help countries like Yemen, Libya and Somalia provide for their own security, and help allies who take the fight to terrorists, as we have in Mali," he said.

Obama on Monday allocated up to \$50 million for ongoing US airlift and air refuelling services to France and Chad, which has pledged 2,000 troops for Mali, most of them already deployed.

Canada's foreign minister said Ottawa was also mulling requests for money and military trainers for Mali, but ruled out sending troops for an operation he said was "already amounting to a counter-insurgency".

"We're not, at the drop of a hat, going to get into another Afghanistan in this region," he told a parliamentary committee.



AFRICOM

11. [Security, Mali] French, Mali Troops Recover Cache Of Explosives In Northern Mali City Of Gao

Wednesday, February 13 2013

http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/africa/french-mali-troops-recover-cache-of-explosives-in-northern-mali-city-of-gao/2013/02/13/d2f468ae-75e5-11e2-9889-60bfcbb02149_story.html

French soldiers on Wednesday recovered an enormous stash of explosives that authorities believe radical Islamic fighters were using to make bombs for attacks on northern Mali's largest city, a Malian military spokesman said. Daouda Diarra said that the French military removed some 800 kilograms (1,700 pounds) of explosive materials from a house in Gao's Chateau neighborhood. The explosives had been discovered several days earlier, and the team had returned to the site Wednesday, Diarra said.

French military officials could not be immediately reached for comment.

Radical Islamic fighters withdrew from Gao on Jan. 26 after imposing their harsh interpretation of Shariah law in the most populous city in northern Mali for nearly 10 months.

Since their retreat, the Islamic extremists have launched two suicide bombings in the last week and invaded the city for a five-hour-long gun battle Sunday in the center of the city. Sunday's brazen assault marked the first time the jihadists had penetrated the city of mud-walled buildings since they fled.

Last week soldiers combing abandoned jihadist hideouts also found a stash of NITRAM 5 explosives hidden inside rice bags that were left in a communal trash area. The explosives are manufactured for use in mining, but can cause considerable damage when used as bombs.

Two suicide bombers have detonated their explosives in attacks on military checkpoints since Friday. Neither of the attacks killed other people, but the pattern of attempts has raised alarm that the jihadists could be preparing to stage more devastating assaults on civilian centers.

One of the suicide bombers had stayed in a Gao house where Islamic extremists lived when they controlled the city. The guard there said it had been visited by the one-eyed Algerian terror leader Moktar Belmoktar, who was the architect of last month's attack on a BP plant in Algeria in which at least 37 people were killed.

Soldiers from Niger and Mali have been patrolling downtown Gao on foot in an effort to secure the city. A new checkpoint with about two dozen Malian soldiers standing guard was also set up Wednesday near the waterfront. Mali was plunged into turmoil after a coup in March 2012 created a security vacuum that allowed secular rebel Tuaregs, who have long felt marginalized by Mali's government, to take half the north as a new homeland. In the following months, the rebels were kicked out by the Islamists who imposed strict Shariah law in the north, including amputations for theft.

France launched a military operation Jan. 11 against the Islamic extremists after they started to move south into government-controlled areas and captured key towns.



AFRICOM

12. [Security, Mali] Troops Defuse '600Kg Bomb'

Thursday, February 14 2013

<http://news.iafrica.com/worldnews/842435.html>

French troops on Wednesday defused a homemade bomb they said contained 600kg of explosives in the centre of northern Mali's largest city Gao, the target of several attacks by Islamist rebels in recent days.

The bomb, which was made of four metal barrels filled with explosives and connecting wires, was in the courtyard of an abandoned house, with heavy machine gun cartridges lying on the ground nearby and several smaller bombs inside the building, an AFP correspondent said.

The bomb had been there since at least Monday, the reporter said. The site is near a hotel where dozens of foreign journalists are staying.

In recent days, Gao has been hit by a string of attacks claimed by the Movement for Oneness and Jihad in West Africa (MUJAO), an offshoot of al-Qaeda's north African branch that seized control of the city in the wake of a March military coup.

MUJAO fighters carried out back-to-back suicide bombings on Friday and Saturday, then opened fire on Malian troops from inside the city's abandoned central police station on Sunday, sparking a street battle that lasted several hours.

A French attack helicopter destroyed the building after the assault.

MUJAO has claimed its fighters are still in Gao and has vowed further attacks.





CENTCOM

13. [Attack, Iraq] Bomb Hits Poland Amb. To Iraq's Convoy

Monday, February 11 2013

<http://www.presstv.ir/detail/2013/02/11/288344/bomb-hits-poland-amb-to-iraqs-convoy/>

Polish foreign ministry says the convoy of the country's ambassador to Iraq was struck by a roadside bomb but the ambassador escaped unharmed.

The attack occurred on Saturday "as two vehicles with several people including ambassador Lech Stefaniak drove through on their way to Baghdad," AFP quoted foreign ministry spokesman Marcin Bosacki as saying on Sunday.

The incident took place some 30 kilometres (20 miles) south of the northern Iraqi city of Kirkuk.

"The mine caused minor damage to the vehicles" but "most importantly, no one was harmed," Bosacki noted.

He added that Iraqi authorities opened an investigation into "whether it was an attack, whether the Polish ambassador was the target or someone else."

"Another vehicle could have been the target as it is a busy main road," the spokesman pointed out.

Poland had around 2,500 troops in Iraq but withdrew them in 2008.

Bombings and shootings have recently intensified across Iraq. The government has stepped up efforts to increase security across the country over the past few months.



CENTCOM

14. [Attack, Iraq] Iraqi TV Office Bombed After Airing Criticism Of Kurdish Figure

Monday, February 11 2013

<http://english.al-akhbar.com/content/iraqi-tv-office-bombed-after-airing-criticism-kurdish-figure>

A bomb exploded on the roof of an Iraqi satellite channel's offices Saturday night, one day after the broadcaster aired a caller's criticism of a revered Kurdish leader, an official said on Sunday.

At least five people were killed in separate attacks in Iraq on Sunday, the state news reported.

The attack on the media building in the Kurdish city of Sulaimaniyah came as Human Rights Watch (HRW) criticized the autonomous Iraqi region for infringing on free speech by wrongly detaining journalists, activists and opposition figures for insulting public figures.

