



RAPID
Realtime Analysis and Publishing of IED Data

Weekly News Update

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



Pakistani firefighters spray water onto cars as people gather at the site of the suicide bombing in Quetta, Pakistan, 31 Aug 2011 (AP)

[See [SVBIED Attack At Pakistani Mosque](#)]

Afghanistan/Pakistan

1. [Tech] [Australian Soldiers To Receive Anti-Blast Underwear](#) (ABC)
2. [Tech] [Oklahoma Companies Work On Technology To Detect IEDs](#) (NO)
3. [Tech] [Chamber, Sen. Inhofe Partner For Conference On IEDs](#) (Edmond Sun)
4. [Trend] [US Senator Calls On Pakistan To Stop Flow Of Ammonium Nitrate To Afghanistan](#) (AFP)
5. [Trend] [New Stryker Vehicles Deflecting Bombs Better](#) (ST)
6. [Trend] [August: Deadliest Month For U.S. In Afghanistan](#) (AT)
7. [Security] [Training Afghans To Take Over Bomb-Defusing](#) (NPR)
8. [Security: Kabul, AFG] [Karzi, Allen Condemn Attacks In Heart, Faryab](#) (DOD)
9. [Attack: Helmand, AFG] [Roadside Blast Kills Four Afghan Civilians](#) (Press TV)
10. [Attack: Helmand, AFG] [British Royal Marine Killed In Afghanistan](#) (BBC)
11. [Attack: Kandahar, AFG] [Kandahar IED Blast Kills Campbell Specialist](#) (AT)
12. [Attack: Kandahar, AFG] [10th Mountain Division Officer Killed In IED Attack](#) (BH)
13. [Attack: Kandahar, AFG] [Fort Wainwright Soldier Killed By IED In Afghanistan](#) (AP)
14. [Attack: Quetta, PAK] [SVBIED Attack At Pakistani Mosque](#) (LWJ)
15. [Attack: Risalpur, PAK] [Blast Rocks Hotel In Risalpur Cantonment](#) (Reuters)

Iraq

16. [Security: Baghdad] [Two Rocket-Launching Pads Dismantled In Baghdad](#) (AAI)
17. [Attack: Baghdad] [Al Qaeda Suicide Bomber Kills 28 Iraqis In Attack In Baghdad Mosque](#) (LWJ)
18. [Attack: Falluja] [Two Civilians Injured In Falluja Explosion](#) (AAI)
19. [Attack: Diwaniyah] [Bomb Blast Targets US Convoy In Iraq](#) (Press TV)
20. [Attack: Basra] [Five Killed, 20 Wounded In Basra Explosion](#) (AAI)
21. [Attack: Baghdad, Tarmiyah, Mosul] [Bomb Attacks In Iraq Kill At Least 35](#) (UPI)
22. [Attack: Mosul] [Construction Site Bombed In Mosul](#) (AAI)
23. [Attack: Kirkuk] [Woman And Daughter Injured In Kirkuk Blast](#) (AAI)
24. [Attack: Baaquba] [Five Cops Injured In Baaquba Blast](#) (AAI)

World

25. [Attack: Aden] [AQAP's Ansar al Sharia Releases Video Of Suicide Attack](#) (LWJ)
26. [Attack: Nigeria] [Suicide Bomber Hits UN Office In Nigerian Capital](#) (LWJ)
27. [Attack: Algeria] [Suicide Bombers Kill 18 In Attack On Algerian Military Academy](#) (LWJ)
28. [Attack: Chechnya] [Chechen Bombers Mimic Tactics Used In Iraq, Afghanistan](#) (RT)
29. [Attack: Philippines] [Three Hurt In Dance Party Explosion In Southern Philippines](#) (GN)
30. [Attack: Philippines] [Philippine School Hit By Blast](#) (ME)

1. [Tech] **Australian Soldiers To Receive Anti-Blast Underwear** (ABC)

Sunday, 28 August 2011

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2011-08-28/defence-lightweight-armor/2858850>

A new set of lightweight armour is the latest issue for Australian soldiers in Afghanistan after feedback gathered from returned servicemen.

The uniform upgrade has been developed by soldiers and engineers who have served in Afghanistan as part of a program called Diggerworks.

Defence Material Minister Jason Clare says the program is about learning lessons from the unique combat conditions in Afghanistan.

He says the new armour includes pelvic protection that will improve mobility and comfort.

"We are providing the soldiers in Afghanistan with a sort of bike shorts that prevent fine dirt particles from penetrating the skin when there's an explosion in an area where our soldiers are," he said.

"The second part of that is soft body armour that'll protect the groin area when larger shrapnel hit them."

Mr Clare says improvised explosive devices (IEDs) have caused many of the deaths and injuries in the war.

"[We are] upgrading our bushmaster vehicles to protect soldiers when a bomb goes off underneath the truck.

We've also put on a mine roller, which is a device on the front of the bushmaster so that if the bushmaster is about to roll over, an IED it blows up the mine roller in front of the truck," he said.

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

2. [Tech] **Oklahoma Companies Work On Technology To Detect IEDs** (NewsOk)

Wednesday, 31 August 2011

http://newsok.com/oklahoma-companies-work-on-technology-to-detect-improvised-explosive-devices/article/3599698?custom_click=pod_headline_technology-news

Many of the tactics used to detect and combat the use of improvised explosive devices are being developed in Oklahoma, the state's senior U.S. senator said Tuesday.

“For some reason, it seems like everyone with a good idea in developing technology is from Oklahoma,” U.S. Sen. Jim Inhofe said before speaking to a downtown Oklahoma City conference presented by a group established by the U.S. Defense Department to reduce or eliminate improvised explosive devices, or IEDs, used against American and coalition forces.

Nearly 40 Oklahoma companies were represented at the one-day conference of the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization. The conference was sponsored by Inhofe, R-Tulsa, and the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber.

Inhofe said he visited Tactical Electronics, a Broken Arrow company, last week and saw that it is “developing things that are just not believable — things that you can put under a door and see everything in the room.”

Inhofe said he invited the Defense Department group to come to Oklahoma to “see firsthand what our capabilities are” in detecting homemade bombs being used by extremists in Afghanistan against U.S. troops.

“I think we're going to end up being kind of the detection capital of America,” he said.

Inhofe said he doesn't know why so many of the companies ended up in Oklahoma, with many of them moving to the state after the energy bust of the 1980s.

“The right people came, and it wasn't an effort on anyone's behalf of the state of Oklahoma,” he said. “We would have tried to recruit them, but we didn't even know about them back then.”

Inhofe said the improvised explosive devices, such as roadside bombs, account for about 60 percent of the U.S. combat fatalities in Afghanistan and Iraq.

John Sikes, deputy manager of FLIR, a Stillwater company formerly known as ICX Technologies that makes explosives detection equipment, said it's difficult to keep up with the different types of materials used to make the bombs, as well as the changing methods of detonating them.

“They're easy to make,” he said. “You can make them out of all kinds of different things. They're very, very difficult to find them. ... There's no good way to detect them right now.”

Sikes said when companies solve one problem regarding the bombs, “they change tactics, and you've got to solve a different problem. It's a moving target.”

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Some bomb devices fail or are detected, but they still are an effective weapon against the U.S. military, he said.

“They only have to hit you occasionally,” Sikes said. “We have to be ever vigilant. If they kill one soldier in a day, they may have tried a dozen times or so to get that one success, so to speak.”

Maj. Gen. Myles Deering, Oklahoma's adjutant general, said he was “for anything that will solve the IED problem.”

Several of the 2,200 soldiers of the Oklahoma Army National Guard's 45th Infantry Brigade sent to Afghanistan this summer have been killed by homemade bombs.

“Putting the great minds together to try to come up with solutions to protect our forces is critical,” Deering said.

“I think just about everybody well knows that's the big problem facing us in Afghanistan right now: improvised explosives. As our tactics, techniques and procedures change, so do theirs. Their adaptability has been pretty much the hallmark to their success.”

