

# 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.



### **Seven Killed By Islamist Car Bomb In North Mali**

This Tuareg truck was targeted by a suicide bomber at a checkpoint near a French military camp in Kidal.

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## **AFPAK**

### **1. [Special Interest, Pakistan] U.S., Pakistan Seek Breakthrough To Thwart Bomb Makers**

Monday, February 25 2013

<http://security.blogs.cnn.com/2013/02/25/u-s-pakistan-seek-breakthrough-to-thwart-bomb-makers/>

The United States and Pakistan will begin working together on a new fertilizer formula that could be a significant technological step to limit the ability of terror groups to make improvised explosives and car bombs using the ingredient.

An agreement to try to make a product more inert was reached last week after Pakistani officials from Fatima Group, a major fertilizer manufacturer, met with Pentagon officials.

"Such a long-term solution would be a true scientific breakthrough," Lt. Gen. Michael Barbero, the head of the Pentagon's Joint Improved Explosive Device Defeat Organization, said in a statement.

Barbero met with Fatima representatives to urge them again to take steps to control fertilizer inventories. The meeting itself was a step forward since the Pakistani government previously had stopped the U.S. military from talking directly to the company.

Fatima Group is the Pakistani-based producer of calcium ammonium nitrate (CAN). It was developed as a non-explosive alternative to ammonium nitrate, long a key ingredient in homemade bombs used widely in Pakistan and in Afghanistan. But it can be converted into an explosive mixture.

Hundreds of American troops have been killed by improvised explosive devices containing the material.

Pakistan and the United States will now work on a "reformulated" CAN product in hopes of reducing its effectiveness in homemade bombs.

It is produced by two factories in Pakistan that are both owned and operated by Fatima. It also has now confirmed to the Pentagon in writing that it has suspended sales of CAN fertilizer products in the border provinces to 228 dealers in the area.

It is also working on plans for more readily visible bagging of CAN in hopes Pakistani border control agents will stop smuggling when they see it. Barbero is still pressing for color dyeing so it can more readily be identified.

Fatima may have its own economic reasons for trying to improve its practices.

A U.S. unit of the company, Midwest Fertilizer, has proposed building a plant in Indiana that promises 2,500 construction and 309 permanent jobs. Midwest issued \$1 billion in bonds to finance the plant, but Indiana Gov. Mike Pence suspended state support after learning of Barbero's longstanding criticism of Fatima's failure to control its inventory.

Barbero's frustration with a lack of progress by Pakistan and Fatima was evident last year when he publicly detailed how insurgents have learned to process and convert CAN into explosive material that can be used with a fuel to create a bomb.



In a May, Barbero spoke to an international meeting of fertilizer companies and experts in Doha, Qatar.

U.S. officials tell CNN that the details Barbero disclosed are publicly available on the Internet, but it's still rare for an American military official to speak openly about the detailed chemistry of bomb making.

In December 2012, Barbero testified before Congress and was highly critical of both Fatima and the Pakistan government for failure to exert control over fertilizer and other components of bomb-making material.

He noted the use of another substance found in IEDs, potassium chlorate, has been on the rise in Afghanistan for the past year. Although the Afghan government bans its importation, it is legally imported into Pakistan for use in the textile and matchstick industries and often stolen by insurgents for used in bomb making.

According to the Pentagon, homemade explosives continue to be the main charge of IEDs found in Afghanistan. Most of the roughly 87 percent of IEDs that contain homemade explosive material are comprised of ammonium nitrate derived from Pakistani-produced calcium ammonium nitrate fertilizer.

Even with the impending drawdown of U.S. troops in Afghanistan, the threat of those explosives remains significant.

The Pentagon says more than 1,900 U.S. troops were killed or wounded in such IED attacks in 2012, accounting for more than 60 percent of American combat casualties.

There were nearly 14,500 IED-related events in Afghanistan last year, including both detection and attacks.

Barbero is also strongly making the point that the threat of homemade bombs is spreading around the world, including North Africa where al Qaeda affiliates are on the rise.

Since January 2011, there have been more than 10,000 IEDs placed in 112 countries, with attacks carried out by more than 40 regional and transnational threat networks.

Explosives involving ammonium nitrate have been the choice of insurgents in several recent high-profile attacks.

A 2011 Mumbai attack involved three bombs containing the fertilizer that killed 27 people and injured 130 others.

Also that year, a car bomb in Norway killed eight people. Six tons of ammonium nitrate and calcium ammonium nitrate were used in the attack.

"The Oslo bomber was able to easily purchase and store massive amounts of fertilizer by simply establishing a fake farming business and easily converting fertilizer into a bomb," Barbero said.

Mumbai and the attack in central Oslo were not tied to Pakistan, but Barbero spoke about them in terms of what he sees as the growing global threat.



### AFPAK

## 2. [Attack, Pakistan] Explosion Along Pakistan Border With Afghanistan Kills One

Monday, February 25 2013

<http://www.cnn.com/2013/02/25/world/asia/pakistan-violence>

One member of Pakistani security was killed and five were wounded Monday in a blast in Pakistan's troubled tribal northern region, an official told CNN.

The casualties occurred when a car laden with explosives entered a fort in Bara Tehsil in the Khyber district, near the border with Afghanistan, and detonated, said Maj. Fazl-Ur Rehman, spokesman for the paramilitary force stationed in northern Pakistan.

The blast destroyed five rooms inside Fort Slope, a paramilitary forces camp in the district of Bara in one of the seven semi-autonomous tribal regions of northwest Pakistan, he said.

The incident occurred in Pakistan's volatile tribal region, where militants have a strong presence and paramilitary forces have frequently come under fire.





### AFPAK

#### 3. [Attack, Afghanistan] Two Policemen Killed In Uruzgan Roadside Bomb

Monday, February 25 2013

<http://tolonews.com/en/afghanistan/9568-2-policemen-killed-in-uruzgan-roadside-bomb>

Two policemen were killed and one was injured in a roadside bomb blast in the southern Uruzgan province Monday morning, local officials said.

The blast took place at about 10:00 am local time in the provincial capital Tarinkot when a police vehicle was struck by a roadside bomb, provincial police chief spokesman Farid Ayel told TOLONews.

The victims were taken to a nearby hospital in the city.

Ayel believed that Taliban insurgents were behind the blast, but no group, including the Taliban, has claimed responsibility for the blast.

Recently, Afghan security forces took on greater security responsibilities for the province from the departing Australian troops.

Australia has around 1,094 soldiers in Afghanistan, most of whom are based in the province.





## **AFPAK**

### **4. [Attack, Afghanistan] One Killed, Three Hurt As Car Bomb Targets Security Building In Afghanistan**

Monday, February 25 2013

<http://paktribune.com/news/One-killed-3-hurt-as-car-bomb-targets-security-building-in-Afghanistan-257700.html>

A car bomb targeted a security building in eastern Afghanistan on Sunday, killing at least one person, officials said.

The early morning blast struck a building belonging to National Directorate of Security near the city of Jalalabad in Nangarhar province, said local police.

The explosion also wounded two people, they said. Also in eastern Afghanistan, a minibus packed with explosives targeted a police checkpoint in Logar province, said provincial government spokesman Den Mohammad Darwish.

The blast wounded three people, he said. Taliban spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid claimed responsibility for the group, saying the attack in Nangarhar province killed 14 people and the one in Logar province wounded 20.

The Taliban are known for routinely claiming responsibility for attacks and inflating casualty numbers.





### AFPAK

#### 5. [Attack, Pakistan] Bomb Kills Two At Pakistan Sufi Shrine

Tuesday, February 26 2013

<http://thepeninsulaqatar.com/pakistanafghanistan/227081-bomb-kills-two-at-pakistan-sufi-shrine.html>

A bomb blast at a Sufi Muslim shrine killed at least two people and wounded 10 in southern Pakistan, police said yesterday.

The bomb went off at Shah Lakhi Ghulam shrine in southern Shikarpur district, some 400km (250 miles) northeast of Karachi, where devotees had gathered to pay homage to the revered Sufi saint buried there.

“At least two people were killed and 10 others were wounded after a bomb exploded at Shah Lakhi Ghulam shrine,” senior police official Pervez Chandio said.

“We are investigating what type of bomb had been detonated and the motives behind it,” Chandio said.

The shrine, worshipped by Sufis who follow a mystical branch of Islam, is also regularly visited by minority Shias.

But majority Sunnis pray at the shrine too, residents said, adding that such attacks were rare in the area.

Shias, who make up around 20 percent of the mostly Sunni population of 180 million, are facing a record numbers of attacks which is in turn raising serious questions about security as nuclear-armed Pakistan prepares to hold elections by mid-May.

On February 16 a bomb attack in Quetta killed 89 people, while 92 people were killed in an assault at a Hazara snooker hall on January 10.