On Friday evening, the Nalia television station briefly aired a caller's criticism of Mullah Mustafa Barzani, a Kurdish nationalist leader and the father of Kurdistan's current president, during its "Free Microphone" program before cutting off the caller.

On Saturday, 300 supporters of Barzani's Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) tried to storm the broadcaster's offices but were turned away by riot police, an AFP journalist said.

Later that day, a bomb went off on the roof of Nalia's offices, a security official said, speaking on condition of anonymity. It was unclear who was behind the attack.

Abdulwahab Ali, the KDP's chief in Sulaimaniyah, said the party had not orchestrated the demonstration.

Nalia's offices were previously attacked in February 2011 by masked gunmen who wounded a security guard and destroyed the broadcaster's equipment.

On Sunday, New York-based HRW issued a statement criticizing Kurdish authorities for arresting opponents and journalists under legislation that has not been approved by the region's parliament.

"Instead of ensuring the justice system investigates high-level corruption, the Kurdistan regional government is ignoring its own laws to protect free speech and assembly, and using 'laws' that are not in force to silence dissent," Sarah Leah Whitson, HRW's Middle East director, wrote.

"Sadly, the Kurdistan regional government today looks less and less like the open and thriving democracy it paints itself to be."

The watchdog said that in 2012, regional security forces reportedly arrested at least 50 journalists, opponents and activists, prosecuting seven of them for insulting public figures.

Meanwhile at least five people were killed and many more injured in three separate attacks across the restive country Sunday.



Iraq's national news agency reported that one civilian was killed and several others injured when a car bomb exploded in central Samarra.

Two others were killed and four injured at the Baiji refinery in the Salahuddin province, north of Tikrit, when gunmen opened fire on them.

And attackers killed two policemen at a checkpoint in the Farouk district, west of Mosul.



CENTCOM

15. [Attack, Iraq] Suicide Car Bomb Kills Eight In Northern Iraq City

Tuesday, February 12 2013

<http://www.manoramaonline.com/cgi-bin/MMOnline.dll/portal/ep/contentView.do?contentType=EDITORIAL&channelId=-1073753405&programId=1080132918&contentId=13421055&tabId=1>

A suicide car bomber killed at least eight people at a military checkpoint in the Iraqi city of Mosul on Monday, police and hospital sources said, as sectarian and ethnic tensions build ahead of elections in April.

The bomber, who struck in Mosul, 390 km (240 miles) north of Baghdad, also wounded eight people, including six soldiers.

"The blast destroyed everything. It looks like there was nothing here before the explosion," said a policeman at the scene who declined to be identified because he was not authorised to speak to the media.

Ongoing violence following the withdrawal of U.S. troops in late 2011 is stoking fears of a return to the sectarian strife that killed tens of thousands of Iraqis in 2006 and 2007.

Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, a Shi'ite Muslim, is facing mass protests by disenchanted Sunnis and is at loggerheads with ethnic Kurds who run their northern region autonomously from Baghdad.

The prospect of provincial elections is hardening the divisions as political leaders appeal to their constituencies with often hostile and uncompromising rhetoric.



CENTCOM

16. [Attack, Iraq] Bomb Explodes On Roof Of Independent Kurdish TV Station

Wednesday, February 13 2013

<http://www.cpj.org/2013/02/bomb-explodes-on-roof-of-independent-kurdish-tv-st.php>

Authorities in Kurdistan should immediately investigate and apprehend the perpetrators responsible for an explosion on the roof of the independent Nalia Radio and Television in Sulaymaniyah on Saturday, the Committee to Protect Journalists said today. The attack occurred the day after the station aired a caller's criticism of Mustafa Barzani, the former leader of the Kurdistan Democratic Party.

"The Kurdistan Regional Government must conduct an immediate criminal investigation and bring those responsible to justice," said Sherif Mansour, CPJ's Middle East and North Africa Coordinator. "It's unacceptable for the government to stand by and allow these dangerous attacks to be conducted against a news outlet."

An unidentified individual called the station's program "Free Microphone" on Friday and criticized Barzani, father of the current president, Massoud Barzani, according to news reports. News reports did not describe the nature of the criticism, and the station did not immediately return messages from CPJ seeking elaboration.

Hours before the explosion, riot police prevented hundreds of angry protesters from storming the Nalia building, news reports said.

There were no casualties, and the station was able to continue broadcasting.

No groups have claimed responsibility for the attack. Abdulwahab Ali, local leader of the Kurdistan Democratic Party, denied the party's involvement in the demonstration, Agence France-Presse reported.

Nalia Radio and Television began broadcasting in February 2011 as northern Iraq's first independent media station. The station has been attacked in the past. The month it opened, 50 unidentified assailants attacked the outlet and set it on fire after the station covered protests against the KDP, news reports said.



CENTCOM

17. [Security, Bahrain] Bomb At King Fahd Causeway Defused

Friday, February 15 2013

<http://arabnews.com/bomb-king-fahd-causeway-defused>

The Bahraini Minister of Interior said its anti terrorism squads defused bomb weighing 2-kilogram bomb placed at King Fahd Causeway on Thursday, said Bahrain News Agency (BNA.) Other sources reported the traffic flow on the bridge was not disrupted.

General Tariq Hasan Al-Hasan, Chief of Public Security, said policeman Muhammad Asef died Thursday before reaching the hospital after he was a target of a terrorist attack. The officer was hit by an incendiary projectile in the area of Sehla, where the martyr and other policemen were performing their duty of securing roads and protecting public and private properties when groups of terrorists attacked them with Molotov explosives in addition to the incendiary projectile that killed Asef. General Al-Hassan said investigations to brought perpetrators of the terrorist attack to justice are underway.



EUCOM

18. [Security, Ireland] Explosive Device Found At Campus

Saturday, February 9 2013

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/local-national/republic-of-ireland/explosive-device-found-at-campus-29058916.html>

An explosive device has been discovered at a college campus in north Dublin.

The viable device was found near an ATM machine at the Blanchardstown Institute of Technology on Saturday morning.

It was made safe by Army bomb disposal experts.

The Defence Forces deployed the Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) team in response to a request from gardai.

The team arrived on scene at 10.40am and a cordon was put in place for public safety. Some nearby buildings also had to be evacuated as a precaution.

A Defence Forces spokesman said: "The device was rendered safe in situ remotely without the need for a controlled explosion and was then moved to a secure military location for further technical examination and testing."

