

RAPID

Realtime Analysis and Publishing of IED Data

WEEKLY NEWS UPDATE

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



Suspected Al-Qaida Bombers Hit Yemeni Army Barracks, Kill 11 Soldiers

Yemeni army forces fire a missile towards positions of Qaeda-linked militants in Abyan, Yemen .

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1. [Attack, Pakistan] Car Bomb Kills 17 People In Northwestern Pakistan

Saturday, October 13 2012

<http://news.yahoo.com/car-bomb-kills-17-people-northwestern-pakistan-124029010.html>

A car bomb tore through a crowded bazaar outside an office for anti-Taliban tribal elders Saturday in northwestern Pakistan, killing at least 17 people, officials said.

The blast in the town of Darra Adam Khel was the latest to strike the troubled area near the Afghan border, showing militants still pose a threat to the stability of key U.S. ally Pakistan despite government offensives against the Taliban and their supporters.

No group immediately claimed responsibility, but the Pakistani Taliban have staged similar attacks in the tribal region of Darra Adam Khel to punish elders for backing security forces in offensives against militants.

The explosives-laden car was parked near the office of one of the so-called peace committees that have been formed by local elders trying to rid the area of militants, regional government administrator Fakhruddin Khan said.

It was unclear how many people were in the office at the time, but Khan said those killed included tribal elders and passers-by.

He said 40 people also were wounded and the attack destroyed 35 shops and eight vehicles. The dead and wounded, including some in critical condition, had been transported to hospitals in the northwestern city of Peshawar.

The region, which is in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, is famous for its weapons market selling guns made by local craftsmen.

Provincial Information Minister Mian Iftikhar Hussain blamed the Pakistani Taliban, noting the fundamentalist Islamic movement also had tried to kill a 14-year-old girl who is an advocate of education for girls and a critic of the Taliban. Malala Yousufzai was shot and wounded by a Taliban gunman in the Swat Valley on Tuesday, an attack that has drawn widespread condemnation.

The girl remains on a ventilator but is in stable condition, army spokesman Maj. Gen. Asim Saleem Bajwa told reporters Saturday.

She had been airlifted from Swat to a military hospital in the frontier city of Peshawar after the attack, where doctors removed a bullet from her neck. The bullet went into her head before travelling toward her spine. Bajwa said earlier that it was too soon to say whether she had a significant head injury.

After her sedatives were reduced on Saturday, she moved her arms and legs. Bajwa said it was a good sign.

The school that Yousufzai was attending in Swat's main town of Mingora — which is run by her father — reopened for classes Saturday. About 80 percent of the students showed up, but many were sad and scared, said one of the teachers, Asghar Khan.

"We want them to concentrate on their studies without any fear or psychological impact from the attack," said



Khan.

Some 500 tribal elders held a rally in support of Yousufzai in Mingora on Saturday. Some carried photos of the 14-year-old and two other girls who were shot in the attack. They shouted, "Malala, we are all with you."

Hussain, the provincial information minister, urged the federal government to consider launching a "decisive operation against terrorists" to eliminate the militants.

"These Taliban have killed our innocent people in so many attacks. They are still killing our people. Instead of wasting time, we should hit them back, and we should do it as early as possible to save the precious lives of our innocent girls like Malala Yousufzai," he told reporters in Peshawar.





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2. [Security, Pakistan] Pakistani Taliban To Target Media Organizations

Saturday, October 13 2012

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/451048/pakistani-taliban-to-target-media-organisations-report/>

Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan leader Hakimullah Mehsud has issued special directives to operatives for taking action against international and national media organizations in different cities of Pakistan, reports BBC Urdu.

An official of the interior ministry, on the condition of anonymity told BBC that agencies recorded a telephonic conversation between Mehsud and a Taliban operative Nadeem Abbas alias Intiqami where the former was giving directives to the latter on taking action against media organizations.

Mehsud, according to the interior ministry, was directing Abbas to target media organizations and personnel in Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Lahore, Peshawar, Karachi and other cities who were criticizing the Taliban for attacking Malala Yousufzai.

The Taliban have been targeted with severe criticism and condemnation for attacking the 14-year-old child activist by Pakistan and other countries.

After listening to the conversation the government has directed all media organizations, especially international media organizations to tighten security around their offices and has directed concerned authorities to do the same for these organizations.

The Taliban have threatened media organizations through emails and telephonic conversations as well.

The government has directed authorities to station heavy contingents of police in areas where there are important media organizations and if need be, they can request the government for stationing Frontier Constabulary (FC) too.



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3. [Security, Pakistan] Bid To Attack Former Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani's Rally Foiled In Punjab

Monday, October 15 2012

http://www.satp.org/satporgtp/detailed_news.asp?date1=10/15/2012&id=7#7

A bomb was recovered from the site where former Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani was scheduled to address a gathering of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) workers in the Nanag Shah area of Multan City in Multan District on October 14, reports Daily Times. According to media reports, the bomb was hidden in a carton of mangoes. The Bomb Disposal Squad was called in that defused the device. Meanwhile, the Gilani cancelled his visit to following the twin explosions on October 13, 2012.



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4. [Attack, Afghanistan] Suicide 'Insider' Attack Kills Six In Afghanistan

Monday, October 15 2012

http://www.nytimes.com/2012/10/16/world/asia/suicide-insider-attack-kills-six-in-afghanistan.html?pagewanted=all&_r=0

A member of the Afghan intelligence service detonated a suicide vest Saturday, killing two Americans and four Afghan intelligence agency colleagues, Afghan and international officials said Monday.

Also on Monday, Afghan officials charged that a coalition strike against a Taliban target had killed three young children — two boys and a girl — from one family over the weekend.

The suicide attack on Saturday morning occurred when a delegation including American coalition members and several members of Afghanistan's National Directorate of Security arrived to deliver new furniture to the intelligence office in the Maruf district, a remote area of Kandahar Province, according to local Afghan officials.

The attacker, wearing a suicide vest beneath his intelligence service uniform, detonated his bomb shortly after the delegation arrived, killing a former American military officer and an American soldier. The bombing also killed Ghulam Rasool, the deputy intelligence director for Kandahar Province, two of his bodyguards and another Afghan intelligence employee, and set in motion a revenge killing.

Insider attacks have become more common, and have caused about 15 percent of the deaths of coalition troops this year.

This insider attack was the first this year by an intelligence service employee, possibly a guard, to result in the death of international service members, Maj. Martyn Crighton, a spokesman for the international joint command, said.

There have been, however, many insider attacks resulting only in the deaths of Afghan service members, and statistics were not available on whether any of those involved members of the intelligence force, known here as the N.D.S.

Generally the intelligence service is thought to vet its employees more thoroughly than do the Afghan Army and the police, which have far more employees.

In this case the target appears to have been the Afghan agents, Afghan and international officials said.

Haji Malim Toorylai, the Maruf district chief, said, "The man believed he was attacking the N.D.S. delegation; he probably was not aware of the foreign soldiers coming with them." An official of the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force gave a similar assessment. "It was an N.D.S. attack on N.D.S., and we happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time," the official said.

The man who carried out the attack was named Abdul Wali and was from Zirak, a village in Maruf, said Mr. Toorylai. Maruf, the easternmost district in Kandahar Province, is sandwiched between Pakistan's ungoverned tribal areas and Afghanistan's Zabul province, a rural desert area where the Taliban have a strong presence.

The former American military officer who was killed was Dario Lorenzetti, a Fort Worth native, The Fort Worth Star-Telegram reported Sunday, describing him as a West Point graduate.

In a tragic coda to Saturday's story, the suicide bomber's 9-year-old brother was killed in revenge by the brother of a victim, said Shamsullah, a Maruf local, who commands a guardpost.

"The 9-year-old boy was killed in front of his mother and father," said Shamsullah. "The parents didn't know their son Abdul Wali was going to commit suicide."

The civilian casualty reported by local officials took place in Helmand Province's Nawa district. The officials said that three children were killed in a NATO strike on Sunday afternoon as they were gathering dung to burn as fuel, a common practice in the desert reaches of southern Afghanistan where there are few trees.

"When we reached the area I saw the three bodies of children, two boys and one girl, ages 8 to 12 years old. They were from the same family," said Haji Hayatullah, a member of the tribal council in the Nawa district. Their family



is in the livestock business and raises goats and sheep on government land, he said.

Mr. Hayatullah added: “They had been collecting the animal dung and were heading home. I saw a sack of dung and another sack that was contaminated with their blood, and I saw three to four holes in the area. It seems the insurgents were digging them to plant mines, but I did not see any men’s bodies.”

The children were identified as Borjan, 12; Sardar Wali, 10; and Khan Bibi, 8, said Haji Abdul Manaf Khan, the governor of the neighboring Marja district. The deaths occurred near the border of the Marja and Nawa districts. The Marja governor said that NATO forces watched as improvised explosive devices were being planted, and targeted the insurgents planting them. “As a result two I.E.D. planters were killed and the shrapnel killed the three children who were wandering nearby,” he said. Other reports said that three insurgents had been killed.

A spokesman for the international forces, Maj. Adam Wojack, said that the coalition forces were aware of the allegations and that the episode was being investigated. “I.S.A.F. did conduct a precision airstrike on three insurgents in Nawa district, and the strike killed all three insurgents,” he said.

“None of our reporting shows any civilian casualties or any children.”

The United Nations, which tracks civilian casualties, is investigating. While civilian casualties were down 6 percent in the first nine months of 2012, compared with the same period in 2011, they are still occurring in large numbers in the south and east of the country, Georgette Gagnon, the director of human rights for the United Nations mission in Afghanistan, said.

Casualties caused by coalition and Afghan security forces have been “significantly reduced” while those caused by antigovernment forces, including the Taliban, make up an increasing share, she said. According to the most recent United Nations casualty report, the Taliban and other insurgents were responsible for about 80 percent of all civilian deaths and injuries while pro-government forces were responsible for 10 percent.



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5. [Attack, Pakistan] Thirteen-Year-Old Boy Injured In Bomb Blast In FATA

Tuesday, October 16 2012

http://www.satp.org/satporgtp/detailed_news.asp?date1=10/16/2012&id=4#4

A 13-year-old boy was seriously injured when explosive device went off in Hilalkhel area of Charming in Bajaur Agency of Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) on October 15, reports Dawn. Local sources said that some boys were playing in a field when an explosive device planted by militants exploded, seriously injuring Usman.

