

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.



JTF Intercept Bomb-Laden Car in Maiduguri

The Joint Task Force (JTF) intercepted a suicide bomb-laden car heading for suicide missions in Borno and Yobe states.

Read more on Page 23





1. [Attack, Pakistan] Attack On Shias; Two Killed, Nearly 20 Injured	4
2. [Attack, Afghanistan] NATO Strike Kills 50 Troops In E Afghanistan	6
3. [Attack, Afghanistan] Four Killed As Blast Hits Police Vehicle In Afghanistan	7
4. [Trend, Afghanistan] Ammonium Nitrate Fertilizer Is Being Smuggled Into Afghanistan For IEDs	8
5. [Attack, Pakistan] One Injured In Landikotal Bomb Blast	10
6. [Attack, Afghanistan] Four New Zealand Troops Killed Following Blast In Bamiyan Province	11
7. [Trend, Pakistan] Attempt To Blow Up Jaffer Express Foiled In Balochistan	12
8. [Security, Pakistan] Pakistani Taliban Threatens Attacks On Military	13
9. [Attack, Afghanistan] Top U.S. General's Aircraft Damaged By Rockets In Afghanistan	14
10. [Attack, Pakistan] Quetta Bomb Attack Kills Two, Injures 11	16
11. [Attack, Afghanistan] Explosion Hit NATO Troops Convoy In Northern Afghanistan	17
12. [Attack, Afghanistan] Roadside Bomb Kills Six Civilians In Southern Afghanistan	18
13. [Attack, Nigeria] Explosion Rocks Police Post In Jos	19
14. [Attack, Libya] At Least Two Killed By Car Bombs In Libyan Capital	20
15. [Law Enforcement, Libya] Libya Makes Arrests Over Deadly Car Bombs	21
16. [Law Enforcement, Nigeria] Police Arrest Two Suspected Suicide Bombers; Discover Bomb Factories In Kogi	22
17. [Security, Nigeria] JTF Intercept Bomb-Laden Car In Maiduguri	23
18. [Special Interest, Nigeria] Nigerian Government Enters Talks With Boko Haram	24
19. [Attack, Iraq] Bomb Wounds Iraq Cleric Who Urged End To Insurgency	25
20. [Law Enforcement, Yemen] Yemen Detains Three Al-Qaida Suspects Over Suicide Attack On	26
21. [Security, Iran] Upping The Ante? Iran Unveils Six Weapons Upgrades	27
22. [Attack, Iraq] Turkey Bombs Iraqi Kurdish Areas	28
23. [Trend, Syria] Coffee Cups And Fertilizer Make Syrian Rebel Weapons	29



24. [Security, Iran] Ayatollah Khamenei Orders More Terror Attacks Against The West	31
25. [Attack, Russia] Police Defuse Mosque Bomb Equivalent To 40 Kg Of TNT In Dagestan	32
26. [Attack, Russia] Suicide Bomb Kills Seven Russian Policemen At Funeral	33
27. [Security, Czech Republic] Breivik-Style Bomb Plot Foiled By Czechs	34
28. [Security, Israel] Israel Deploys Anti-Rocket Battery Near Egypt Border	35
29. [Attack, Turkey] Bomb In Turkish Town Of Gaziantep Kills Seven	36
30. [Trend, Turkey] Kurdish Militant Group Says Not Behind Turkey Bomb	37
31. [Security, Ireland] Viable Explosive Found Outside Tallaght House	38
32. [Attack, Turkey] Four Soldiers Killed In Turkey's Kurd Region	39
33. [Attack, Moldova] Petrol Bomb Thrown At Moldovan PM's Car	40
34. [Special Interest, United Kingdom] £390 Million Foxhound Will Help To Keep Troops Safe From Roadside Bombs	41
35. [Trend, Australia] Boy Charged: Hand Blown Off By Home-Made Explosive	42
36. [Attack, Philippines] Three Hurt In Another Bombing, This Time In Zambowood	43
37. [Security, India] Bomb Threats Disrupt Train Traffic In Kerala	44
38. [Security, India] Pipe Bomb In Rail Track Planted For Experimental Blast	45
39. [Attack, United States] Bottle Bomb Goes Off In Glouco Freeholder's Mailbox	46
40. [Attack, Mexico] Grenade Attack Sends Mariachis, Bystander To Hospital	47
41. [Security, United States] Taking The Edge Off A Pipe Bomb--Literally	48
42. [Security, United States] Juveniles Responsible For Explosive Device Dropped At Wash House In Purity Plaza	49
43. [Attack, United States] Explosive Device Under Investigation	50
44. [Security, United States] MCU Officers Find Explosive In Fairfield Beach Home	51
45. [Security, Colombia] Army Defused Explosive Devices In Caquetá And Putumayo	53
46. [Security, Colombia] Deactivated Explosives Packed In A Motorcycle In The Village Patia	54
47. [Security, Colombia] Colombia Unable To Meet Landmine Deadline	55
48. [Attack, Colombia] FARC Attack' Kills Two, Injures Four Police In Northern Colombia	56



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1. [Attack, Pakistan] Attack On Shias; Two Killed, Nearly 20 Injured

Friday, August 17 2012

http://zeenews.india.com/news/south-asia/three-killed-25-injured-in-karachi-blast_794222.html

Two persons were killed and 19 others injured in a gun and bomb attack on a group of Shia students in the port city of Karachi on Friday, a day after 25 community members were pulled out of three buses and shot dead by masked gunmen in Pakistan's northwest.

Members of the Imamia Students Organisation, who were on their way to a rally organised to mark Yum-al-Quds -- which is observed on the last Friday of the month of Ramzan to show solidarity with Palestinians, were fired at by unidentified gunmen.

At least five persons were injured in the shooting, witnesses said.

Minutes later, a bus carrying members of the Imamia Students Organisation, a body of Shia Muslims, was targeted with a remote-controlled explosive device near Safari Park area in Karachi.

The bus was partially destroyed as a result of the blast, which also hit over half a dozen cars and motorcycles.

One person was killed instantly, witnesses and police said. Another person died at the hospital.

Officials at nearby hospitals said they had received 14 injured people.

Police officials and witnesses said most of the injured were hit by ball bearings packed into the bomb.

The gun-and-bomb attack came a day after masked gunmen pulled out 25 Shia Muslims from three buses and shot them dead in Naran Valley of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province.

It also followed the Taliban attack on the Pakistan Air Force's key Kamra airbase in Punjab province that left nine terrorists and two security personnel dead yesterday.

Officials at Jinnah Hospital said some of the injured in today's attack were in serious condition.

Dr Seemi Jamali, the director of Emergency Services at Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre, said that two of the injured, who were in critical condition, have been shifted to the Intensive Care Unit (ICU).

"It was a bomb blast," Deputy Inspector General of Police Shahid Hayat told reporters at the site.

Other officials said the bomb had contained about two kilograms of explosives.

The blast also caused damage to nearby shops.

Footage on television showed the rear of the bus had borne the brunt of the blast. Its windows were blown out and its sides pierced by ball bearings.

A car was also badly damaged by the blast, which was triggered by an explosive device planted near the wall of



an electricity sub-station. The blast also caused extensive damage to the wall of the sub-station and the pavement.

No group claimed responsibility for the attack.

Security forces cordoned off the area and stopped traffic for some time.

Senior Superintendent of Police Javed Maher said that an additional contingent of police had been deployed at the blast site.

Participants at the rally site staged a protest and chanted slogans against the incident.

The protesters complained that proper security was not provided to the participants despite bus routes being known.





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2. [Attack, Afghanistan] NATO Strike Kills 50 Troops In E Afghanistan

Saturday, August 18 2012

http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/world/2012-08/18/content_15686325.htm

About 50 militants were killed on Saturday afternoon when a NATO pilotless plane carried out an attack in Afghanistan's eastern province of Kunar, the police said.

"The drone targeted four suspected vehicles in Shinallai area of Chapa Dara district at around 1 pm local time Saturday, killing 50 militants, including 13 insurgent's local commanders," police chief of the district, Najibullah Khan, told Xinhua.

Khan said a Taliban shadowy police chief for the district named Hattiquallah and another Taliban leader named Turabi were among the killed.

The Taliban insurgent group, which launched in May this year's spring offensive against Afghan and NATO forces, has yet to make comments.

The Kunar province bordering Pakistan, has seen increasing militancy despite continued military operations there.

Separately, a soldier with the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) lost his life in an insurgent attack in southern Afghanistan on Friday, the ISAF confirmed Saturday.

Currently over 130,000 NATO-led ISAF troops have been serving in Afghanistan since the Taliban regime was toppled in late 2001.

In another development, militants killed the head of a district prison in the country's southern province of Helmand Saturday afternoon.

"Head of Gereshk district's prison, Ismail Khan, was killed when a sticky bomb attached to his vehicle went off near the prison compound at around 1 pm local time shortly after he get in his car," police chief of the district, Guli Khan, told Xinhua.

Earlier, Saturday a bomb explosion hit the vehicle of a local elder named Mohammad Ali, killing his driver and injuring four others including Ali in Nahrin district of northern Baghlan province.





AFPK

3. [Attack, Afghanistan] Four Killed As Blast Hits Police Vehicle In Afghanistan

Saturday, August 18 2012

http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/world/2012-08/18/content_15686167.htm

At least four civilians were killed and 12 others including three policemen were injured Saturday morning when a bomb targeted a police vehicle blasted in western Afghan province of Herat, an official said.

"A bomb was placed under a small bridge and was detonated when a police vehicle was running the area in Shindand district bazaar at around 8:00 am local time Saturday, leaving the casualties," a provincial government spokesman, Mahyoddin Noori, told Xinhua.

He said the injured were shifted to a district hospital and an injured policeman was in critical condition.

He blamed Taliban insurgents for the attack.

The Taliban-led insurgency has been rampant since the militant group launched an annual spring offensive dubbed "Al-Farooq" from May against Afghan and NATO-led troops stationed in the country.

The Taliban insurgents has warned the civilians to stay away from official gatherings, military convoys and centers regarded as the legitimate targets by militants besides warning people against supporting government and foreign troops.