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

3. [Tech] **Chamber, Sen. Inhofe Partner For Conference On IEDs** (Edmond Sun)

Friday, 26 August 2011

<http://www.edmondsun.com/local/x640618711/Chamber-Sen-Inhofe-partner-for-conference-on-IEDs>

Improvised explosive devices account for more than 60 percent of coalition casualties in Iraq and Afghanistan. Sen. James Inhofe is looking toward Oklahomans to help fight the loss of life IEDs are causing in the war effort. Sen. Inhofe and the Chamber are hosting the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization Technology Outreach Conference Tuesday at the Skirvin Hotel. Individual tickets are just \$20 and include lunch.

“As Oklahomans, we have seen firsthand the devastation and tragedy IEDs cause for our soldiers and their families,” Sen. Inhofe said. “This has been an especially somber month for Oklahomans fighting overseas and it shows the impact of IEDs can be felt far away from the battlefield. Hopefully some ideas generated by Oklahoman ingenuity at this conference can help combat these devices.”

Members from JIEDDO will lead a discussion on the current counter-IED strategy and the need to develop future strategies and technologies to provide future counter-IED solutions. JIEDDO also will be available for one-on-one sessions starting at 3:30 p.m., for those who have an idea, technology or concept that might be of interest to the military.

Faced with the escalating use of IEDs in Iraq and Afghanistan, the office of the Army Chief of Staff established the Army IED Task Force in October 2003. In 2006, the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization was officially established with a mission to attack and defeat the IED threat.

“This is a chance for Oklahoma entrepreneurs or anyone who might have some insight on this issue to get one-on-one face time with military officials to have their ideas heard,” Greater Oklahoma City Chamber President & CEO Roy Williams said. “They are prepared to hand out grants at this conference if they hear ideas they like.”

All local military personnel, scientists, engineers, technicians, companies and academia are invited to take part in this important conference.

For more information on the event call the Chamber at 297-8900 or visit www.okcchamber.com/events and click on the JIEDDO Technology Conference link. For more information on JIEDDO, visit <https://www.jieddo.dod.mil/>.

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

4. [Trend] **US Senator Calls On Pakistan To Stop Flow Of Ammonium Nitrate To Afghanistan** (AFP)
Friday, 26 August 2011

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5gV3l10BDEHDp0MGgTdr7eyBOJ8Hw?docId=CNG.5266af25b02073727727ae34899a8070.311>

A US senator visiting Islamabad said Friday he is pressing Pakistan to reduce the flow of an explosives material used in roadside bombs that wound and kill hundreds of US soldiers in Afghanistan.

Senator Robert Casey said in a conference call that his talks with civilian and military leaders as well as senators focused on having Pakistan implement its strategy to cut shipments of ammonium nitrate or fertilizer.

"I want to see their strategy implemented, and then we'll be able to better assess it. But they have not implemented a strategy yet, and... that's one of the reasons I'm over here," Casey told reporters.

But he added: "I think we made real progress impressing upon the Pakistani leadership our sense of urgency to get results on this strategy to reduce the flow of ammonium nitrate into Afghanistan."

He said the strategy involves better law enforcement, greater Pakistani public awareness of the threat posed by the chemicals, tracking the material better by dyeing it a certain color and better border interdiction.

"We have been told they will begin the implementation of this plan this fall, but not a date per se," Casey said after meeting Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani and Pakistan's army chief General Ashfaq Kayani.

Casey, chairman of the Senate subcommittee on Near Eastern and South and Central Asian Affairs, He said last year 368 US servicemen and women were injured or killed by the bombs, Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs).

Some 125 Americans have been killed this year by IEDs, he added.

"It is very, very rare that someone who is killed in action is not killed by an IED," he said.

"And that's why we've got to take steps to focus intensively on a strategy against this kind of explosive device and the main ingredient in that explosive device," Casey added.

Casey said his Pakistani interlocutors still disagreed strongly with the secret May 2 US raid that killed Al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden in Pakistan but were determined not to let it destroy their counter-terror cooperation.

"What I think came through today and yesterday was their willingness ... just to look beyond this and to move... forward," Casey said, adding the raid that violated Pakistani sovereignty will always be "a point of contention."

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

5. [Trend] **New Stryker Vehicles Deflecting Bombs Better** (Seattle Times)

Sunday, 28 August 2011

http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2016044285_apwaimprovedstrykers1stldwritethru.html

A new version of the Army's eight-wheeled Stryker vehicle is deflecting bombs better, according to military officials, who say soldiers driving the new armored combat vehicle are walking away from large roadside bombs in Afghanistan.

The early success of the new so-called Stryker "double V hull" suggests that troops from Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Washington state who deploy to Afghanistan in the near future could benefit from the added protection. More than 3,200 Stryker soldiers in the base's 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division are scheduled to deploy to Afghanistan this winter.

The News-Tribune (<http://bit.ly/qWondU>) reports the new Stryker vehicles have extra armor and a new design to divert an explosion's impact away from soldiers inside. The new design includes a slanted underside instead of the traditional flat-bottom of the older models.

The new version was designed to protect soldiers from the buried bombs that have been the weapon of choice against American soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"This is a quick fix, and it appears to have worked," said Loren Thompson, a defense analyst. "What they needed was a design change that would channel the blast wave away from the crew, and they have found it."

The Army commissioned the new design from manufacturer General Dynamics last year. USA Today first reported on the new design's success.

"We have seen a substantial decrease in casualties, and this is an important accomplishment that our military, local service members, General Dynamics and their workers can be very proud of," said U.S. Rep. Adam Smith, D-Wash., the ranking member of the House Armed Services Committee.

According to Army reports, the new Stryker passed its first major test in July during an attack on a group of Alaska soldiers from the 1st Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, a Stryker brigade formerly based at Lewis-McChord. The soldiers survived the kind of roadside bomb that has caused serious casualties in the past.

The July incident was compared to a 2009 attack in Afghanistan that killed seven soldiers from Lewis-McChord's 5th Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division. The brigade lost 37 soldiers in the yearlong deployment. Most of the deaths were from bombings.

The Alaska soldiers "had a series of (improvised explosive device) experience not unlike the fatal one they had a while back," Thompson said, referring to the 2009 incident. "But the vehicles have much improved for survivability."

A defense-industry newsletter called "Inside the Army" obtained an after-action report from the July explosion that quoted two soldiers who were inside the Stryker.

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"I certainly have more trust and confidence going outside the wire in the new double-V hull," said Pfc. Johnathan Arteaga, the driver of vehicle, according to the newsletter.

"The (double V hull) performed well in my eyes, especially considering the relatively minor injuries sustained by the crew members," Pfc. Derek Cook said.

Earlier this year, Army officials announced they'd be sending 150 of the new Strykers to Afghanistan, with another 140 vehicles in production.

All totaled, the Army has ordered 450 of the vehicles.

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

6. [Trend] **August: Deadliest Month For U.S. In Afghanistan** (Army Times)

Tuesday, 30 August 2011

<http://www.armytimes.com/news/2011/08/ap-august-deadliest-month-us-troops-afghanistan-083011/>

August has become the deadliest month yet for U.S. forces in the nearly 10-year-old war in Afghanistan, increasing pressure on the Obama administration to bring troops home sooner rather than later.

The 66 U.S. service members killed this month eclipses the previous record of 65 killed in July 2010, according to an Associated Press tally. Nearly half the August deaths occurred when insurgents shot down a Chinook helicopter Aug. 6, killing 30 American troops, mostly elite Navy SEALs.

Violence is being reported across Afghanistan despite the U.S.-led coalition's drive to rout insurgents from their strongholds in the south.

Though American military officials predicted high casualties this summer as the Taliban try to come back after recent offensives, the grim milestone increases pressure on the Obama administration to withdraw U.S. forces quickly.

The military has begun to implement President Barack Obama's order to withdraw the 33,000 extra troops he dispatched to the war. He ordered 10,000 out this year and another 23,000 withdrawn by the summer of 2012, leaving about 68,000 U.S. troops on the ground. Although major combat units are not expected to start leaving until late fall, two National Guard regiments comprising about 1,000 soldiers started going home last month.