The scene was declared safe shortly after 11.30am.

The spokesman added: "The device has now been confirmed as a viable IED (Improvised Explosive Device) following further testing and its remains will be handed over to the Gardai to assist in their investigations."



EUCOM

19. [Attack, Israel] Tel Aviv Bomb Attack Injures Two Israelis

Sunday, February 10 2013

<http://www.presstv.ir/detail/2013/02/10/288200/tel-aviv-bomb-attack-injures-two/>

Police say two Israeli men have been wounded in a bomb explosion targeting a car in Tel Aviv.

The bomb went off in the Tel Kabir neighborhood of the city on Saturday night.

The bombing was an “attempted criminal hit” on the two victims, who are brothers, police said.

One of the victims suffered moderate and the other serious injuries. They were taken to a nearby hospital for treatment.

According to police and witnesses, the two men were inside the car when the bomb went off outside a kiosk in the area. The blast also damaged the vehicle.

Police have launched an investigation into the bombing. No group has claimed responsibility for the incident so far.





EUCOM

20. [Trend, Israel] Bomb Parts Found In Kindergarten's Sand-Box

Sunday, February 10 2013

<http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-4343298,00.html>

A kindergarten teacher in Nahariya found materials in the kindergarten's sand-box that according to a police sapper's examination are used to construct an explosive device.

The police have launched an investigation, and the materials found were sent to a forensics lab for further examination.



EUCOM

21. [Attack, Turkey] At Least One Killed In Vehicle Blast On Turkey-Syria Border

Monday, February 11 2013

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/02/11/us-syria-crisis-turkey-explosion-idUSBRE91A0JE20130211>

A vehicle exploded at a border crossing on Turkey's border with Syria near the Turkish town of Reyhanli on Monday, killing at least one person and wounding several, a Turkish government official said.

"It was not an air strike. The explosion came from a car but we cannot yet confirm what caused it. There are definitely dead and wounded," the official told Reuters.



EUCOM

22. [Attack, Turkey] Syria Border Blast Was Bomb Attack

Tuesday, February 12 2013

<http://uk.news.yahoo.com/syria-border-blast-bomb-attack-turkish-pm-114409093.html>

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan said on Tuesday that a powerful blast in a minibus on the Syrian border which killed 14 people was a bomb attack.

"A vehicle loaded with bombs was able to reach our customs gate because the customs gate on the Syrian side is not working and is not being controlled," Erdogan told parliament after Monday's incident.

The vehicle exploded on Monday in the buffer zone between Turkey's Cilvegözü border crossing and Syria's Bab al-Hawa post, which was seized by Syrian rebels in July.

"What we see in the footage that it is a crowded parking lot filled with pedestrians... Anybody can see the death toll would be heavy," Justice Minister Sadullah Ergin told reporters earlier.

"So we believe civilians are the clear targets," Ergin added. "I curse this act of terror."

Turkish authorities are looking into all possibilities, including claims that the attack might have been carried out by Syrian intelligence, local media reported.

Dissident groups within the various factions of the Syrian rebels are also under the spotlight.

The Cilvegözü crossing is one of seven functioning border posts along Turkey's 910 kilometre (560 mile) frontier with Syria.

It is a major gateway into Syria, with hundreds of trucks lining up every day to take humanitarian aid into the war-torn nation.

Video footage showed the minibus arriving from Syria and parking near the border crossing 20 minutes before it exploded, Interior Minister Muammer Güler said.

The Milliyet newspaper said around 50 kilogrammes (110) of TNT had been stashed in the vehicle and were detonated by remote control,

Officials put the toll at least 14, four of them Turks and the rest Syrians, while 25 others were wounded.

Hurriyet reported that three suspects got out of the car before the explosion. Two of them walked into Syria while the third entered Turkey and is still being hunted for.

Turkey, a one-time Syria ally now vehemently opposed to President Bashar al-Assad's regime, has taken in close to 200,000 refugees from the conflict that has killed more than 60,000 Syrians in nearly two years, according to UN figures.





EUCOM

23. [Attack, Russia] Security Forces Kill Suspected Militant In Russian Caucasus

Wednesday, February 13 2013

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/02/13/us-russia-caucasus-violence-idUSBRE91COGU20130213>

Russia said it had killed on Wednesday a militant wanted for the 2010 bombing of an outdoor market in the North Caucasus, a restive region where three late-night bomb blasts and two gun battles highlighted a dragging insurgency.

More than a decade after Moscow reasserted federal control over Chechnya following two separatist wars, it is still struggling to extinguish an insurgency seeking to carve out an Islamic state in the mainly Muslim regions in Russia's south.

Security forces shot dead Sultangery Khashagulgov and one of three brothers suspected of staging an attack on a busy market in the North Ossetia capital of Vladikavkaz that killed 19 people in 2010, a law enforcement source told Interfax.

Khashagulgov, 48, a businessman and former minister in charge of construction in the province of Ingushetia, was killed when he open fired on security forces who attempted arrest him at his home in the regional capital of Nazran, it said.

Security forces had earlier detained Khashagulgov's brothers Isa and Yakuba.

Militant violence has spread from Chechnya to the neighboring provinces of Dagestan and Ingushetia, where insurgents stage near daily attacks.

Three bombs targeted law enforcement officials in Dagestan late on Tuesday, local news agencies reported. No one was killed in the attacks. A police officer was in hospital with gunshot wounds after a separate late-night shooting.

Gunmen also opened fire late on Tuesday on the main offices of the Investigative Committee, the government's criminal investigation arm, in Makhachkala, Dagestan's provincial capital. No-one was reported hurt.

Restoring Moscow's writ in the Caucasus defined the meteoric rise of Vladimir Putin from little known spy chief to president, and security is a priority with the 2014 Winter Olympics taking place at the western end of the Caucasus mountain range.



EUCOM

24. [Attack, Russia] Suicide Bomber Kills Three Police In Russian Caucasus

Thursday, February 14 2013

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/02/14/us-russia-caucasus-idUSBRE91D08E20130214>

A suicide bomber killed three policemen and injured another six at a police security checkpoint early on Thursday, Russian investigators said, in the volatile North Caucasus region, where the Kremlin is fighting to staunch an Islamist insurgency.

The suicide bomber detonated explosives in an automobile as police tried to stop the car on its way into the city of Khasavyurt in the province of Dagestan, agencies reported. One person is still unaccounted for.