A total of 1,145 civilians were killed and 1,954 injured in conflict -related violent incidents and attacks in the first six months of 2012, a 15 percent decrease in overall civilian casualties compared with the same period in 2011, according to a UN report released in capital Kabul on Aug 8.



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4. [Trend, Afghanistan] Ammonium Nitrate Fertilizer Is Being Smuggled Into Afghanistan For IEDs

Saturday, August 18 2012

http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/in-afghanistan-ied-key-component-ammonium-nitrate-fertilizer-is-being-imported-from-pakistan/2012/08/18/60edeb16-e92e-11e1-936a-b801f1abab19_story.html?wprss=rss_national-security

Seizures in Afghanistan of ammonium nitrate fertilizer, the main explosive used in Taliban bombs, more than doubled in the first seven months of 2012 compared with the same period last year, U.S. officials said.

Despite that increase, senior U.S. officials said, the number of improvised explosive devices, or IEDs, manufactured with the chemical compound is on pace to surpass the record levels of 2011.

“We are sweeping ammonium nitrate fertilizer off the battlefield at historic rates,” said a senior U.S. official who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive intelligence. “But the IEDs are going up at historic rates, too, and it is directly related. It is a supply issue.”

The homemade bombs, which are most often planted along roads and footpaths, are a leading killer of U.S. and NATO troops in Afghanistan. The ammonium nitrate used as the explosive component is manufactured at two plants across the border in Pakistan, and officials said the manufacturer has resisted efforts to control the flow into Afghanistan.

Figures provided to The Washington Post show that U.S. and Afghan troops have seized about 480 tons of ammonium nitrate fertilizer this year, enough explosive material to manufacture 30,000 to 50,000 IEDs.

During the same period, U.S. and Afghan troops have either triggered or discovered 16,600 of the bombs, a slight increase over 2011. In June, U.S. and Afghan forces encountered 1,900 IEDs, a record number in a single month for the 11-year war.

“Unless we do something about the ammonium nitrate from Pakistan, we are going to continue to face these numbers and threats,” the senior U.S. official said.

Sen. Robert P. Casey Jr. (D-Pa.), a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, has conducted several hearings and investigations into the smuggling of ammonium nitrate from Pakistan into Afghanistan. He has pushed for a tougher stance against Pakistan for failing to curtail the trade and is troubled by the lack of progress.

“One year ago this month, I met in Islamabad with senior officials who committed to comprehensively regulate the component materials of IEDs, including calcium ammonium nitrate,” Casey said in an interview. “Since then, there has been minimal progress. The administration will soon need to certify that Pakistan is addressing the IED threat in order to release millions in security assistance and, as of now, I cannot see how Pakistan will reach this threshold.”

The large number of IEDs uncovered this spring and summer, the traditional fighting season in Afghanistan, demonstrates that the Taliban insurgency in Afghanistan has remained resilient even as U.S. forces have increased in recent years and the territory controlled by insurgent forces has been reduced.

U.S. troop levels are set to shrink to about 68,000 by the end of September, from a peak of about 100,000 in 2011. But once U.S. forces have left, the massive increase in explosive material flowing in to Afghanistan could make it difficult for Afghan troops to hold territory seized from the Taliban in recent years.

Unlike their U.S. counterparts, Afghan forces lack sophisticated technology to find and clear buried bombs. As they have taken a more prominent role this year, Afghan troops have seen a 76 percent increase in IED attacks compared with the same period in 2011, U.S. officials said.

Although U.S. casualties from the bomb blasts are down — a sign that U.S. and Afghan troops are getting better at finding them — U.S. fatalities in Afghanistan have held steady in 2012.

Almost all of the ammonium nitrate used in the Taliban’s bombs comes from two big fertilizer plants in Pakistan,



both owned by the Fatima Group, based in Lahore. The production and sale of ammonium nitrate is legal in Pakistan but banned in Afghanistan because of the IEDs.

Officials from the Fatima Group did not respond to a request for comment.

Most of the fertilizer produced by the Fatima plants is used by small farmers in Pakistan who depend on it for their survival, U.S. officials said.

The 110-pound bags of fertilizer are easy to spot, and they must be hidden in secret compartments to be hauled across the border in trucks. But converting the fertilizer into explosive material that is 1.4 times more powerful than TNT is fairly simple, requiring only water and a heat source.

After processing, the ammonium nitrate is white and powdery, and Taliban fighters on both sides of the border often package it as laundry detergent, making it difficult for Afghan officials to spot as it is being smuggled into and around the country.

Earlier this year, senior U.S. military officials met with Fatima Group executives to try to persuade them to add U.S.-supplied pink or yellow dyes to their fertilizer to make it easier to spot at border crossings. But Fatima Group officials rejected the American entreaties, according to U.S. officials.

“They said, ‘We are not going to do it because it would single us out . . . as being the source of the material,’” said the senior U.S. official, who met with Fatima executives and recounted the conversation.

U.S. officials have photographs of tens of thousands of pounds of the Fatima Group’s fertilizer that has been smuggled into Afghanistan in trucks and then confiscated by U.S. and Afghan troops. The company’s two multi-million-dollar plants in Pakistan’s Punjab province are the only facilities authorized by the Pakistani government to manufacture the fertilizer.

After allowing U.S. officials to tour one of the plants in 2011, Fatima Group executives cut off contact, saying all future communications with the company must be conducted through Pakistan’s Foreign Ministry, according to U.S. officials involved in the talks.

“There is an ISI link in this,” said the senior U.S. official, referring to Pakistan’s powerful Inter-Services Intelligence agency. “They put the clamps on us.”

Although the Fatima Group is a multinational company, U.S. officials have limited tools to put pressure on the business to help control smuggling of ammonium nitrate. The U.S. Commerce Department can place foreign companies on the Entity List, which prohibits U.S. firms from doing business with them.

The Fatima Group works with Bank of New York Mellon and Bank of America to facilitate trading of the company’s shares in the over-the-counter market, according to Fatima Group news releases posted on the company’s Web site.

To place a company on the Entity List, U.S. officials must be able to prove that it is knowingly selling its product to insurgent groups or terrorists. U.S. officials acknowledged that they have not been able to meet that threshold with the Fatima Group.

“You have to have a witting link,” the senior U.S. official said. “That is what is frustrating on this.”





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5. [Attack, Pakistan] One Injured In Landikotal Bomb Blast

Sunday, August 19 2012

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-7-127303-One-injured-in-Landikotal-bomb-blast>

A pedestrian sustained injuries when an explosive device went off in the bazaar in Landikotal, sources said on Saturday.

The injured person was identified as Rozi Gul, an Afghan.

Spokesman for Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), Darra Adamkhel chapter, Mohammad, claimed responsibility for the bomb explosion. He phoned reporters in Kohat to make the claim and added that the compact disc shops selling music audio and video cassettes were the target in the attack carried out by the TTP.



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6. [Attack, Afghanistan] Four New Zealand Troops Killed Following Blast In Bamiyan Province

Monday, August 20 2012

<http://www.khaama.com/4-new-zealand-troops-killed-following-blast-in-bamiyan-province-724/>

According to local authorities in central Bamiyan province of Afghanistan, at least four New Zealand troops were killed following a roadside improvised explosive device explosion in this province.

Provincial security chief Gen. Juma Guldai Yardom confirming the report said the incident took place after a roadside bomb went off while the New Zealand troops were crossing the area.

Mr. Juma further added the incident took place in Kohmard district where militants have recently increased their insurgency activities.

This comes as two New Zealand troops were earlier killed in Bamiyan province following an ambush by Taliban militants.

Bamiyan province is considered to be one of the relatively peaceful region in central Afghanistan however violence has increased in a number of districts in this province during the recent months.

Local authorities are saying that the militants are coming to this province from the neighboring volatile provinces of Afghanistan.



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7. [Trend, Pakistan] Attempt To Blow Up Jaffer Express Foiled In Balochistan

Monday, August 20 2012

http://www.satp.org/satporgtp/detailed_news.asp?date1=8/20/2012&id=6#6

An attempt to blow up the Jaffer Express near Kolpur railway station in Bolan District of Balochistan was successfully foiled, when the train after being held up for some hours left for its destination on August 19, reports The News. Sources said that Jaffer Express on way to Rawalpindi from Quetta was about to reach Kolpur station, when the engineer of the train spotted some suspicious material on the railway line. The driver informed the concerned officials who later confirmed that a rocket shell filled with explosives was planted beside the line to blow up the approaching Jaffer Express. The bomb disposal squad reached the scene and defused the explosives and gave clearance for the departure of the train.



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8. [Security, Pakistan] Pakistani Taliban Threatens Attacks On Military

Monday, August 20 2012

http://news.yahoo.com/pakistani-taliban-threatens-attacks-military-160238321.html?_esi=1

The Pakistani Taliban on Monday warned the country's military it had set up a "suicide bombers squad" to hit troops if an offensive is launched in a restive tribal area bordering Afghanistan.

In an email message sent to media, Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan, an umbrella militant group, said it had received "an exclusive intelligence report" about the offensive in North Waziristan from its "sources" in army headquarters.

TTP spokesman Ehsanullah Ehsan outlined details about the regiments and units and the possible commander for the campaign, said to be launched on August 26 for one month.

"TTP has also prepared itself for resistance, we have set up a suicide bombers squad to welcome (the) army. We will defeat our enemy, whom is defending secular, unIslamic system of Pakistan by punching them back hard In-shaAllah (God willing)," Ehsan said.

Military officials were not immediately available to comment on the claim.

On August 3, The Wall Street Journal reported Pakistani and US officials were considering joint counter-terrorism campaigns in Afghanistan and Pakistan against Haqqanis and Taliban fighters.

The report said the campaigns would mark an upturn in cooperation between the two countries after more than a year of rancorous relations, since the US raid that killed Osama bin Laden.

Pakistani officials later denied any agreement with Washington for a joint operation in North Waziristan, and said "routine" actions on each side of the border "should not be mistaken for 'joint operations'".

Washington has long demanded Pakistan take action against the Haqqanis, which the United States accused of attacking the US embassy in Kabul last September and acting like the "veritable arm" of Pakistani intelligence.