## **AFPAK**

### **6. [Attack, Afghanistan] Four Civilian Killed, As Many Wounded In Bombing, Roadside Bomb Kills Two Policemen**

Tuesday, February 26 2013

<http://paktribune.com/news/4-civilian-killed-as-many-wounded-in-bombing-Roadside-bomb-kills-2-policemen-257758.html>

A landmine blast left four civilian dead and as many wounded in Marjah district of Helmand province this morning, police said Monday.

A civilian vehicle struck a landmine in Shorshorak area of Marjah district, leaving four people dead and two wounded, Shamim Noorzai, spokesman for Helmand police, told Afghan Islamic Press (AIP).

He said the injured were taken to hospital.

A doctor at Lashkargah Emergency Hospital, meanwhile, told AIP that four injured including two children, an adult man and a woman were brought to them, adding the injured were in critical condition.

Meanwhile, a roadside bomb killed two police and wounded another in Uruzgan province this morning, police said Monday.

A police vehicle struck a roadside bomb in 2nd police district of Tarinkot, capital of Uruzgan province, at approximately 9:00 a.m. (local time), killing two cops and wounding another, Farid Aail, spokesman for Uruzgan province, told Afghan Islamic Press (AIP).

He said the police vehicle was also destroyed in the explosion, adding investigations agencies started investigations into the incident.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility.

Two of a family among three stabbed to death: KUNDUZ (AIP): A man killed three persons including two members of his family and wounded five more in Khost wa Farang district of Baghlan province yesterday, an official said Monday.

Mohibullah Mohaqq, administrator of Khost wa Farhang district, told Afghan Islamic Press (AIP) that a man stabbed his uncle, his son and a neighbour to death in a village three km away from the district centre. He said the man also wounded his mother, father, wife and two neighbours, adding cause of the incident was unclear.

Government, Taliban make conflicting claims: KABUL (AIP): Afghan and foreign forces killed 29 Taliban and wounded as many during separate operation throughout the past 24 hours, interior ministry claimed Monday.

Six Taliban were also detained during the operation conducted by combined force in Ningarhar, Laghman, Badakhshan, Kandahar, Zabul, Logar, Ghazni, Paktia, Herat, Badghis and Helmand province, the interior ministry claimed in a statement. It did not close if the combined troops suffer damage or not.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah, however, told AIP that they lost only five fighters during the same period. He



claimed that a large number of attacks were mounted by Taliban on Afghan and foreign troops over the past 24 hours in Kabul, Laghman, Kunar, Ningarhar, Logar, Maidan, Paktika, Khost, Zabul, Ghazni, Uruzgan, Kandahar, Helmand, Farah, Heart, Badghis, Sar-e-Pul and Faryab province.

He said several combined troops were killed and their vehicles destroyed in the attacks.





## AFPAK

### 7. [Attack, Pakistan] Bomb Attack On Spiritual Leader Larkana, Adjoining Towns Remain Closed

Wednesday, February 27 2013

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-2-162458-Bomb-attack-on-spiritual-leader-Larkana-adjoining-towns-remain-closed>

A protest demonstration and shutter down strike was observed on Tuesday in the city and its adjoining areas against a bomb attack on famous spiritual leader of Sindh and Gadhi Nasheen of Dargah Ghazi Shah Shikarpur Syed Hajan Shah Madiwaro.

Larkana city including Shikarpur, Lucky Ghulam Shah, Garhi Yasin, Madeji, Naudero, Ratodero, Shahdadkot, Qubo Saeed Khan, Sijawal Junejo, Mirokhan, Qamber, Arzi Bhutto, Wareh, Nasirabad, Gerello, Badeh, Dokri, Bakrani, Arija, and other areas of Larkana region remain shut downed.

The Sunni Tehreek, Ahl-e-Sunnet Wal Jamait, Wahadat-ul-Muslimeen, Shia Ulema Council, Jamiat Islah-ul-Fuqra Hussainia, Jamiat-e-Islami, Jamiat Ulema Islam and others supported the strike and strongly condemned the incident.

The sit-ins were staged on main National Highway in Hyderabad, Jamshoro, Dadu, Ghotki, Qamber-Shahdadkot and other districts and blocked roads and suspended vehicular traffic. On the occasion, they demanded of the authorities to arrest the accused and take action against them.



### AFPAK

#### 8. [Attack, Afghanistan] Suicide Attack On Kabul Army Bus Wounds Six

Wednesday, February 27 2013

<http://english.alarabiya.net/articles/2013/02/27/268553.html>

A suicide attacker blew himself up next to a bus carrying army personnel in the Afghan capital on Wednesday, wounding at least six people, officials said.

The situation remains unclear but no deaths have been reported, defense ministry deputy spokesman Dawlat Waziri said. Western security sources confirmed the attack.

An AFP photographer said that ambulances were carrying the wounded to hospital after the attack on the bus, which took place on a main street in Kabul.

Spokesmen for the defense and interior ministries said that six people had been wounded. According to a police official on the scene most of the passengers on the bus were hurt and the bomber struck on foot.

Interior ministry spokesman Sediq Sediqqi said the suicide bomber detonated "a little bit away from the back of the bus," which could explain the low casualty numbers released by the Afghan authorities.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility, but the Taliban and other insurgents waging an 11-year fight against the Western-backed government have carried out a series of bomb attacks in the heavily protected capital.

On January 21, a squad of Taliban suicide bombers stormed the Kabul traffic police headquarters, killing three police officers and unleashing a stand-off that lasted for more than eight hours.

On Sunday, officials said police shot dead a would-be suicide bomber in Kabul's diplomatic enclave.



### AFPAK

## 9. [Attack, Afghanistan] Roadside Bomb Kills Nine People, Including Border Police, In Eastern Afghanistan

Thursday, February 28 2013

[http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia\\_pacific/afghan-president-demands-control-of-afghan-armed-groups-linked-to-us-led-forces-in-3-months/2013/02/28/59af1640-81c7-11e2-a671-0307392de8de\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia_pacific/afghan-president-demands-control-of-afghan-armed-groups-linked-to-us-led-forces-in-3-months/2013/02/28/59af1640-81c7-11e2-a671-0307392de8de_story.html)

A roadside bomb killed nine people, mostly border policemen, Thursday in Afghanistan where militants continue to target government security forces taking over from withdrawing international troops.

No one claimed responsibility for the bombing, but the Taliban and other insurgents have stepped up attacks against Afghan policemen and soldiers in a bid to undermine the Western-backed government. Afghans are increasingly taking the lead in operations as U.S. and other foreign combat forces prepare to withdraw by the end of 2014.

The afternoon blast occurred in Dangam district of Kunar province, near Afghanistan's eastern border with Pakistan, according to a spokesman for the provincial government. Wasifullah Wasifi said seven border policemen and two civilians were killed, and two women were wounded in the attack.

President Hamid Karzai insists his forces are ready to take control of the country's security and has pushed for a faster handover by the international forces.

On Thursday, he demanded control of clandestine Afghan armed groups that are linked to U.S.-led forces amid complaints of abuses by the units.

His office ordered a delegation to identify all armed units that work with coalition forces and operate independently from the Afghan government. It gave international forces three months to hand them over.

Presidential spokesman Aimal Faizi said the order does not refer to the Afghan Local Police, which are village defense units overseen by the Interior Ministry. Faizi said Karzai was referring to "parallel structures" created by U.S. special operations forces, the CIA and other military branches.

The U.S.-led coalition did not issue an immediate response to Thursday's order.

The issue surfaced after Afghans in restive Wardak province complained of torture, illegal detentions and other abuses at the hands of such units. That prompted Karzai to issue an order on Sunday calling for U.S. special forces to be expelled from the province within two weeks despite fears that the move would leave the area and the neighboring Afghan capital more vulnerable to al-Qaida and other insurgents.

Gen. Joseph Dunford, the commander of all U.S. and allied forces, met with Karzai on Wednesday to discuss the issue. They agreed to work together to address the security concerns of the people of Wardak, a coalition statement said.

The coalition said earlier this week that it has found no evidence to support allegations that U.S. special forces were involved in the abuse of Afghan civilians in the area. It did not comment on the Afghans allegedly linked to the American troops.





## AFPAK

### 10. [Trend, Pakistan] Three Hundred Fifty People Killed In 27 Bomb Blasts Across Pakistan In Two Months

Thursday, February 28 2013

<http://english.peopledaily.com.cn/90777/8148376.html>

At least 352 people were killed and 699 others injured in 27 bomb blasts that ripped through different areas across Pakistan during the first two months of the current year, according to official figures.

In January, 16 blasts which took place in different parts of the country caused 199 casualties and left 380 others wounded while the month of February embraced 11 explosions that killed 153 and injured 319 others.

The worst two of these attacks which occurred in the country's southwestern provincial capital of Quetta targeted the areas dominated by Hazara community of Shia Muslims causing a huge loss of life and property.

The first attack was carried out on Jan. 10 when twin blasts, a suicide attack followed by an atrocious car bomb blast, targeted a snooker club in the southwestern metropolitan of Quetta killing at least 106 people, including nine policemen and 20 rescue workers.