Rooted in two separatist wars in Chechnya, Islamist insurgents wage daily violence to turn the predominantly Muslim North Caucasus region into an Islamic state. Dagestan has emerged as the epicenter of violence.

"The suicide bomber detonated the explosives when police officers tried to stop the car and check (the person's) documents at a security check point on the way to Khasavyurt," RIA reported a local Interior Ministry statement as saying.

The six injured police had been hospitalized, investigators said.

The Investigative Committee, a criminal investigation arm that answers only to President Vladimir Putin, said the explosion had ripped a four-meter (13-foot) hole in the checkpoint headquarters.

Television showed pictures of police around the security checkpoint, one of many that dots the North Caucasus, where police regularly stop travelers to check identification papers.

Human rights groups say the insurgency, led by self-styled 'Amir' of the North Caucasus Doku Umarov, has been driven by a volatile mix of religion, corruption and grievances against the strong arm tactics of some local leaders against suspected militants and their families.

The suicide bombing follows a police raid on a forest hideout that killed five militants earlier this week in Dagestan.



EUCOM

25. [Security, Ireland] Viable Pipe Bomb Found On Cork City's Northside

Thursday, February 14 2013

<http://www.breakingnews.ie/ireland/viable-pipe-bomb-found-on-cork-citys-northside-584770.html>

A viable pipe bomb was this afternoon found and dismantled on Cork city's northside.

Builders working in a premises on Hillgrove Lane, off Watercourse Road found the device next to a house and alerted gardaí.

Gardaí attended the scene and called in the Army's Explosives Ordnance Disposal unit (EOD) at about 3.20pm.

A cordon was put in place around the scene and nearby houses were evacuated.

The EOD dismantled the device on site and are handing it over to gardaí as part of their investigation into the incident.





EUCOM

26. [Security, England] Incendiary Device Removed From Leominster Home

Thursday, February 14 2013

http://www.herefordtimes.com/news/local/10228384.Bomb_discovered_in_Leominster/?ref=rss

Police have successfully removed an incendiary device from a Leominster residence.

The device - dating from World War Two - was removed from Mortimer Street.

Police were called to the property at around 9.40am after a builder working on the the property found the device in a garden shed.

Police set up a cordon on arrival, the device was safely detonated in an area outside of the town. There was found to be no risk to public of fire or explosion .



EUCOM

27. [Attack, Greece] Small Bomb Targets Greek Far-Right Party Office In Piraeus

Thursday, February 14 2013

http://www.ekathimerini.com/4dcgi/_w_articles_wsite1_1_14/02/2013_483029

A small bomb has exploded outside the local offices of a Greek extreme right-wing party in Piraeus, the port of Athens, causing no injury and minor damage.

It was the second attack of its kind in two days targeting the Golden Dawn party, which rose from the margins of Greek politics to enter Parliament last year.

Police said the device detonated around 9 p.m. local time Wednesday, damaging the door of the unoccupied seventh-floor office.

Nobody claimed responsibility for the attack.

Also Wednesday, an anarchist group calling itself "Angry Brigade" claimed responsibility for a similar attack a day ago in the city of Larissa. No injuries were reported in that attack.

Golden Dawn has repeatedly been accused of violence against immigrants, which it has denied.



EUCOM

28. [Security, Northern Ireland] Pipe Bomb Found Close To Primary School

Friday, February 15 2013

<http://www.newsletter.co.uk/news/headlines/pipe-bomb-found-close-to-primary-school-1-4793201>

A pipe bomb has been discovered close to a primary school in Belfast.

The device was found in the Forthriver Road area in the north of the city yesterday afternoon, police said.

A suspicious object was discovered by a member of the public at about 3pm in a lane close to Forthriver Primary.

A PSNI spokesman said: "Army technical experts attended and confirmed it to be a viable pipe bomb-type device."



PACOM

29. [Attack, Thailand] Five Soldiers Killed In Yala Car Bomb

Sunday, February 10 2013

<http://www.bangkokpost.com/news/local/335219/5-soldiers-killed-in-yala-car-bomb>

Five army soldiers were killed and one seriously wounded in a car bomb in Yala's Raman district on Sunday morning.

Police said the incident occurred at about 7.05am on Wang Phaya-Tha Thong road in tambon Tha Thong of Raman district. Two rubber tappers working nearby also were wounded in the attack.

An investigation revealed that the six army soldiers from the Yala Task Force 12 were travelling in a six-wheel truck after being assigned to pick up workers at a model farm at Ban Upoh in tambon Wang Phaya.

At a spot on Wang Phaya-Tha Thong road, the army truck was blocked by a pickup truck loaded with a home-made bomb weighing about 50kg.

Militants hiding on the road side detonated the bomb. The impact of the explosion overturned the soldiers' truck.

Another pickup truck with at least six militants then arrived at the scene. The militants shot five soldiers to death, stole their individual weapons and fled.

The five soldiers killed were Sgt Thirayuth Boontera, Pvt Isha Ba-ngoy, Pvt Pongthep Phadmak, Pvt Songchai Suwanmanee, and Pvt Nuldee Reesen.

Mst-Sgt Chatree Uthahorn was wounded.

Police said the pickup truck used for the car bomb might have belonged to Somsak Kwanma, a teacher at Ban Banggo School in tambon Panan of Pattani's Mayo district, who was shot and killed on Dec 11 last year. The militants stole his vehicle after the attack.





PACOM

30. [Trend, India] Dog Catches Bomb Thrown At Its Master, Dies

Sunday, February 10 2013

http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2013-02-10/chennai/37020125_1_country-bomb-balaji-puzhal-prison

A dog died after the country bomb hurled at its master, a security guard, early on Friday near Sholinghur, 130km from Chennai, exploded in its mouth. The woman who threw the bomb and the man who allegedly sold it to her have been arrested.

The dog, Reeta, caught the country bomb hurled at Balaji by Valliammal and bit into it, triggering an explosion that shattered its mouth and killed it instantly, police said.



PACOM

31. [Security, India] Yet Another Live Bomb Shell Found, This Time In Ramdarbara

Sunday, February 10 2013

<http://www.indianexpress.com/news/yet-another-live-bomb-shell-found-this-time-in-ramdarbara/1072109/>

Four days after three live rocket shells were recovered from near a village in Panchkula, another live bomb shell was found Saturday morning.