Pakistan has in turn demanded Afghan and US forces do more to stop Pakistani Taliban militants crossing the border to launch attacks on its forces.

Pakistan says 35,000 of its people, including more than 3,000 soldiers, have been killed as a result of terrorism since the 9/11 attacks and the US-led invasion of neighbouring Afghanistan.



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9. [Attack, Afghanistan] Top U.S. General's Aircraft Damaged By Rockets In Afghanistan

Tuesday, August 21 2012

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/08/21/us-afghanistan-general-idUSBRE87K09C20120821>

Insurgents fired two rockets at the main NATO airbase in Afghanistan, damaging an aircraft used by U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman Martin Dempsey, a NATO spokesman said on Tuesday. The general was not on board at the time.

Dempsey arrived in the country on Monday in a C-17 transport aircraft which was parked at Bagram Airbase, north of Kabul, when two rockets landed near the apron late on Monday night, slightly wounding two ground staff.

"He was nowhere near the aircraft. We think it was a lucky shot," NATO senior spokesman Colonel Thomas Collins said.

The aircraft was only being used temporarily by Dempsey and his staff. Shrapnel from the rockets also damaged a nearby helicopter.

Dempsey, who had been in the country for talks with NATO and Afghan commanders on a string of recent rogue shootings, was sleeping in his quarters when the rounds struck and left the country afterwards on another aircraft.

"No one was seriously injured in the attack," a Pentagon spokeswoman said.

Bagram, which is home to around 30,000 military and civilian personnel, is occasionally targeted with rockets and mortar shells fired by insurgents from surrounding hills and fields. In 2007, the heavily guarded base was targeted during a visit by former U.S. vice president Dick Cheney.

Sporadic attacks also occur at NATO's other main airbase in Afghanistan, Kandahar Airfield, in the volatile south, although they rarely cause deaths or major damage.

A Taliban spokesman claimed responsibility for the attack in a text message and denied it was indirect fire, saying it was based on "accurate information". But the insurgents are often quick to claim any incidents as successes.

Before leaving Afghanistan, Dempsey met his Afghan counterpart, General Sher Mohammad Karimi, who raised the issue of insider attacks by rogue forces that have killed 10 American troops in the past two weeks.

"In the past, it's been us pushing on them to make sure they do more," he said on Monday. "This time, without prompting, when I met General Karimi, he started with a conversation about insider attacks - and, importantly, insider attacks not just against us, but insider attacks against the Afghans, too."

Officials in Kandahar on Tuesday sacked the police chief in Spin Boldak district over the weekend shooting of another NATO soldier by an Afghan police officer.

"These actions will not be tolerated. We stand by our partners," the Kandahar governor's office said in a Twitter message announcing the sacking.



Afghan authorities have promised to improve vetting of police and soldiers to curb insider attacks, while also increasing the number of intelligence officers within Afghan units to identify infiltrators and disgruntled personnel.

There have been 32 insider attacks so far this year involving 36 shooters that have led to 40 coalition deaths, just over half of them Americans. Some 69 coalition troops have been wounded. That's a sharp increase from 2011, when 35 coalition troops were killed, 24 of whom were U.S. troops during the year.



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10. [Attack, Pakistan] Quetta Bomb Attack Kills Two, Injures 11

Tuesday, August 21 2012

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/424598/blast-firing-at-saryab-road-quetta/>

Two civilians were killed and 11 others including three children injured when a car bomb targeted a paramilitary convoy Tuesday in the southwestern Pakistani city of Quetta, officials said.

The explosives-packed car went off after vehicles of the paramilitary Frontier Corps (FC) passed, FC spokesman Murtaza Baig told AFP.

“The militants targeted two vehicles of FC but the remote-control device exploded after our convoy had passed the parked car,” he said.

Police and security forces are frequently attacked in the insurgency-plagued Balochistan province, of which Quetta is the capital.

Senior police official Wazir Khan Nasir told AFP: “The victims of the blast were all civilians who were passing from the area. The toll includes one man killed and 12 others wounded including two women and three children.”

There was no claim of responsibility for the attack but the province, which borders Iran and Afghanistan, suffers from Taliban and local rebel attacks.





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11. [Attack, Afghanistan] Explosion Hit NATO Troops Convoy In Northern Afghanistan

Thursday, August 23 2012

<http://www.khaama.com/explosion-hit-nato-troops-convoy-in-northern-afghanistan-123/>

According to local authorities in northern Parwan province of Afghanistan, a convoy of the NATO-led International Coalition Security Forces struck with a roadside improvised explosive device in this province.

The officials further added the exact details regarding the casualties as a result of the today's incident are not known yet.

The incident took place early Thursday morning in Khanqa area in Bagram district.

Bagram district chief Abdul Shakoor Qudoosi said the incident took place while NATO troops were patrolling in the area.

He said a vehicle of the NATO troops was damaged following the blast.

In the meantime Taliban militants group claimed responsibility behind the incident.

Zabiullah Mujahid spokesman for the Taliban group said heavy casualties were incurred to NATO troops as a result of today's attack.



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12. [Attack, Afghanistan] Roadside Bomb Kills Six Civilians In Southern Afghanistan

Friday, August 24 2012

<http://www.presstv.ir/detail/2012/08/24/257894/bomb-blast-kills-6-afghan-civilians/>

Six people, including three children and two women, have been killed in a roadside bomb explosion in southern Afghanistan, Press TV reports.

The victims were killed on Thursday after their car hit the bomb near the city of Spin Buldak of Kandahar Province, bordering Pakistan, a police official said.

Roadside bombs and improvised explosive devices (IEDs) are by far the most lethal weapon Taliban militants use against Afghan forces and foreign troops.

Insecurity continues to rise across Afghanistan despite the presence of about 130,000 US-led forces in the country.

The US-led war in Afghanistan, which has caused record-high civilian and military casualties, has become the longest military conflict in the American history.



AFRICOM

13. [Attack, Nigeria] Explosion Rocks Police Post In Jos

Saturday, August 18 2012

<http://www.tribune.com.ng/sat/index.php/news/8317-explosion-rocks-police-post-in-jos.html>

The entire Jos North Local Government Area of Plateau State was thrown into confusion in the early hours of Friday, when an Improvised Explosive Device exploded at a police post injuring one person and shattering parts of the police post and some residential buildings within the vicinity.

Saturday Tribune learnt that the explosive devices were planted by some unknown persons and detonated at about 12:45 a.m, when most of the people in the area had gone to bed.

It was learnt that the noise from the explosion caused an uproar in Rikkos, a part of the local government, and forced people out of their beds.

According to a statement issued and signed by the Media Officer of the Special Task Force in-charge of the security of the state, Captain Salisu Mustapha, the Improvised Explosive Device exploded between a police outpost and some residences In Layin Walin Rikkos of Jos North Local Government Area at about 12:05 a.m.

The statement depicted that the police post, three other houses and a vehicle were affected by the blast, adding that one person was injured and had been taken to the hospital for treatment.



AFRICOM

14. [Attack, Libya] At Least Two Killed By Car Bombs In Libyan Capital

Sunday, August 19 2012

<http://www.asharq-e.com/news.asp?section=1&id=30742>

At least two people were killed when three car bombs exploded near interior ministry and security buildings in the Libyan capital on Sunday, the first lethal attack of its kind since Muammar Gaddafi's fall last year, security sources said.

The first bomb blew up near the interior ministry's administrative offices in Tripoli but caused no casualties, the sources said. On arriving at the site of the explosion, police found another car bomb that had not blown up.

Minutes later, two car bombs exploded near the former headquarters of a women's police academy, which the defence ministry has been using for interrogations and detentions, the sources said. That bomb killed two people and wounded two.





AFRICOM

15. [Law Enforcement, Libya] Libya Makes Arrests Over Deadly Car Bombs

Monday, August 20 2012

<http://english.al-akhbar.com/content/libya-makes-arrests-over-deadly-car-bombs>

Libyan security services on Monday announced the arrests of a number of people suspected to be behind a double car bomb attack in the capital the previous day which left two dead.

"Several individuals were arrested in Tripoli, some of whom acknowledged having direct or indirect links with the blasts," said Issam al-Naass, a spokesman for the High Security Commission which is part of the ministry of interior.

He was unable to specify the number of arrests, saying the figure varied depending on the "progress of the investigation." The arrests could not be confirmed from other sources.

The High Security Commission, formed by former rebels who helped topple Libyan strongman Muammar Gaddafi last year, had taken over security in Libya after the fall of the dictator's regime, before being made part of the interior ministry.

The twin car bomb blasts killed two people and wounded four in the Libyan capital at dawn Sunday, the first day of the Muslim Eid al-Fitr holiday which marks the end of the fasting month of Ramadan.

Libyan officials immediately blamed Gaddafi loyalists for the twin attack.



AFRICOM

16. [Law Enforcement, Nigeria] Police Arrest Two Suspected Suicide Bombers; Discover Bomb Factories In Kogi

Tuesday, August 21 2012

<http://www.channelstv.com/home/2012/08/21/police-arrest-two-suspected-suicide-bombers-discover-bomb-factories-in-kogi/>

The Kogi State police command has intercepted and arrested two persons who were suspected to be planning the bombing of a church and a mosque on Sallah day at Lokoja, the state capital.

The suspected suicide bombers were in a luxurious bus at the Murtala Mohammed bridge Lokoja on their way back from a northern state.

The state police commissioner, Mohammed Katsina disclosed this in Eika Adagun in central senatorial district in Kogi state, where another bomb factory has been discovered.

Mr Katsina said the suicide bombers were arrested through the deputy commissioner of police operations, Mohammed Zanna.

He said the suspects were the people who lunched the attack at the Deeper Life Bible Church, which killed worshippers in Eika Adagun some weeks ago.

He further said that during the arrest, Improvised Explosive Device (IED) were found with them.

Similarly two bomb factories were discovered at two different local government areas in central senatorial district of the state.

The first visited was at Eika Adagun which is just a stone throw to the attacked deeper life church in Okehi local government council, while the second was an estate which is served as factory to Limit Nigeria Ltd, makers of Electricity Poles at Okene check point.