Meanwhile, a community health centre was partially damaged in a blast in Bar Taras area of Salarzai tehsil (revenue unit). Officials said that unidentified militants planted explosives inside the building of community health centre and detonated. As a result, the building was partially damaged. No group claimed responsibility for the blast.



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6. [Security, Pakistan] Terror Bid Foiled In Punjab

Tuesday, October 16 2012

http://www.satp.org/satporgtp/detailed_news.asp?date1=10/16/2012&id=7#7

Taxila Police on October 15 averted a potential terrorist attack, when they intercepted a car full of explosives on Taxila-Haripur Road in Taxila town of Rawalpindi District, reports Dawn. The Police recovered 25 kilogram of explosives, 400 detonators and 800 metres of fuse safety wire.



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7. [Attack, Afghanistan] Afghan Troops Hurt In Car Bomb At Nato-Afghan Paktia Base

Wednesday, October 17 2012

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-19974400>

At least 45 Afghan troops have been injured by a suicide car bomb attack at an Afghan-Nato military outpost in eastern Paktia province, say officials.

The attacker reportedly detonated a vehicle packed with explosives close to gates at the Zurmat base.

Deputy provincial governor Abdul Rahman Mangal said most of the injured soldiers had been hit by broken glass.

Foreign forces are due to withdraw from Afghanistan by 2014, which has sparked fears of a surge in violence.

Militants have increasingly been targeting members of the Afghan police and military as they take over security operations.

Nato said the combat outpost was attacked by "insurgents using a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device".

No casualties were reported among the Nato-led International Security Assistance Force (Isaf).

Provincial government spokesman Rohullah Samon told the Associated Press news agency the bomb appeared to have gone off before the driver reached the camp's gates.

He said most of the wounded soldiers had been in rooms hit by the force of the explosion, which shattered windows up to 3km (2 miles) away.

Isaf spokesman Maj Adam Wojack said mortar fire was directed at the base after the bombing.

But he denied a claim by Taliban spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid that insurgents had managed to break into the base.



AFPAK

8. [Security, Afghanistan] Ammunition, Explosive Device Seized In Nangarhar

Wednesday, October 17 2012

<http://www.bakhtarnews.com.af/eng/security/item/4546-ammunition-explosive-device-seized-in-nangarhar.html>

Kabul (BNA) Police personnel of Nangarhar security commandment have seized a quantity of ammunition and explosive devices from Shir group area, Shinwar district of that province yesterday.

According to Shamshad 202 police zone, the ammunition and explosive devices consists of a suicide vest coat, 4 grenades, 20 mortar mines and a box of explosive devices which were seized by police forces.

According to another report, as a result of heavy arms firing by militants in the vicinities of Hesarak district of Nangarhar province, 4 women were wounded.



AFPAK

9. [Attack, Afghanistan] Roadside Bomb In Afghanistan Kills 19 En Route To Wedding In Minibus

Friday, October 19 2012

http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia_pacific/afghan-police-say-15-civilians-killed-18-wounded-after-minibus-detonates-roadside-bomb/2012/10/19/16772746-19c6-11e2-ad4a-e5a958b60a1e_story.html

An explosion from a roadside bomb tore into a minibus carrying people to a wedding in northern Afghanistan on Friday, leaving 19 dead and 16 wounded, authorities said.

Spokesman Shir Jan Durani said the group was traveling to Dawlat Abad district, about 450 kilometers (270 miles) northwest of the capital, Kabul.

The country relies on citizen militias for basic security, but do they have too much autonomy and power?

District police commander Bismullah Muslimyar said six children and seven women were among the dead in the blast, which occurred at 6 a.m. after a nighttime police patrol.

Muslimyar said the bride and groom were not on the bus at the time of the attack. The party was heading to the groom's home to meet and congratulate the newlyweds.

Afghan President Hamid Karzai strongly condemned the attack.

"Planting a mine on a road used by civilians and the killing of innocent people represents hostility toward humanity," he said in a statement.

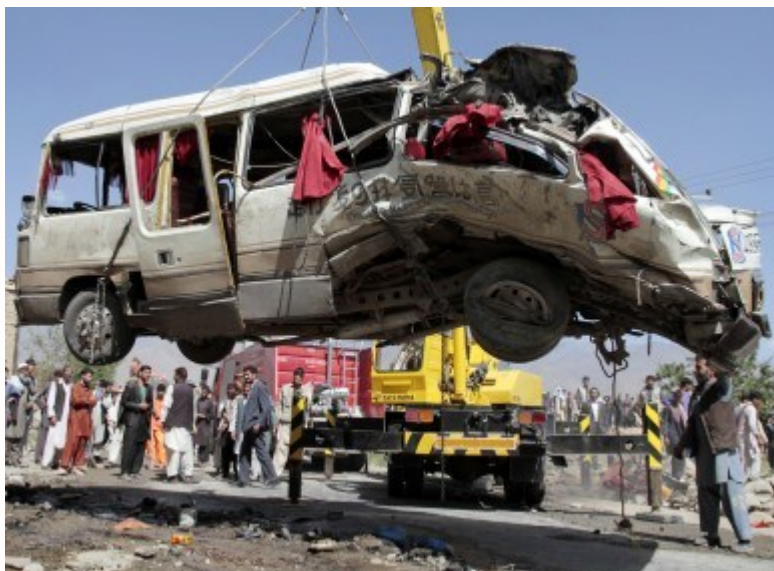
Earlier this month, the U.N. Security Council expressed serious concern at the high number of civilian casualties in the war, especially among women and children.

The Taliban and other militants are responsible for the overwhelming majority of civilian deaths in the country.

About 77 percent of the deaths between January and June can be attributed to insurgents, a UN report said.

Insurgent-placed homemade bombs continue to be the deadliest weapon for civilians, accounting for 29 percent of all such deaths in the period, it said.

Separately, six football fans died and 36 were injured Friday when their bus collided with a fuel tanker on a narrow road about 400 kilometers (240 miles) northwest of the capital, provincial governor Mohammad Aleem Saaie said. The fans were traveling to Kabul for the final round of the country's football championships.





AFRICOM

10. [Law Enforcement, Somalia] Govt Arrests Over 300 Suspected Al-Shebab

Saturday, October 13 2012

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201210130598.html>

Police commander in Somalia says their security forces arrested over 300 suspected Al-Shebab fighters during an operation in the capital Mogadishu.

Benadir regional police boss Ahmed Hassan Ma'alin said 60 people were still in custody on Friday night after a security sweep of Mogadishu resulted in the arrest of 364 people.

Of those arrested 304 have been released.

The police raids took place on Wednesday.

Ma'alin said that those who are still in custody are being investigated under a number of headings to see whether they will be charged.

Ma'alin also said that operations will continue in Mogadishu as police target more areas where they believe credible targets could be hiding.

Residents say they saw government forces searching hotels, houses, vehicles and business premises.

The police said that during the raids they confiscated a number of weapons.

The weapons include new top-of-the-line explosives never seen by police in Somalia before.

Government officials added that they would trace the origin of the explosives to determine how they entered Somalia.

Mogadishu has experienced a string of attacks lately and the current security clamp down is seen as a response to that.

Security analysts believe that Al-Shebab has planted sleeper cells across Mogadishu's districts before the top Shebab officials and infantry exited the war-torn capital.



AFRICOM

11. [Law Enforcement, Kenya] Police Arrest Al Shabaab Bomb Maker

Monday, October 15 2012

<http://www.kenyan-post.com/2012/10/police-arrest-al-shabaab-bomb-maker.html>

Police have confirmed the arrest of Al Shabaab bomb maker Musharaf Abdallah in raid early this morning. Abdallah, who is said to be both a bomb maker and terror suspect, was arrested as police continue their crackdown on Al Shabaab members and sympathizers across the country.

Police have said that the suspect will be officially charged at Milimani Law Courts later today.

Abdallah's arrest comes in the wake of a bomb attack at Eastleigh on Friday. The attack injured several police officers including the area OCPD. It was during that attack that a new calling card of the terror attacks emerged.

Instead of throwing grenades into crowds, the terrorists are now using Improvised Explosive Devices or IED that are rigged to explode at specific times.

At the attack on Friday, the first bomb exploded at 7:30 pm while the second one exploded about forty five minutes later when a crowd had gathered at the scene.



AFRICOM

12. [Attack, Nigeria] Massive Bomb Blast In Maiduguri, Bombs Also Discovered In Minna

Monday, October 15 2012

<http://www.informationnigeria.org/2012/10/breaking-news-massive-bomb-blast-in-maiduguri-bombs-also-discovered-minna.html>

Reports reaching us say that a massive explosion has occurred in Maiduguri, the Borno state capital, leaving casualties.

Witnesses say that the incident happened at the Post Office area earlier today.

An eye witness claims to have seen at least ten bodies.

Meanwhile, what could have been a major bomb explosion was averted this morning due to the quick intervention of the anti bomb disposal unit of the Nigerian Police in Minna , Niger state.

An eye witness said that the contents of a polythene bag placed by the road side opposite the Abdulsalami motor park made a passerby to call the attention of the police, who arrived and defuses what turned out to be an Improvised Explosive Device (IED).



AFRICOM

13. [Security, Nigeria] Police Detonate Explosive Device In Minna

Monday, October 15 2012

<http://pmnewsnigeria.com/2012/10/15/police-detonate-explosive-device-in-minna/>

An explosive device suspected to be a bomb was today found in Minna, the Niger state capital, northcentral Nigeria, and detonated by the police.

P.M.NEWS gathered that the explosive was found close to Abdulsalami motor park along Minna/Suleja road.

The explosive which was packed in an envelope was dropped by unidentified persons beside the major road.

Eye witness account indicates that it was a staff of the state Environmental Agency that raised the alarm while clearing filth on the road.

P.M.NEWS further learnt that those who planted the bomb may have targeted the state secretariat and state House of Assembly which are less than 100 metres away from the motor park.

The police bomb squad was drafted to the scene to detonate the explosive.

Niger state Police Command confirmed the incident but declined to give details.



AFRICOM

14. [Attack, Nigeria] Gunfire And Bomb Blasts Rock Northeast Nigerian Town

Wednesday, October 17 2012

<http://www.timeslive.co.za/africa/2012/10/17/gunfire-and-bomb-blasts-rock-northeast-nigerian-town>

Heavy explosions and gunfire rocked the northeast Nigerian town of Potiskum, residents said, after violence this week left at least 24 people dead in the city of Maiduguri.