The second worst incident took place on Feb. 16 when a suicide bomber exploded his water-tanker-bomb carrying some 1,000 kg explosives in a busy vegetable market of the city and killed 89 besides injuring over 170 others.

In another terrorist attack on Feb. 2, at least 28 people were killed and 40 others injured when a suicide bomber exploded his explosives laden jacket in front of a mosque when people were leaving after offering Friday prayer in northwestern Hangu district.

These three attacks targeted Shia Muslims community and spread panic among masses triggering country wide protest against the incidents.

Another nastiest incident killed 31 people when a remote controlled bomb rocked a preaching center of Sunni Muslims in the Mingora town of the northwestern Swat district on Jan. 10.

According to the official statistics, the terrorists carried out 27 bomb attacks at 26 targets, killing 311 civilians as well as 22 personnel from security forces and 19 policemen.

Among a total 699 injured people, 654 were civilians followed by members of security forces and police, respectively.

Pakistani army's 21 servicemen and 19 policemen lost their lives while one person of Frontier Constabulary was killed in the attacks.

Hours before the snooker club attack on Jan. 10, a powerful bomb explosion targeted a security check post at the busy Bacha Khan Chowk of Quetta and killed 12 people, injuring 50 others.

Regarding number of attacks, Pakistan's northwestern tribal regions bordering Afghanistan were the worst hit with nine bomb attacks, followed by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh and Balochistan provinces.



The heavily populated eastern province of Punjab remained safe as there was no incident of terrorism occurred during the specific time.

The southwestern province of Balochistan suffered the highest number of casualties of 212 with around 370 injured in five blasts alone.

The northwestern province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was the second biggest victim with 72 casualties and 150 injured in seven bomb attacks.

In southern Sindh province 22 people were killed and 84 injured in six low intensity bomb blasts.

Out of the total 27 explosions, 20 blasts were exploded with remote controlled device while five were of suicide nature followed by one toy bomb and one landmine blast.

After both the snooker club and vegetable market incidents, thousands of protesters of Shia Muslims community refused to bury the bodies and held sit-in against the massacres across the country, putting their 19 demands forward including the dissolution of the provincial government of Balochistan and a prompt armed action against the responsible persons.

On both occasions, the sit-ins that were prolonged more than 72 hours forced the central government to accept protestors' all demands except handing over the Quetta city to the army to establish peace.



## AFPAK

### 11. [Attack, Pakistan] Militants Taliban Bomb Four Schools In Pakistan Tribal Region

Thursday, February 28 2013

<http://www.brecorder.com/pakistan/general-news/108387.html>

Suspected militants bombed four boys' schools in Pakistan's northwestern tribal belt on Thursday, officials said, in the latest attack on government educational institutions.

No one was injured in the pre-dawn blasts in Mohmand tribal district, where officials said Taliban attacks have now destroyed more than 100 schools.

"Militants from TTM (Tehreek-e-Taliban Mohmand) blew up the buildings of four schools at around 2:30 am (2130 GMT)," an intelligence official in Mohmand told AFP.

Liaqat Ali, a government official, confirmed the incident and told AFP that militants planted locally made explosives to dynamite the school buildings.

"All the four schools were completely destroyed, the number of schools destroyed in Mohmand is now more than 100," Ali said.







### AFPAK

## 12. [Security, Pakistan] Explosive Material Recovered In Rangers Operation

Thursday, February 28 2013

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-90058-Karachi:-Explosive-material-recovered-in-Rangers-operation>

Rangers carried out targeted operation in Shah Latif Town area of the metropolis on Thursday, recovering a huge amount of explosive material, sources said.

According to the sources, the rangers raided a newly built house located in Shah Latif Town and recovered Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), detonating caps, and 2 walky-talkies.

Rangers and police have kicked off the investigation, sources added.





### AFRICOM

#### 13. [Law Enforcement, Tunisia] Tunisian Police Seize Big Weapons Cache

Friday, February 22 2013

<http://thestar.com.my/news/story.asp?file=/2013/2/22/worldupdates/tunisian-police-seize-big-weapons-cache&sec=Worldupdates>

Police have seized a big weapons cache in Tunis, amid high tension in the aftermath of the assassination of a opposition politician, authorities announced on Thursday.

"Dozens of Kalashnikov assault rifles, rocket-propelled grenades, and explosives were seized in a home in Mnihla district," the Interior Ministry said in statement. The raid was on Wednesday night.

On February 6 Tunisia was thrown into its gravest political crisis for two years, when secular opposition figure Chokri Belaid was gunned down outside his home, sending protesters onto the streets across the country.

Since the overthrow of former President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali in the uprising that inspired a wave of Arab revolts, the influence of radical Islamists has increased. Secularist groups accuse the ruling moderate Islamist Ennahda party of being too soft on militants.

Last month another weapons cache was discovered in the southern city of Medenine near the Libyan border and a group arrested which officials described as "terrorist".

Last December, Interior Minister Ali Laryed said Tunisian police had arrested 16 Islamist militants who had been accumulating arms with the aim of creating an Islamic state.

They were linked to Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb and had been planning to attack security headquarters, he said.



## AFRICOM

### 14. [Attack, Mali] Seven Killed By Islamist Car Bomb In North Mali

Tuesday, February 26 2013

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/02/27/us-mali-rebels-kidal-idUSBRE91P11220130227>

Seven people were killed in a suicide car bomb attack by suspected Islamist militants in the remote northern Mali-an town of Kidal on Tuesday, the MNLA Tuareg rebel group said, in the second such attack there in less than a week.

A spokesman for the Malian army, Modibo Nama Traore, confirmed that a car bomb had exploded in the town but was unable to provide further details.

French forces have been stationed in Kidal since driving out al Qaeda-linked fighters in late January as part of a military campaign to oust Islamist militants who seized the northern two-thirds of the West African country last year.

Kidal lies in the foothills of the Adrar des Ifoghas mountains where diehard al Qaeda-linked fighters are battling French and Chadian forces, which are being aided by the MNLA Tuaregs.

The Tuareg group had initially allied with the Islamists to seize control of northern Mali in April, taking advantage of a military coup in the capital Bamako. However, it was quickly pushed aside by the Islamist militants and now opposes them.

The MNLA said in a statement that the suicide bomber had stopped at one of the MNLA's checkpoints on a road heading southeast from Kidal and had detonated the bomb when its fighters approached his 4x4 vehicle.

"The provisional total of this attack against an MNLA checkpoint is seven dead MNLA fighters as well as several injured," the Tuareg rebel group said in a statement.

A Malian intelligence source said three vehicles had been destroyed in the blast.

The attack came after car bombs killed two people in Kidal on Thursday and five more in the Mali-Algeria border town of In Khalil on Friday.

Both were claimed by the MUJWA, a splinter group from al Qaeda's North African wing AQIM.

#### SIX WEEKS INTO OFFENSIVE

France is six weeks into an offensive to clear Islamist fighters from Mali's north, which Paris said was in danger of becoming a springboard for attacks on the region and the West.

It has wrested control of all of northern Mali's towns from the Islamists but now faces a worsening guerilla-style insurgency marked by suicide attacks and hit-and-run raids on towns.

In the wake of France's lightning northward drive, the MNLA says it has retaken control of Kidal and towns around the Adrar des Ifoghas mountains, where Islamists are believed to be hiding near the Algerian border.





Paris has said it aims to start withdrawing some of its 4,000 troops from Mali next month, depending on the success of its operations to mop up the remaining Islamist fighters in Mali's desert-and-mountain north.

France's intervention, however, has raised the risk for its citizens throughout the region as militant groups have vowed to exact revenge on French interests.

Gunmen claiming to be from Nigerian Islamist group Boko Haram posted a video on the Internet on Monday showing seven French hostages they seized last week in Cameroon.

The gunmen said France had declared war on Islam with its campaign in Mali and threatened to kill their captives unless fellow Islamists jailed by Cameroon and Nigeria were released.





## CENTCOM

### 15. [Trend, Syria] Al Nusrah Front Claims Suicide Attack On Syrian Defense Factory

Monday, February 25 2013

[http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2013/02/al\\_nusrah\\_front\\_clai\\_13.php](http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2013/02/al_nusrah_front_clai_13.php)

The Al Nusrah Front for the People of the Levant, al Qaeda's affiliate in Syria, have claimed credit for a suicide attack at a defense factory that occurred nearly three weeks ago. Several civilians were killed in the deadly bombing.

The Syrian terror group took credit for the attack in a statement that was released yesterday on its Twitter account and obtained by The Long War Journal.

According to the statement, the Feb. 6 attack was executed by a suicide bomber known as Abu Bara al Homs. The suicide bomber detonated a minibus packed with "2.5 tons of explosives" in the middle of what was described as "a gathering place" of Syrian security personnel. The Al Nusrah Front stated that the factory "produces daily approximately 250,000 rounds Kalashnikov and 13,000 rounds Dushka and other munitions."

Photographs of the suicide bomber (whose face is blurred), the explosives, and the bus immediately before and as it was detonated accompanied the statement that took credit for the attack.