Some of the items recovered from the factories were two rocket launchers ammunition, 4 AK47, two military type AK47, 696 rounds of ammunitions, 20 magazines, 20 meters of dyne cord, large quantity of empty milk cans, 3 locally made pistol, one pipe bomb casing amongst others.



AFRICOM

17. [Security, Nigeria] JTF Intercept Bomb-Laden Car In Maiduguri

Tuesday, August 21 2012

<http://www.channelstv.com/home/2012/08/21/jtf-intercept-bomb-laden-car-in-maiduguri/>

The Joint Task Force (JTF) on Monday intercepted a suicide bomb-laden car heading for suicide missions in Borno and Yobe states.

The driver of the ill-fated car is currently undergoing interrogation.

Confirming the arrests in a JTF signed press statement, its spokesman, Lt. Col Sagir Musa said the explosives were meant for suicide bombings in some strategic parts of Borno and Yobe states.

“There was an interception of a Camry car with registration no. Borno AA 867 MAF at Tudun Quarters at Mudugumeri Area of Maiduguri at about 6p.m.

“The car was loaded with four cylinders; four DAF gas oil cylinders; three constructed Improvised Explosive Devices; 18 by 9 volts battery with two switches and 4 by 25 litres jerrycans of incendiary materials earmarked for suicide bombings.

“The car was intercepted by a vigilant patrol team which was undergoing routine surveillance following security reports on likely simultaneous suicide bombings in Yobe and Borno states.

“All the items recovered are in the custody of the JTF for analysis and further investigation. The driver of the car has been undergoing interrogation in JTF custody.”

“Security has been reinforced in the two affected states with more teams on patrol and strategic checkpoints put on red alert.”

He said the sponsors of the suicide bomber led by a high profile terrorist commander are under surveillance and would soon be arrested by the JTF.





AFRICOM

18. [Special Interest, Nigeria] Nigerian Government Enters Talks With Boko Haram

Wednesday, August 22 2012

<http://www.minnpost.com/christian-science-monitor/2012/08/nigerian-government-enters-talks-boko-haram>

The Nigerian government has confirmed that it is in dialogue with Boko Haram, the militant Islamist group notorious for terror attacks against Christians and others across the country's restive north.

The dialogue began this month with a secret meeting between Boko Haram's deputy leader, Abu Mohammed, and Nigeria's Vice President Namadi Sambo, security adviser Sambo Dasuki, and other top government officials. The meeting was held in Saudi Arabia.

Mr. Mohammed with Boko Haram confirmed the talks after they were first announced by Nigeria's minister of information, Labaran Maku, Wednesday.

"The government is willing to negotiate because of the security challenges posed by the group who are attacking security formations, universities, and other government formations," said Mr. Maku. "The government welcomes any initiative that will usher in peace, security, and tranquility in the country, especially in the light of the security challenges that we have faced in the last two years."

This marks the second time the government and Boko Haram have engaged in talks. The first dialogue broke off because the federal government could not accept the mediators. This time, the announcement has been met with optimism in the conflict-weary north.

"Virtually all people of the northern Nigeria are optimistic with dialogue. These security challenges cause a lot of fear, loss of hope, and anxiety among the people because the affected states were in serious destruction by the Boko Haram," says Abba Anwar, an analyst based in the northern city of Kano. "I pray and hope that the federal government will look into their grievances and find out modalities to address them for the interest of the teeming people who are suffering from these security challenges."

The group's official name in Arabic translates to "People Committed to the Propagation of the Prophet's Teachings and Jihad," while its common name means "Western education is a sin." The group's stated goal is to overthrow Nigeria's secular government and institute sharia law, at least in the predominantly Muslim north.

In these talks, Boko Haram is seeking release of all their members in detention, the rebuilding of mosques destroyed in the fighting, and the prosecution of those who killed their former leader Mohammed Yusuf, according to a source at the secret meeting who was not authorized to speak.

The Nigerian government finds itself under mounting pressure to show progress in shutting down the violent rebellion unleashed by Boko Haram since 2009 that has left thousands dead. So far, the military efforts against the group have done little to slow the killing spree.

While Boko Haram has attacked churches filled with worshippers, Muslims have also been targeted by the group. Some celebrations of the Muslim holiday of Eid were canceled in northern areas including Kano because of the threat of Boko Haram attacks. At a mosque in Maiduguri, Muslims attending Eid prayers were allowed near with just their prayer mats; vehicles were directed to park 200 yards away from the praying ground due to fears of bombing and attack by Boko Haram.

"Nigeria's security [forces] are seriously worried with these challenges, though we are succeeding in dealing with them. But our hope is to dialogue with them [Boko Haram] because it's like a guerrilla war, we are fighting faceless people who at any time attack and kill our people," says John Shehu, a security official in Kano.



CENTCOM

19. [Attack, Iraq] Bomb Wounds Iraq Cleric Who Urged End To Insurgency

Sunday, August 19 2012

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/08/19/us-iraq-violence-cleric-idUSBRE87I06E20120819>

A prominent Iraqi Sunni cleric who urged Islamist armed groups to end their insurgency was critically wounded, and four of his bodyguards killed, when a car bomb hit his convoy in Baghdad on Sunday.

Mehdi al-Sumaidai, who once fought U.S. troops in Iraq and was part of a Sunni body issuing religious edicts, had been negotiating with insurgent groups who vowed to fight on after the withdrawal of American troops in December.

The attack came as al Qaeda's local wing, Islamic State of Iraq, has warned of a new campaign and security analysts say fighters in Iraq are benefiting from funds and morale from Islamists slipping into Syria to join the revolt against President Bashar al-Assad next door.

Al Qaeda's wing and six Sunni insurgent groups are still fighting in Iraq, mostly against Shi'ites and security forces to try to stir up sectarian tensions, but they also target Sunnis they brand traitors allied with the Shi'ite-led government.

Police said a parked car bomb blew up when Sumaidai's convoy arrived near his residence in Yarmouk District, central western Baghdad, after he finished prayers to mark the Eid al-Fitr festival to end the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

"Sumaidai was brought to us with four other people, all of them seriously injured. Sumaidai was wounded in many parts of his body," said a policeman at the Baghdad hospital where the cleric was taken after the blast.

Sumaidai was previously a jihadist who led a militant group that fought American troops in western Baghdad after the 2003 invasion to oust Saddam Hussein.

He spent four years in U.S. jails in Iraq before being released in 2008. During his time in jail he built good relations with fellow detainees who had led rival Shi'ite militias.

Al Qaeda in Iraq and other Sunni Islamists are hostile to Iraq's Shi'ite-led government, which many minority Sunnis feel has sidelined them from power-sharing agreements since the fall of Sunni dictator Saddam.

Iraq's al Qaeda affiliate has claimed responsibility for a wave of attacks across the country in June and July it said were part of a new offensive.

The level of violence has fallen sharply since the height of the war in 2006-2007 when sectarian slaughter killed tens of thousands of Iraqis. But insurgents have carried out at least one major, complex bombing a month since December.



CENTCOM

20. [Law Enforcement, Yemen] Yemen Detains Three Al-Qaida Suspects Over Suicide Attack On Intelligence Compound

Monday, August 20 2012

https://www.opensource.gov/portal/server.pt/gateway/PTARGS_0_0_200_203_121123_43/content/Display/CPP20120820968257#index=1&searchKey=9175976&rpp=10

Yemeni security authorities managed Monday to arrest three al-Qaida militants suspected of plotting armed operations and suicide bombings against government offices as well as military bases in the southern port city of Aden, a government official told Xinhua.

An elite unit of the security forces detained three al-Qaida suspects in connection with Saturday's suicide attack on a military intelligence compound and seized explosives and mortar bombs during the operation in Aden province, the local government official said on condition of anonymity.

"A senior al-Qaida leader was among those terrorists who have targeted intelligence officers as well as the security forces in a series of gun raids and suicide blasts," the government official said.

The captured terrorists are being interrogated over their suspected involvement in Saturday's suicide attack in Aden, according to the Yemeni government official.

Yemeni Ministry of Defense said Saturday an al-Qaida suicide bomber stormed a military intelligence compound with his booby-trapped car, causing a powerful explosion that destroyed part of the nearby state television building.

The suicide bombing left about 19 army soldiers killed and 16 others wounded, said the ministry.

Militants of the al-Qaida terrorist group claimed responsibility for the blast and threatened carrying out more armed attacks against government buildings, in particular against army and intelligence compounds across the country's south.

The Yemeni government forces declared victory in June over the al-Qaida branch after a month-long offensive that succeeded in driving hundreds of terrorists from territory they had controlled for about a year.

On June 20, Yemen's military officials announced seizing al-Qaida's last bastion in the country's troubled south following the army offensive that was backed by the United States and Saudi Arabia.

However, local military and anti-terrorism experts said the Yemen-based al-Qaida branch is still a major threat to the impoverished Arab country despite being driven out of its main southern bastions by the U.S.-backed military assault.



CENTCOM

21. [Security, Iran] Upping The Ante? Iran Unveils Six Weapons Upgrades

Tuesday, August 21 2012

<http://www.jpost.com/IranianThreat/News/Article.aspx?id=282008>

Iran unveiled upgrades to six weapons on Tuesday, including a more accurate short-range missile, a more powerful naval engine and an airborne testing laboratory, Iranian media reported. The country also released plans to launch domestically-manufactured fighter jets and new submarines by early 2013, and has production of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles "on the agenda," Iranian Defense Minister Ahmad Vahidi said according to Iran's semi-official Mehr news agency.

The hardware was presented at a ceremony marking Defense Industry Day and was attended by Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

Israel has said it is considering military strikes on Iran's nuclear sites if the Islamic Republic does not resolve Western fears it is developing atomic weapons technology, something Tehran denies.

Iran says it could hit Israel and US bases in the region if it comes under attack.

It has also threatened to block the Strait of Hormuz, the neck of the Gulf through which 40 percent of the world's sea-borne oil exports pass, which would likely invite a military response from the United States.