Afghan President Hamid Karzai has set the end of 2014 as the target date for Afghan police and soldiers to take the lead in protecting and defending the country, leaving international combat forces to go home or take on more support roles.

In a speech in Minnesota on Tuesday, Obama honored all the troops who have been killed in Afghanistan and Iraq.

"As our mission transitions from combat to support, Afghans will take responsibility for their own security and the longest war in American history will come to a responsible end," Obama said at the American Legion's national convention in Minneapolis. "For our troops and military families who have sacrificed so much, this means relief from an unrelenting decade of operations."

Aside from the 30 Americans killed in the Chinook crash southwest of Kabul, 23 died this month in Kandahar and Helmand provinces in southern Afghanistan, the main focus of Afghan and U.S.-led coalition forces. The remaining 13 were killed in eastern Afghanistan.

Former U.S. ambassador to Afghanistan, Ronald Neumann, said the recent spike in violence does not tell policymakers much on its own, yet could still have the effect of intensifying the sense of frustration about the war in Congress and elsewhere. Some U.S. lawmakers see the war's duration and cost as a "nuisance" in a time of tight U.S. budgets, he said. "That reinforces the negative," he said.

Jeff Dressler, a senior research analyst studying Afghanistan at the Institute for the Study of War in Washington, said August's high casualty count must be put in context.

“We are right now in the height of the fighting season. Despite progress in Helmand and Kandahar, there continues to be tough fighting down there as coalition forces consolidate their gains and transition areas of those provinces to Afghan lead,” he said, referring to Afghan police and soldiers eventually taking responsibility for security in certain areas.

“We have to look at what commanders were saying all along throughout the course of the year — that we’re really not going to know until October, at the end of this fighting season, how much progress we’ve had,” Dressler said.

Besides the 66 Americans killed so far this month, the NATO coalition suffered the loss of 14 other troops: two British, four French, one New Zealander, one Australian, one Polish and five others whose nationalities have not yet been disclosed.

So far this year, 403 international service members, including at least 299 Americans, have been killed in Afghanistan.

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

7. [Security] **Training Afghans To Take Over Bomb-Defusing** (NPR)

Wednesday, 31 August 2011

<http://www.npr.org/2011/08/31/140066820/training-afghans-to-take-over-bomb-defusing-efforts>

August brought a grim new statistic from Afghanistan: The death of at least 66 U.S. soldiers, making it the deadliest month for U.S. troops in nearly 10 years of war.

Nearly half of those casualties were the result of the rare shootdown of a Chinook helicopter packed with U.S. Navy SEALs. Of the remaining casualties, many were caused by what the military calls improvised explosive devices, or IEDs — homemade land mines, bombs and booby traps.

Meanwhile, NATO and U.S. forces are training Afghans to take over the daunting task of combating the Taliban's deadly weapon of choice — and the leading killer of both civilians and soldiers in the Afghan insurgency.

In the northern city of Mazar-e-Sharif, a British defense contractor, Mick Owen, is teaching Afghan soldiers how to drive remote-controlled cars.

"For Westerners, it's a little bit easier. The guys here, they've never played with a remote-controlled car, never played on a computer. It's more difficult because they're not used to that kind of thing," he says.

Supervised by U.S. soldiers, Afghan national army personnel participate in a training exercise simulating detonation of an IED near Camp Clark in Afghanistan's Khost province, July 6.

Enlarge Ted Aljibe/AFP/Getty Images

Supervised by U.S. soldiers, Afghan national army personnel participate in a training exercise simulating detonation of an IED near Camp Clark in Afghanistan's Khost province, July 6.

The remote-controlled robot is no toy. It has thick rubber treads, an extendable arm with a clamp, and video cameras so the driver — ideally an Afghan soldier standing a safe distance away and taking cover — can disable a land mine or booby trap.

A similar robot was featured in the movie *The Hurt Locker*. De-miners and bomb squads have used them since the 1970s in places such as Northern Ireland.

Handpicked Afghan soldiers and police from across the security forces are enrolled in the course on detecting and defusing IEDs.

The Afghans have decades of experience with land mines. Some of the skills translate — and so do the risks, says Noor Hameed, an Afghan explosive ordnance disposal, or EOD, teacher.

"We have a saying: 'The first fault of the EOD man is the last fault of his life,' " he says.

But IEDs are more sinister than the leftover land mines Afghanistan has dealt with for so many years. They are deliberately concealed in areas of heavy military traffic, which are often used by noncombatants as well.

According to the United Nations, a third of all civilian casualties in Afghanistan are now caused by insurgent IEDs — a 17 percent increase since 2010.

NATO is training Afghans such as Lal Afgha to become the teachers of counter-IED courses. Agha says the insurgents are afraid to fight head-on with American or Afghan soldiers, so they use IEDs.

"The IED is a very effective weapon now for the Taliban. Because they don't fight the Afghan national army face to face, the IED method is the best method for them," Agha says. "It is very easy, and it has a very good effect."

There is growing concern that as U.S. troops draw down, Afghans may not be up to the task of countering IEDs. That's not least because the U.S. hasn't managed to defeat the weapons, even after devoting about \$17 billion over five years to the task. With each countermeasure, the insurgents adapt within months, and IEDs continue to kill and maim U.S. soldiers at as high a rate as ever.

With each generation of armored vehicles, insurgents in Afghanistan have increased the size of their bombs, mostly made with materials smuggled from Pakistan. The bombs often have no metal parts, to avoid detection.

When U.S. troops leave, Afghans will never be able to match such costly efforts — but Agha says he's hoping they won't have to.

"When, if they solve the political problem with government, I think it will solve [the problem of] the IED," he says.

Agha hopes a political solution will end the war, and the IED threat with it.

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

8. [Security: Kabul, AFG] **Karzi, Allen Condemn Attacks In Heart, Faryab** (DOD)

Friday, 26 August 2011

<http://www.defense.gov/news/newsarticle.aspx?id=65157>

Afghan President Hamid Karzai and Marine Corps Gen. John R. Allen, commander of the International Security Assistance Force, jointly condemned today's insurgent attacks in Herat and Faryab, Afghanistan, military officials reported.

The attacks killed five civilians, including a woman, and wounded 24 others, officials said.

Reports indicate the explosives were detonated at a public place in Herat and near a mosque in Faryab.

"Again, insurgents have murdered and maimed innocent civilians," Allen said in a statement issued today. "It's clear from these many callous acts that the lives and livelihoods of Afghan citizens mean nothing to these enemies of Afghanistan. We join President Karzai and [the ministry of interior] in condemning these heinous attacks, and we will work together to relentlessly pursue these enemies of peace and Afghanistan sovereignty."

In Afghanistan news yesterday:

-- A combined Afghan and coalition security force detained numerous suspected Haqqani network insurgents during an operation in the Sabari district of Afghanistan's Khost province. The force detained the men while searching for a Haqqani facilitator who coordinates ambushes and emplaces roadside bombs.

-- In the Zurmat district of Paktia province, a combined security force detained several suspects while searching for a Haqqani facilitator who is responsible for the movement of insurgent weapons and explosives in the region.

-- A combined patrol discovered and destroyed a large cache of bomb- and improvised explosive device-making materials in the Sangin district of Helmand province. The cache consisted of two 105 mm shells each filled with nine pounds of explosives, 50 pounds of nitrogen-based powder, 55 pounds of citric acid monohydrate powder, 55 pound bags of monosodium glutamate powder, six hand grenades, 30 blasting caps, one pressure plate, 100 feet of detonation cord, one chest rack, three antennas and one radio. A bag of an unknown powder also was discovered.

In Aug. 24 Afghanistan news:

-- A combined patrol killed one insurgent and detained two suspects during an operation in the Qarah Bagh district of Ghazni province. The patrol also seized and safely destroyed two grenades and a quantity of small arms and ammunition.

-- A combined force detained two suspects during an operation targeting an insurgent leader in the Kabul district of Kabul province. The leader is responsible for IED and other attacks against Afghan and coalition forces.