More than 60 people, including 11 women, were killed in the suicide attack, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, which monitors the civil war in the country.

"Dozens of workers in the plant were killed, the Syrian Observatory documented 60 names (11 women) of residents from the Salamiya city of eastern Reef Hama, its neighbouring villages and the cities of Homs and Hama," the human rights group stated on its Facebook page.

When the attack was reported on Feb. 8, the fact that it had been executed by a suicide bomber was not clear. The Associated Press reported at the time that 54 people, all civilians who worked at the munitions factory, were killed.

The Al Nusrah Front has used al Qaeda's signature tactic -- the suicide bomber and suicide assault team -- to target Syrian security forces. Some of these attacks have been carried out in conjunction with supposedly secular Free Syrian Army units as well as with allied jihadist groups, such as the Muhajireen Group, which is led by a Chechen commander.

The Al Nusrah Front has now claimed credit for 52 of the 62 suicide attacks that have taken place in Syria since December 2011, according to a tally by The Long War Journal (note that multiple suicide bombers deployed in a single operation are counted as part of a single attack). So far this year, 10 suicide attacks have been reported in Syria; Al Nusrah has claimed credit for nine of them.

An al Qaeda affiliate

On Dec. 11, 2012, the US designated the Al Nusrah Front as a Foreign Terrorist Organization. The designation stated that the emir of al Qaeda in Iraq, Abu Du'a (a.k.a. Abu Bakr al Baghdadi al Hussein al Qurshi), "is in control of both AQI and Al Nusrah."





At the same time, the US added two senior Al Nusrah leaders, Maysar Ali Musa Abdallah al Juburi and Anas Hasan Khattab, both members of al Qaeda in Iraq, to the list of global terrorists; the US did not add the emir of Al Nusrah, Sheikh Abu Muhammad al Julani, to the list, however. [See LWJ report, US adds Al Nusrah Front, 2 leaders to terrorism list, for information on the designation of the Al Nusrah Front and the two leaders.]

Despite Al Nusrah's known affiliation with al Qaeda and its radical ideology, Syrian opposition groups, including the supposedly secular Syrian National Coalition, have rallied to support Al Nusrah. Immediately after the US designated Al Nusrah as a terrorist group, 29 Syrian opposition groups signed a petition that not only condemned the US's designation, but said "we are all Al Nusrah," and urged their supporters to raise Al Nusrah's flag (which is the flag of al Qaeda) [see LWJ report, Syrian National Coalition urges US to drop Al Nusrah terrorism designation].

The al Qaeda affiliate's ranks have been growing, and it is now estimated to have upwards of 10,000 fighters in its ranks.

Due to its organization and prowess on the battlefield, the terror group has become popular and is recruiting from other rival groups. The Al Nusrah Front has overrun four major military bases and conducted multiple storming operations on security and intelligence bases and headquarters throughout the country.





## CENTCOM

### 16. [Trend, Syria] Syrian Ballistic Missiles Killed 141 Civilians Last Week

Tuesday, February 26 2013

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2013/02/26/us-syria-crisis-missiles-idUSBRE91P09420130226>

The Syrian military has stepped up ballistic missile strikes on rebel-held areas, including four attacks in the north last week that killed more than 141 people, including 71 children, Human Rights Watch said on Tuesday.

"I have visited many attack sites in Syria, but have never seen such destruction," said Ole Solvang, emergencies researcher at the New York-based group, who has inspected the four areas.

"Just when you think things can't get any worse, the Syrian government finds ways to escalate its killing tactics."

Syrian Information Minister Omran al-Zoabi denied on Sunday that the government was using Scud missiles in the conflict, the Russia Today Arabic website reported.

As the now-militarized uprising against President Bashar al-Assad nears its two-year mark, the armed forces have used tanks, artillery and air strikes on residential areas as they battle insurgents for control of Syria's main cities.

The United Nations estimates 70,000 people have been killed in a conflict that has raised tensions across the Middle East.

A Human Rights Watch statement said there was no sign of fighters or rebel bases in areas hit by ballistic missiles, only civilians, meaning that the attacks were unlawful.

It said each strike had completely destroyed 15 to 20 houses and that the total death toll was probably higher than the 141 people it had been able to document.

"Using ballistic missiles against its own people is a new low, even for this government," Solvang said.

Three of the places hit were in an opposition-controlled eastern part of Aleppo, where rebel forces took half the city in July and August but are now stuck in a stalemate with the army. The fourth missile struck Tel Rifat, a town north of Aleppo.

The statement quoted a resident of the Ard al-Hamra neighborhood in Aleppo, which was struck on February 22.

"I was having evening tea ... with my brother as I used to every evening in his house. Just after I had left at 9:15 p.m. the sky was lit up by a tremendous flash and all air was sucked away. The explosion was deafening," the resident said.

"When I ran back, my brother's house was gone. We managed to find my five young nieces and nephews, aged between 3 and 17 years old. They were all dead under the rubble. We still have not found my brother," he said.

Human Rights Watch says the extent of damage from a single strike, the absence of aircraft from the area at the time and activists' reports of missiles being launched from a military base near Damascus overwhelmingly suggest that government forces had struck these areas with ballistic missiles.



However, it did not find missile remnants at the attack sites, and so was unable to identify the exact weapons used.

NATO said in December that Assad's forces had fired Scud-type missiles on several occasions. It did not specify where they landed but said their deployment was an act of desperation.

Opposition activists have counted more than 30 ballistic missile attacks since December. Several of the missiles landed harmlessly in fields.



## CENTCOM

### 17. [Attack, Syria] Car Bomb Kills Five Soldiers In Damascus

Tuesday, February 26 2013

[http://www.khaleejtimes.com/displayarticle.asp?xfile=data/middleeast/2013/February/middleeast\\_February343.xml&section=middleeast&col=](http://www.khaleejtimes.com/displayarticle.asp?xfile=data/middleeast/2013/February/middleeast_February343.xml&section=middleeast&col=)

A suicide car bomb blew up at an army checkpoint in northeastern Damascus on Monday night, leaving five soldiers killed, a watchdog said, as rebels pressed toward the centre of the capital.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights reported heavy fighting around the checkpoint, located on the edge of rebel-held Qaboon district, and between the adjacent district of Jobar and the iconic Abbasid Square.

A security source confirmed the attack against the checkpoint and said that there were casualties among the troops without giving a figure.

He told AFP on condition of anonymity that fierce clashes had also erupted in Jobar district, but had not reached as far as Abbasid Square, which holds symbolic importance for both sides as one of the main squares of the capital.

The Observatory, which collects its reports from a network of medics and activists on the ground, said that four children were killed in shelling in Qaboon as clashes raged there between loyalist troops and the insurgents.





## **CENTCOM**

### **18. [Attack, Iraq] Five Killed, 10 Injured By Car Bomb Blast In Diyala**

Tuesday, February 26 2013

<http://www.kuna.net.kw/ArticleDetails.aspx?id=2295333&Language=en>

Five people were killed and 10 others injured in a car bomb explosion in Diyala province, a source in Iraqi police said on Tuesday.

The source told KUNA that car bomb exploded near a public market in Khan Bani Saad district south of Diyala province to northeastern the Iraqi capital.

It noted the blast killed five individuals and injured 10 others, who were rushed to hospitals for treatment.



### CENTCOM

#### 19. [Attack, Syria] Terrorists Detonate Explosive Device Near Southern Wall Of Great Umayyad Mosque In Aleppo

Wednesday, February 27 2013

<http://www.abna.ir/data.asp?lang=3&id=395005>

Terrorists detonated an explosive device near the southern wall of the Great Umayyad Mosque in Aleppo city, causing significant damage to the wall and surrounding areas.

In October 2012, terrorists broke into the Mosque, rifling its contents, looting it, damaging its walls and burning some of its contents.



## CENTCOM

### 20. [Attack, Iraq] Eleven Killed In Iraqi Car Bomb Attack

Thursday, February 28 2013

<http://www.panarmenian.net/eng/news/148037/>

A bomb in a car parked near a crowded restaurant in a Shi'ite neighbourhood of the Iraqi capital Baghdad killed at least 11 people on Thursday, February 28 police sources said, according to Reuters.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack, but Sunni Muslim insurgents are redoubling their efforts to undermine the Shi'ite-led government and spark deeper intercommunal fighting.

A further 32 people were wounded in the blast, which occurred in Baghdad's southern Shula district.

Violence in Iraq is increasing as Sunni opposition swells against Shi'ite Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki, whose power-sharing government of Shi'ites, Sunnis and ethnic Kurds has been largely paralyzed since U.S. troops withdrew in December 2011.

Thousands of Sunni Muslim protesters have rallied daily since late December in western provinces against the perceived marginalization of their sect, a minority in Iraq, and have demanded that Maliki quit.

Iraqi Shi'ite leaders fear that the war in neighboring Syria - where Sunni rebels are fighting to oust President Bashar al-Assad, an ally of Shi'ite Iran - could further destabilize Iraq's delicate sectarian and ethnic balance.