The rusted shell was found by children of a scrap dealer at Ramdarbar near the 3BRD depot of the Indian Air Force today. The shell was live and was found to be a tank shell.

As per the police sources, the shell is approximately one feet long and weighs 15 kg. As per the officials from the bomb squad, if exploded the shell could have caused a damaged up to 500 meters radius.

At about 11 am, some children found the shell near the 3 BRD while playing. They brought the shell home and showed it to their father who is a scrap dealer. He immediately identified it and called the police control room.

The police officials reached the spot and informed the military base in Chandimandir. The Army officials took the shell for diffusing it.

Recently, three live rocket shells were recovered from Khadak Mangoli area of Panchkula. The discovery had caused considerable panic in the village in Old Panchkula.

Over the past few months this is the fourth such recovery. On December 16 last year, bomb shells were found in Daria in Chandigarh that were diffused at Makhan Majra. A case was registered by the police.

Meanwhile, on January 2, bomb shells were found at Colony Number 5 by some children who were playing in the area. A DDR was lodged.

Police officials claim that investigations in these cases are going on. However, till now there has been no breakthrough on how these bomb shells made their way here and were found by the scrap dealers in the scrap.



PACOM

32. [Security, India] Bomb Found In Varanasi-Bound Bus

Monday, February 11 2013

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/varanasi/Bomb-found-in-Varanasi-bound-bus/articleshow/18443676.cms>

Another terror attack in Varanasi was foiled on Sunday evening when a time bomb was recovered from a shoe box in a Varanasi bound bus at Chunar in Mirzapur district.

According to reports, a passenger noticed an abandoned shoe box on the rear seat of a passenger bus, which had left Mirzapur for Varanasi, at Jamui Bazar under Chunar police station on Sunday evening. He alerted the bus conductor who tried to check the shoe box when a box fell from it. It led to chaos in the bus and all the passengers came out. The Chunar cops immediately called the bomb disposal squad from Vindhyachal to defuse the bomb.

The bomb was prepared in a steel pipe and a timer was fixed on it. The timing set in the bomb hinted that it had to explode at the time of entry of bus in Varanasi. The IG Zone GL Meena on Monday said that the anti-terror squad and IB had been alerted and the nature of explosive used in bomb would become clear once the bomb experts of ATS would examine it. Its worth mentioning here that in all previous blasts terrorist groups had used timer in the bombs.

Police are not yet terming it as a terrorist strike attempt until their investigation is complete.

The recovery of the bomb occurs at a time when lakhs of Mahakumbh pilgrims had already started thronging Varanasi from Allahabad.



PACOM

33. [Security, India] One-Kg RDX Bomb Defused In Manipur

Monday, February 11 2013

http://www.dnaindia.com/india/report__1798940

A bomb containing one kg RDX was Monday defused in Manipur, an Assam Rifles official said. The remote-controlled Improvised Explosive Device (IED), recovered in Imphal East district, consisted of one kg RDX, 1.5 kg of nails, nuts and bolts and an electronic circuit, an Assam Rifles official said.

"Had a good civilian (whose identity has been withheld) not informed us about a suspicious object lying on the road, it would have killed innocent people," the official said, adding that troopers sanitised the area and the bomb disposal team later defused the explosive.

Preliminary probe indicates that the rebels planted the IED to attack security forces. Though no arrests have been made, a manhunt is on to nab the rebels, police said.

There are more than 20 rebel outfits in Manipur with demands ranging from secession to greater autonomy for the state.



PACOM

34. [Special Interest, North Korea] North Korea Explodes Nuclear Bomb In Underground Test, Defying World Pressure

Tuesday, February 12 2013

http://www.cleveland.com/world/index.ssf/2013/02/north_korea_explodes_nuclear_b.html

Defying U.N. warnings, North Korea on Tuesday conducted its third nuclear test in the remote, snowy northeast, taking a crucial step toward its goal of building a bomb small enough to be fitted on a missile capable of striking the United States.

North Korea said the atomic test was merely its "first response" to what it called U.S. threats, and said it will continue with unspecified "second and third measures of greater intensity" if Washington maintains its hostility.

The underground test, which set off powerful seismic waves, drew immediate condemnation from Washington, the U.N. and others. Even its only major ally, China, voiced opposition.

President Barack Obama, who was scheduled to give a State of the Union address later Tuesday, said nuclear tests "do not make North Korea more secure." Instead, North Korea has "increasingly isolated and impoverished its people through its ill-advised pursuit of weapons of mass destruction," he said in a statement.

North Korea claimed the device was smaller than in previous tests; Seoul said it likely produced a bigger explosion. The test was a defiant response to U.N. orders to shut down atomic activity or face more sanctions and international isolation. It will likely draw more sanctions from the United States and other countries at a time when North Korea is trying to rebuild its moribund economy and expand its engagement with the outside world.

Several U.N. resolutions bar North Korea from conducting nuclear or missile tests because the U.N. Security Council considers Pyongyang a would-be proliferator of weapons of mass destruction and its nuclear testing a threat to international peace and stability. North Korea dismisses that as a double standard, and claims the right to build nuclear weapons as a defense against the United States, which has been seen as enemy No. 1 since the 1950-53 Korean War. The U.S. stations more than 28,000 troops in South Korea to protect its ally.

Tuesday's test is North Korea's first since young leader Kim Jong Un took power of a country long estranged from the West. The test will likely be portrayed in North Korea as a strong move to defend the nation against foreign aggression, particularly from the U.S.

"The test was conducted in a safe and perfect way on a high level, with the use of a smaller and light A-bomb, unlike the previous ones, yet with great explosive power," North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency said, confirming speculation that seismic activity near Kilju around midday was a nuclear test.

North Korea was punished by more U.N. sanctions after a December launch of a rocket that the U.N. and Washington called a cover for a banned missile test. Pyongyang said it was a peaceful, and successful, bid to send a satellite into space.

The timing of the test is significant. It came hours before Obama's speech and only days before the Saturday birthday of Kim Jong Un's father, late leader Kim Jong Il, whose memory North Korean propaganda has repeatedly linked to the country's nuclear ambitions.

This year also marks the 60th anniversary of the signing of the armistice that ended the 1950-53 Korean War, and in late February South Korean President-elect Park Geun-hye will be inaugurated.