-- A combined patrol killed numerous insurgents during an operation in the Khas Uruzgan district of Uruzgan province. The insurgents were killed after they engaged the patrol with rocket-propelled grenades and small-arms fire. Following the firefight, the patrol discovered and destroyed some small arms and ammunition.

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

9. Attack: Helmand, AFG] **Roadside Blast Kills Four Afghan Civilians** (Press TV)
Sunday, 28 August 2011
<http://www.presstv.ir/detail/196229.html>

A roadside bomb explosion has killed at least four civilians and wounded some others in the troubled southern Afghanistan, local Afghan authorities say, Press TV correspondent reported.

The casualties come after a vehicle carrying civilians was hit by an improvised explosive device (IED) in Southern Helmand Province.

Davoud Ahmadi, a spokesman for the governor of Helmand, said that two women were among those who died in the explosion.

No group has claimed responsibility for the deadly attack.

In 2010, violence across Afghanistan reached its worst levels since the Taliban were toppled by US-backed Afghan forces in late 2001.

UN figures released last month showed that the first six months of 2011 had been the deadliest of the war for ordinary Afghans, with 1,462 killed, a rise of 15 percent on the same period last year.

Security situation in Afghanistan is deteriorating despite the presence of some 150,000 foreign troops in the war-torn country.

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

10. [Attack: Helmand, AFG] **British Royal Marine Killed In Afghanistan** (BBC News)
Tuesday, 30 August 2011
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-14717428>

A Royal Marine has been killed by a bomb in Afghanistan's Helmand province.

He was on foot patrol in the Sukmunda area of Nahr-e Saraj district when he was hit by an explosion.

The man, who has not been named, was from 42 Commando Royal Marines. His next of kin have been informed.

Spokesman for Task Force Helmand, Lt Col Tim Purbrick, said: "Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends."

His death takes the total number of UK military deaths in Afghanistan since operations started in 2001 to 380.

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

11. [Attack: Kandahar, AFG] **Kandahar IED Blast Kills Campbell Specialist** (Army Times)

Monday, 29 August 2011

<http://www.armytimes.com/news/2011/08/army-specialist-killed-kandahar-ied-attack-082911/>

A Kentucky-based soldier was killed in combat in Afghanistan, according to a Defense Department release.

Spc. Michael C. Roberts, 23, of Watauga, Texas, died Saturday in Kandahar province of injuries suffered when insurgents attacked his unit using an improvised explosive device.

Roberts was assigned to the 561st Military Police Company, 716th Military Police Battalion, 101st Sustainment Brigade, at Fort Campbell, Ky.

No further information was immediately available.

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

12. [Attack: Kandahar, AFG] **10th Mountain Division Officer Killed In IED Attack** (Boston Herald)

Thursday, 25 August 2011

http://news.bostonherald.com/news/regional/view/2011_0825duxbury_dad_dead_in_afghan_ied_blast/

A 25-year-old West Point graduate from Duxbury, who named his baby daughter Liberty, made the ultimate sacrifice for his country this week while fighting in Afghanistan, friends and a relative said.

First Lt. Timothy Steele, a 2004 graduate of Duxbury High School and 2009 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, was an officer with the 10th Mountain Division based at Fort Drum, N.Y.

“He was a person who gave his heart and soul to the armed forces and to America,” said Duxbury High athletic director Thomas Holdgate. “You know a lot of kids here in Duxbury get their senior picture on the beach. His was with the American flag.”

The Army said Steele was killed Tuesday when insurgents attacked his unit in Kandahar with an IED. Steele’s final billet was executive officer of the 2nd Battalion, 87th Infantry Regiment.

His sister, Theresa, said her brother left in March and was halfway through his first deployment in Afghanistan.

Holdgate said Steele was a remarkable student athlete, who ran track and swam for the school. “He was all you could ask for as a leader. It’s a sad day in Duxbury,” he said. “He was from a family with a big military background. He knew one day he was going to join the armed forces in some capacity. His last race he carried a flag around the track.”

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

13. [Attack: Kandahar, AFG] **Fort Wainwright Soldier Killed By IED In Afghanistan** (Associated Press)
Monday, 29 August 2011
<http://www.ktuu.com/news/ktuu-brandon-mullins-afghanistan-ied-death-082911,0,283039.story>

A Kentucky member of an Alaska-based brigade has been killed in Afghanistan by an improvised explosive device that also injured three fellow soldiers.

The Department of Defense says 21-year-old Pfc. Brandon Mullins of Owensboro, Ky., was killed in Kandahar Province on Aug. 25 by a roadside bomb while on mounted patrol.

Mullins joined the U.S. Army in February 2010 and completed training at Fort Benning, Ga.

He was a member of the 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division based at Fort Wainwright in Fairbanks.

His brigade deployed to Afghanistan in April.

Mullins' next of kin have been notified. A memorial service is being planned for him at Fort Wainwright.

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

14. [Attack: Quetta, PAK] **SVBIED Attack At Pakistani Mosque** (Long War Journal)
Wednesday, 31 August 2011
http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2011/08/suicide_bomber_kille_2.php

A suicide bomber killed 11 people in a parking lot outside a Shia mosque in Quetta, the provincial capital of Pakistan's Baluchistan province. The attack is the latest to take place at a mosque in Pakistan.

The suicide bomber entered a parking lot adjacent to the mosque and attempted to hit the building as worshippers were leaving a service commemorating the end of Ramadan. The bomber detonated in the parking lot after he was unable to reach the mosque, killing 11 people, including two women and a child.

Police said the corpse of the suicide bomber was seen in the wreckage of the car.

"Remains of a badly mutilated body were found in the car. It appears that he was not wearing the explosives on his body but he had planted those in the car and detonated when he could not go beyond the parking lot," Quetta police chief Ahsan Mehboob told AFP.

While no group has claimed credit for the attack, three terror organizations that operate in the area are the primary suspects. The al Qaeda-linked Lashkar-e-Jhangvi is known to carry out suicide attacks against Shia. The Pakistani Jundallah, another group linked to al Qaeda, also conducts suicide attacks and operates in Quetta. And the Movement of the Taliban in Pakistan, which has carried out suicide attacks throughout Pakistan, also operates in Baluchistan.

Today's suicide attack is the third in Asia to target Muslims as they celebrated the end of Ramadan this year. On Aug. 28, an al Qaeda in Iraq suicide bomber killed 28 people at a mosque in Baghdad. And yesterday, suicide bombers killed nine people as they celebrated the end of Ramadan in the Chechen capital of Grozny.

Taliban and allies target religious sites

Over the past four years, the Taliban and allied Pakistani terror groups have shown no reservations about striking inside mosques and other religious sites, as well as during religious processions and events. There have been 34 major attacks on mosques and other Islamic institutions in Pakistan since December 2007, according to information compiled by The Long War Journal.

One of the most brazen attacks took place on Dec. 4, 2009, when a suicide assault team stormed a mosque frequented by military officers in Rawalpindi. Two senior generals were among the 40 people killed.

Another major attack took place on July 1, 2010, when suicide bombers struck the Data Ganj Bakhsh shrine in Lahore, killing 41 people and wounding more than 170. Three suicide bombers detonated their vests at the shrine at a time when it was most frequented, in an effort to maximize casualties.

The last major attack against religious targets took place on Aug. 19, when a suicide bomber killed more than 40 people and wounded more than 100 in an attack at a mosque in Pakistan's tribal agency of Khyber.

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Major attacks at mosques, religious events, and Islamic institutions in Pakistan since December 2007:

Aug. 31, 2011: A suicide bomber detonated in a parked car outside a Quetta mosque, killing 11 people.

Aug. 19, 2011: More than 40 people were killed in a suicide attack at a mosque in Jamrud in the Khyber tribal agency.

April 3, 2011: The Taliban killed 41 people in a double suicide attack on a Sufi shrine in Dera Ghazi Khan.

March 4, 2011: The Taliban killed nine people in a bombing at a mosque in Nowshera.

Jan. 25, 2011: Suicide attacks that targeted Shia religious processions in Lahore and Karachi killed 16 people. The Fedayeen-e-Islam, a subgroup of the Pakistani Taliban, Lashkar-e-Jhangvi, and Jaish-e-Mohammed, claimed credit for the Lahore attack.