## CENTCOM

### 21. [Attack, Iraq] Series Of Explosions In Iraq Kill 22

Thursday, February 28 2013

<http://www.chron.com/news/world/article/Iraq-car-bomb-strikes-Baghdad-eatery-killing-10-4315837.php>

A series of bombings struck Baghdad and towns south of the Iraqi capital on Thursday, killing at least 22 and wounding dozens in areas that are home to mostly Muslim Shiites — the latest evidence of rising sectarian discord in Iraq.

The attackers struck a day before tens of thousands of Sunni Muslims are expected to take to the streets in what have become weekly protests against the Shiite-led government of Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki. The rallies are exacerbating long-simmering tensions between Iraq's Sunnis and the Shiite majority nearly a decade after the U.S.-led invasion.

The deadliest attack occurred around sunset when a pair of bombs exploded nearly simultaneously in Shula in northwestern Baghdad. One was a car bomb that was detonated outside a fast food restaurant and the other blast occurred near a soccer field. The twin bombings killed 15 people and left at least 40 wounded, officials said.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility, but car bombings in Shiite areas are a favorite tactic of Sunni extremists such as al-Qaida's local affiliate. The group, known as the Islamic State of Iraq, considers Shiites to be heretics and accuses them of being too closely aligned with neighboring Shiite powerhouse Iran.

Earlier in the day, a car bomb tore through the crowded livestock market in the town of Aziziyah, 55 kilometers (35 miles) southeast of Baghdad. That attack killed three people and wounded eight.

A few hours later, a roadside bomb missed a passing police patrol in western Baghdad but killed a bystander and wounded eight people.

In the evening, explosives hidden beneath produce in the back of a pickup truck exploded in the town of Mahmoudiya, about 30 kilometers (20 miles) south of Baghdad. That blast killed three policemen and wounded six.

Police and hospital officials provided details of the attacks and the casualty figures. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the media.

Violence in Iraq has fallen since the height of sectarian fighting in 2006 and 2007, but deadly attacks still happen frequently.

The latest attacks appear designed to undermine confidence in the Shiite-led government. For the past two months, Sunni Muslims have been protesting what they describe as unfair treatment by the country's Shiite-led government. The protests have been largely peaceful.

Ammar Qassim, a resident of the Shula neighborhood where the two bombings occurred, blamed the attacks on political squabbling.

"This tragic security breach took place because the politicians and the leaders of this country are busy with their political conflicts. They should be brave enough to bear the responsibility for the victims falling daily in this coun-



try," he said.

Meanwhile, Iraqi authorities released a new batch of inmates from a Baghdad prison in a move aiming at calming the Sunni protesters. Deputy Prime Minister Hussain al-Sharistani announced the release of 160 prisoners, including 13 women, during a ceremony at the prison on Thursday.

He said 4,000 prisoners have been released since a government committee was set up earlier this year to consider protesters' demands. The Sunni protests were sparked by the arrest of bodyguards assigned to Finance Minister Rafia al-Issawi, a senior Sunni politician, in December.

Thursday's bombings marked the fourth time this month that insurgent attacks have claimed more than 20 lives in a single day. More than 160 people have been killed in violent attacks in Iraq since the start of February, according to an Associated Press count.





### CENTCOM

#### 22. [Security, Egypt] Egypt Confiscates Missiles Smuggled From Libya

Friday, March 1 2013

[http://m.apnews.com/ap/db\\_15716/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=PDgV7Hxe](http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_15716/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=PDgV7Hxe)

An Egyptian security official says authorities have confiscated two pick-up trucks carrying 60 anti-tank missiles smuggled across the border from Libya.

The official says two truck drivers were arrested and the weapons seized just south of Cairo on Wednesday morning.

The two were heading from Marsa Matrouh, 430 kilometers (270 miles) northwest of the capital on the Mediterranean Coast, to the largely lawless Sinai Peninsula where weapons are regularly smuggled to Palestinian militant groups in the Gaza Strip through underground tunnels.

The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the press.

Lawlessness has been rife in Sinai since the ouster of longtime ruler Hosni Mubarak in February 2011. Weapons have flowed from Libya into the peninsula, where Islamist militants have grown in strength.





## CENTCOM

### 23. [Attack, Syria] Fifteen Syrians Killed, 24 Injured In Homs Car Bomb Attack

Friday, March 1 2013

<http://www.presstv.ir/detail/2012/12/02/275769/15-syrians-killed-in-homs-bombing/>

At least 15 Syrian civilians have been killed and 24 others injured in a car bomb attack in the western city of Homs, Press TV reports.

Many residential buildings were also damaged by the explosion which occurred near a mosque in Hamra district of the restive city on Sunday.

Some of the injured are reported to be in critical conditions.

Meanwhile, Syrian forces have clashed with militants in al-Raqqa Province, inflicting heavy losses on them.

The Syrian army also killed tens of terrorists and seized large amounts of weapons in Skaa town in Damascus' outskirts. Several explosive devices were also defused in the capital suburb of Daraya.

Syria has been experiencing unrest since March 2011. Many people, including large numbers of army and security personnel, have been killed in the turmoil.

The Syrian government says the chaos is being orchestrated from outside the country, and there are reports that a very large number of the militants operating in the country are foreign nationals.

Last week, Syrian newspaper Al Watan published the names of 142 foreign militants from 18 countries, who were killed while fighting against the government. Almost 50 of those named were Saudi nationals.

According to the paper, they were mostly extremists belonging to al-Qaeda or those who joined the terrorist organization after arriving in Syria. The terrorists had entered the country via Turkey and Lebanon.





## CENTCOM

### 24. [Attack, Iraq] At Least Eight Killed In Iraq Bombings

Friday, March 1 2013

<http://english.al-akhbar.com/content/least-eight-killed-iraq-bombings>

Bombings in Iraq, including two car bombs at a sheep market, killed at least eight people and wounded dozens more on Friday, security and medical officials said.

Brigadier General Abdul Jalil al-Assadi, the police chief of Diwaniyah province, said the car bombs went off at about 7:30am in the market, south of the province's capital of the same name.

Adnan Turki, director of the Diwaniyah health department, put the toll from the blasts at six dead and 60 wounded, revising an earlier count.

Two roadside bombs exploded in a village near Dujail, north of Baghdad, killing one person and wounding five, including three police, a police lieutenant colonel and a doctor said.

One soldier was killed by a magnetic "sticky bomb" on his car near the north Iraq city of Mosul, an army first lieutenant and a doctor said.

And two car bombs – one near a school and another near a police checkpoint – detonated in Mussayib, south of Baghdad, wounding two people, police and a medic said.

The blasts came a day after at least 26 people were killed and more than 60 wounded in a series of bomb attacks in the Baghdad area and shootings in northern Iraq.

Violence in Iraq is down significantly from its 2006-2007 peak, but deadly attacks still occur almost every day.







## EUCOM

### 25. [Trend, England] Explosive Charges Stolen In Nottinghamshire

Saturday, February 23 2013

<http://www.itv.com/news/central/update/2013-02-23/explosive-charges-stolen-in-nottinghamshire/>

Police are asking members of the public to be alert in Nottinghamshire, after a satchel containing small explosive charges was stolen from a car in Sutton-in-Ashfield this morning.

It is not thought that the thieves were aware that the charges, which are used in the railway industry, were in the bag when they broke into the grey Vauxhall Astra in Bramley Court, sometime between 12:30am and 1:30am.

The thieves also stole a sat-nav system and car's stereo.

The explosives are small yellow discs kept in a red plastic canister with the word 'Explosives' printed on it. If detonated, they could cause a serious injury to anyone who is handling them at the time.

The satchel is blue and the word 'LOOKOUT' printed in white lettering.

If anyone has seen or finds either the charges, the canister, or the satchel, they are advised not to touch them, but to telephone Nottinghamshire Police on 101 immediately.







## EUCOM

### 26. [Attack, Northern Ireland] Family Targeted In North Belfast Blast Bomb Attack

Monday, February 25 2013

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-21571277>

A woman was injured and two family dogs were hurt in a blast bomb attack at a house in north Belfast.

The 44-year-old woman went to answer the door at her home in Thorburn Road, Whitewell, at about 21:45 GMT on Sunday evening when the device exploded.

She suffered cuts to her leg. One of the family's dogs lost a paw in the attack.

The woman's husband and a teenage daughter were inside the house. They were unhurt but deeply shocked.

Speaking on BBC Radio Ulster's The Nolan Show, the brother of the injured woman said someone could have died in the attack.

"Apparently they rapped the door and set it (the blast bomb) down. My sister said: 'Who's there?' and it went off.

"The dog got it and his leg blew off, he is down in the vet's. My wee niece had just gone to bed.

"Anybody could have been seriously hurt last night. My sister is still in shock. She is white as a ghost and she is shaking," he said.

"People said it was probably the LVF (Loyalist Volunteer Force) or something, but there is no call. It could have been death at your own home for I don't know why. We have a big family the whole of it is in shock.

"I hate the thoughts of what could have been. I have no idea what this was about."