Blasts and shootings shook residents of Potiskum, previously hit hard by violence blamed on Islamist extremist group Boko Haram, residents said.

The police commissioner for Yobe state, where Potiskum is located, said there had been a bomb explosion and security forces afterward cordoned off the area and began house-to-house searches.

He did not say whether there had been any casualties.

"There was a bomb explosion this morning and the Joint Task Force has already cordoned off the area for the safety of residents," Patrick Egbuniwe said, referring to a military and police task force.

"Right now, there is a house-to-house search by JTF to fish out the perpetrators of the terror attack."

Residents said the unrest began just before 6:00 am.

"It started with a huge explosion followed by successive blasts and gunfire," one resident told AFP.

The blasts and gunfire came from an area of the town where a bank, a military base and the office of the anti-narcotics agency are located, residents said.

Potiskum, the commercial hub of Yobe state, has been hard hit by Boko Haram attacks in recent months.

On Tuesday, Nigeria's military said 24 Boko Haram members were killed in violence that rocked the city of Maiduguri after the extremists launched attacks with bombs and rocket-propelled grenades.

The military has been regularly accused of abuses, including the killing of civilians. Tuesday's statement said there were no civilian casualties and one soldier was wounded, but the claims could not be independently verified.

Maiduguri is considered the base of Boko Haram. The conflict is believed to have killed at least 2,800 people since 2009.



AFRICOM

15. [Attack, Kenya] Mombasa Officers Injured In Morning Operation

Wednesday, October 17 2012

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201210170389.html>

A police officer who was part of an anti-terror operation in Likoni, Mombasa has succumbed to his injuries.

The officer was part of a combined contingent of General Service Unit and Anti-terror Police Unit that was acting on a tip-off from the public about possible terror activities.

A suspect who was arrested in Changamwe led the officers to a hideout in Likoni. As the officers attempted to gain access to the suspects' house a grenade was hurled at them injuring several officers and killing the suspect who led them there.

The two suspects in the house however died after one of their own grenade exploded, killing them instantly. The injured officers were rushed to Pandya and Aga Khan hospitals where they are receiving treatment.

Police recovered an AK 47 rifle with 15 rounds of ammunition, a pistol, and two grenades from the house. An unconfirmed number of suspects have so far been arrested and are assisting the police in a thorough investigation to establish the extent of the terror threat.



AFRICOM

16. [Trend, Mali] EU Considers Intervention In Mali To Control Islamic Terrorists

Wednesday, October 17 2012

<http://www.thecuttingedgenews.com/index.php?article=76646&pageid=20&pagename=Security>

Officials from the European Union said on Monday they would draw up plans for a military training program complete with advisors to help Mali's army regain control of the Islamist-dominated north of the country. But the Islamic terrorists have already begun threatening and plotting against EU members such as France.

For example, French police officials on Thursday said they arrested a group of Islamists who were planning suicide bombings in Paris in retaliation for France's policy regarding Mali and the French government's push for assisting the Mali government. According to officials, these Islamists also were recruiting Jihadist fighters to join al-Qaeda and other groups who are participating in the uprising against the Assad-regime in Syria. According to the French police, a total of 12 suspects were arrested at different times, different days and at different locations beginning at the start of the week.

Al Qaeda-linked Islamists from the MUJWA group threatened to "open the doors of hell" for French citizens if France kept pushing for armed intervention to retake the northern Mali.

Seven suspects were kept under tight police surveillance on suspicion of taking part in terrorist activities with two of them were also suspected in recruiting volunteers to join Islamist fighters for terrorist operations in countries such as Syria.

The other five of the 12 suspects were arrested on charges of having links to an attack on a kosher market.

French detectives on Wednesday discovered materials necessary for building improvised explosive devices (IEDs) in a garage in a Parisian suburb as part of an investigation into an "extremely dangerous terrorist cell" according to Paris prosecutor Francois Molins.

Last Saturday, law enforcement agencies launched a nationwide anti-terror raid to dismantle a radical Islamist cell during which one suspect involved in an attempted grenade attack on a kosher grocery was killed by officers.

"The intention was really to kill and it is only by chance that the attack did not have the intended consequences," Molins told French reporters.

While Spain and Britain have been targeted by Islamic terrorist cells in their capitals, the French have not experienced a major attack with mass casualties on its soil since 1995, when North African Islamists bombed the French underground subway system and other targets located in Paris.

France's Jewish community has been on edge after a series of attacks in recent months. In the worst incident, 23-year-old Mohamed Merah, seemingly acting alone, killed three soldiers in two separate attacks before shooting dead three children and a rabbi outside a Jewish school in Toulouse, according to Israel National Radio.



AFRICOM

17. [Security, Somalia] Al-Shabab Weapons Seized In Puntland

Friday, October 19 2012

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-20003253>

A large consignment of arms destined for suspected Islamist militants in north-eastern Somalia has been seized, a regional governor has told the BBC.

Abdisamad Gallan said a boat said to have come from Yemen delivered sealed sacks full of land mines and artillery. Correspondents say this is one of the biggest seizures of al-Shabab weapons.

The discovery was made after a tip-off from residents in Qandala, a coastal town in the semi-autonomous region of Puntland, Mr Gallan said.

The al-Shabab group says it wants to strengthen its presence in Puntland.

The al-Qaeda-aligned group once dominated all of central and southern Somalia, but has now lost all the major towns it once controlled, although it still occupies many rural areas.

Somalia descended into a patchwork of territories controlled by rival warlords and clans after the overthrow of President Siad Barre in 1991.

Puntland became autonomous in 1998 and has remained mainly free of the Islamists' influence, but is known for its pirate bases.

Mr Gallan, the governor of Puntland's Bari province, said it was believed that the boat had travelled from Yemen. The crew escaped on their boat before they could be questioned, but Qandala residents said they were foreigners, he told the BBC's Somali service.

Earlier this week, an al-Shabab website, Amiirnuur, said the militants were expanding their activities into Puntland and intended to show its residents the true path of Islam.

The group follows the Saudi-inspired Wahhabi version of Islam, while most Somalis are Sufis.

The website said Sheikh Abdur Kadir Mumim, an al-Shabab leader in Puntland, wanted to oust the region's President Abdirahman Farole, who he accused of being against Islam as he had invited Nato officers into the region "to fight terrorists".

Earlier this year, a UN report noted that al-Shabab was expanding operations further north, with an armed group in the region joining the Islamists.

The African Union (AU) troops fighting alongside Somali government army have been leading the fight against al-Shabab in southern Somalia.

The group was driven from the capital, Mogadishu, more than a year ago - and although the Islamists still launch occasional suicide attacks - correspondents say the city is experiencing a renaissance, with businesses opening and buildings being reconstructed.

There has also been progress on the political front with the election by MPs of a new president last month.



CENTCOM

18. [Attack, Iraq] Insurgent Car Bombs, Shootings Kill Four Across The Country

Monday, October 15 2012

http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle_east/iraqi-officials-insurgent-car-bombs-shootings-kill-4-across-the-country/2012/10/15/e5a792b0-16b2-11e2-a346-f24efc680b8d_story.html

A string of insurgent attacks including a pair of car bombs in an ethnically divided northern city killed four people across Iraq on Tuesday, police said.

Brig. Gen. Sarhad Qadir, police commander of the oil-rich city of Kirkuk, said back-to-back detonations of a parked car bomb and a roadside bomb in a parking lot near the provincial council building killed one civilian and injured 15.

Another parked car bomb went off in a residential area in the same city and wounded five civilians, he added. Kirkuk, 180 miles (290 kilometers) north of Baghdad, is home to a combustible mix of Kurds, Sunni Arabs and Turkomen who all claim rights to the city.

Earlier, gunmen in a speeding car attacked an Iraqi army check point in the city of Tuz Khormato outside Kirkuk, killing two soldiers and injuring two others, Qadir said. Tuz Khormato is located 130 miles (210 kilometers) north of Baghdad.

In Baghdad, gunmen staged a drive-by shooting against a civilian car in a southern suburb, killing an army officer and wounding three others, according to police. A medical official confirmed the casualties.

All officials spoke on condition of anonymity as they were not authorized to release information.

The attacks came as U.N. envoy on Syria, Lakhdar Brahimi, arrived in Baghdad for talks with Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki and other officials to discuss the neighboring country's worsening civil war. Brahimi is touring the region in an attempt to help resolve the Syrian crisis.

Violence is down from 2006-2008 when Iraq seemed close to civil war, but deadly attacks still take place almost daily.





CENTCOM

19. [Trend, Syria] Syrian Regime Using Russian-Made Cluster Bombs

Monday, October 15 2012

<http://www.egyptindependent.com/news/rights-group-syrian-regime-using-russian-made-cluster-bombs>

Human Rights Watch on Sunday accused the Syrian air force of using cluster bombs against rebels and in populated areas across the country.

"Syria's disregard for its civilian population is all too evident in its air campaign, which now apparently includes dropping these deadly cluster bombs into populated areas," said Steve Goose, arms director at the New York-based group.

"Cluster bombs have been comprehensively banned by most nations, and Syria should immediately stop all use of these indiscriminate weapons that continue to kill and maim for years," he said in a statement.

HRW reported their increased use in the past week, notably in the Maaret al-Numan area where the armed forces have been locked in combat with rebels for control of the highway linking Damascus to the northern city of Aleppo.

But cluster bombs were also being dropped in the provinces of Aleppo, Homs, Latakia and Damascus, it said, basing its findings on videos posted online by Syrian activists.

"The cluster bomb canisters and submunitions shown in the videos all show damage and wear patterns produced by being mounted on and dropped from an aircraft," said HRW, although it did not have information on casualties.

"Human Rights Watch is deeply concerned by the risks posed by the unexploded submunitions to the civilian population, as men and even children can be seen in the videos handling the unexploded submunitions in life-threatening ways."

Syria has not ratified a convention banning cluster bombs that has been adopted by 109 countries since 2008. The weapon is estimated to have claimed tens of thousands of lives since 1965.

A cluster bomb can carry up to 650 submunitions which are sprayed over a large area and designed to detonate on impact.

But between five and 40 percent of them fail to explode and turn into anti-personnel mines which can prove deadly for civilian populations, according to Handicap International.

The NGO says that 98 percent of victims are civilians, 27 percent of them children who mistake the objects for toys.