Nov. 5, 2010: A suicide attack outside a mosque in Darra Adam Khel killed 50 people.

Oct. 25, 2010: Five people were killed when an IED was detonated inside a shrine in Pakpattan.

Oct. 22, 2010: Five people were killed when an IED was detonated inside a mosque in Peshawar.

Oct. 7, 2010: Two suicide bombers killed eight people in a coordinated attack on the Abdullah Shah Ghazi shrine in Karachi.

Sept. 3, 2010: A suicide bomber attempted to storm a mosque in Mardan, but was stopped by security guards. One person was killed after he detonated his vest.

Sept. 1, 2010: Suicide bombers detonated during Shia religious processions in Lahore, killing 28 people.

Aug. 23, 2010: A suicide bomber detonated at a mosque in Wana, South Waziristan, killing 18 people.

July 1, 2010: Suicide bombers detonated at the Data Ganj Bakhsh shrine in Lahore, killing 41 people and wounding more than 170.

May 28, 2010: The Punjabi Taliban assaulted two Ahamadi mosques in Lahore, killing more than 70 people.

Dec. 18, 2009: A suicide bomber detonated inside a mosque frequented by policemen in Lower Dir, killing 12.

UNCLASSIFIED

Dec. 4, 2009: A suicide assault team stormed a mosque in Rawalpindi that is frequented by Army officers, killing 40.

Oct. 20, 2009: A pair of suicide bombers detonated their vests at Islamabad's International Islamic University, killing five.

June 12, 2009: A suicide bomber killed five Pakistanis, including anti-Taliban cleric Dr. Sarfraz Naeemi, in an attack on a mosque in Lahore during Friday prayers.

June 12, 2009: A suicide bomber killed six worshipers and wounded more than 90 in an attack inside a mosque in Nowshera. The attack collapsed the dome of the mosque.

June 5, 2009: A suicide bomber killed 49 worshipers in an attack on a mosque in a remote village in Dir.

April 5, 2009: A suicide bomber killed 24 worshipers and wounded more than 100 in an attack outside a Shia religious center in the Chakwal district in Punjab province.

March 27, 2009: A Taliban suicide bomber killed more than 70 worshipers and wounded more than 125 in an attack at a mosque in the Khyber tribal agency.

March 5, 2009: An attacker threw a hand grenade into the middle of a mosque in Dera Ismail Khan, wounding 25 worshipers.

March 2, 2009: A suicide bomber killed six people during an attack at a gathering in a mosque in the Pishin district in Baluchistan.

Feb. 20, 2008: A suicide bomber killed 32 Pakistanis and wounded more than 85 in an attack on a funeral procession for a Shia elder who was murdered in Dera Ismail Khan.

Feb. 5, 2009: A suicide attack outside a mosque killed more than 30 Shia worshipers and wounded more than 50.

Nov. 22, 2008: A bombing at a mosque in Hangu killed five civilians and wounded seven.

Nov. 21, 2008: A suicide attack on a funeral procession in Dera Ismail Khan killed 10 mourners and wounded more than 25.

Sept. 10, 2008: The Taliban attacked a mosque filled with Ramadan worshipers in the district of Dir in northwestern Pakistan. More than 25 worshipers were killed and more than 50 were wounded.

Aug. 19, 2008: A suicide bomber killed 29 Shia mourners and wounded 35 after detonating in the emergency ward of a hospital.

UNCLASSIFIED

June 17, 2008: Four Pakistanis were killed and three wounded in a bombing at a Shia mosque in Dera Ismail Khan.

May 19, 2008: Four Pakistanis were killed in a bombing outside a mosque in Bajaur.

Jan. 17, 2008: A suicide bomber killed 10 and wounded 25 in an attack on a Shia mosque in Peshawar.

Dec. 28, 2007: A suicide bomber detonated in the middle of a mosque in Charsadda in an attempt to kill former Interior Minister Aftab Sherpao as he conducted Eid prayers. More than 50 were killed and more than 200 were wounded.

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

15. [Attack: Risalpur, PAK] **Blast Rocks Hotel In Risalpur Cantonment** (Reuters)

Friday, 26 August 2011

<http://www.dawn.com/2011/08/26/blast-rocks-hotel-in-risalpur-cantonment.html>

At least 12 people, including some army and air force personnel, were killed and 17 injured when a powerful explosion hit a hotel in Risalpur cantonment on Thursday.

Nowshera district police chief Mohammad Hussain said a bomb placed on a bicycle was detonated by remote control at about 8.30pm when people had gathered outside the Decent Hotel near the busy Risalpur Chowk after Iftar. He said six of the injured were in critical condition.

Those killed included Habibullah, Abdul Latif, Mohammad Usman, Abdul Hafeez, Hasham, Nazim, Shahbaz, Asif and Latifullah.

Police said six of the injured had been taken to the Combined Military Hospital in Risalpur, six to the District Headquarters Hospital in Nowshera and five to the Mardan Complex Hospital.

Witnesses said a teenager had parked the bicycle at the hotel and left a few minutes before the explosion.

A large number of people were busy shopping for Eid in the market at the time.

Bomb Disposal Squad personnel said 8kgs of explosives had been used in the blast.

The front portion of the hotel was destroyed and a couple of adjoining shops were damaged.

Local people said military personnel from the Risalpur garrison usually visited the hotel after Iftar.

AFP adds: Hayatullah Khan, a police officer who was at the scene, told AFP that the dead included two army and one air force personnel.

“A woman and a child were also killed in the attack,” he said.

TV channels aired footage showing the debris of the hotel and nearby shops destroyed in the blast. Blood could be seen scattered at the hotel’s front along with damaged wooden chairs.

Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani condemned the attack and reiterated the government’s resolve to stamp out militancy and terrorism from the country. “Those playing with the lives of innocent people have no religion and no faith, they are following their own nefarious designs,” he said in a statement.

More than 4,550 people have been killed in suicide attacks and bomb explosions in the country over the past four years.

Last week, 51 people were killed when a suicide bomber blew himself up at a crowded mosque in Khyber Agency.

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

16. [Security: Baghdad] **Two Rocket-Launching Pads Dismantled In Baghdad** (Aswat Al Iraq)

Sunday, 28 August 2011

http://en.aswataliraq.info/Default1.aspx?page=article_page&id=144541&l=1

Two rocket-launching pads, ready for launching, have been dismantled in two Baghdad districts on Sunday, a security source reported.

“Two rocket-launching pads, ready for launching, the first in east Baghdad’s Mashtal district and the second in west Baghdad’s Mansour district, have been dismantled,” the security source told Aswat al-Iraq news agency.

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

17. [Attack: Baghdad] **Al Qaeda Suicide Bomber Kills 28 Iraqis In Attack In Baghdad Mosque** (Long War Journal)

Sunday, 28 August 2011

http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2011/08/al_qaeda_suicide_bom_4.php

http://en.aswataliraq.info/Default1.aspx?page=article_page&id=144559&l=1

A suicide bomber killed 28 people in an attack today at a mosque in Baghdad that also serves as the headquarters of the Sunni Endowment. A Sunni politician was among those killed, and a cleric who has been vocal in his criticism of his opposition to al Qaeda and its puppet Islamic State of Iraq was wounded.

The suicide bomber hid his bomb in a fake splint and entered the Umm al Quraa mosque in western Baghdad during the evening prayers that mark the final days of Ramadan. The bomber attempted to get as close as possible to Sheikh Ahmed Abdul Ghafour al Samarrai, the head of the influential Sunni Endowment, Iraqi police told McClatchy Newspapers.

The blast killed Khalid al Fahdawi, an Iraqi politician, and 27 other people, including children. Scores more were wounded in the attack, including Samarrai.

While no group has claimed responsibility for the attack, al Qaeda in Iraq's Islamic State of Iraq is thought to have executed it. The terror group uses suicide attacks to target civilians and has carried out attacks in mosques in the past, including the leveling of the al Askaria mosque in the city of Samarra, one of the most influential mosques in all of Shia Islam.