Councillor Guy Spence, DUP, said the attack was "serious and sinister".

"There was significant damage done in and around the doorway from the blast when the device was thrown.

"The family is in deep shock. It was just fortunate no-one was badly injured," he said.

"This could have resulted in potentially a loss of life."

Police have appealed for information. They want to know about a dark coloured car which was seen driving away from the attack towards the Serpentine Road.





## **EUCOM**

### **27. [Attack, Israel] Al-Aqsa Brigades Fire Rockets Into Israel As Tensions Rise**

Tuesday, February 26 2013

<http://english.alarabiya.net/articles/2013/02/26/268375.html>

A rocket exploded in southern Israel on Tuesday in the first such attack by militants in the Hamas Islamist ruled Gaza Strip since a truce ended a week of cross-border fighting in November, Israeli police said.

The rocket caused some damage to a road near the city of Ashkelon but no injuries, police spokesman Micky Rosenfeld said.

“An explosion was heard in the Ashkelon region experts searched areas experts and found one rocket that struck, damaging a road but causing no injuries,” Rosenfeld said.

Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, a militant group in Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas’s West Bank-based Fatah movement, claimed responsibility for the rocket strike, the Palestinian Ma’an news agency said. No casualties were reported.

The strike came after the death on Saturday of a Palestinian detainee in Israeli custody which triggered protests in the occupied West Bank.

In the latest violence there, Israeli troops shot and wounded five Palestinians during confrontations with protesters in the Bethlehem area on Monday and a 15-year-old boy was in critical condition.

The disputed death of Arafat Jaradat, buried in a funeral in the Hebron area attended by thousands on Monday, and a hunger strike by four other Palestinian inmates, has stoked tensions ahead of a planned visit next month by U.S. President Barack Obama.



## EUCOM

### 28. [Law Enforcement, Turkey] Al-Qaeda Members Detained In Istanbul, Planned To Attack Synagogues And Churches

Thursday, February 28 2013

<http://english.alarabiya.net/articles/2013/02/28/268829.html?PHPSESSID=725or1rs197kt46vm47397ijf0>

Eleven al-Qaeda members have been detained in Istanbul following a raid by Turkey's special forces, reported Sabah newspaper on Thursday.

The terrorists reportedly planned to launch attacks on the U.S. embassy in Turkey in addition to a number of synagogues and churches in the country.

Some 22 kilograms of explosives, five guns and five handguns were seized from the detained terrorists.

A full investigation is yet to be launched.

February saw an attack take place against the U.S. embassy in Ankara. The explosion, which took place on Feb. 1, killed an embassy security guard and left one visitor injured.

The leader of the subversive operation, a member of the Marxist terrorist group Turkish People's Liberation Party-Front, Ecevit Shanli was also killed.







### EUCOM

#### 29. [Attack, Northern Ireland] Pipe Bomb Blast In East Belfast

Thursday, February 28 2013

[http://www.4ni.co.uk/northern\\_ireland\\_news.asp?id=159204](http://www.4ni.co.uk/northern_ireland_news.asp?id=159204)

A pipe bomb has exploded in east Belfast.

The explosion went off at an empty house in Kenilworth Place, off the Newtownards Road, at around 8.30pm last night.

Community worker Jim Wilson told the BBC: "It's just another fact of living in an interface that these things happen.

"But they were pretty angry that an individual house had been selected, for whatever reason, for someone to plant a device like that, because my young grandson lives three or four doors down and there's young children play in this area on a regular basis.

"If that had exploded if any of them children were about... God knows what would have happened."

Ulster Unionist MLA Michael Copeland said: "This is unnerving, particularly for children. It does spook people. It adds to the general feeling that things are not all the way they should be."



### EUCOM

#### 30. [Security, Ireland] Bomb Found At TD's Office

Thursday, February 28 2013

<http://www.herald.ie/news/in-brief-bomb-found-at-tds-office-29100981.html>

A man has been arrested after two suspected pipe bombs were found above a Fine Gael TD's office. Several homes and a pub were evacuated in Newcastle West, Co Limerick last night after the pipe bombs were found shortly after 10pm.

They were located in rented accommodation above the constituency offices of Patrick O'Donovan.

Mr O'Donovan, who became a TD for the first time following the 2011 election, was in the Dail last night.

Residents in at least seven homes had to seek accommodation elsewhere, while Cartlidge's pub was forced to close early.

The Defence Force's bomb disposal team was alerted and arrived at the west Limerick town in the early hours of this morning. The devices were declared non-viable.



### EUCOM

#### 31. [Trend, Austria] Aircraft Bomb Defused In Vienna-Donaustadt

Thursday, February 28 2013

[http://www.austriantimes.at/news/General\\_News/2013-02-28/47187/Aircraft\\_bomb\\_defused\\_in\\_Vienna-Donaustadt](http://www.austriantimes.at/news/General_News/2013-02-28/47187/Aircraft_bomb_defused_in_Vienna-Donaustadt)

The diameter of the bomb was about 20 centimetres wide. The bomb was found during construction works in Podhagskygasse in an open field in the 22nd district of Vienna.

The police evacuated several detached houses in the area and called the de-mining service. As a precaution, they also called the disaster protection unit of the ambulance.

Wiener Linien busses were provided for the residents. There were barriers and obstructions in the area of Podhagskygasse-Hausfeldstraße-Am Haidjöchel and Pfalzgasse. The police also set up diversions.





### EUCOM

#### 32. [Attack, Israel] Two Killed By Car Bomb Explosion In Rishon Lezion

Thursday, February 28 2013

<http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/165725#.US-d9Ybup8E>

Two people were killed Thursday morning when a car bomb exploded in Rishon Lezion. The incident occurred in the center of the town next to the city's court building. There was no immediate information on their identity. The two were in the vehicle when it exploded, police said. The incident occurred at about 10:30 AM Thursday.

Police are at the scene, as are rescue officials. Several others are injured, and are being treated at the scene. Police have cleared the area, on the possibility that other explosives may be present.

Police were unable to immediately identify the victims, and were unclear about the motive, although they said the incident was criminal in nature.

Speaking to Israel Radio, a police official said that the incident occurred in the parking lot of an apartment building near the courthouse. "There is no connection between this incident and the courthouse," the official said.



### PACOM

#### 33. [Attack, Thailand] Bomb Thrown On A Buddhist Gathering In Thailand

Monday, February 25 2013

[http://www.agi.it/english-version/world/elenco-notizie/201302250811-pol-ren1004-bomb\\_thrown\\_on\\_a\\_buddhist\\_gathering\\_in\\_thailand](http://www.agi.it/english-version/world/elenco-notizie/201302250811-pol-ren1004-bomb_thrown_on_a_buddhist_gathering_in_thailand)

At least four people were killed and fifty injured in an explosion in Nadoon, in north-east Thailand. A man carrying a homemade bomb was spotted and stopped by security forces but when they surrounded him to search him, he threw his bomb at a crowd of people attending a concert celebrating the Buddhist festival of Makha Bhucha, held on a full moon to honour the teachings of the Buddha. Two policemen and two participants were killed while the bomber got away.



### PACOM

#### 34. [Security, India] Explosive Found In Unattended Bag Outside Army Hospital In Delhi, Defused By Bomb Squad

Monday, February 25 2013

<http://in.news.yahoo.com/explosive-found-unattended-bag-outside-army-hospital-delhi-123652509.html>

An unattended and explosive-filled bag created havoc outside the Army's Base Hospital in cantonment area here on Monday afternoon.

However, a bomb disposal squad reached on time and defused the explosive device.

Meanwhile, according to some TV reports, another suspicious bag has been found in a market in the Greater Kailash area of the national capital.

Delhi has been on high alert since last week's terror attack in Hyderabad in which 16 people were killed and more than 100 injured after two bombs exploded near-simultaneously in a crowded market.

Heavy security has been deployed near the hospital area and all the crowded markets.





## PACOM

### 35. [Security, Nepal] Bomb Creates Panic In Butwal, Biratnagar, Banke

Tuesday, February 26 2013

[http://www.myrepublica.com/portal/index.php?action=news\\_details&news\\_id=50599](http://www.myrepublica.com/portal/index.php?action=news_details&news_id=50599)

A bomb planted at local Pushpalal Park created panic among the general public in Butwal town area Tuesday morning.

The bomb was reportedly planted by the CPN Maoist (Revolutionary). It was kept in a bag at the Pushpalal Park, Ward No. 8 of Butawal Municipality. Roadside shopkeepers had detected the bag with the bomb at 7 in the morning and informed the police about it.

Police cordoned off the area and called in a bomb disposal squad of the Nepalese Army Bhawani Baks Battalion which defused the device at about 10 a.m.

Police suspect that the group might have planted the bomb to show its presence and activities. Further investigation is underway in this connection, said the police.

[if gte mso 9]>

Earlier on, a squad from the Nepal Army (NA) has defused a cooker bomb planted at Biratnagar this morning.