According to Mehr, Vahidi said that Iran would fly domestically-manufactured fighter jets at the end of the current Iranian calendar year, which culminates on March 20, 2013. He also announced ambitious plans to deploy Iranian-made submarines and UAVs.

"God willing the Defense Ministry's fighter jets will be operational by the end of the year," Vahidi said according to Mehr. "We are also trying to use new submarines in the next year."

Among the upgrades unveiled Tuesday was a fourth-generation of the Fateh-110 missile, with a range of about 300 km.

Iran said earlier this month it had successfully test-fired the new model, which it said was equipped with a more accurate guidance system.

"This missile is one of the most precise and advanced land-to-land ballistic missiles using solid fuel," Vahidi was quoted as saying by the Fars news agency. "In the last decade it has had a significant role in promoting the Islamic Republic of Iran's defense capabilities."

In July, Iran said it had successfully test-fired medium-range missiles capable of hitting Israel, and tested dozens of missiles aimed at simulated air bases.

It also presented a more powerful, 5,000-horsepower seaborne engine, the Bonyan-4, Fars quoted Vahidi as saying. A previous version had 1,000 horsepower, the Iranian Students' News Agency (ISNA) said.

Doubts over capabilities

Military experts have cast doubt on Iran's claims of weapons advances, especially its assertions about its missile program, saying it often exaggerates its capabilities.

"The Fateh-110 has a crude guidance and control system that operates during the missile's ascent" rather than during final descent, said Michael Elleman, senior fellow for missile defense at the International Institute for Strategic Studies, in an e-mail.

"The Fateh-110 appears to lack the subsystems needed to effect terminal steering."

Iran also presented Armita, an "airborne laboratory" to help test aircraft launch systems and oxygen generation and train fighter pilots, Fars reported.

It was named after the daughter of Dariush Rezaeinejad, an Iranian scientist killed last year, Vahidi said, according to ISNA.

Iran believes agents working with foreign intelligence services including the American CIA and Israel's Mossad are behind the assassinations of several of its scientists.



CENTCOM

22. [Attack, Iraq] Turkey Bombs Iraqi Kurdish Areas

Wednesday, August 22 2012

<http://english.al-akhbar.com/content/turkey-bombs-iraqi-kurdish-areas>

Turkish fighter jets bombed border territories in the Kurdistan region of Iraq Tuesday evening in the latest strike on Kurdish rebels suspected to be hiding out in the region.

“Turkish warplanes bombed the areas of Juakirk, Kurti and Harmoush on the border of Sidakan on Tuesday evening” said Mohammed Ismail, head of the directorate of Sidakan in Iraq's Arbil district.

“The shelling which lasted about an hour targeted areas populated by farmers and shepherds, and sparked panic amongst inhabitants of the area.”

He said he did not immediately know the extent of losses and damages caused by the air raids.

Turkey routinely bombs positions in northern Iraq it believes the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) uses as hideouts. The PKK is fighting for greater Kurdish autonomy in southeastern Turkey.

Iraq last month complained to Turkey over its continued violations of Iraqi sovereignty. Ankara retorted that it consults Baghdad on every move made in the north.

Iraq has been struggling to exert sovereignty over its territory after a nine-year US occupation ravaged the country and left it in ruins.

Meanwhile, six members of the PKK were killed in clashes in the state of Hernak in southeastern Turkey, according to Turkish media.

In a separate incident on Tuesday night, Turkish newspaper Zaman said members of the PKK attacked a police quarters. One policeman was killed in the attack, and security forces chased the gunmen, but they were able to escape.

The attack was followed by clashes in the mountain region of Namas, in which the six PKK members were killed and a Turkish soldier was injured.



CENTCOM

23. [Trend, Syria] Coffee Cups And Fertilizer Make Syrian Rebel Weapons

Thursday, August 23 2012

<http://213.158.162.45/~egyptian/index.php?action=news&id=27445&title=Coffee%20cups%20and%20fertilizer%20make%20Syrian%20rebel%20weapons>

"Bomb, bomb, bomb!" shouted the rebel fighters in the midst of battle on the streets of Aleppo. Everyone crouched down and held their fingers in their ears. But the rusty foot-long metal container they rolled into a building hiding enemy Syrian army forces failed to explode.

"The batteries were dead and it didn't work," said Abu Furad, a rebel commander in aviator sunglasses, who still wears the Syrian army uniform he was issued before he defected to the rebel cause three months ago.

Desperately short of weapons and ammunition, Syrian rebels have set up factories producing a wide array of homemade bombs and grenades that they can take into battle against much better-armed government forces. Abu Furad had another homemade explosive device in the pocket of his vest - a black metal tube with a small ceramic coffee cup attached to the top by a wire. The cup acts as a trigger like the pin of a grenade.

He pulled off the coffee cup, leaned around the corner and tossed the bomb towards the building where the soldiers lay. After a few seconds a loud blast shook the air.

In a farm complex outside Aleppo, rebels were cutting and welding metal to make bombs. On the floor of an out-house, once used to house tractors and farming machinery, a dozen metal cylinders stood ready to be packed full of explosives.

"What we do is, when the Syrian army starts attacking the city, we'll go around and look for missiles that haven't exploded. We'll drill into the head and remove the TNT," said bomb maker Abu Ghagan, lifting a bent missile he says he found in a field.

He said he learnt his trade from the Internet.

"We are very short on proper explosive so we use a mix of fertilizer to make the rest," he added, walking round his factory at night to avoid drawing attention from neighbouring farmers.

As a bomb-maker, Abu Ghagan is quiet and careful - he knows the army would pay good money to get the coordinates of a bomb factory so they can send their bomber jets.

Makeshift bombs can be detonated remotely using mobile phones. Abu Ghagan also has home-made missiles that he says can be propelled five km.

The metre-long missiles have a large head packed full of explosives with a detonator on the end, and fins to keep them flying in a straight line.

"These are good. We use them to fire into army barracks," he said.

Their lack of modern weapons is a common lament among rebels, who say that Western countries that have called for the downfall of President Bashar al-Assad need to do more to make that happen by giving them arms.

Western countries say they are supplying the rebels only with non-lethal equipment, like radios. Gulf states like Saudi Arabia and Qatar have spoken of the need to arm the rebels and are thought to have sent them guns and ammunition.

But whatever weapons are coming in, they are hardly arriving fast enough to match the government's vast arsenal. At the start of the war, Syria's army had nearly 5,000 main battle tanks, a similar number of other armoured vehicles, 3,500 pieces of artillery, 240 ground-attack jets, 85 fighters and more than 140 helicopters, according to the London-based International Institute of Strategic Studies.

Many rebels say they joined the fight using hunting shotguns and only later looted assault rifles from government soldiers killed in battle. Their homemade bombs show resourcefulness, but on the streets of Aleppo it was not clear how effective they were.



Shortly after Abu Furaad threw his grenade into the house, the rebels came under a barrage of fire. Three mortar bombs hit the building across the street, less than 10 metres away.

Then the sound of tank tracks could be heard moving up the next street. The tank fired a shell which ripped through the building the rebels had been using for cover. Smoke filled the air and chunks of concrete rained down.



CENTCOM

24. [Security, Iran] Ayatollah Khamenei Orders More Terror Attacks Against The West

Thursday, August 23 2012

<http://www.thecuttingedge.com/index.php?article=75482&pageid=20&pagename=Security>

Members of Iran's Quds Force were recently instructed by the country's most authoritative figure, Ayatollah Khamenei, to increase their attacks on western targets in retaliation for what Iran believes is a direct effort to help the Syrian opposition topple Syria's President, Bashar al-Assad, according to senior western intelligence officials.

The directive was given at a meeting of Iran's National Security Council in Tehran, which was held to review a report commissioned to examine the geo-political ramifications for Iran if Assad were to lose power in Syria.

Khamenei himself is said to have commissioned the report, according to western intelligence officials, and in response to international sanctions against the Iranian regime, along with western support for Syrian rebels, Khamenei has decided that his country "cannot be passive". According to one of the intelligence sources who spoke with The Telegraph in Britain, Khamenei believes he must show "America, the Zionists, Britain, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and others that they cannot act with impunity in Syria and elsewhere in the region"

The order given by Khamenei to Iran's Quds Force follows a number of Iranian linked terrorist attacks in recent months, including a foiled plot to kill a Saudi Arabian ambassador in Washington D.C., and multiple bomb attacks against Israeli diplomats in February. A unit of the Quds Force, known as "Unit 400", is reportedly behind many of the overseas attacks being carried out under Iranian directives.

"Unit 400 seems to have been involved in all the recent Iranian terrorist operations," said a senior Western intelligence official. "The Iranian regime now seems determined to retaliate for what they regard as the West's attempts to influence the outcome of the Syrian unrest."

Nearly a week ago, dozens of Iranian men were captured by Syrian rebels. Many of them are suspected to have been sent to Syria by the Iranian government to help Bashar al-Assad continue his crackdown, and officials in Tehran have demanded their safe return.



EUCOM

25. [Attack, Russia] Police Defuse Mosque Bomb Equivalent To 40 Kg Of TNT In Dagestan

Sunday, August 19 2012

<http://en.ria.ru/russia/20120819/175308817.html>

Police have defused a bomb equivalent to 40 kg of TNT planted by militants after an attack on believers in a Dagestani mosque on the eve of the Muslim Eid ul-Fitr holiday, Dagestan's Interior Ministry reported on Sunday.

Two masked men opened fire on believers at a Shiite mosque in the town of Khasavyurt, wounding eight people. Dagestan is a predominantly Sunni region, while many members of the local Islamic insurgency belong to the Wahabi sect.

The assailants left unhindered after the shooting. The police found two explosive devices on the scene of the attack. One bomb went off, wounding several people, a spokesman for the local Interior Ministry said, without specifying the number of those injured in the blast.

The second bomb was defused early on Sunday.

More than a decade after the end of a federal war against separatists in Chechnya, militants continue to stage frequent attacks on security forces, police and civilians, in other regions in the area, including Dagestan.

Eid ul-Fitr, which marks the end of the holy month of fasting of Ramadan, is celebrated between Sunday and Tuesday this year.