HRW says that Syrian authorities used Russian-made RBK-250 series cluster bomb canisters with AO-1SCh fragmentation bomblets against the rebel forces.

On Monday, Russia denied information that Syrian authorities used Russian-made cluster bombs against rebels.



“There is no confirmation to this ... There are loads of weapons in this region, including in Syria and other countries of the region, and arms are supplied there in large quantities and illegally,” Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said.

He also said that “it is very difficult to establish from where and how ammunition and weapons are supplied there.”



CENTCOM

20. [Security, Iran] New Long-Range Drone Can Carry A Bomb

Monday, October 15 2012

<http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/160900#.UHxKG4Z0Yg8>

Iran's Air Defense Base Commander has announced it has built an new unmanned long-range drone (UAV) that can carry a bomb.

Brigadier General Farzad Esmaili broke the news one week after Iranian-financed Hizbullah launched a drone that entered Israeli air space before it was blown up by a missile from an F-16 jet.

Esmaili did not state whether the new drone, dubbed Hazem, can reach Israel.

He "noted that the drone will be used in targeting and identification operations, and for carrying cargo whenever needed," the government's semi-official Fars News Agency reported.

The Iranian commander added that Hazem is not designed for carrying missiles but can carry explosives.

Iran, in recent years, has made a number of claims on civilian and military achievements, including the launching of a project to build a nuclear submarine and the supposedly successful test of long-range missiles which allegedly can reach U.S. bases and Israel.

Karrar, Iran's first indigenous long-range drone, was unveiled in August 2010, and Iran says it is capable of carrying a military payload of rockets, to carry out bombing missions against ground targets and gather information while flying long distances at a very high speed.

"The country's indigenous unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV), Shahed 129, unveiled in September, 2012, can carry out combat and reconnaissance missions with its 24-hour nonstop flight capability," according to Fars.

As usual, authorities assured the world that Iran's "military might poses no threat to other countries' and that "the Islamic Republic's defense doctrine is entirely based on deterrence."



CENTCOM

21. [Attack, Yemen] Four Killed In Al Qaeda Attack In Southern Yemen

Tuesday, October 16 2012

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/10/16/us-al-qaeda-yemen-idUSBRE89F1FU20121016>

One al Qaeda militant and three tribesmen allied to the army were killed in an attack on a military checkpoint in southern Yemen, tribal sources said on Tuesday.

Yemen's wealthier Gulf neighbors and the United States are concerned that al Qaeda and other Islamist militants operating in Yemen could pose a threat to neighboring top oil producer Saudi Arabia and to nearby shipping lanes.

On Tuesday, a vehicle carrying armed al Qaeda militants attacked an army checkpoint in the southern province of Abyan, touching off a firefight, the sources said. Another vehicle then approached the checkpoint and exploded in an apparent suicide bombing, killing its driver and the three tribesmen.

An initial account by tribal sources had said two al Qaeda militants and two tribesmen had been killed in the exchange of fire but tribal sources later said the four deaths had happened during the suicide attack.

The Yemen-based al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula and other militant groups strengthened their grip on parts of the country during an uprising that ousted veteran President Ali Abdullah Saleh in February.

Washington, wary of the growing power of al Qaeda, has stepped up drone strikes on suspected militant positions, with the backing of Saleh's successor, President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi.





CENTCOM

22. [Security, Yemen] Yemeni Army Foils Bombing Attempt Against Gas Pipeline

Tuesday, October 16 2012

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/738557.shtml>

The Yemeni armed forces managed Monday to defuse an improvised explosive device (IED) planted beside a gas pipeline in the troubled southeastern province of Shabwa, a government official told Xinhua.

The improvised explosive device linked with flexible wires and batteries was detected by an army patrol unit beside the main gas pipeline that transfers Yemen's liquefied natural gas (LNG) to the Belhaf export terminal in the Gulf of Aden, the government official said on condition of anonymity.

A squad of the bomb disposal unit had arrived on time and managed to defuse the explosive device, the government source said, adding that the botched bombing attempt was probably masterminded by militants of the Al Qaeda group.

Scores of army troops in charge of guarding the oil field were deployed to thwart any imminent attacks by the al-Qaida members, according to the official.

Yemen's only LNG terminal began exporting natural gas again this week after being forced to shut when its feed pipeline was blown up in late September.

The 320-km pipeline, linking oil-producing Marib province to Belhaf LNG export facility in Yemen's restive south, has been repeatedly targeted by al-Qaida operatives.

Oil revenues make up more than 70 percent of the state budget, while oil and gas products account for over 90 percent of Yemen's exports.

Yemen's oil production rapidly declined from more than 400,000 barrels per day at the beginning of the past decade to the current 270,000 barrels per day.

Despite the army reinforcements and high security measures at the country's oil projects, Al Qaeda militants have attacked the main LNG pipeline several times in recent months.



CENTCOM

23. [Attack, Syria] Bomb Explodes Near Interior Ministry In Damascus

Thursday, October 18 2012

<http://www.rferl.org/content/twenty-more-people-killed-by-syrian-government-airstrikes/24743876.html>

A bomb attached to a motorcycle has exploded near Syria's Interior Ministry and intelligence headquarters in Damascus, causing an unspecified number of casualties.

There are conflicting reports about whether the attack on October 18 was carried out by a suicide bomber.

The blast comes after opposition activists said government airstrikes on rebel areas overnight killed at least 20 people in four towns in the Idlib and Aleppo provinces.

Meanwhile, the activist group Avaaz said on October 18 that some 28,000 Syrians have gone missing after being abducted by forces loyal to President Bashar al-Assad during the country's 19-month revolt.

Navi Pillay, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, said in Geneva on the same day that the conflict in Syria is becoming reminiscent of Bosnia's sectarian war.

Pillay called on world powers to unite to try to halt the bloodshed.



CENTCOM

24. [Attack, Syria] Bomb Explosion Near Egyptian Embassy In Damascus, No Casualties

Thursday, October 18 2012

<http://www.egyptindependent.com/news/bomb-explosion-near-egyptian-embassy-damascus-no-casualties>

A bomb exploded near the Egyptian Embassy in Kafr Sousa area of the Syrian capital Damascus on Thursday, but did not cause any casualties.

Acting Egyptian Ambassador to Damascus Alaa Abdel Aziz, said there were no damages or injuries in the embassy as a result of the explosion, stressing that all employees whether diplomats or administrators are fine.

The embassy continues to do its work as usual to serve the Egyptian community in Syria, Abdel Aziz said.

Two people had reportedly stopped their motorcycle next to a mosque under construction in the area of Kafr Sou-sa near the Embassy, and the bomb was remotely detonated. Some cars parked nearby were damaged.

Egypt withdrew its ambassador to Syria in February in protest at Syrian authorities' bloody crackdown on pro-democracy protests. Syria also responded by summoning its ambassador back.

Press reports have carried news of Egyptians killed in the ongoing violence in the country between the regime and opposition forces demanding to topple the President Bashar al-Assad.



CENTCOM

25. [Attack, Lebanon] Bomb Blast In Beirut Kills At Least Eight

Friday, October 19 2012

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/10/19/us-lebanon-explosion-idUSBRE8910N620121019>

A huge car bomb exploded in a street in central Beirut during rush hour on Friday, killing at least eight people and wounding about 80, witnesses and officials said.

It was not immediately clear if the explosion targeted any political figure in Lebanon's divided community but it occurred at a time of heightened tension between Lebanese factions on opposite sides of the Syria conflict.

The bomb exploded in the street where the office of the anti-Damascus Christian Phalange Party is located near Sassine Square in Ashafriyeh, a mostly Christian area.

Phalange leader Sami al-Gemayel, a staunch opponent of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and member of parliament, condemned the attack.

"Let the state protect the citizens. We will not accept any procrastination in this matter, we cannot continue like that. We have been warning for a year. Enough," said Gemayel, whose brother was assassinated in November 2006.

The blast occurred during rush hour, when many parents were picking up children from school, and sent black smoke billowing into the sky.

Eight people were killed and at least 78 were wounded, the state news agency said, quoting civil defense officials.

Several cars were destroyed by the explosion and the front of a multi-storey building was badly damaged, with tangled wires and metal railings crashing to the ground.

In the aftermath, residents ran about in panic looking for relatives while others helped carry the wounded to ambulances. Security forces blanketed the area.

Ambulances ferried the wounded to several hospitals, where doctors, nurses and students waited for casualties at the doors. At one hospital, an elderly woman sat in the emergency room with blood staining her blouse.

The hospitals put out an appeal for blood donations.

The war in neighboring Syria, which has killed 30,000 people so far, has pitted mostly Sunni insurgents against President Assad, who is from the Alawite sect linked to Shi'ite Islam.

Tension between Sunnis and Shi'ites has been rumbling in Lebanon ever since the end of the 1975-1990 civil war but reignited after the Syria conflict erupted.

It reached its peak when former Prime Minister Rafik al-Hariri, a Sunni, was killed in 2005. Hariri supporters accused Syria and then Hezbollah of killing him - a charge they both deny. An international tribunal accused several Hezbollah members of involvement in the murder.



Hezbollah's political opponents, who have for months accused it of aiding Assad's forces, have warned that its involvement in Syria could reignite the sectarian tension of the civil war.

The last bombing in Beirut was in 2008 when three people were killed in an explosion which damaged a U.S. diplomatic car.

However fighting had broken out this year between supporters and opponents of Assad in the northern city of Tripoli.





CENTCOM

26. [Attack, Bahrain] Bomb Kills Bahraini Policeman On Patrol

Friday, October 19 2012

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/10/19/us-bahrain-bombing-idUSBRE89I0M820121019>

A Bahraini policeman was killed and another critically injured in a bomb attack while on patrol south of the capital Manama, security officials said on Friday, in further unrest plaguing the Gulf Arab kingdom and close U.S. ally.

Bahrain, where the U.S. Fifth Fleet is based as a bulwark against Iran, has been volatile since majority Shi'ite Muslims began protests last year initially crushed by the Sunni Muslim monarchy, using martial law and help from Gulf neighbors.

Smaller scale demonstrations have since resumed and anti-government protesters clash with security forces several times every week in the small island country.

The policemen were attacked in the village of Akr late on Thursday by rioters with petrol bombs and an unspecified "explosive device," the information authority said in a statement, citing Major General Tariq Hasan al-Hasan, the security chief.