A bomb disposal squad from NA, Eastern Division, Itahari detonated a stray bomb planted at Pachali Mode along the Biratnagar-Jogbani road section at around 6.30 am, said the Morang District Police Office.

Also found in the site was a three-page statement circulated by the CPN-maoist (Revolutionary), said police.

Investigation into the incident is on, police said.

In yet another incident, a pressure cooker bomb has been detected in Bankatuwa VDC-7, Rangeela Chowk of Banke district at 5.00 this morning.

A pamphlet undersigned by CPN-Maoist (Revolutionary) Chairperson Janapad was found nearby the site, said the Area Police Office, Kohalpur.

A squad from NA has reached the site to defuse the bomb.





### PACOM

#### 36. [Security, India] Bomb Found Near Guwahati Refinery

Tuesday, February 26 2013

[http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2013-02-26/guwahati/37308764\\_1\\_guwahati-refinery-noonmati-police-station-bomb](http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2013-02-26/guwahati/37308764_1_guwahati-refinery-noonmati-police-station-bomb)

The Guwahati refinery Tuesday escaped a disaster after a bomb was detected near its outer boundary wall. Assam's Inspector General of Police S.N. Singh said investigation was on to find out who could have planted the bomb in the high-security area.

"The bomb is hand-made and not very powerful," he said.

The refinery is located about 100 meters from the Noonmati police station. The bomb was spotted by some locals who alerted the police.

Meanwhile, two people including a policeman were injured after a youth lobbed a grenade at Jorhat town in Upper Assam Tuesday.

While escaping on his cycle, the attacker dropped some ammunition and two more grenades.

Singh linked the youth to the anti-talk faction of the United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA).



### PACOM

#### 37. [Attack, India] Bomb Hurlled At EVMS Store House

Tuesday, February 26 2013

<http://news.outlookindia.com/items.aspx?artid=790967>

Unknown miscreants hurlled a crude bomb outside the office of the Deputy Commissioner cum Returning Officer of Phek district, where sealed EVMs were stored in a strong room for counting of polls on Thursday.

Phek Superintendent of Police Deepali R Masirkar told PTI that the crude bomb was hurlled from the main road towards the DC's office at Phek but the blast did not cause any damage.

She said the strong-room where the EVMs from five constituencies were stored was safe as the bomb was hurlled on the opposite end.

No arrest has been made while a manhunt was launched to arrest the miscreants, Masirkar said.

Election for the Nagaland Assembly was held on February 23 and counting will be done on February 28.





### PACOM

#### 38. [Attack, India] Army Trooper Killed In PLA-Triggered IED Blast In Manipur

Wednesday, February 27 2013

[http://www.satp.org/satporgtp/detailed\\_news.asp?date1=2/27/2013&id=4#4](http://www.satp.org/satporgtp/detailed_news.asp?date1=2/27/2013&id=4#4)

Kanglaonline reports that a powerful Improvised Explosive Device (IED) explosion at Churachandpur District in the morning of February 26 killed one Army trooper and a mine detector dog of the Army and left three persons injured. The IED was planted on the roadside at a place located between Khiang zang and Tollen village.

Meanwhile, the Revolutionary People's Front (RPF), the political wing of People's Revolutionary Army (PLA), in a press statement claimed the bomb attack saying that it was carried out by the "Special Warfare Team" of PLA. The statement signed by the 'Chief of department of publicity', RPF, Bangkim further claimed responsibility for an attack at the 24 Assam Rifles camp near Soibol Khul in Chandel District on February 21 at around 10pm and said that it was carried out by "Tactical Command" of PLA.

Also, another IED blast occurred in the night of February 25 at around 6:30 pm few meters away from Border Road Task Force (BRTF) headquarter gate. However, no one was injured in the explosion.

Another IED weighing 1.50 kilogram was found in the morning of February 26 at around 6:45 am near the gate of 25 BRTF headquarter which is closely located to Lamphel Police station.

Separately, a press statement of the Imphal East Superintendent of Police said that a team of the Imphal East District Police commando arrested arms smuggler, identified as Kshetrimayum Umakanta Singh, on February 24 and seized a cache of arms and ammunition from his possession. The weapons include one country-made single barrel rifle, two country-made pistols, one country-made air pistol, one white colour plastic bottle containing thirty three live ammunitions of the country made pistols, one white colour plastic bottle containing self-made gun powder reportedly made from the match sticks and four numbers of semi completed ammunitions along with already fired parts of ammunitions. On further verification, he stated that he has so far made two numbers of country-made pistols with ammunition and one single barrel country-made gun.



### PACOM

#### 39. [Attack, Nepal] Bomb Explodes In Kavre, One Injured

Wednesday, February 27 2013

<http://www.thehimalayantimes.com/fullNews.php?headline=Bomb+explodes+in+Kavre%26sbquo%3B+one+injured&NewsID=367569>

A person has been injured after a bomb exploded at Bhimkhori VDC-5, Mampi Bazaar, in Kavre district on Wednesday afternoon.

Injured Muluk Singh Lama (45), who is a carpenter by profession, hails from Mechepauwa-8.

A local farmer Nir Bahadur Rayamajhi and his wife brought the bomb home from their farm, assuming it to be a potato. Later, they summoned Lama to get further details and while handling the explosive it went off.

However the Rayamajhi couple are safe. Injured Lama has been referred to the Dhulikhel Hospital for treatment.

The venue is at a distance from Kavre Bazaar.

The explosive is believed to be a 'Rocket Bomb'.

Meanwhile, further investigating into the case is underway.



### PACOM

#### 40. [Attack, Sri Lanka] Man Injured, House Damaged In Bomb Attack

Wednesday, February 27 2013

<http://www.dailynews.lk/2013/02/27/sec03.asp>

A man was injured and the roof of a house damaged, after two bombs were thrown at a house in Rekawa, Oruwella in the Tangalle Police area on February 22 night. A P Jayalath of Oruwella, Rekawa who was injured was admitted to the Tangalle Base Hospital.

Tangalle Police said two unidentified men had thrown the bomb and fled in a three wheeler. The Police said the bombs were not locally made.

Investigations are continuing.





### PACOM

#### 41. [Security, India] Petrol Bomb Found On Bus

Wednesday, February 27 2013

<http://www.deccanherald.com/content/315450/petrol-bomb-found-bus.html>

A petrol bomb was found under the seat of a KSRTC bus parked at the bus stand in the town on Wednesday.

The bus had halted in the bus stand at 4 pm on its way from Harihar to Madikeri. It is suspected that someone who got into the vehicle when it was parked or when it was on its way to the town may have placed the bomb and lit the wick.

Santosh, who was on his way to Igrur village in the bus, smelt agarbathi fragrance in the bus. Soon, he informed the conductor.

The police rushed to the spot and seized two beer bottles filled with petrol and the cardboard box containing them. There were around 15 persons in the vehicle at the time of the incident. Superintendent of Police (SP) Anuchet and DySP Paul S Varma visited the spot in the evening.



### PACOM

#### 42. [Law Enforcement, India] Man Arrested Over Planting Of Bomb Like Object In Puducherry

Wednesday, February 27 2013

[http://zeenews.india.com/news/uts/man-arrested-over-planting-of-bomb-like-object-in-puducherry\\_832031.html](http://zeenews.india.com/news/uts/man-arrested-over-planting-of-bomb-like-object-in-puducherry_832031.html)

A man was arrested by CID wing of police from Tiruchirapalli in Tamil Nadu today in connection with planting a bomb like object in an unreserved compartment of Dadar-Puducherry Chalukya Express train here on January 8.

CID Superintendent of Police Ravindran said a team rushed to Tiruchirapalli on information that Shankar, arrested in a cheating case in that city, had admitted during questioning to having planted the object in the compartment.

The man was later brought here and remanded to five days custody.

A bomb disposal squad had retrieved the ball like object that day and after an examination, confirmed that there was no explosive barring some iron pieces with some adhesive like substance in a small container made of tin sheet. The object, was connected to a mobile phone. A hand written slogan was also found inside the suitcase which read 'Mayan Calendar.'

The suitcase was found by a station employee while cleaning the compartment.

The materials have been sent for analysis to the Forensic Research Lab at Hyderabad and its report is awaited.



## PACOM

### 43. [Attack, Thailand] Bomb In Thai South Wounds Six Day After Landmark Deal

Friday, March 1 2013

<http://uk.news.yahoo.com/bomb-thai-south-wounds-six-day-landmark-deal-090537268.html>

A motorcycle bomb wounded six people in southern Thailand on Friday, a day after a landmark agreement between the government and a Muslim rebel group to start talks aimed at ending a conflict that has claimed more than 5,000 lives since 2004.

No group claimed responsibility for the device, which exploded outside a market in Narathiwat province. It was followed by a car bomb explosion in front of a police station in Narathiwat but no one was injured in that attack.

On Thursday, in a deal brought about with the help of Malaysia, Thailand agreed to pursue a peace talks with the Barisan Revolusi Nasional (BRN), one of the Muslim groups fighting for autonomy in the south.