Ten days ago, the Islamic State of Iraq promised to carry out 100 terror attacks by the end of Ramadan to avenge the deaths of top al Qaeda and Islamic State of Iraq leaders.

"We announce the start of the third phase of the blessed 'Plan of the Good Harvest,'" according to a statement from the Islamic State of Iraq, which was released on Aug. 19 and translated by the SITE Intelligence Group.

"We will begin this phase with an invasion that we called the invasion of 'retaliation for Sheikh Osama bin Laden and the senior commanders, Abu Omar [al Baghdadi, the former leader of the ISI], Abu Hamza [al Muhajir, the war minister of the ISI and head of al Qaeda in Iraq], and Abu Ibrahim, the governor of Anbar,' and it will start, with permission from Allah, in the middle of the month of fasting, and end ... after exactly one-hundred raids," the statement continued. "It will be diversified ... between storming and martyrdom-seeking operations, in addition to devices, silencers, and snipers, in all the cities, villages and provinces."

Samarrai is a prime target for al Qaeda and its Islamic State of Iraq. In November 2007, he supported the closure of the the Umm al Quraa mosque, which at the time was the headquarters of the Association of Muslim Scholars, a Sunni group that had supported al Qaeda and the Islamic Army of Iraq [see LWJ report, Sunni clerics turn on Association of Muslim Scholars]. He accused the Association of Muslim Scholars of sowing divisions amongst Iraqis and remaining silent while al Qaeda killed Sunnis and Shia alike. He had pointed criticism for al Qaeda in Iraq as well.

"Al Qaeda announced that it kills the Sunni people who participate in the political process, and [kills] the Shi'a on the basis of their identity," Sammarai said. "We want the world to understand that we refuse al Qaeda's death sentence on the Iraqi people."

From Aswat al Iraq:

Six persons, including four cops, were hurt in two bomb blasts in south east Baghdad, security sources said here today.

The source told Aswat al-Iraq that two consecutive bombs directed against a police patrol exploded in Zafaraniyah area , south east Baghdad, that led to wounding four cops and two civilians.

No other details were given.

Yesterday, a suicidal bombing took place in Um Al-Qura Mosque which led to killing tens who attended night prayers, including MP Khalid Al-Fahdawi and injuring other tens, including the head of Sunni Endowment Department Ahmed Abdul Ghafoor al-Samara'i.

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

18. [Attack: Falluja] **Two Civilians Injured In Falluja Explosion** (Aswat Al Iraq)
Sunday, 28 August 2011
http://en.aswataliraq.info/Default1.aspx?page=article_page&id=144545&l=1

Two Iraqi civilians have been injured in an explosive charge blast in western Anbar's city of Falluja on Sunday, according to an Anbar police source.

"An explosive charge blew off on the roadside in eastern Falluja on Sunday, wounding 2 civilians," the police source told Aswat al-Iraq news agency.

He said that the police forces have rushed to the venue of the explosion and began to search the area, out of fear of existence of other explosive charges, targeting its citizens.

Falluja, is 60 km to the west of Ramadi, the center of Anbar Province, 110 km to west of Baghdad.

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

19. [Attack: Diwaniyah] **Bomb Blast Targets US Convoy In Iraq** (Press TV)
Monday, 29 August 2011
<http://www.presstv.ir/detail/196310.html>

A roadside bomb has targeted a US military convoy in the southern Iraqi city of Diwaniyah, police officials say.

Iraq's police said the explosion occurred in the Algeria district of the city on Sunday, according to the Qatar state news agency QNA.

Iraqi security forces were deployed to the blast area. No casualties have been reported.

Meanwhile, a terrorist attack on the largest Sunni Mosque in the capital Baghdad on Sunday killed 29 worshippers, leaving 38 others severely wounded.

Bombings and other forms of violence escalated in Iraq soon after the US-led invasion of the country in 2003.

Earlier in August, Iraq's Vice President Tareq al-Hashemi said a continued US military presence in the country is "a problem, not a solution," adding that their year-end pullout will improve Iraq's security.

The Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) signed between the United States and the Iraqi government mandates that Washington should withdraw its troops from Iraq by the end of December 2011.

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

20. [Attack: Basra] **Five Killed, 20 Wounded In Basra Explosion** (Aswat Al Iraq)
Friday, 26 August 2011
http://en.aswataliraq.info/Default1.aspx?page=article_page&id=144502&l=1

The total figure of Basra explosion of yesterday reached to five killings and 35 wounded, Basra's health director general announced today.

Riyadh Abdul Ameer told Aswat al-Iraq that the outcome of the bombed car were 5 killings and 35 wounded as a final toll.

Basrah security sources said yesterday that five persons were killed and twenty wounded, in addition to burning a number of cars and houses in bombed car explosion directed against a Shiitemosque in Abu al-Khaseeb area, south of the province.

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

21. [Attack: Baghdad, Tarmiyah, Mosul] **Bomb Attacks In Iraq Kill At Least 35** (UPI)

Monday, 29 August 2011

http://www.upi.com/Top_News/World-News/2011/08/29/Bomb-attacks-in-Iraq-kill-at-least-35/UPI-21661314624488/

Several bomb attacks across Iraq killed at least 35 people and wounded scores more, authorities said.

An Interior Ministry official said least 28 people died, including lawmaker Khalid al-Fahdawi, in a suicide bombing attack in a Sunni mosque in western Baghdad Sunday, CNN reported. At least 37 others were wounded in the attack.

North of the Iraqi capital, two people were killed and five wounded when a bomb exploded near a Sunni mosque in Tarmiyah, the government spokesman said.

A bomb explosion Sunday killed two people in the Baghdad's Jadriya neighborhood, the Interior spokesman said.

In separate incidents, three people died in attacks by gunmen, officials said.

Six people, including four police officers were injured Monday in two bomb explosions in southeast Baghdad, Aswat al-Iraq reported.

Officials told Aswat al-Iraq the bombings targeted a police patrol in the Zafaraniyah area.

Six roadside bombs exploded in Mosul's center, wounding five police officers and two civilians, officials said. On the highway that links Mosul to Syria, a roadside bomb exploded, injuring two members of an Iraqi army convoy, CNN reported.

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

22. [Attack: Mosul] **Construction Site Bombed In Mosul** (Aswat Al Iraq)

Saturday, 27 August 2011

http://en.aswataliraq.info/Default1.aspx?page=article_page&id=144531&l=1

A house under construction was destroyed by remote control explosive device in Ninewa province, security sources said here today.

The source told Aswat al-iraq that unknown armed group bombed a cop's under construction house, 60 km south of Mosul.

No other details were given.

Mosul, center of Ninewa province, lies 405 km north of the capital, Baghdad.

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

23. [Attack: Kirkuk] **Woman And Daughter Injured In Kirkuk Blast** (Aswat Al Iraq)

Tuesday, 30 August 2011

http://en.aswataliraq.info/Default1.aspx?page=article_page&id=144574&l=1

A woman and her daughter were hit by a bomb blast south of Kirkuk, security sources said here today.

The source told Aswat al-Iraq that the bomb was implanted in cemetery in Daqooq area, south Kirkuk, which led to the injuries.

No other details were given.

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

24. [Attack: Baaquba] **Five Cops Injured In Baaquba Blast** (Awat Al Iraq)

Tuesday, 30 August 2011

http://en.aswataliraq.info/Default1.aspx?page=article_page&id=144576&l=1

Five cops were injured in a bomb blast in the center of Baaquba, security sources said today.

The source told Aswat al-Iraq that a bomb exploded in the main street of Baaquba city targeting a police patrol, which led to injuring five, including a captain.

Security forces surrounded the area looking for the culprits.

No other information were given.

Baaquba, the center of Diala province, lies 57 km northeast of the capital, Baghdad.

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

25. [Attack: Aden] **AQAP's Ansar al Sharia Releases Video Of Suicide Attack** (Long War Journal)
Wednesday, 24 August 2011
http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2011/08/aqaps_ansar_al_shari.php

link contains video clip

Ansar al Sharia, the political front group for al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula in Yemen, has released a videotape of a suicide attack in Aden that killed five Yemeni soldiers.