One policeman died on Friday morning from his injuries while the other was in critical condition, it said. An investigation was under way to determine to find the assailants, Hasan said.

Earlier on Friday Bahrain's interior ministry described the incident in the mostly Shi'ite village as a "terrorist attack".

Bahraini police have been the target of such bombings several times over the past year, most recently in May when four policemen were wounded.

Shi'ites complain of discrimination in the electoral system, jobs, housing, education and their treatment by government departments, the police and army. They say government assertions that it is addressing those concerns have produced no action.

A commission of international legal experts reported in November that torture had been systematically used on protesters to punish and extract hundreds of confessions. Among its many recommendations were reviewing activists' jail sentences.

Bahraini authorities accuse regional Shi'ite power Iran of encouraging the unrest and have promised a tough response to violent protests as talks with the opposition have stalled.



CENTCOM

27. [Attack, Iran] Suicide Bomber Kills Two Guards At South Iran Mosque

Friday, October 19 2012

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/10/19/us-iran-bombing-idUSBRE89IOM020121019>

A suicide bomber killed two guards as he blew himself up outside a mosque in a restive southern province of Iran on Friday after being prevented from reaching worshippers inside, Iranian media reported.

The bomber set off his explosive belt a few hundred meters (yards) outside the Imam Hossein mosque in the city of Chabahar, killing two members of the Basij militia that were on guard, Fars news agency reported.

"Eyewitnesses said the attacker was trying to get inside the mosque but he was identified by members of the Basij," Fars reported.

Six others, including three children, sustained injuries in the explosion, it said.

Chabahar is in Sistan-Baluchistan province, near the Pakistani border. It has a history of unrest, with the mainly Sunni Muslim population complaining of discrimination at the hands of Iran's Shi'ite Muslim authorities.

An attack by two suicide bombers at the same mosque in 2010 killed 39 people including women and children during a religious ceremony.

The Sunni rebel group Jundollah, which says it is fighting for better rights for Sunni Muslims in Iran, claimed responsibility for that attack, which it said was in revenge for the execution of its leader, Abdolmalek Rigi.

The group is believed to be based in Pakistan and since 2003 has claimed a number of attacks and kidnappings inside Iranian territory.

In its most audacious attack, it targeted a meeting of Revolutionary Guards and tribal figures from Sistan-Baluchistan in October 2009, killing six senior commanders and 29 others.

Iran says Jundollah has links to al Qaeda and has accused Pakistan, Britain and the United States of supporting it to stir instability in its southeast. The three countries deny backing Jundollah.



CENTCOM

28. [Attack, Iraq] Four Pakistani Pilgrims Killed In Iraq Bomb Attack

Friday, October 19 2012

<http://dawn.com/2012/10/19/four-pakistani-pilgrims-killed-in-iraq-bomb-attack-officials/>

Gunmen blew up a bomb and opened fire at a bus packed with south Asian pilgrims, killing four men identified as Pakistani citizens, and wounding 11 others north of Baghdad, officials said on Friday.

The coordinated attacks took place late Thursday near the town of Balad. There was no immediate confirmation from the Pakistani embassy.

An initial roadside bomb exploded near the bus carrying at one of the main entrances to Balad, followed by gunmen opening fire on the vehicle before fleeing the scene.

A police lieutenant colonel in the town and a doctor at Balad's main hospital said four pilgrims, whom they identified as Pakistan Shias, were killed and 11 people were wounded. All of the victims were men.

Iraq, home to some of Shia Islam's most venerated sites, draws pilgrims from across the world, but they are often the targets of sectarian violence.



CENTCOM

29. [Attack, Yemen] Suspected Al-Qaida Bombers Hit Yemeni Army Barracks, Kill 11 Soldiers

Friday, October 19 2012

http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle_east/yemen-military-officials-say-suicide-attackers-kill-9-soldiers-in-assault-on-base-near-coast/2012/10/19/5d2c4312-19bf-11e2-ad4a-e5a958b60a1e_story.html

Suicide bombers wearing army fatigues stormed into an army barracks in southern Yemen on Friday, killing 11 soldiers in a dawn assault, Yemeni officials said.

The attack highlights the challenges faced by the country's new leadership as it struggles to bring security to the impoverished Arab nation in the face of continued al-Qaeda strikes despite U.S.-backed efforts to drive it from the country.

The attack on the coastal military base in Abyan province comes a day after suspected U.S. drone strikes killed at least seven al-Qaida-linked militants in the same area. It also follows a recent visit to Abyan by Yemen's Defense Minister Gen. Mohammed Nasser Ahmed, which was meant to highlight the military's strength in a province where the group last year controlled entire cities and towns.

Yemeni troops backed by U.S. airpower and advisers drove militants out of southern cities and into mountain refuges in June. The fighters had seized large swaths of territory in Abyan during a security vacuum left by last year's uprising against the country's longtime authoritarian leader, gaining thousands of firearms as well as tanks and armored vehicles in raids on arms depots and barracks.

Washington considers al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula, as the Yemeni branch of the network is known, to be the group's most dangerous offshoot, which it holds responsible for several failed attacks on U.S. territory.

Yemeni military officials said Friday's attack started when four suspected al-Qaida militants riding an army truck approached the base and fired on its guards, killing two. Three of the men then got out of the Toyota pick-up and began shooting at soldiers awakened by the sound of gunfire, the officials added. The fourth gunman drove the explosives-laden truck into a group of soldiers and blew it up in a suicide attack. Soldiers killed the other three attackers, whose suicide vests detonated in the shootout.

The commander of the military police on the base was among those killed in the attack, the officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity in line with military regulations.

The officials said the men had been targeting the head of the army base, who was not hurt in the attack.

Security officials say they believe the group has a hit list of officials, and wants to paralyze the new government that came to power this year. Former President Ali Abdullah Saleh was the fourth ruler to fall in the Arab Spring wave of revolts in the Mideast, stepping down in the face of protests after more than three decades in power.



Adding to the volatility, there has been constant friction between Saleh's supporters and his former deputy who is now president, Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi.

Since the new government's offensive drove al-Qaida from towns, militants have sought refuge in southern mountain areas and have retaliated with assassinations of top security officials as well as deadly suicide bombings targeting the military and civilian militias working alongside the army.

One of the worst attacks took place May 21 when a suicide bomber — who turned out to be a son of a colonel—blew himself up in the middle of a military rehearsal in the capital, Sanaa, killing around 100 soldiers. A month later, an al-Qaida suicide bomber detonated his explosives among a crowd of Yemeni police cadets, killing at least 10.

In March, al-Qaida militants launched a surprise pre-dawn attack on a southern base while troops slept, killing 185 troops and capturing 73. The fighters sprayed tents where soldiers had been sleeping with gunfire. They dumped their bodies in the desert, some beheaded, and paraded dozens of captured soldiers through a nearby town.





EUCOM

30. [Security, Israel] Bomb Found In Israel Electric Co. Installation

Monday, October 15 2012

<http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/160926#.UHxJ3oZ0Yg8>

Security personnel discovered a pipe bomb Monday in an Israel Electric Company installation located in a Jewish town in Judea.

Sappers from the police bomb squad unit were sent to dismantle the device, which was found in an IEC installation in the town of Beitar Illit, located barely six miles (10 kilometers) south of Jerusalem.

Police have opened an investigation into the incident, the second terror attempt in less than a week.

Last Wednesday a resident of the town was stabbed in the neck by a Palestinian Authority Arab in a deadly attempted terrorist attack.

A Magen David Adom emergency medical team was called to the scene by passersby who witnessed the attack and rushed to rescue the victim.

The attacker fled but was caught by security forces a short time later.



EUCOM

31. [Attack, Turkey] Two Killed, Seven Injured In Clash With PKK In Hakkari

Monday, October 15 2012

<http://www.todayszaman.com/news-295348-police-detonate-bomb-planted-on-truck-by-pkk-terrorists.html>

A civilian and a lieutenant were killed and seven others were injured in a clash that was ongoing between the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) terrorist organization and the Turkish Armed Forces (TSK) in the Çukurca district of the eastern province of Hakkari when Today's Zaman went to print.

The clash erupted early on Monday between PKK terrorists and Turkish soldiers near the Kavuşak village, located at the entrance to the Kazan Valley in Çukurca on the Iraqi border. Reports so far indicated that Lt. Aykut Köroğlu from Ankara and a civilian passing by have been killed, while six soldiers and another civilian, Keziya Çetinkaya (42), have been injured. The soldier died at the scene while the civilian, Azize Çetin (40), died at the Hakkari State Hospital. The injured are being treated at the hospital.

Numerous military helicopters have carried soldiers to the scene as the clash is escalating. According to the latest information available at the time Today's Zaman went to print, six PKK terrorists had also been killed. An official statement had not yet been made on the loss of life.

In a related development, a PKK terrorist surrendered to the gendarmerie in the Şemdinli district of Hakkari on Monday. The terrorist was taken to Şemdinli's 34th Border Brigade Command for interrogation after a visit to the hospital for a medical exam.

Gendarmerie and special operations teams killed three PKK terrorists in another clash with the PKK that erupted in the Kemah district of the eastern province of Erzincan on Sunday.

According to the Cihan news agency, the clash started along the Erzincan-Kemah highway at about 10 p.m. on Sunday when a group of officers encountered three PKK terrorists while on patrol in the area. The soldiers demanded the terrorists surrender, but the latter responded by opening fire.

Initial reports say security forces have killed the three terrorists. It was realized after the clash that the PKK members were preparing to lay a mine on the railway near the Erzincan-Kemah highway, where four other mine attacks have been staged by the PKK in the past two months. An extensive operation was launched in the region following those attacks.

Meanwhile, Turkish security forces detonated a bomb that is believed to have been planted on a truck by PKK terrorists in the eastern province of Tunceli on Sunday. The terrorists allegedly planted the bomb on the truck, then parked the vehicle across the Tunceli-Erzincan highway, blocking the road. Security forces were sent to the scene and safely detonated the bomb under the supervision of bomb disposal units. A number of special operations police officers were deployed to the scene to locate those responsible, as the bombers had fled the scene after planting the bomb. The Tunceli-Erzincan highway remained closed to traffic for 24 hours. The bombers remain at large.

In a related incident on Saturday, PKK terrorists set fire to a truck along the same highway. The truck, which was transporting 17 tons of peanuts from Osmaniye to Erzurum, was stopped by the terrorists, who then forced the driver out of the vehicle and set it afire.