In Pyongyang, where it was snowing Tuesday, North Koreans gathered around televisions to watch a 3 p.m. TV broadcast announcing the nuclear test.

The test shows the world that North Korea is a "nuclear weapons state that no one can irritate," Kim Mun Chol, a 42-year-old Pyongyang citizen, told The Associated Press in the North Korean capital. "Now we have nothing to be afraid of in the world."

The National Intelligence Service in Seoul told lawmakers that North Korea may conduct an additional nuclear test and test-launch a ballistic missile in response to U.N. talks about imposing more sanctions, according to the office of South Korean lawmaker Jung Chung-rae, who attended the private meeting. Analysts have also previously specu-



lated that Pyongyang might conduct multiple tests, possibly of plutonium and uranium devices.

North Korea is estimated to have enough weaponized plutonium for four to eight bombs, according to American nuclear scientist Siegfried Hecker.

It wasn't immediately clear to outside experts whether the device exploded Tuesday was small enough to fit on a missile, and whether it was fueled by plutonium or highly enriched uranium. A successful test would take North Korean scientists a step closer to building a nuclear warhead that can reach U.S. shores — seen as the ultimate goal of North Korea's nuclear program.

In 2006, and 2009, North Korea is believed to have tested devices made of plutonium. But in 2010, Pyongyang revealed a program to enrich uranium, which would give the country a second source of bomb-making materials — a worrying development for the U.S. and its allies.

"This latest test and any further nuclear testing could provide North Korean scientists with additional information for nuclear warhead designs small enough to fit on top of its ballistic missiles," Daryl Kimball and Greg Thielmann wrote on the private Arms Control Association's blog. "However, it is likely that additional testing would be needed for North Korea to field either a plutonium or enriched uranium weapon."

Uranium would be a worry because plutonium facilities are large and produce detectable radiation, making it easier for outsiders to find and monitor. However, uranium centrifuges can be hidden from satellites, drones and nuclear inspectors in caves, tunnels and other hard-to-reach places. Highly enriched uranium also is easier than plutonium to engineer into a weapon.

Monitoring stations in South Korea detected an earthquake in the North with a magnitude of 4.9 and the South's Defense Ministry said that corresponds to an estimated explosive yield of 6-7 kilotons.

The yields of the North's 2006 and 2009 tests were estimated at 1 kiloton and 2 to 6 kilotons, respectively, spokesman Kim Min-seok said. By comparison, U.S. nuclear bombs that flattened Nagasaki and Hiroshima during World War II were estimated at 13 kilotons and 22 kilotons, respectively, Kim said.

The test is a product of North Korea's military-first, or *songun*, policy, and shows Kim Jong Un is running the country much as his father did, said Daniel Pinkston of the International Crisis Group think tank.

The decision to push ahead with a test will be a challenge to the U.N. Security Council, which recently punished Pyongyang for launching the December long-range rocket. In condemning that launch and imposing more sanctions on Pyongyang, the council had demanded a stop to future launches and ordered North Korea to respect a ban on nuclear activity — or face "significant action" by the U.N.

U.N. chief Ban Ki-moon condemned the test in a statement. Japanese officials said they expected the Security Council to meet later to take up the nuclear test.

China expressed firm opposition to the test but called for a calm response by all sides.

The other part of a credible North Korean nuclear deterrent is its missile program. While it has capable short and medium-range missiles, it has struggled in tests of technology for long-range missiles needed to carry bombs to the United States, although it did launch the satellite in December.

North Korea isn't close to having a nuclear bomb it can use on the United States or its allies. Instead, Hecker said in a posting on Stanford University's website, "it wants to hold U.S. interests at risk of a nuclear attack to deter us from regime change and to create international leverage and diplomatic maneuvering room."





PACOM

35. [Security, Indonesia] Highly Explosive Bomb Discovered In Kupang

Thursday, February 14 2013

<http://www.thejakartaglobe.com/home/highly-explosive-bomb-discovered-in-kupang/571689>

A highly explosive bomb, suspected to be from the World War II era, was discovered by locals as they dug a grave in a cemetery in Kupang, East Nusa Tenggara, on Thursday.

“We can’t tell exactly what kind of bomb it was or where came from, but there is potential for a powerful explosion,” said Yahya Pandie, a member of the East Nusa Tenggara Police bomb squad, also known as Gegana.

Yahya said that the shape of the bomb indicates it is likely from the World War II era.

The active explosive was found when some local residents of Lai-Lai Besi Kopan village in Kupang district were digging a grave. Roman, a local who was helping with the labor, said after digging one meter deep, they found a large, hard object with an odd shape.

“At first we didn’t know what it was, so we just left the object under the scorching sun,” he said.

After becoming suspicious, Roman and his friends decided to report the finding to the police.

The bomb squad immediately sent a team to investigate the object. Squad members declared it to be an active explosive.

Yahya said the bomb squad brought the explosive to its headquarters to defuse it and investigate its origins.

Police said it was unlikely that the explosive was linked to present-day terrorism activities.

Japanese forces occupied Indonesia during much of World War II, from 1942 until after the end of the war in 1945.

The initial Japanese invasion in 1942 centered on Sulawesi and Kalimantan, and was aimed at driving out the Dutch colonizers then in control of the country.

In more recent times, bombs have been a preferred weapon of choice for terrorist organizations such as the now defunct regional terror network, Jemaah Islamiyah, who used bombs in attacks across the country before the arrest of key leaders and a crackdown on the group.



PACOM

36. [Attack, Thailand] Soldiers Hurt By Narathiwat Bomb

Thursday, February 14 2013

<http://www.bangkokpost.com/news/local/335893/>

Six soldiers were slightly injured when a roadside bomb exploded in Narathiwat's Srisakorn district on Thursday morning, reports said.

The homemade bomb was buried near the Ban Kabi-Laweng road in tambon Chergkiri of Srisakorn, according to the reports.

The explosives were detonated when a patrol of soldiers from No 37 Narathiwat special force were about 10 metres away.



NORTHCOM

37. [Attack, United States] Explosives Detonated At Santa Clara Home

Wednesday, February 13 2013

<http://www.sfgate.com/crime/article/Bomb-blast-evacuates-Santa-Clara-homes-4274909.php>

An explosive device was detonated outside the Santa Clara home of a man arrested for allegedly threatening a state official, authorities said Wednesday.