EUCOM

26. [Attack, Russia] Suicide Bomb Kills Seven Russian Policemen At Funeral

Sunday, August 19 2012

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/08/19/suicide-bomb-russia-policemen-funeral_n_1805969.html

A suicide bomber blew himself up as policemen in southern Russia gathered Sunday for the funeral of a slain colleague, killing at least seven of the policemen and badly wounding 12 other people, investigators said.

The funeral was held at the home of an officer who had been shot dead the night before by militants in Ingushetia, one of the predominantly Muslim republics in Russia's restive North Caucasus region.

In the nearby republic of Dagestan, two masked gunmen burst into a Shiite mosque during Saturday evening prayers and opened fire, wounding eight people, police said.

Shiites are a minority in Dagestan and throughout the North Caucasus, where an Islamic insurgency has raged for years.

The latest attacks took place as Muslims in Russia and around the world prepared for the feast that celebrates the end of the holy month of Ramadan.

Police investigating the shooting at the mosque in the city of Khasavyurt found a large homemade bomb and were able to defuse it Sunday morning, Dagestan police spokesman Vyacheslav Gasanov said. Militants have often rigged explosives to go off as police respond to a shooting or other attack.

In Ingushetia, Gov. Yunus-Bek Yevkurov said the militants had killed the police officer in the town of Malgobek to set up the suicide attack at the funeral the next day.

In Chechnya, where the Islamic insurgency began during separatist wars in the 1990s, four policemen were killed late Friday when their vehicle was attacked by gunmen firing Kalashnikov automatic weapons.

The insurgency in Chechnya has been largely suppressed by a Kremlin-backed local strongman, Ramzan Kadyrov, although attacks on law enforcement officers still occur periodically.

In Moscow, an estimated 170,000 to 190,000 Muslims gathered to celebrate Eid al-Adha, known in Russia as Kurban-Bairam. This included 90,000 who knelt shoulder to shoulder outside the city's main mosque near the Olympic stadium. At least 2 million Muslims, most of them labor migrants from the North Caucasus and elsewhere in the former Soviet Union, live in the Russian capital, which has a population of 11.5 million.



EUCOM

27. [Security, Czech Republic] Breivik-Style Bomb Plot Foiled By Czechs

Sunday, August 19 2012

<http://www.theaustralian.com.au/news/breaking-news/breivik-style-bomb-plot-foiled-by-czechs/story-fn3dxix6-1226453523973>

Police in the Czech Republic have arrested a man who sympathised with Norwegian mass killer Anders Behring Breivik and was likely planning a bomb attack.

Police swooped on the 29-year-old man's apartment in the northeastern town of Ostrava on August 10 and found a large stash of weapons including an automatic weapon, a bomb and other explosive material.

"The components of the explosive device were operational," Ostrava police chief Radovan Vojta said.

He said it was not immediately known who the man, whose name was not released, may have been targeting, adding that the investigation was in its early stages.

On July 22, 2011, Breivik set off a car bomb outside government buildings in Oslo, killing eight people, before going to an island and gunning down another 69 people, mostly teenagers.

Vojta said the suspect was believed to have sympathised with Breivik because he was using his name online.

A quick-reaction force arrested him at his apartment after about 80 building residents were evacuated.

The suspect has been convicted of several past offences, and was handed a six-month suspended sentence in 2010 for exploding a homemade bomb at an Ostrava pumping station.

Neighbours told the CTK news agency that the man was not a right-wing extremist but was mentally unhinged.



EUCOM

28. [Security, Israel] Israel Deploys Anti-Rocket Battery Near Egypt Border

Monday, August 20 2012

http://news.yahoo.com/israel-deploys-anti-rocket-battery-near-egypt-border-055707955.html?_esi=1

The Israeli army has deployed an Iron Dome air defence system, designed to intercept and destroy rockets, days after two rockets were fired at the town of Eilat near the border with Egypt, a military spokeswoman said Monday.

"An Iron Dome battery has been deployed in the town of Eilat as part of tests, momentarily modifying the sites where these systems are deployed," she said but did not give further details.

An Islamist militant group claimed responsibility for the two rocket attacks aimed at Eilat, Israel's Red Sea resort town, SITE Intelligence Group reported on Thursday.

A group calling itself Ansar Jerusalem claimed to be responsible for firing "two Grad rockets into the city" which it said hit "inhabited targets", in a statement posted on online jihadist forums, the US-based monitoring agency said.

On Wednesday, evening, Israeli police said two blasts rocked the city.

Debris of the rockets which were apparently fired from Egypt's Sinai peninsula was later found.



EUCOM

29. [Attack, Turkey] Bomb In Turkish Town Of Gaziantep Kills Seven

Monday, August 20 2012

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2012/aug/20/bomb-turkish-town-gaziantep-kills?newsfeed=true>

At least seven people were killed and dozens wounded when a car bomb exploded close to a police station in the south-eastern Turkish town of Gaziantep on Monday, a security source said.

The explosion was caused by a remote-controlled car bomb, Turkey's Dogan news agency quoted Gaziantep's governor, Erdal Ata, as saying.

Television footage showed firefighters attempting to douse a fierce blaze that gutted several vehicles.

Turkey has opened a centre in Gaziantep to receive international aid for Syrian refugees fleeing the uprising against President Bashar al-Assad. Turkey is struggling to cope with an influx of almost 70,000 Syrian refugees.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility but southeastern Turkey has seen frequent attacks by the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), designated a terrorist group by Turkey, the United States and European Union. The group launched a separatist insurgency in the region 28 years ago.





EUCOM

30. [Trend, Turkey] Kurdish Militant Group Says Not Behind Turkey Bomb

Tuesday, August 21 2012

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/08/21/us-turkey-bomb-pkk-idUSBRE87K09020120821>

Kurdish separatists said on Tuesday they were not responsible for a car bomb that killed nine people in the southeastern town of Gaziantep near Turkey's border with Syria late on Monday.

"Our fighters have nothing to do with this explosion," Firat News, a website close to the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) militant group, cited the PKK as saying in a statement.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the explosion, which officials said was caused by a remote-controlled car bomb, but southeastern Turkey has seen frequent attacks by the PKK, designated a terrorist group by Turkey, the United States and European Union.

Turkey has accused neighboring Syria of supporting the PKK, which launched a separatist insurgency in the region 28 years ago, since when more than 40,000 people have been killed.

Gaziantep is around 50 km (30 miles) from the Syrian border. Turkey has opened a centre in the town to receive international aid as it copes with an influx of almost 70,000 Syrian refugees fleeing fighting across the border.

The Kurdistan Freedom Hawks (TAK), a group connected to the PKK, has claimed responsibility for some past attacks in Turkey outside the PKK's regular area of operation.



EUCOM

31. [Security, Ireland] Viable Explosive Found Outside Tallaght House

Tuesday, August 21 2012

<http://www.irishexaminer.com/breakingnews/ireland/viable-explosive-found-outside-tallaght-house-563755.html>

An Army Bomb Disposal Team made safe a viable Improvised Explosive Device (IED) in Tallaght, Dublin this morning, it has emerged.

The Defence Forces deployed to Cushlawn Park, Tallaght in Dublin following a request from the Gardaí.

The area was cordoned off by Gardaí and local residents were evacuated.

The team arrived on scene at 2.35am and examined the device which was found outside a private residence.

The device was made safe in situ and transported to a secure military location for further examination where it was declared a viable IED. The scene was declared safe at 3.20am.

The remains of the device have been handed over to gardaí to assist with their investigations.

This is the 130th callout and 64th viable IED made safe by the Army Bomb Disposal Teams so far this year.



EUCOM

32. [Attack, Turkey] Four Soldiers Killed In Turkey's Kurd Region

Wednesday, August 22 2012

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/08/22/us-turkey-kurds-idUSBRE87L0TB20120822>

Four Turkish soldiers were killed and two wounded on Wednesday by remote-controlled bombs targeting their convoy, security sources said, the latest sign of escalating violence in the Kurdish region.

The deaths follows a car bombing on Monday that killed nine people, including children, and wounded more than 60 others in the southern town of Gaziantep.

The government blamed that attack on the outlawed Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK), which has denied involvement.

The army sent in troop reinforcements and helicopter gunships in response to Wednesday's incident in the Semdinli region of Hakkari province, which borders Iraq and Iran.

Roadside bombs are common in the southeast, scene of a 28-year conflict between the military and the PKK, listed as a terrorist organization by Turkey, the United States and the European Union. More than 40,000 people, mainly Kurds, have died in the conflict.

The PKK has stepped up attacks in recent months, and Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan has accused Syrian President Bashar al-Assad of backing the rebels, underscoring fears that the turmoil in Syria could destabilize neighboring countries.



EUCOM

33. [Attack, Moldova] Petrol Bomb Thrown At Moldovan PM's Car

Thursday, August 23 2012

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/08/23/us-moldova-filat-attack-idUSBRE87M09220120823>

A man threw a petrol bomb at the cortege of Moldovan Prime Minister Vlad Filat on Wednesday night as he returned from hosting an official reception for German Chancellor Angela Merkel, a government aide said on Thursday.

Nobody was hurt in the attack, Eujen Onica, an aide at the Interior Ministry, told Reuters.

Filat, 43, who heads a government of the pro-Europe Alliance for European Integration, was returning from the reception for Merkel when the 23-year-old assailant tossed the bottle at his car.

"At the moment we do not know who the man is, nor what the motives for his action were," said the aide of the assailant who was detained on the spot. "The police are with him now."

During her one-day visit to the former Soviet republic, one of Europe's poorest countries, Merkel expressed support for Moldova's drive for integration with the European Union and backed a lasting settlement in Transdnistria, a separatist territory which broke unilaterally with the Moldovan central government 20 years ago.



EUCOM

34. [Special Interest, United Kingdom] £390 Million Foxhound Will Help To Keep Troops Safe From Roadside Bombs

Friday, August 24 2012

<http://www.thisisstaffordshire.co.uk/pound-390-million-Foxhound-help-troops-safe/story-16761432-detail/story.html>

Soldiers will have access to a sophisticated new patrol vehicle during the latest tour of Afghanistan.