A large-scale operation led by 8th Army Corps Commander Lt. Gen. Orhan Akbaş was launched against the terrorist organization in the province following Saturday and Sunday's incidents. Security forces have since defused three mines in the area. According to reports, the PKK's main goal in staging these recent acts was to draw security forces into mined terrain.

Turkish security forces continue to conduct large-scale operations against the terrorist PKK in the eastern and southeastern regions of Turkey, where the PKK is highly active. A number of PKK terrorists have reportedly been killed during these operations, but an official figure has not yet been released.

Turkey has lost around 40,000 people in its fight against the PKK since the terrorist organization took up arms in 1984. The PKK, which is listed as a terrorist organization by Turkey, the EU and the United States, has stepped up its violence in recent years, killing hundreds of civilians and members of the security forces. Many link the PKK's emergence with the harsh policies implemented by the state against Turkish Kurds in past decades. Turkey has recently begun taking significant steps to allow Turkish Kurds to enjoy broader political and cultural rights.





EUCOM

32. [Special Interest, France] Devices Go Nose To Nose With Bomb-Sniffer Dogs

Tuesday, October 16 2012

http://www.nytimes.com/2012/10/16/science/explosives-detectors-aim-to-go-nose-to-nose-with-sniffer-dogs.html?ref=science&_r=0

Denis Spitzer wants to beat dogs at their own game.

At a binational armaments and security research center here in eastern France, Dr. Spitzer and his colleagues are working on a sensor to detect vapors of TNT and other explosives in very faint amounts, as might emanate from a bomb being smuggled through airport security. Using microscopic slivers of silicon covered with forests of even smaller tubes of titanium oxide, they aim to create a device that could supplement, perhaps even supplant, the best mobile bomb detector in the business: the sniffer dog.

But emulating the nose and brain of a trained dog is a formidable task. A bomb-sniffing device must be extremely sensitive, able to develop a signal from a relative handful of molecules. And it must be highly selective, able to distinguish an explosive from the “noise” of other compounds.

While researchers like Dr. Spitzer are making progress — and there are some vapor detectors on the market — when it comes to sensitivity and selectivity, dogs still reign supreme.

“Dogs are awesome,” said Aimee Rose, a product sales director at the sensor manufacturer Flir Systems, which markets a line of explosives detectors called Fido. “They have by far the most developed ability to detect concealed threats,” she said.

But dogs get distracted, cannot work around the clock and require expensive training and handling, Dr. Rose said, so there is a need for instruments.

Flir’s state-of-the-art detectors, including hand-held models that weigh just a few pounds, are used in the military and elsewhere and are generally considered on par with dogs for detecting TNT at extremely low concentrations, a few parts per quadrillion. Even so, Dr. Rose said, “We see our technology as complementary” to dogs.

The devices use a fluorescent polymer technology developed by Timothy M. Swager, a chemist at M.I.T. under whom Dr. Rose studied. Thin films of the polymers emit visible light when exposed to ultraviolet rays, but molecules of TNT stop the fluorescence. A single TNT molecule can quench many thousands of fluorescence reactions, greatly increasing sensitivity.

Dr. Spitzer’s approach is far different, and also far from being commercialized. The slivers of silicon, called microcantilevers, are fixed at one end and made to vibrate, like a diving board. As molecules of explosives are captured by the cantilever, the added mass alters the rate of vibration, which can be measured by a laser or other means. Microcantilevers are already used in many sensing applications, but for explosives the cantilevers alone are not sensitive enough. Growing hollow cylinders of titanium oxide, called nanotubes, increases the surface area, allowing more molecules to be captured.

Sensitivity is critical because many explosives compounds, including powerful ones like RDX and PETN, are not very volatile — at normal temperatures, very few molecules vaporize. As a result, bomb detection — which became a priority in aviation after a hidden device destroyed a Pan Am jetliner over Lockerbie, Scotland, in 1988, killing 270 people — has focused more on finding explosive particles on surfaces than on detecting molecules in the air.

David Atkinson, chief scientist for explosives detection research at the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory in Richland, Wash., said, “We’ve had a particle-based detection paradigm for the past two decades.” Even today, when a laptop or other object is deemed suspicious after being X-rayed, an agent wipes the surface and puts the wipe in a spectrometer that ionizes any explosive compounds present, allowing them to be quickly identified.

“The key is you’ve got to get that particle,” Dr. Atkinson said. “The whole ability to detect explosives is whether the operator correctly samples.”

Researchers always knew it would be difficult to make an instrument that was as good as or better than a sniffer



dog. Paul Waggoner, senior scientist at the Canine Detection Research Institute at Auburn University, said that over the years “the instrument guys” have come to appreciate dogs even more.

“We really are not going to ever be able to surpass the dog in terms of its general ability as a mobile sensing platform,” Dr. Waggoner said.

While the basic mechanisms of olfaction are known, no one knows precisely why dogs are so good at it. Dogs have roughly 30 times as many olfactory cells as people, and the brain region devoted to smell is proportionally much larger — but size doesn’t fully explain it. “The black box that is a dog that we don’t really understand makes a lot of scientists uneasy,” Dr. Waggoner said.

But researchers like Dr. Atkinson have plowed ahead. His team is looking at using the same kind of equipment already in use at airports, but analyzing air rather than particles collected on wipes. The trick, he said, is to increase the efficiency of the equipment so that even a small number of explosives molecules in the air will produce enough ions for detection and identification.

Dr. Atkinson envisages a day when the millimeter-wave imaging booths now used at some airports will be used for chemical detection as well. A passenger will step into the booth, and in the few seconds the imaging equipment does its work, a pump will draw an air sample into a spectrometer for analysis.

At the French-German Research Institute of Saint-Louis, established by treaty after World War II, Dr. Spitzer was inspired less by dogs than by the exquisite olfactory architecture of silkworm moths, described in a scientific article he stumbled upon years ago.

“I read about this kind of silk moth, where the males can recognize females from several kilometers away,” he said. The moth’s antennas were said to be capable of detecting even a single pheromone molecule, and to Dr. Spitzer it seemed that its anatomy, with arrays of bristlelike sensory receptors along its length providing a huge amount of surface area, might have something to do with its sensitivity.

Dr. Spitzer, whose lab spends about a quarter of its time on detection — it also works on highly reactive materials called nanothermites, among other projects — realized that he could increase the surface area of a microcantilever by covering it with nanotubes. And he knew just the person to do this: his wife, Valérie Keller, a researcher in photocatalytic materials at the University of Strasbourg, about 80 miles away.

Dr. Keller and her team had developed a process for growing nanotubes of titanium oxide on various surfaces. Growing them on the silicon of a microcantilever took some doing — one crucial step was to leave enough metallic titanium on the silicon surface so that the nanotubes would not fly off the microcantilever when it vibrated.

The process produces about half a million nanotubes on the microcantilever, which is far smaller than the head of a pin, increasing its surface area by a factor of about 80. That creates far more places for the occasional explosives molecule to find a home.

Dr. Spitzer still has a long way to go. His experiments suggest the microcantilever is capable of detecting TNT at concentrations of less than one part per trillion, which is not yet as good as a dog. The next step, he said, is to determine ways to treat the nanotubes so they are more selective — so the sensor does not also pick up water or other unwanted molecules, which would affect the measurement. It might even be possible to “tune” the nanotubes to capture specific kinds of explosives, he said.

Eventually, Dr. Spitzer will need to test the sensors in simulated airport rooms, under conditions that are as realistic as possible. “When you have real conditions, sometimes you can have surprises,” he said.



EUCOM

33. [Attack, Israel] Hamas Terrorists Shoot Anti-Aircraft Missile At Israeli Aircraft

Tuesday, October 16 2012

<http://www.thecuttingedgenews.com/index.php?article=76638&pageid=20&pagename=Security>

An anti-aircraft missile was fired from Hamas-controlled Gaza last week at an Israeli aircraft but missed its target, the Hebrew language newspaper Yediot Aharonot reported Tuesday.

According to the report the missile was smuggled in from Libya. Israeli authorities have worried that the missiles could be used against the Jewish state since an estimated 1,000 of them went missing from Libya's arsenal in the aftermath of the overthrow of Muammar Gaddafi. The Russian made Strela-2 surface-to-air missile system can hit aircraft flying as fast as 1,118 miles an hour and at altitudes up to 7,500 feet.

According to military sources it is believed that after a relative lull in the conflict, Hamas is intending to escalate the conflict with Israel. Such provocations could signal their intent to do so. Commercial aircraft have already been told to avoid flying over Gaza.

Though this was the first report of anti-aircraft fire from Gaza aimed at Air Force personnel, the same type of missile was used by Sinai terrorists last year in a deadly attack on Highway 12, which runs along the Israeli-Egypt border, that killed 6 people.





EUCOM

34. [Security, Ireland] Man Arrested After Explosive Device Seized

Wednesday, October 17 2012

<http://www.independent.ie/national-news/man-arrested-after-explosive-device-seized-3258913.html>

A viable explosive device was seized by gardai in Tallaght after officers stopped two men.

One of the men was arrested as they fled on foot through the Cushlawn Estate. The other man got away.

The incident occurred on Saturday night. The suspect was taken to Tallaght garda station after a device was found on his person and the army bomb disposal team was called in.

The team removed the explosives from the scene for further examination and the device was declared viable and made safe by experts at 11.30pm. A man in his 20s yesterday remained in detention under Section 30 of the Offences Against the State Act.



EUCOM

35. [Attack, Turkey] Blast Halts Iran Gas Flow To Turkey, 28 Troops Wounded

Friday, October 19 2012

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/10/19/us-iran-gas-blast-idUSBRE89I0I220121019>

Unidentified saboteurs have blown up a pipeline in eastern Turkey carrying Iranian natural gas, halting the flow of gas and wounding 28 soldiers in a passing military vehicle, Turkish officials said on Friday.

The overnight attack, less than a week after gas flow was restarted following a previous attack, prompted Russia's top natural gas producer Gazprom to increase its gas supplies to Turkey to offset the shortfall.

The blast occurred in the area of Eleskirt, a town in Agri province. It was not clear when gas flow through the pipeline would resume.

"Sabotage carried out late last night on the pipeline caused damage and triggered a fire. Twenty-eight soldiers on duty in the area were wounded," an official from the Agri governor's office told Reuters.

The outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) militant group has claimed responsibility for repeated attacks on pipelines in Turkey in its 28-year-old armed campaign for Kurdish self-governance, which has intensified over the last few months.