Several homes had to be evacuated and other residents were told to shelter in place as the Santa Clara County sheriff's bomb squad buried the explosives in the yard of Everett Basham, 45, on the 3100 block of Humbolt Avenue on Tuesday evening, authorities said.

The bomb squad determined it was too risky to move the explosives and decided to bury them in the yard, cover them with sandbags and detonate them, authorities said.

Basham's home is outfitted with several satellite dishes, tall antennas and surveillance cameras, authorities said.

Earlier in the day, California Highway Patrol investigators arrested Basham on suspicion of threatening a public official and weapons and explosives violations. The alleged target of the threat wasn't identified.

The case is being investigated by the CHP's Protective Services Division in Sacramento, which monitors threats to the state's public officials.

Basham is being held without bail at Santa Clara County Jail. Relatives declined to comment Wednesday.



NORTHCOM

38. [Special Interest, Canada] Method Finds Picogram Of Explosive In Complex Mixtures

Wednesday, February 13 2013

<http://www.theengineer.co.uk/news/method-finds-picogram-of-explosive-in-complex-mixtures/1015534.article>

Research done in the University of Alberta's Department of Chemical and Materials Engineering has revealed a new way to better detect molecules associated with explosives.

A team of researchers has found a method of using receptor-free nanomechanical infrared spectroscopy to increase recognition of chemical molecules in explosive mixtures.

Detecting trace amounts of explosives with mixed molecules is claimed to present a formidable challenge for sensors with chemical coatings. The nanomechanical infrared spectroscopy used by the University of Alberta research team is said to provide higher selectivity in molecular detection by measuring the photothermal effect of the absorbed molecules.

Dr Thomas Thundat, from the Department of Chemical and Materials Engineering said that the spectroscopy looks at the physical nature of the molecule.

'Even if there are mixed molecules, we can detect specific molecules using this method,' he said in a statement. Post-doctoral fellow Seonghwan Kim explained that conventional sensors based on coatings generally cannot detect specific molecules in complex mixtures if the concentration of interfering molecules is five times greater than the target molecules.

The detection sensitivity and selectivity are said to be increased using the high-power infrared laser because the photothermal signal comes from the absorption of infrared photons and non-radiative decay processes.

Using this method, a few trillionths of a gram of explosive molecules can now be detected in a complex mixture even if there is a higher concentration of other interfering molecules.

The research team's current work looks at detecting biomolecules and hydrocarbons in the oil industry and nerve gas stimulants (DMMP), which can be found in household radiators, gasoline, and fabric softeners, for example. The team also hopes to develop a hand-held device for chemical detection that could be utilized in areas such as security, health care and environmental protection.

The research team included post-doctoral fellows Dongkyu Lee and Xuchen Liu, research associate Charles Van Neste, and visiting professor, Sangmin Jeon from South Korea's Pohang University.

Their findings are published in Scientific Reports.



NORTHCOM

39. [Security, United States] Pipe Bomb Found At Home When Deputies Respond To Domestic Battery Report

Thursday, February 14 2013

<http://www.theledger.com/article/20130214/news/130219675>

Polk County deputies say they discovered a pipe bomb Tuesday in the home of a man accused of burning his girlfriend with a cigarette.

Jason Lloyd, 34, also was stealing electricity from a rigged power pole outside his Lakeland home, according to the Polk County Sheriff's Office.

Deputies arrived at his home after Lloyd argued with Heather Foreman, 29, his live-in girlfriend. He used a cigarette to burn her neck, his arrest report said, and then dragged her by the wrist to a bedroom.

Deputies found syringes, spoons and pipes in the home that tested positive for methamphetamine and marijuana, his report said. They also found ammunition that Lloyd, a convicted felon, was prohibited from having legally.

Foreman told deputies about the bomb, the report said. State Fire Marshall's officials found the metal pipe, stuffed with black powder and ball bearings, in the bedroom and later detonated it.

As deputies arrested him, they found a small container attached to his belt loop, deputies said. Inside was a small amount of marijuana.

Lloyd faces charges of possessing a destructive device, drug possession and tampering with and stealing power.



NORTHCOM

40. [Security, United States] Bomb Experts Find Second Device In Home Of Santa Clara Suspect

Thursday, February 14 2013

<http://www.ktvu.com/news/news/crime-law/bomb-experts-find-second-bomb-house-plan-explode-i/nWN2L/>

A second "usable" bomb found Wednesday afternoon in the Santa Clara home of a man charged with threatening a public official will be blown up Thursday in a trailer to contain the blast, a California Highway Patrol spokesman said.

At around 4:15 p.m., the CHP told KTVU they found what they called destructive devices. They were planning to blow the devices up but have now decided against that to keep any chemical residue from spreading in the wind.

On Thursday morning, they plan to detonate the devices inside a special trailer.

The detail had considered digging a hole in the front yard of the home at 3131 Humboldt Ave. in Santa Clara, to destroy it with an explosive charge as they did another explosive device found Tuesday, but decided it would be safer to contain the explosion in the trailer, said Sean Kennedy, spokesman for the CHP's Protective Services Division.

The discovery of the bomb came after the CHP and sheriff's deputies Wednesday resumed their search inside the residence of Everett Basham, 45, who was arrested for threatening or intimidating a public official and other charges Tuesday.

"We keep turning over a page and finding something new every time," Kennedy said.

Basham was arrested at 10:45 a.m. by officers from the CHP's Protective Services Division.

Two hours later, at about 12:45 p.m., officers from the CHP's SWAT unit executed a search warrant at Basham's home, observed dangerous chemicals in the residence and notified the CHP's Hazardous Device Detail, Kennedy said.

The detail's officers went into the home and were later joined by the Santa Clara County sheriff's bomb squad, Kennedy said.

"They found the precursors for homemade explosive items," Kennedy said.

As they catalogued and removed some of the items, officers became concerned that one article could be an explosive, Kennedy said.

Rather than risk an explosion if they put it into a vehicle, the officers decided to blow it up in the home's front yard, Kennedy said.

"They dug two holes and lined them up with sandbags," Kennedy said. "They detonated around it and caused it to be destroyed without letting the item explode."



"For the safety of all, they decided it was safer to do it in the front yard," he said.

CHP officers and the sheriff's bomb squad are continuing to search Basham's home today, Kennedy said.