Initial talks between Thailand and the BRN will start in two weeks, Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak said after a meeting with his Thai counterpart, Yingluck Shinawatra. There was no word on whether the agreement would be followed by a ceasefire.

Various shadowy rebel groups are active in the south and analysts had said it was far from clear that all would accept the idea of peace talks.

Resistance to Buddhist rule from Bangkok has existed for decades in the predominantly Muslim provinces of Pattani, Yala and Narathiwat, which were part of a Malay sultanate before being annexed by Thailand in 1909.

The conflict waned in the 1990s before resurfacing violently in 2004. Since then, 5,300 people have been killed according to Deep South Watch, which monitors the violence.





## PACOM

### 44. [Attack, Thailand] Car Bomb Attack In Narathiwat

Friday, March 1 2013

<http://www.bangkokpost.com/news/local/338323/>

A large retail store, nearby shophouses and motorcycles were damaged by a car bomb explosion in Narathiwat's Muang district around noon Friday, reports said.

A 20kg explosive device hidden inside a pickup truck parked on front of Jip Heng shop, a giant retail business operator in Narathiwat, opposite Muang Narathiwat police station, exploded about 12.06pm.

No one was injured or killed in the explosion, according to the reports.

It was the second bomb attack in this southernmost province on Friday.

This morning one soldier and five civilians were injured, with one civilian seriously wounded, when a motorcycle bomb exploded at a fresh market on Phuphaphakdee road of Muang Narathiwat municipality.

Police blamed the bombings on an insurgent group active in the province.

Friday's bombings came the day after National Security Council (NSC) secretary general Lt Gen Paradorn Pattanathabutr signed a peace talks agreement with Hassan Taib, identified as the "chief of the Barisan Revolusi Nasional (BRN) liaison office in Malaysia".

The agreement was signed on Thursday in Kuala Lumpur.

The BRN is said to be only one of several insurgent groups active in the far South.

According to Deep South Watch, which monitors the southern violence, more than 5,000 people have been killed and over 9,000 injured in more than 11,000 incidents, or about 3.5 a day, in the three southernmost provinces and the four districts of Songkhla since the violence erupted afresh in January 2004.



### NORTHCOM

#### 45. [Law Enforcement, United States] Durham Police Find Bomb-Making Materials In Home Of Man Charged With Shooting Trooper

Wednesday, February 27 2013

<http://www.newsobserver.com/2013/02/27/2712396/durham-police-say-they-found-bomb.html#storylink=rss>

Police found what appeared to be bomb-making materials and instructions on how to make bombs when they searched the Durham apartment of a Vermont man who has been charged with shooting a state trooper in the face during a traffic stop.

Investigators also found a large map of Durham on the man's bedroom wall "with locations of police, fire and emergency medical services locations clearly marked," police detective A.K. Richards stated in a search warrant application made public Wednesday.

Mikel Edward Brady II, 23, remains in the Durham County Detention Center under \$10.5 million bail after police charged him with shooting trooper Michael L. Potts on Feb. 18 after the officer pulled the black Nissan Altima he was driving on U.S. 70.

Brady's girlfriend, Lyndsey Smith, 21, was charged as being an accessory after the fact of felony. Investigators accused Smith of giving Brady a ride after he dumped the Altima behind an east Durham restaurant.

The couple lived together at a first-floor apartment in the 1200 block of White Pine Drive near Hillsborough Road in West Durham, police reported.

Police searched Brady and Smith's apartment twice after Brady's arrest, according to the warrants made public Wednesday. During their initial search on Feb. 19, investigators found a digital camera with "clear pictures marked how to make bombs."

Richards, the detective, stated that investigators took pictures of other items in the apartment during the search and became concerned that Brady may have been attempting to manufacture or assemble a weapon of mass destruction. Detectives showed the photos of the items to members of an FBI task force, who said the items "were commonly used to make bombs," Richards stated in the court affidavit.

The investigators returned to the apartment on Feb. 22 and seized PVC pipe, salt, a toolbox, nails, a scale, a small black metal tube, metal parts with holes drilled in the corner and "reactive targets," according to the search warrant application.

Police have not yet identified the "reactive targets" recovered from the apartment, nor have they indicated whether the seized metal tube and PVC pipe appeared to be for the making of pipe bombs.

The Feb. 18 shooting occurred just after 6 p.m. along the westbound lanes of U.S. 70 near Cheek Road on the east side of Durham.

Witnesses told police that Potts had stopped the Nissan in the westbound lanes of U.S. 70. One witness said Potts approached the window of the stopped vehicle, took a glance at traffic and turned back to the window when shots were fired. The trooper crumpled to the ground but managed to get back to his patrol car to radio for help. The



Altima sped away.

Investigators found the Altima, with a temporary 30-day tag, in the rear parking lot of a restaurant at North Roxboro and St. Paul streets. Durham police think Smith picked Brady up at the restaurant.

Police arrested Brady the following morning at an apartment complex in Raleigh.

Investigators say Potts, 42, was hit in the face, right shoulder and both hands. He was released from the hospital last week and is expected to make a full recovery, the State Highway Patrol reported.

Brady had lived in Randolph, Vt., where authorities charged him with felony escape from the state's prison furlough program last fall. He had been convicted of assault, robbery and three counts of felony burglary in Vermont in December 2010. By March of last year, he had served the minimum period of a sentence of 28 months to 10 years, and he was released from prison on June 25.

Parole officials lost track of him in October after he was charged with shooting deer out of season and with possession of a firearm by a convicted felon.

Brady was also serving a federal sentence for theft of explosives and was on two years' probation with federal authorities at the same time he was serving his state sentence. The federal case involved dynamite stolen from a quarry. Brady attempted to trade the explosives for drugs, authorities reported.







### NORTHCOM

#### 46. [Security, United States] Richland Bomb Squad Detonates Pipe Bomb In Kennewick

Wednesday, February 27 2013

<http://www.tri-cityherald.com/2013/02/27/2291538/richland-bomb-squad-detonates.html>

The Richland Bomb Squad detonated a homemade pipe bomb Tuesday night in the 800 block of South Juniper Street in Kennewick, police said.

Kennewick police responded to the scene about 10 p.m. to investigate a report from a citizen, who informed officers that a family member recently died and brought several of his personal belongings to his home to go through.

While going through the items, they found some miscellaneous narcotics equipment along with a homemade pipe bomb, police said.

The bomb squad used a robot to retrieve the device and detonate it in a vacant field, due to the danger of moving the explosive through the city, police said.

Kennewick police urge citizens to contact law enforcement immediately if they find a suspected explosive and not to handle the object.



### SOUTHCOM

#### 47. [Attack, Colombia] Rebels Attack Colombia's Largest Coal Mine; Four Trucks Destroyed

Sunday, February 24 2013

<http://colombiareports.com/colombia-news/news/28282-rebels-attack-colombias-largest-coal-mine-4-trucks-destroyed.html>

Colombia's largest coal miner, Cerrejon, said Sunday that rebels have broken into the mine's premises in the north of the country and burned down several of the companies' trucks.

"In the dawn of Sunday February 24th, 2013, the company was victim of a terrorist attack with explosives carried out by unknown persons against the equipment located in the South Mine sector, Oreganal pit. As a result of such terrorist action no human losses were caused, but 4 trucks that were parked as a consequence of the strike that has affected the company for 17 days were seriously damaged," the company said in an online press release.

The coal giant "strongly rejects this terrorist action against the company, which causes considerable economic and moral damage to the company," it said.

Cerrejon, the owner of Colombia's largest open pit mine, has frequently been victim to attacks by rebel groups like the FARC and ELN, that increasingly have changed their military strategy to violently disrupt the country's oil and mining industry.



## SOUTHCOM

### 48. [Attack, Colombia] South Colombia FARC Attack Kills One Civilian, One Policeman

Tuesday, February 26 2013

<http://colombiareports.com/colombia-news/news/28305-south-colombia-farc-attack-kills-1-civilian-1-policeman.html>

An attack on Monday attributed to Colombia's largest rebel group, FARC, left one policeman and one civilian dead and at least 13 more wounded in the southwestern Putumayo department.

FARC guerrillas allegedly threw six bars of explosives into a restaurant in the town of San Miguel, where the majority of the city's police force was having lunch. El Tiempo reported that the blast left one policeman and one civilian dead. Thirteen to 14 more people were injured according to local media reports.

The perpetrators were said to have fled the scene on a motorcycle.

"Once again the FARC, through the 48th Front, throws [explosives] at a patrol of three policemen who were in the restaurant, without caring about the [civilians] who were there," said a local police commander according to radio station Caracol.

Authorities offered a reward of up to \$230,000 for information leading to the capture of the suspects.

This is the third suspected FARC attack on police in the southwestern Putumayo department this month. On February 16, alleged FARC rebels destroyed a police station in the town of Puerto Asis. No one was killed in this attack.

According to Red Cross representative Peter Maurer who visited the region in early February, the Putumayo department is living through a "grave humanitarian crisis" due to the ongoing armed conflict.