The soldiers were being treated in various local hospitals for minor injuries, burns and smoke inhalation, the official said, adding that the fire had been extinguished.

"Damage assessment will be conducted on the pipeline. After the extent of the damage is determined, we'll be able to say when the flow will resume," an energy official said.

Gas flow from Iran was halted on October 8 after an explosion in eastern Turkey, and resumed a week later.

Flows have also been halted several times on the Kirkuk-Ceyhan pipeline carrying crude oil to Turkey from Iraq in recent months due to suspected sabotage by the PKK, designated a terrorist organisation by Turkey, the United States and the European Union.

After the latest blast, Gazprom's exporting arm, Gazprom Export, said the Turkish company Botas had requested an increase in the gas supply via the underwater Blue Stream pipeline to 48 million cubic metres a day.

"Gazprom Export approved the request," it said in an e-mailed statement.

Turkey is Gazprom's second-largest natural gas consumer after Germany.





PACOM

36. [Attack, India] One Militant Killed In Manipur

Monday, October 15 2012

http://www.satp.org/satporgtp/detailed_news.asp?date1=10/15/2012&id=5#5

...A hand grenade hurled by some unidentified persons exploded at the residence of Lamlai Assembly Constituency member of legislative Assembly (MLA) Ksh Biren at Kabo Leikai near 2nd Manipur Rifles complex at about 6.50 pm on October 14, reports The Sangai Express. However, there was no report of any human casualty. It is suspected that the grenade attack was related with monetary demand.

Also, Security Forces (SFs) recovered an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) planted on Ushoipokpi Bridge in Lilong, Thoubal District at around 6 am on October 13. A team of Police bomb safely retrieved the bomb.



PACOM

37. [Security, India] Weapons Seized In Pune Were To Be Used To Avenge IM Militant Qateel Siddique's Murder

Monday, October 15 2012

http://www.satp.org/satporgtp/detailed_news.asp?date1=10/15/2012&id=20#20

The Special Cell team investigating the August 1, 2012 Pune (Maharashtra) serial blast case claims to have gathered evidence to indicate that the attacks were also meant to avenge the murder of alleged Indian Mujahideen (IM) militant Qateel Siddique in Yerawada Jail, as reported on October 15, by Indian Express. They have recovered pistols and cartridges purchased by Sayyed Feroze to murder the family members of Sharad Mohal and Ashok Bhalerao, responsible for Siddique's murder. Sources in Police said that two sophisticated English pistols, nine to 10 cartridges and batteries were recovered from Feroze's workshop in Kondhwa, Pune.

Meanwhile, Delhi Police on October 14, have identified a house where the conspiracy for Pune blast hatched, reports Hindustan Times. Sayyed Feroze, led a team of the Delhi Police Special Cell to a house which he and five others had rented as a meeting ground a month prior to the bid.

Sources said they had questioned the owner of the house and recorded his statement before proceeding to two other locations. These include an adjacent cycle market and a wholesale electronics market where Feroze identified some shops he had visited to procure material to construct the Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) used to execute five simultaneous blasts.

The Times of India, reports on October 15, that despite the arrest of three suspected Indian Mujahideen (IM) terrorists who were planning major strikes in Delhi during the Diwali season, sources in Delhi Police say that the threat is not over. Investigators suspect that the two absconding terrorists of this module Shaqir and Ahmed, who are bomb making experts, could well be in the city and may carry out blasts with the help of Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) sleeper cells.

According to sources, the money for Diwali attacks was to come through a Delhi-based hawala (illegal money transfer) dealer, who is being looked for now. To avert any tragedy, the special cell is looking for other IM militants in Delhi and National Capital Region (NCR) region and security has been beefed up in crowded markets.



PACOM

38. [Attack, India] Two Assam Rifles Personnel Hurt In Bomb Attack In Manipur

Monday, October 15 2012

http://www.dnaindia.com/india/report_two-assam-rifles-personnel-hurt-in-bomb-attack-in-manipur_1752765

Two Assam Rifles personnel, including a Junior Commissioned Officer (JCO), were injured when an IED planted by militants exploded on a road in Imphal West district during an insurgents-sponsored general strike in Manipur today, official sources said.

The IED, planted on a road between Khordak and Arong Khong, was exploded through remote controlled device while the personnel of 33rd Assam Rifles battalion were patrolling the area at about 1.35pm.

A JCO and a naik subedar were seriously injured and admitted to Leimakhong Army Hospital. Additional forces were sent to the area and all exit points sealed, sources said.

No individual or group has claimed responsibility for the explosion which occurred in the midway of the general strike called by seven insurgent organisations protesting against Manipur's merger with the union of India on October 15, 1949.

Markets, shops, banks, schools, colleges and entertainment houses remained closed while transport services between Manipur and neighbouring states and within the state were cancelled in view of the strike.

Attendance in government offices was almost nil, the sources said.



PACOM

39. [Security, India] Pressure Bomb Recovered In Chhattisgarh

Tuesday, October 16 2012

http://www.satp.org/satporgtp/detailed_news.asp?date1=10/16/2012&id=8#8

The Security Forces (SFs) recovered a powerful pressure bomb during a search at the encounter spot in Surokhi village in Dantewada District of Chhattisgarh on October 14, reported twocircles.net quoting IANS. Earlier reported that the Communist Party of India-Maoist (CPI-Maoist) cadres set ablaze four trucks belonging to Jaya Construction, Tokapal, and was laden with metal used in road construction on October 14. After setting the trucks on fire, the Maoists planted land mines near the spot, and waited for SFs to reach the site. On being informed, as soon as Police squad approached the burning truck, the Maoists triggered a landmine blast and started firing indiscriminately injuring four SF personnel (earlier it was reported that two SFs were injured). The injured SF personnel were identified as Lalit Netam, Poshan Bhuarya, Trilochan Kashyap and Rajendra Prasad.



PACOM

40. [Law Enforcement, Philippines] Abu Sayyaf Bomb Expert And Police Companion Arrested In Zamboanga

Tuesday, October 16 2012

<http://gulfnnews.com/news/world/philippines/abu-sayyaf-bomb-expert-and-police-companion-arrested-in-zamboanga-1.1090067>

A bomb expert of the Al-Qaida-linked terror group, and a police officer, his companion, were arrested by a joint police and military operation in the southern Philippines, a local paper said.

Rakib Janihul Jairi, also known as Abu Sulaiman, a member of the Abu Sayyaf Group, and his companion, Police Officer Asbi Sahibol, an active law enforcer posted at Hadji Motamad town, Basilan, were arrested in Zamboanga City on Friday, City Police director Senior Superintendent James Mejia told the Star in a belated report on Tuesday. The report was confirmed, following secret pursuit operations that targeted other suspected terrorists in the south, Mejia said. He did not give details.

Jairi has a pending warrant of arrest for alleged involvement in a mass kidnapping in Tumahubong, Sumisip; including kidnapping of plantation workers in Tairan, Lantawan town in 2000 and 2001, said Mejias.

Authorities seized an improvised explosive device from Sahibol, said Mejias.

Following interrogations, Jairi reportedly admitted plans to bomb five targets during festivities in downtown areas. Jairi was detained at a police camp in Zamboanga City. Sahibol was detained at the city police office.

Jairi underwent foreign training on demolition and sabotage and has been training Abu Sayyaf members in bomb making, intelligence reports said.

The Abu Sayyaf Group has been blamed for kidnap-for-ransom, bombings, beheadings, and other terror activities in the south. It has been blamed for the bombing of a commercial ferry that sank and killed a hundred in Manila Bay in 2004.



PACOM

41. [Security, India] Arms And Explosives Seized From Maoist Hideout In Bihar

Wednesday, October 17 2012

http://www.satp.org/satporgtp/detailed_news.asp?date1=10/17/2012&id=6#6

The Security Forces recovered a huge cache of arms and explosives from a Communist Party of India-Maoist (CPI-Maoist) hideout in Hurmeth forest in Rohtas District of Bihar on October 16, reported Zee News. On a combing-cum-search operation in Hurmeth forest, the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)'s Commando Battalion for Resolute Action (CoBRA) battalion and the local Police, recovered two powerful cane bombs weighting three kilograms each, 15 detonators, five liquid explosive gel and 15 helmets from the Maoist hideout, Superintendent of Police (SP), Manu Maharaj said.



PACOM

42. [Security, India] Ammonium Nitrate Found In IM Rented Apartment In Pune By Special Cell Of Delhi Police

Wednesday, October 17 2012

http://www.satp.org/satporgtp/detailed_news.asp?date1=10/17/2012&id=7#7

Special cell of the Delhi Police searched the two-room tenement in Kasarwadi (Pune District) where Indian Mujahideen (IM) militants stayed before the Pune (Maharashtra) blasts of August 1, 2012 and found traces of ammonium nitrate, wires and batteries at the tenement, The Times of India reports on October 17. Sayyed Feroz one of the arrestee had allegedly rented the Kasarwadi tenement and the IM militants had made the bombs there. The team had also seized two revolvers and nine cartridges from the house of one of Feroz's employees in Kondhwa.



PACOM

43. [Security, India] Powerful Bomb Recovered From Train Track In Assam

Wednesday, October 17 2012

http://www.dnaindia.com/india/report_powerful-bomb-recovered-from-train-track-in-assam_1753449

A powerful bomb was recovered from a train track in Barpeta Road railway station in lower Assam's Barpeta district today, police said.

The explosive, weighing 800 gm and fitted with electrical wires, was hidden under boulders of track number one on platform two.

The bomb was noticed by people at around 9.30 am after the departure of a train and they informed the railway station officials who called in police.

Police cordoned off the area and took away the bomb to be safely defused later.

A letterhead of a little known insurgent outfit 'Bengali Sangram Mukti Bahini' was found near the bomb, police sources said.

Movement of trains was disrupted in the area for a few hours and traffic resumed after the bomb was removed.

Security has been intensified in the area.



PACOM

44. [Attack, India] Five Indian Police Killed In Maoist Bomb Blast

Thursday, October 18 2012

<http://www.voanews.com/content/maoist-bomb-blast-kills-5-police-in-india/1528814.html>

Authorities in eastern India say a bomb planted by Maoist rebels has killed five paramilitary personnel.

Senior officials with the Central Reserve Police Force told reporters that Thursday's attack took place in the Gaya district of Bihar state. At least six other paramilitary police were wounded in the blast, including four who were flown to a hospital in Bihar's capital, Patna.