Basham is being held in Santa Clara County Jail without bail, sheriff's spokesman Sgt. Jose Cardoza said.

He was arrested on suspicion of making criminal threats, threatening or intimidating a public official, igniting or attempting to ignite an explosive device with the intent to commit murder, and unlawful possession of a concealed firearm, Cardoza said.

The CHP's Protective Services Division, based in Sacramento, investigates reports of threats to public officials in California, Kennedy said.

Kennedy said he could not name the official the Basham is alleged to have threatened.



NORTHCOM

41. [Law Enforcement, United States] Paradise Couple Arrested For Having Explosive Materials

Thursday, February 14 2013

http://www.paradisepost.com/news/ci_22595005/breaking-paradise-couple-arrested-having-explosive-materials

A Paradise couple was arrested today for possession of materials with intent to make explosives, after a tip from the FBI-Homeland Security personnel said there were possible materials, capable of being made into explosives, located at the residence on Melody Lane.

On Thursday, the Butte County Sheriff's office, Butte Inter-agency Bomb Squad, along with the assistance of personnel from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (BATF), the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and Paradise Police Department, served a search warrant at a residence on Melody Lane in Paradise.

Helen Murphy, 50, was charged with possession of a concealed firearm, possession of assault weapons and possession of materials with intent to make explosives. She was booked into the Butte County Jail with a bail amount of \$190,000.

Her husband, Clifton Murphy, 55, was charged with possession of assault weapons and possession of materials with intent to make explosives. He was booked into the Butte County Jail. His bail is \$165,000.

Law enforcement officials say that after the search of the Murphy's residence, several items of explosive making materials were located as well as several firearms, some of which were determined to be illegal assault weapons. The couple were contacted in their vehicle outside the residence. A Glock .45 cal handgun was later located in the vehicle.

This investigation is still ongoing at this time. The Butte County Sheriff's Office and Butte Inter-agency Bomb Squad would like to thank all of the personnel from the various law enforcement agencies that assisted in this investigation.



NORTHCOM

42. [Security, United States] Bomb Squad Defuses Pipe Bomb In Man's Driveway

Friday, February 15 2013

<http://www.wkyc.com/rss/article/283820/45/Alliance-Bomb-squad-defuses-pipe-bomb-in-mans-driveway>

A bomb squad defused a live pipe bomb in an Alliance man's driveway Thursday afternoon.

A man living in the 200 block of West Main Street discovered the suspicious looking device attached to his pickup truck in the driveway at about 1 p.m.

He had already pulled the device off of the truck before officers arrived, when officials determined it was a live pipe bomb with wires attached.

The area was secured and the Summit County Sheriff's Bomb Squad, as well as the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco Firearms and Explosives (ATF) were called to the scene.

The device was soon disarmed safely.

Alliance Police and ATF officials are investigating the incident and ask that anyone with information contact Alliance Police.



SOUTHCOM

43. [Attack, Colombia] Grenade Explosion Kills One, Wounds Five In Northern Colombia

Monday, February 11 2013

<http://colombiareports.com/colombia-news/news/28101-grenade-explosion-kills-1-wounds-5-in-northern-colombia.html>

A grenade explosion on Sunday night killed one person and wounded another five near the northern Colombian city of Cucuta.

According to reports, unknown men lobbed a grenade against a billiard hall.

The attack took place in the Puerto Santander municipality located in the troubled Norte de Santander department.

The wounded were taken to a nearby hospital.

Authorities said the attack had to do with territorial disputes between local armed gangs who are competing for control along the Venezuelan border.

This is the fifth grenade explosion in Cucuta in just 15 days, reported radio station Caracol.



SOUTHCOM

44. [Attack, Colombia] 'FARC' Kills Two, Wounds 27 In Southern Colombia

Tuesday, February 12 2013

<http://colombiareports.com/colombia-news/news/28120-farc-kills-2-wounds-27-in-southern-colombia.html>

An attack attributed to Colombia's largest rebel group, FARC, on Monday left one soldier and one child dead while at least 26 more were injured in the southern Colombian department of Guaviare.

According to the mayor of the Miraflores municipality, where the attack took place, police went to investigate a fire near the Vaupes River when they were reportedly ambushed by FARC guerrillas. The rebels then allegedly launched a grenade at police which resulted in the two deaths and the dozens of injuries, five of which have been called "grave." According to sources within a local army unit, there very well could have been even more policemen and civilians wounded, but due to the difficulties in accessing the area it was not possible to verify the numbers.

"This is the hardest attack in [recent] years," said Mayor Julio Cesar Gonzalez.

According to newspaper El Colombiano, one of the authorities' theories is that the rebels could have started the fire in order to lure police into an ambush.

The attack reportedly was carried out by the FARC's 1st Front, which is led by Marco Fidel Suarez.

The Miraflores municipality gained notoriety in August of 1998, when upwards of 1,000 FARC guerrillas under the leadership of "Mono Jojoy" overran the defenses at a local army base and killed dozens of policemen and captured 129 people.



SOUTHCOM

45. [Attack, Colombia] FARC Blows Up Oil Pipeline In Southwestern Colombia

Wednesday, February 13 2013

<http://colombiareports.com/colombia-news/news/28142-farc-blows-up-oil-pipeline-in-southwestern-colombia.html>

Rebels from Colombia's largest rebel group, FARC, on Monday night blew up a section of an important oil pipeline in the southwestern Putumayo department.

According to local authorities, rebels from the FARC's 49th Front dynamited a section of the Transandino pipeline in the Orito municipality on Monday night, causing a firestorm which prompted the evacuation of some 40 families from the area of the attack. The incident did not cause deaths or injuries, according to newspaper El Colombiano.

As of Tuesday morning, the fire caused by the explosion was extinguished, reported state-owned oil giant Ecopetrol.

"This attack presented itself at 9:25 p.m. [...] in the Transandino pipeline (OTA) and generated a fire of great proportions. Given the flames came closer to the houses, it was necessary to evacuate the families who live in the Los Angeles part of the Orito municipality," said Ecopetrol according to newspaper El Tiempo.

Furthermore, on Tuesday, FARC rebels destroyed four vehicles belonging to the CASS construction company in the same municipality.

The FARC's 49th Front is known to use the largely lawless border between Ecuador and Colombia to launch hit and run attacks against infrastructure, army and police on the Colombian side, while later taking refuge on Ecuadorean territory.