The videotape, which is just over a minute long, was released on the al Qaeda-linked Shumukh al Islam forum on Aug. 20 by Ansar al Sharia and has since been published on YouTube by the SITE Intelligence Group. According to a brief statement accompanying the video, the suicide bomber struck a military convoy in Aden as it was traveling to the neighboring province of Abyan.

Although the video is undated, it appears to show the July 25 suicide attack that targeted a military convoy in Aden as it was traveling to Zinjibar, the capital of Abyan, which is one of three major cities under AQAP control. In that attack, a car rammed into convoy, killing five soldiers and wounding 25 more, according to the Yemen Post.

There has been one other suicide attack in Aden since May 2011, when Ansar al Sharia was formed by al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula to act as a political front for the terror group and other allied jihadist organizations. The other suicide attack took place on June 24, when a bomber killed three soldiers as they patrolled in the city.

The video, which is in 3GP format, seems to have been taken on a cell phone by a person in a car near the attack. Yemeni soldiers are seen sitting atop tanks and armored vehicles, which appear to be resting on flatbed transportation trucks. A car is then seen moving quickly toward the Yemeni soldiers, before disappearing in a fireball that also engulfs several of the transport trucks and armored vehicles.

The attack was carried out by Turki Saad Muhammad Qulais al Shahrani, "an explosive expert for al Qaeda" who was from Saudi Arabia, according to a report in the Yemen Post.

For more information on Ansar al Sharia, AQAP's rise in southern Yemen, and US counterterrorism efforts, see LWJ report, US 'drones' kill 15 al Qaeda fighters in southern Yemen.

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

26. [Attack: Nigeria] **Suicide Bomber Hits UN Office In Nigerian Capital** (Long War Journal)
Friday, 26 August 2011
http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2011/08/suicide_bomber_hits_3.php

A suicide bomber attacked the United Nations headquarters in the Nigerian capital of Abuja today, killing at least 18 people and wounding scores more. The radical Islamist sect known as Boko Haram has claimed credit for the attack.

The suicide bomber was able to pass through the checkpoints in the high-security area of the capital before ramming his car packed with explosives into the UN building, according to witnesses.

Reports indicate that 18 or more people were killed in the blast, and the front facade of the building was leveled. The death toll may rise as many people are believed to be trapped in the rubble.

A police commissioner said that despite heightened security in the area that day, the suicide bomber was not stopped before detonating because security forces were not allowed to carry guns on the premises.

The suicide attack against the UN is the first against foreigners in Nigeria. A man who said he was a spokesman for Boko Haram, which has sought ties with al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb and praised al Qaeda, claimed credit for today's deadly suicide attack and threatened further attacks.

"The attack was carefully scripted and executed," the spokesman, who goes by the name of Abu Darda, told a French journalist, according to Sky News.

"We have said it several times that the UN is one of our prime targets," Abu Darda continued. "More attacks are on the way, and by the will of Allah we will have unfettered access to wherever we want to attack. We have more than 100 men who are willing to lay down their lives for the cause of Allah."

Boko Haram has carried out one suicide attack in Nigeria this year and attempted another.

On June 16, a suicide bomber killed one person and wounded several more in an attack on a police station in Abuja. Two days later, Boko Haram said it carried out the suicide attack. "We are responsible for the bomb attack on the police headquarters in Abuja, which was to prove a point to all those who doubt our capability," it said in a statement.

Also, on Aug. 17, police killed a suicide bomber before he could detonate his car bomb after he rammed a police station in Maiduguri. Police said they believe the suicide bomber is a member of Boko Haram.

Boko Haram, which translates to "education is sin," is also known by its Arabic name, Al Sunnah Wal Jamma, or the "Followers of Mohammad's Teachings." The group was founded in 2004 in Kanamma village in northern Yobe State, which borders Niger. Boko Haram seeks to establish an Islamic state in the African country.

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Even though sharia law has been enforced more strictly in the 12 predominantly Muslim states of northern Nigeria since 2000, Boko Haram demands a "full Sharia" adoption of Islamic law in the 12 states of northern Nigeria. The group also seeks a ban throughout Nigeria on Western education, culture, and science that the group deems sinful; and, contrary to its name, the group aims to provide Islamic schooling as the only form of education to the public.

Abdullah, a member of Boko Haram, told Reuters in 2009 that the group intends to "clean the (Nigerian) system which is polluted by western education and uphold the Sharia all over the country."

The group has been waging a low-level insurgency against the Nigerian government since 2009, when major clashes between the two broke out in northern Nigeria during the summer of 2009. Police killed hundreds of Boko Haram fighters, and captured and then executed Mohammad Yusuf, the terror group's former leader.

Since the violent 2009 uprising by Boko Haram, the group has conducted numerous attacks against the Nigerian police and military, as well as clerics and politicians who oppose the group. The city of Maiduguri in the northeastern state of Borno has been the center of Boko Haram's insurgency. Thousands of families have fled the city, fearing clashes between police and the group.

Boko Haram has conducted large-scale operations in the north. In September 2010, its fighters raided a prison in the town of Bauchi, freeing more than 800 inmates, including 200 Boko Haram members. Upwards of 50 Boko Haram members stormed the prison armed with AK-47s and killed four people, including two bodyguards, and wounded four others.

Boko Haram has also expanded its propaganda efforts to show solidarity with al Qaeda and its affiliates. In July 2010, Imam Abubakar Shekau, the leader of Boko Haram, issued an online statement praising al Qaeda and offered condolences to al Qaeda of Iraq for its loss of Abu Ayyub al Masri and Abu Omar al Baghdadi.

"Do not think jihad is over," Shekau said. "Rather jihad has just begun. O America, die with your fury."

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

27. [Attack: Algeria] **Suicide Bombers Kill 18 In Attack On Algerian Military Academy** (Long War Journal)

Friday, 26 August 2011

http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2011/08/suicide_bombers_kill_6.php

Eight people, including 16 soldiers, were killed today in a suicide attack on a military academy in Algeria.

The attack took place at a military academy in the town of Cherchell just as soldiers were breaking their Ramadan fast. It is unclear if one or two suicide bombers were used in the attack.

The first blast occurred outside the mess hall at Cherchell, according to AFP. As soldiers rushed out to aid those wounded, a suicide bomber riding a motorcycle detonated his explosives in the crowd of people, according to The Associated Press. Victims of the attack included 20 who were injured.

While no group has claimed credit for today's attack, al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb is suspected to have carried out the bombings. AQIM has previously claimed credit for executing several other suicide attacks in Algeria and in neighboring countries.

Today's suicide attack is the third of its kind in Algeria this year, as well as the third since mid-July. On July 16, a pair of AQIM suicide bombers killed four people, including three policemen, in an attack on a headquarters in the Kabylie region, which serves as a safe haven for the terror group.

And on Aug. 14, an AQIM suicide bomber detonated his car bomb outside of a police station, wounding 29 people, including 11 policemen. The blast took place in Tizi-Ouzou, an area with a strong al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb presence. AQIM later took credit for the attack.

Prior to this summer, the last suicide attack reported in Algeria took place on July 25, 2010, when a suicide bomber attacked a security barracks in a village near Tizi Ouzou.

AQIM's three suicide attacks over the span of six weeks after nearly a one-year lull signals that the terror group is putting more emphasis on the terror tactic.

AQIM suicide attacks have tapered off since 2008. In 2010 there were two reported suicide attacks in the country; in 2009 there was just one such attack. In 2008, there were five suicide attacks, and in 2007, there were four such attacks. The most effective attacks took place in 2007 and 2008 [see list below]; during those years, suicide bombers targeted the prime minister's office, Interpol, the United Nations, and Algerian Special Police headquarters in Algiers.

In the vast majority of the attacks (14 of 15 attacks) from 2007-2011, the targets were the police or military. The exception is the Dec. 11, 2007 strike that targeted the UN offices and a court building in Algiers.