The paramilitary force were on patrol when their vehicle hit a land mine. The area is said to be a known stronghold of Maoist rebels.

India's government has repeatedly called the Maoist rebels one of the biggest threats to the country's internal security. More than 1,000 people were killed in rebel violence in 2010.

The rebels say they are fighting for the rights of the poor and landless because of what they say are severe inequities in land acquisition and wealth distribution.

While the number of Maoist attacks has decreased in recent months, the rebels have carried out several high-profile kidnappings -- capturing two Italians, an Indian lawmaker and a district officer.



NORTHCOM

45. [Security, United States] Terrorism Risk Greatest For Subway And Rail Commuters

Saturday, October 13 2012

<http://www.thecuttingedge.com/index.php?article=76588&pageid=20&pagename=Security>

Despite homeland security improvements since September 11, 2001, subway and rail commuters face higher risks of falling victim to terrorists and mass violence than frequent flyers or those engaged in virtually any other activity. And while successful criminal and terrorist acts against aviation have fallen sharply, those against subways and commuter trains have surged. These are among the findings of a new study by Arnold Barnett, George Eastman Professor of Management Science at MIT's Sloan School of Management, who will deliver a presentation titled "Has Terror Gone to Ground?" at the INFORMS Annual Meeting in Phoenix on October 15.

Barnett found that during the period 1982-91 deliberate acts of malice caused 1,327 deaths worldwide among air travelers, but none on subways/commuter trains. But between 2002-11, the pattern reversed: there were 203 aviation deaths and 804 among subway/rail commuters.

Further statistics depict the implications of this reversal. A recent subway/rail commuter in the Developed World has faced twice the annual death risk of a frequent flyer, while the risk per mile traveled by subway/commuter rail was ten times as high as by air. Criminal and terrorist acts account for about 8 percent of the overall death risk of air travel, but they account for 88 percent of the mortality risk on subways and commuter railroads.

Barnett contends that this reversal does not imply that aviation security measures are less necessary; instead, it might suggest that the success of such measures has displaced criminal/terrorist activity to other venues like commuter rail systems.

Barnett paid special attention to the events on 9/11. He noted that the number of air passengers killed on that day—at 232—was similar to the death tolls in later bombings on the commuter rail systems of Madrid and Mumbai, and in an arson attack on a South Korean subway. What made 9/11 singularly horrible was the enormous death toll on the ground (2,700 killed).

Subsequent measures to secure airline cockpits may be the reason that there have been no further attacks that used commercial airlines as weapons. Indeed, Barnett notes, the most publicized of the recent air-terror plots—the shoe bomber, the underwear bomber, the liquid-explosives plot, the ink-cartridge bombs—have reverted to trying to blow up airplanes, the primary tactic that was used before 9/11 with greater success.

Barnett notes that even among subway/rail commuters, the risk of falling victim to terrorism or mass violence was very low in the last decade, at approximately 1 in 2 million per year. But because successful terrorism has such far-reaching consequences, Barnett argues, the prevention of rail terrorism warrants high priority. Stopping attackers once they reach stations and trains has proved difficult, so the most realistic way to prevent attacks might be to uncover and thwart terror plots at earlier stages. It was good intelligence work that averted a planned 2009 attack on the New York subway, not security measures at Times Square or Grand Central Terminal.



NORTHCOM

46. [Security, United States] Explosive Device Found At Home Depot On Long Island

Wednesday, October 17 2012

<http://www.foxnews.com/us/2012/10/17/explosive-device-found-at-home-depot-on-new-yorks-long-island/>

Police found a "viable" explosive device at a Long Island Home Depot on Monday afternoon, a law enforcement source told Fox News.

Management evacuated the store on Tuesday when an employee found the device, which was accompanied by a note demanding \$2 million or else more bombs would be placed in stores on Black Friday, a source said.

Cops put the device into a containment device and detonated it, a source said. Suffolk County Police confirmed that cops "rendered it safe." Police then sent the remnants to the FBI for analysis.

Home Depot issued a statement saying: "[W]e are cooperating with authorities on their investigation. The safety of our customers and associates is certainly of the utmost importance to us."

Investigators are checking if a disgruntled former employee might be involved.



NORTHCOM

47. [Security, United States] One Indicted In Plot To Attack Federal Reserve

Wednesday, October 17 2012

http://www.wthitv.com/dpps/news/national/man-arrested-after-federal-reserve-bank-bomb-plot-nd12-jos_4803224#.UH8OOoZ0aVo

Federal authorities have arrested a man they say was plotting to blow up the Federal Reserve building in New York City, just blocks from the World Trade Center site.

Authorities say 21-year-old Quazi Nafis was arrested Wednesday morning after a sting operation that involved the FBI and New York Police Department. The suspect parked a van filled with what he believed were explosives outside the building and tried to detonate it.

But his associates were actually undercover officers who arrested him at the scene — and the bomb was not real.

Federal prosecutors say the man was monitored closely by the FBI in New York and members of the Joint Terrorism Task Force, and the public was never in danger.



NORTHCOM

48. [Security, Canada] Parliament Hill Briefly Locked Down After Security Incident

Thursday, October 18 2012

<http://www.newstalk1010.com/News/localnews/blogentry.aspx?BlogEntryID=10452557>

Parliament Hill was locked down briefly on Thursday morning after explosives were discovered in a pickup truck that belonged to a contractor.

After the discovery was made, Parliament Hill and the House of Commons were immediately closed and the RCMP and security officers went into high alert.

Security later determined that the contractor did not pose a threat and was simply trying to get to work, although it isn't clear why he was carrying the explosives.

The contractor is said to be working on Parliament Hill, where there's lots of construction going on.

Parliament Hill has been re-opened.



NORTHCOM

49. [Attack, United States] Bottle Of Gasoline Dropped Into Food Court

Thursday, October 18 2012

<http://www.wjla.com/articles/2012/10/ballston-mall-bottle-of-gasoline-dropped-into-food-court-81173.html>

A man was detained Thursday in connection with the throwing of a Molotov cocktail from the skywalk into the food court of the Ballston Mall in Arlington Thursday.

Continue reading

Authorities say the gasoline was in a 40 ounce beer bottle and had a lighted fuse coming out of it. It shattered, but there was no explosion or fire.

Three additional bottles of gasoline were found where the suspect dropped the first bottle.

The mall, located in the 4200 block of Wilson Boulevard, was evacuated after the incident. It reopened shortly after 5 p.m.

No one was injured and police don't believe this is connected to terrorism.

Brian Kalish took his own picture inside, where investigators from different agencies quickly swarmed the area.

"People were still coming in to get lunch. It was packed. But there was a smell of gas or oil, it kind of smelled like oil," he says.



SOUTHCOM

50. [Attack, Colombia] 'FARC Attack' Leaves Two Dead, Nine Injured

Monday, October 15 2012

<http://colombiareports.com/colombia-news/news/26504-farc-attack-leaves-two-dead-nine-injured.html>

A FARC grenade attack on Colombia's armed forces has left two civilians dead and at least nine others injured, reported local media Monday.

The assailants allegedly threw a grenade at a group of soldiers near a bridge in the town of Puerto Jordan, in the eastern department of Arauca (see map below). The attack, which took place at around 7:20 Sunday evening, has left two dead, including farmer Jose Guzman and his three-year old son.

The Colombian army has attributed the attack to insurgents from FARC's 10th front. "The militants detonated a large explosive device within 50 meters of the bridge that is located at the main entrance of the village..." claimed Colonel Jhon Norbey Zambrano Gomez.

The army is now expected to transfer the wounded by helicopter to the San Vicente Hospital in the city of Arauca. Reports of how many were injured varied from nine to eleven.

There have also been heavy clashes between FARC's 33rd front and the armed forces in the northeast department of Norte de Santander. Rebels allegedly placed explosive devices in an area called "La San Juana", which leads to the Atlantic Coast. Consequently, the army has moved more personnel to that area in an effort to maintain security over the long weekend.



SOUTHCOM

51. [Attack, Colombia] 'FARC Attack' Causes Havoc In Colombia's West

Wednesday, October 17 2012

<http://colombiareports.com/colombia-news/news/26536-farc-attack-causes-havoc-in-colombias-west.html>

Two explosions have disrupted oil production and left two men seriously injured in the western department of Valle del Cauca, reported local media Wednesday.

The insurgents allegedly blew up two energy towers and an oil pipeline Tuesday evening near the town of San Pedro, in the western Valle de Cauca department, leaving two men with extensive burn injuries and at least a dozen other victims with respiratory problems.

The pipeline blast reportedly occurred at 7:10 pm, followed by a raging fire with flames up to 30 feet high.

State-owned energy company Ecopetrol, which maintains the pipeline, decided to immediately suspend operations in the area and deferred to local emergency authorities.

The power station attack left two men severely burned and caused nearly a hundred residents to be evacuated, according to local fire captain Jorge Enrique Paredes. Up to three houses were also damaged.

The victims were identified as Andres Mauricio Pinilla, 25, and Jonathan Rivera, 20. Both were taken to the intensive care unit at Hospital Universitario. One of the men recorded burns throughout 70% of his body.

Early reports attribute blame to guerrilla group FARC, however a fuller investigation is expected to begin in the coming hours.





SOUTHCOM

52. [Law Enforcement, Colombia] Colombian Journalist Sentenced To 15 Years For FARC Links

Wednesday, October 17 2012

<http://colombiareports.com/colombia-news/news/26542-colombian-journalist-sentenced-to-15-years-for-farc-links.html>

A Colombian judge has sentenced a journalist to 15 years in jail for acts of terrorism on behalf of guerrilla group FARC, reported local media Wednesday.

Ex-journalist Fredy Muñoz, alias “Jorge Eliecer,” has been handed a 15-year custodial sentence and ordered to pay a fine of \$380,000 by a judge in the coastal city of Cartagena, reported El Universal.

Muñoz was an “expert in the manufacture of explosives” for the FARC’s 37th Front operating in Colombia’s north, according to the prosecution.

The 42-year old was found guilty of “coordinating terrorist acts committed in Cartagena, such as that executed against an electrical substation in the Manga neighborhood, among other crimes...”

Police managed to detain Muñoz in November 2006 at Bogota’s El Dorado airport. Prior to his life of crime, Muñoz was a staffer for news outlet “TeleSur.”