New Foxhound armoured patrol cars, pictured, have been developed in response to the threat posed by improvised explosive devices (IEDs), often described as roadside bombs.

In previous years troops have relied on controversial 'snatch' land rovers, which provided little protection from the deadly bombs and were criticised for leading to many deaths.

Now the fleet of some 360 Foxhound vehicles have been developed at a cost of £390 million.

The machines are on rotation, with around half remaining in the UK, while the others are taken to Afghanistan.

There, the eight-and-a-half tonne, reinforced steel vehicles can transport six soldiers – two drivers and four additional passengers – safe in the knowledge that roadside bombs are unlikely to pose the threat they once did.

At yesterday's briefing in Bulford, Salisbury, Peter Luff MP, the minister for defence equipment, support and technology, also confirmed the Ministry of Defence's intention to spend around £30 million on an additional 25 Foxhounds.

Major Gareth Barry, an officer from the Army's infantry trials and development unit, said: "They have been developed in response to the threats we are witnessing."

Mr Luff said: "Afghanistan remains a national security issue for the UK, and making sure it doesn't become a safe haven for terrorists and insurgents is a priority.

"It remains a very dangerous place with troops in the firing line."





PACOM

35. [Trend, Australia] Boy Charged: Hand Blown Off By Home-Made Explosive

Tuesday, August 21 2012

<http://m.smh.com.au/nsw/boy-charged-hand-blown-off-by-homemade-explosive-20120821-24k29.html>

A 15-year-old boy who lost his hand after a home-made explosive device blew up in his bedroom in western Sydney has been charged, police say.

Investigators allege the teenager was making the device in his bedroom in Seven Hills on June 30, when it exploded, seriously injuring him. No one else was hurt.

Police alleged that, when bomb squad specialists searched the bedroom, they found five more home-made devices and several railway detonators.

"Anybody who thinks that playing around with these detonators is just mucking about - it's not. He's lost his hand and it could have been far worse," Detective Sergeant Adam Wilson, Blacktown Local Area Command's crime manager, said.

"Charging him was not a decision that we took lightly, but on the balanced view of the fact that he had a number of detonators plus five other devices that he manufactured, we're saying that it's not mere curiosity and that it goes beyond that. Taking the formal action was a serious step, but this is something that's a serious public safety issue."

The boy was charged with possessing explosives for unlawful purposes and negligently handling explosives to cause a person injury.

He was issued with a notice to appear in Parramatta Children's Court on October 2.



PACOM

36. [Attack, Philippines] Three Hurt In Another Bombing, This Time In Zambowood

Thursday, August 23 2012

<http://www.zamboangatoday.ph/index.php/news/13-top-stories/11548-3-hurt-in-another-bombing-this-time-in-zambowood.html>

Fear gripped again residents of Zamboanga City yesterday as another bomb explosion rocked the city, which came barely six days after two bomb exploded at a bus along MCLL highway in Barangay Guiwan and near a mosque in Suterville leaving seven people wounded.

Police said three persons were injured in the latest bombing after an improvised explosive device (IED) used for blast fishing allegedly exploded inside a residence at Zone 8, Lusville, Barangay Zambowood, this city, Tuesday dawn.

The local police Explosive Ordnance and Disposal Unit (EODU) probers said the IED exploded inside the house of Asadi Luna y Munap at about 12:30 a.m.

They rendered a safe procedure and post blast investigation at the site wherein they recovered several fragments of the explosive device.

One of the three victims, identified as Eddie Climaco y Evangelista, 46, separated, suffered a severe wound on his right foot and presently admitted at Zamboanga City Medical Center (ZCMC) for medication.

Two other blast victims identified as Lowi Climaco y Galvez, 18, and Diego Calago y Samsaludin, 23, both single, and residents of the same place, sustained slight injuries.

Police investigation disclosed that Rommel Bacasong, the barangay chairman, appeared and reported the explosion incident to the police station.

The motive for the blast is still under investigation, but police mentioned an incident in December where Eddie Climaco was shot by his opponent, Agosto Abuan y Arroyo, of Zambowood with a Caliber .38 Revolver hitting his ribs and burned Climaco's house.

Police are studying possible connection of both incidents. However, there were also reports that the motive of the incident was personal due to debt.



PACOM

37. [Security, India] Bomb Threats Disrupt Train Traffic In Kerala

Thursday, August 23 2012

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Kochi/article3811013.ece>

Train traffic was temporarily disrupted between Kottayam and Ernakulam after a bomb was spotted near the bridge over Muvattupuzha River near Piravom Road Station.

The Station Master was alerted about the bomb placed in a tiffin box near the bridge at around 9.35 a.m.. Bomb and dog squads from the Kottayam police were immediately pressed into service.

After the bomb threat Bangalore-Kanyakumari Island Express and Kottayam Passenger were stopped at Tripunithura railway station; New Delhi-bound Kerala Express and Janshatabdi Express at Mulanthuruthy Station and Hyderabad-Thiruvananthapuram Sabari Express at Piravom Road station.

Highly placed sources in the Railway Protection Force (RPF) said that during the preliminary examination, the bomb was reported to be inactive and could have been abandoned near the spot where it was found.

The police and RPF personnel did a thorough check, after evacuating public out of the area and also examined the railway tracks in the vicinity. The train traffic was restored by 12.05 p.m., railway sources said.



PACOM

38. [Security, India] Pipe Bomb In Rail Track Planted For Experimental Blast

Friday, August 24 2012

<http://ibnlive.in.com/news/pipe-bomb-in-kerala-rail-track-planted-for-experimental-blast/284998-62-126.html>

Those who planted the pipe bomb near Railway track at Velloor near Kottayam were trying to conduct an experimental blast and subsequently trigger panic among people, sources close to police told Express.

Police suspect that the primary motive of the perpetrators was to spread panic rather than conducting blasts. The pipe bomb was unearthed adjacent to Railway track at Velloor near Kottayam on Thursday.

“The bomb was found one and half meter away from the railway track. If the perpetrators wanted to make a blast, they would have put it on the track itself. Besides, they did not set the connections properly.

Moreover, the explosives discovered could not have made much damage to trains” said C Rajagopal, superintendent of police.

Police do not rule out the possibility of a connection between the incident to the explosion occurred at Ernakulam district collectorate in July 2009, as both the incidents have several palpable similarities. However, only detailed chemical examinations can verify this possibility. “This is a very serious incident and we need a thorough investigation to bring out the truth. We suspect the role of subversive elements behind this incident. However, we can not say anything as of now, without getting the results of chemical analysis” says Rajagopal.

Meanwhile, some higher officials in the police told express that the incidents prima facie look similar since PVC pipes were used in both the cases. The team members who first investigated Ernakulam Collectorate blast had also visited the place.

“Right now we cannot say any connection with Collectorate blast case though both the incidents look similar. We can confirm it only after the Chemical examination result is known” said P Vickraman, DySP of National Investigation Agency (NIA) who paid visited to the site.

Kottayam police has sought the help of higher police officials in the state including ADGP Vincent M Paul.

Forensic experts from Kottayam and Ernakulam collected pivotal evidences from the site. Various other investigative agencies including Railway protection force and crime branch also visited the place.



NORTHCOM

39. [Attack, United States] Bottle Bomb Goes Off In Glouco Freeholder's Mailbox

Friday, August 17 2012

http://articles.philly.com/2012-08-17/news/33233672_1_bottle-bombs-volatile-household-chemicals-powerful-bomb

Authorities were trying to determine Thursday who was behind a potentially dangerous homemade bomb that exploded in the home mailbox of a Gloucester County freeholder.

Larry Wallace, a first-term Republican, said he and his family discovered shortly before 6 a.m. that their metal mailbox, mounted on a wood post about 100 feet from their Woolwich Township home, had been destroyed overnight by a soda bottle bomb.

"My thoughts immediately went to, 'It was probably some kid having a bad night.' But then the more I thought about it and I looked at the wreckage, I realized that it was a powerful bomb," Wallace said Thursday afternoon.

"I don't know if someone is trying to send me a message or intimidate me."

The explosion did not cause a fire, but bottle bombs "can cause injuries or death to persons in the immediate area," the county Prosecutor's Office said.

Wallace, 50, said his wife, Debi, discovered the damage. The couple's daughters, 13 and 15, were home at the time and often retrieve the family's mail, he said.

The exact time of the detonation has not been established, authorities said.

Township Police Chief Russell Marino said he believed the bomb may have been a prank. No similar explosions have been reported in the township recently, the Prosecutor's Office said.

Bottle bombs can be made from volatile household chemicals, which, when shaken together in a closed container, create a pressurized gas that results in an explosion, officials said.

Authorities found a piece of tinfoil in the bottle, according to Wallace.

The debris was collected by a Prosecutor's Office detective who is part of the regional bomb squad. The Woolwich department is investigating.



NORTHCOM

40. [Attack, Mexico] Grenade Attack Sends Mariachis, Bystander To Hospital

Saturday, August 18 2012

<http://www.themonitor.com/news/mariachis-63117-matamoros-attack.html>

A Friday night grenade attack sent three mariachis and a bystander to the emergency room with non-life-threatening injuries.

According to information released by the Tamaulipas Attorney General's office, the grenade was thrown at 10 p.m. outside a Scotiabank branch near the intersection of Avenida Diagonals and Sixth Street.

Unlike the grenades thrown within the past week in Reynosa and in Ciudad Victoria, Friday night's explosive detonated, injuring the bystanders and causing some damage to the front of the building.



NORTHCOM

41. [Security, United States] Taking The Edge Off A Pipe Bomb--Literally

Monday, August 20 2012

<http://www.thecuttingedgenews.com/index.php?article=75412&pageid=20&pagename=Security>

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Science and Technology Directorate's (S&T) new low-cost device for dismantling dangerous pipe bombs may look like a tinkerer's project, but that's no accident. The Semi Autonomous Pipe Bomb End-cap Remover (SAPBER) is unassuming in appearance, but sophisticated enough to preserve the forensic evidence needed to track down the perpetrator.