Since 2008, AQIM has shifted its tactics from high-profile suicide bombings to ambushes against security forces as well as kidnapping operations, which are reported to net the terror group millions of dollars a year.

The formation of al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb in 2006 was the result of al Qaeda's efforts to unite the various Salafist terror groups in North Africa. AQIM is comprised of the Algerian Salafist Group for Prayer and Combat (GSPC), the Moroccan Islamic Combat Group, the Tunisian Combatant Group, and elements of the Libyan Islamic Fighting Group. The GSPC forms the nucleus of al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb.

While the GSPC has always had a very close relationship with al Qaeda, the terror group officially merged with al Qaeda in September of 2006. GSPC officially renamed the group al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb in January of 2007. "We had wished to do this from the first day we joined (al Qaeda) but we wanted the permission of Sheikh Osama, may God protect him. This obstacle has now been removed," according to a GSPC statement released on its website.

Suicide attacks in Algeria, 2007-2011:

Aug. 26, 2011: A suicide attack on an Algerian military academy in Cherchell killed 18 people, including 16 soldiers, and wounded 20 more.

Aug. 14, 2011: AQIM claimed credit for a suicide attack that wounded 29 people in an attack on a police station in Tizi Ouzou.

July 16, 2011: A pair of suicide bombers killed three policemen and a security guard in the town of Bordj Menaïel in the Kabylie region.

July 25, 2010: AQIM took credit for a suicide bombing at a security barracks in a village near Tizi Ouzou on July 25, in which the group claimed 36 people were killed and wounded.

June 11, 2010: A suicide bomber attacked a police barracks in the town of Timizar in the Kabylia region, killing nine people and wounding 20.

March 7, 2009: A suicide bomber targeted a police barracks in the town of Tizi Ouzou. A security guard and a civilian were killed and eight more were wounded in the attack.

Sept. 28, 2008: Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb claimed responsibility for a suicide bombing at a police checkpoint in Dellys that killed three and wounded six.

Aug. 3, 2008: A suicide bomber wounded 25 Algerians, including four policemen, in an attack in the town of Tizi Ouzou. The bomber attacked a police station. Al Qaeda begins to deploy female suicide bombers in North Africa.

June 4, 2008: A suicide bomber wounded five Algerians in an attack outside a police barracks on the outskirts of Algiers.

Jan. 29, 2008: A car bombing in the town of Thenia killed four people and wounded 23. A police checkpoint was the target of the bombing.

Jan. 2, 2008: A suicide bomber killed four policemen in an attack on a police station in the town of Naciria.

Dec. 11, 2007: A pair of suicide bombers killed more than 30 people in an attack on UN offices and a court building in Algiers.

Sept. 8, 2007: A suicide bomber killed 28 people in an attack on a naval barracks in the coastal town of Dellys.

Sept. 6, 2007 : A suicide bomber struck in the town of Batna just prior to the arrival of President Abdelaziz Bouteflika. The attack killed 15 people and wounded 70.

April 11, 2007 : Suicide bombers killed more than 30 people in attacks that targeted the prime minister's office, Interpol's headquarters, and the Special Police headquarters.

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

28. [Attack: Chechnya] **Chechen Bombers Mimic Tactics Used In Iraq, Afghanistan** (RT)

Wednesday, 31 August 2011

<http://rt.com/news/chechen-terrorism-blasts-grozny-499/>

Death toll from Chechen attacks climbs to 9 The death toll from the suicide attacks in the Russian republic of Chechnya on August 30 has climbed to nine, Interfax news agency quoted Interior Minister Rashid Nurgaliev as saying on Wednesday.

-The Chechen capital, Grozny, was rocked by three successive blasts detonated at the same location.

The first one was carried out on the Bogdan Khmel'nitsky street leading to the city's airport. A suicide bomber blew himself up when police attempted to stop him for an ID check.

Half an hour later at the same place, the second and third attacks occurred, aimed at eliminating the investigators and emergency workers who had arrived at the scene.

Overall, nine people died as a result: six policemen, one emergency specialist and two passers-by. Another 23 men were injured, mostly law enforcement and emergency employees.

All three bombers were dressed up as law enforcement officers, according to the Life News tabloid. It also claimed that a Chechen police source had revealed that the terror attack was originally planned for a different neighbourhood of the Chechen capital.

A police detail patrolling the district observed the first bomber behaving suspiciously, and reported that his lips were moving as if murmuring a prayer. When two policemen approached him, the man detonated an explosive. The two officers died on the spot.

When an investigation team arrived and sealed off the area, another man dressed as a police officer approached the site and cried out before blowing himself to pieces. The third bomb went off seconds later.

Experts consider the total capacity of the three bombs detonated in Grozny amounts to three kilos of TNT, said Vladimir Markin, the Investigative Committee spokesman.

One of the terrorists has been identified as the brother of another suicide bomber who carried out an attempted assassination of the republic's leader, Ramzan Kadyrov, in June 2010.

The two terrorists have been named as Magamed Dashaev, born in 1989 in Urus-Martan in Chechnya, and Adlan Hamidov, born in 1990 in the Stary Atagy settlement in the republic. The latter was a student at the Oil Institute in Grozny.

The tactic of carrying out multiple bombings at the same spot is well-known to terrorists in Iraq and Afghanistan.

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The Chechen leader Ramzan Kadyrov labeled those behind the attacks criminals. He said they had exposed their own emptiness and proved that they held nothing sacred by carrying out their attacks on one of the most important Muslim holidays – the day of Eid ul-Fitr that marks the end of the holy month of Ramadan.

Experts have observed a surge in terror attacks worldwide – but particularly in war-torn Iraq and Afghanistan – around the time of Ramadan.

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

29. [Attack: Philippines] **Three Hurt In Dance Party Explosion In Southern Philippines** (Gulf News)
Monday, 29 August 2011
<http://gulfnews.com/news/world/philippines/three-hurt-in-dance-party-explosion-in-the-southern-philippines-1.858718>

Manila: Three people were wounded in a grenade explosion during a dance party in the southern Philippines on Saturday, a local paper said.

Felimon Saiden, 46, a resident of Tagum City; and Eli Piyal, 19, and Jovert Visagas, 16, were wounded when a man threw a grenade that exploded on the dance floor, in Look town, Compostela Valley at 11:30 Saturday night, Superintendent Jose Carumba, Southern Mindanao police regional office told the Inquirer in a belated report on Monday.

The wounded have been recuperating from shrapnel wound at the local hospital where they were brought after the incident, Carumba said.

Police investigators have been studying the grenade fragments that were recovered at the dance floor, said Carumba.

Article continues below

Mindanao is home to Filipino-Muslim separatist groups and local terror groups engaged in kidnap-for-ransom, beheadings, bombings, and other terror activities in the south.

The Philippine government has been engaged in on and off peace talks with Filipino-Muslim rebel groups, but not with the Abu Sayyaf Group which has links with the Jemaah Islamiyah, the Southeast Asian conduit of the Al Qaida terror network.

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

30. [Attack: Philippines] **Philippine School Hit By Blast** (Mindanao Examiner)
Friday, 26 August 2011
http://www.mindanaoexaminer.com/news.php?news_id=20110826110257

An improvised explosive went off inside a school compound in the southern Philippine city of Panabo, but there were no reports of casualties or injuries, officials said on Friday.

Officials said troops also discovered and disarmed four more landmines planted by the New People's Army rebels at Tibungol Elementary School on Thursday.

Lieutenant Colonel Lyndon Paniza, a spokesman for the 10th Infantry Division, accused the rebels of targeting the school and said the NPA violated the Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law.

"This shows the real identity of the NPAs. They are criminals, who care less of the safety and security of the civilians. This lawless armed group keeps on babbling about their respect for human rights violation but they're acting inhumanely," Paniza said.

"They are plain and simple criminals who should be rebuked and punished for their criminalities and this is what 10th Infantry Division is doing," he added.

It was unknown whether the explosion was accidental or not, but human rights groups have previously accused government soldiers in the province of using schools as their patrol base and barracks.

The NPA is fighting for the establishment of a Maoist state in the country.

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