"From ten paces away, you might mistake the contraption for a pressure washer," says S&T Program Manager Christine Lee. "But step closer and you'll find an ingenious device bristling with four video cameras, radios, a telescoping mast, cutting wheels, a twisting wrist, an electric motor, and a chain-driven gear, all powered by a pair of 12-volt batteries."

Thousands of pipe bombs are made each year, and thousands of pipe bomb threats are called into local police and FBI authorities across the country. Many are false alarms, but those that aren't can be deadly.

Dismantling a pipe bomb is tricky and serious business, and missteps during the dismantling process can produce catastrophic results. Law enforcement authorities ideally would like to preserve all evidence related to pipe bomb attacks, but the main focus of responders is the safety of the public and current pipe bomb render-safe techniques often limit the amount of evidence that can be collected. Not so with SAPBER (say-ber).

Pipe bombs can be constructed from many different pipe materials, and filled with many different explosive materials. Making it even more challenging, they can also be constructed with shrapnel on the outside. SAPBER is designed to carefully disassemble the pipe bomb without disturbing the deadly explosive materials inside. Once the pipe bomb is dismantled, the filler explosive materials can then be emptied, and both materials and the pipe itself can be preserved as evidence. The SAPBER system is able to use these special techniques on a wide variety of pipes including straight steel, galvanized steel, copper, and PVC plumbing plastic.

The prototype and its remote-control software were developed by RE2 Inc., of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. As an operator controls the device from a distance, SAPBER takes the pipe bomb from a bomb-disposal robot, disassembles it, empties the pipe, makes a video, and carefully preserves all of the evidence.

The 140-pound (64-kg) two-wheeler is small enough to squeeze into a current bomb-squad truck while sharing space with a bomb-disposal robot. Once off the truck, SAPBER is towed into place by hand or by the robot. On-scene, the robot lifts the pipe bomb and gently lays it onto SAPBER's transfer tray to be cleanly disassembled. When the pipe is opened, the material inside—powder, detonator, shrapnel, and all—fall into SAPBER's collection trough, to be studied later and used as evidence.



NORTHCOM

42. [Security, United States] Juveniles Responsible For Explosive Device Dropped At Wash House In Purity Plaza

Monday, August 20 2012

<http://woodlandrecord.com/juveniles-responsible-for-explosive-device-dropped-at-wash-house-in-purity-p2804-1.htm>

On August 19 at approximately 3:04 pm, Woodland police officers were dispatched to the Wash House laundry mat in Purity Plaza for a report of a possible destructive device thrown into the business.

Upon arrival, officers spoke with a maintenance worker who reported that a juvenile opened the rear door of the Wash House and held-up a plastic bottle as if he were about to throw it in the business. The maintenance worker saw that the juvenile was with a small group of juveniles. As the worker approached the juvenile with the plastic bottle, the group fled in various directions, and the juvenile with the bottle dropped it near the threshold of the rear door which faces Court Street.

The maintenance worker attempted to detain the juveniles, and when doing so, the plastic bottle exploded outside of the business, sending its chemical contents on the asphalt and door. The explosion did not cause any damage or injuries.

Due to the nature of the incident, several Woodland police officers were dispatched to contain the scene and determine whether there were additional threats to the business, its surroundings, and the public. Woodland Fire Department personnel were dispatched to stage for medical emergencies and hazardous materials, and members of the Yolo County Explosive Ordnance Disposal (E.O.D) team were notified to help evaluate the nature of the destructive device.

This incident is still under investigation and any person with information is encouraged to notify the Woodland Police Department.



NORTHCOM

43. [Attack, United States] Explosive Device Under Investigation

Tuesday, August 21 2012

http://www.taylordailynews.net/news/article_52f3a73e-eb28-11e1-98f3-001a4bcf887a.html

The Williamson County Sheriff's Office, in conjunction with the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms and the Federal Bureau of Investigations – is investigating a detonated explosive device found under an overpass of the SH 130 Toll Road.

“An explosive device, a very crude explosive device, was found underneath a 130 bridge,” said Williamson County Sheriff's Department Spokesman John Foster. “The explosion caused absolutely no structural damage to the bridge and we don't believe it is someone thinking it would take down the bridge.”



NORTHCOM

44. [Security, United States] MCU Officers Find Explosive In Fairfield Beach Home

Friday, August 24 2012

<http://www.zanesvilletimesrecorder.com/article/20120824/NEWS01/208240309/MCU-officers-find-explosive-Fairfield-Beach-home>

Police expected to make several arrests as they headed out to round up people on drug charges, but it was what they found in a house that wasn't on their list that drew the most attention.

A bomb squad detonated an improvised explosive device allegedly set as a booby trap in a Fairfield Beach home Thursday afternoon.

The bomb squad, out of Franklin County, detonated the device at about 3:20 p.m. in a field across from the home. Eric Brown, commander of the Fairfield-Hocking Major Crimes unit, said the house was one of several his unit and the county SCRAP team investigated in the Fairfield Beach area.

Fairfield-Hocking Major Crimes Unit, SCRAP officers, members of the Fairfield County SWAT team and members of the Lancaster Police Department were serving search and arrest warrants in Millersport and the Fairfield Beach area throughout the day. They arrested six of the nine people they were seeking by mid-afternoon, along with the home owner where the explosive device was found. Police also raided nine locations in the Fairfield Beach and Millersport area. None of the people arrested have been charged.

While in the area, Brown said officers decided to try a "knock and talk" on a home in the 13000 block of Shell Beach Road.

Brown said the residents were cooperative and allowed officers to search the home.

"The device was set to detonate if you messed with the garage door," said Brown. "Once officers found it, they backed out real quick."

After the device was detonated, it created a large amount of smoke and a boom that Brown said shook homes. He said the device had a time fuse in the bottom of it, and was created with a form of black powder.

Brown said nothing else was found in the home. A male resident was arrested, and Brown said the man admitted to owning the device. He has not been charged.

"Why that device was here, we don't have a clue right now," Brown said.

Neighbors weren't surprised to find law enforcement at the home or learn that an explosive device was allegedly located in the garage.

"There's been a lot of problems out here," area resident Mark Harrison said.

Brown said the man is facing felony charges, and that the charges are likely to change due to the potential danger of the incident.

Several other arrests were made throughout the day Thursday. Brown said MCU had been preparing and gathering



information for the warrants over the past several months. He said the basis of the arrest warrants were heroin and pills.



SOUTHCOM

45. [Security, Colombia] Army Defused Explosive Devices In Caquetá And Putumayo

Saturday, August 18 2012

http://www.elcolombiano.com/BancoConocimiento/E/ejercito_desactivo_artefactos_explosivos_en_caqueta_y_putumayo/ejercito_desactivo_artefactos_explosivos_en_caqueta_y_putumayo.asp?CodSeccion=211

Two dustbin explosives and two bars pentolite, installed according to the Army by FARC guerrillas in Caquetá and Putumayo, units were deactivated by the Sixth and Twenty-Seventh Division Brigade.

Dustbin explosives were installed in a house in the area known as Hearts, rural area Peneya Union township, municipality of La Montañita, Caquetá. These explosives have a pressure activated system and were destroyed in a controlled manner by military experts.

In the operation, the army also destroyed a mobile camp gang 15 of the FARC with a capacity for 30 terrorists and seized 1,000 grams of pentolite.

On the other hand, Twenty Seventh Brigade, in a checkpoint located in the village of Las Acacias of the municipality of Orito, Putumayo, received information about the presence of explosives in the area, finding two pentolite bars, each of 500 grams, and three feet of detonating cord.

The material was made available to the Prosecutor's Office 50 of Orito.



SOUTHCOM

46. [Security, Colombia] Deactivated Explosives Packed In A Motorcycle In The Village Patia

Monday, August 20 2012

<http://www.elliberal.com.co/liberal/judicial/113010-desactivados-explosivos-acondicionados-en-una-motocicleta-en-el-corregimiento-patia>

The vehicle that had been abandoned by subject, contained 8 blocks of explosive known as Pentolite. It was located near the central park of the small village in the municipality of El Patia.

Explosion-Proof Personal Cauca police defused the explosives packed in a motorcycle that would have left the FARC guerrillas in a place known as Angulo, in Patia Valley, southern Cauca.

People living in the tourist region reported that they had been informed by men on a vehicle to leave the area, because at any moment would explode a motorcycle packed with explosives.



SOUTHCOM

47. [Security, Colombia] Colombia Unable To Meet Landmine Deadline

Tuesday, August 21 2012

<http://colombiareports.com/colombia-news/news/25651-colombia-unable-to-meet-landmine-deadline-campaigner.html>

Colombia is unable to meet the 2021 Ottawa Treaty deadline to eliminate landmines said a Colombian anti-landmine campaigner Tuesday.

Alvaro Jimenez of Colombia Contra las Minas, said that due to the extent of the conflict the mine problem is continuing to escalate making it "impossible that Colombia is free of mines by 2021."

The 2001 Ottawa Treaty committed Colombia to total elimination of landmines by 2011, however at that stage a 10-year extension had to be granted giving Colombia until 2021 to remove all the mines, a goal which according to Millan is now impossible.

Colombia had the second highest rate of landmine victims in the world in 2010, according to the International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL), with 512 victims either maimed or killed putting the country second after Afghanistan with 1,211.

"This war must end," said Millan, adding that the issue of landmines will continue indefinitely as long as the conflict is not resolved.





SOUTHCOM

48. [Attack, Colombia] FARC Attack' Kills Two, Injures Four Police In Northern Colombia

Thursday, August 23 2012

<http://colombiareports.com/colombia-news/news/25682-farc-attack-kills-2-injures-4-police-in-northern-colombia.html>

Suspected FARC rebels killed two policemen and injured another four Wednesday in an attack in the north of Colombia.

The attack took place in Sardinata, a municipality located near the border with Venezuela and just south of the Catatumbo region from where FARC leader Timochenko is suspected to run the leftist insurgency.

According to local authorities, the rebels ambushed the police patrol with homemade explosives.

The authorities blamed the FARC's 33rd Front for the attack.

Over the past year, the FARC has stepped up attacks against civilian, economic and military targets.