

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.



Five Injured As Bomb Explosion Hits Gov't Bus In E. Afghanistan

Afghan Police officers inspect the scene after a bomb explosion in Jalalabad, Afghanistan. At least five civilians were injured as a bomb targeting a government employees' bus went off.

Read more on Page 15





1. [Attack, Pakistan] Several Killed In Pakistan Airbase Raid	4
2. [Trend, Pakistan] Kamra Attack: TTP Claims Responsibility	6
3. [Attack, Pakistan] Two IED Explosions In Kurram, Orakzai	7
4. [Attack, Pakistan] Miscreants Blow Up School In Mardan	8
5. [Attack, Afghanistan] Grenades At East Afghan Mosque Wound Nine	9
6. [Attack, Afghanistan] Scores Killed In Afghan Suicide Attack	11
7. [Law Enforcement, Afghanistan] Weapon Suppliers Held In Afghanistan	13
8. [Attack, Pakistan] Bomb Defused In Karachi's Hyderi Market	14
9. [Attack, Afghanistan] Five Injured As Bomb Explosion Hits Gov't Bus In E. Afghanistan	15
10. [Attack, Pakistan] Quetta Blast Injures 12	16
11. [Attack, Pakistan] Three Shops Damaged In Orakzai Blast	17
12. [Attack, Afghanistan] IED Detonation Injures A Child In Sayagez	18
13. [Attack, Nigeria] Explosion Rocks Ogoniland	19
14. [Security, Nigeria] Police Defuse Improvised Explosive Device In Rivers Banana Farm	20
15. [Attack, Nigeria] Three Killed In Northern Nigeria Bomb Explosion	21
16. [Attack, Nigeria] Two Die In Fresh Kaduna Explosion	22
17. [Law Enforcement, Nigeria] Police Detonate 963 IEDs In Kano	23
18. [Trend, Somalia] Al Qaeda In Somalia 'Promised Kidnapped Kids Paradise To Become Suicide Bombers'	24
19. [Attack, Somalia] Landmine Explosion Kills Two Government Soldiers In Mogadishu	25
20. [Attack, Iraq] Multiple Attacks Leave Dozens Dead	26
21. [Attack, Iraq] Deaths In Series Of Bombings Across Iraq	28
22. [Attack, Syria] Syrian Rocket Attack Kills At Least 25 People At Bakery	29
23. [Trend, Yemen] Sanaa Woman Thwarts Bombing	30



24. [Attack, Syria] Aazaz Bombed, Fate Of Lebanese Hostages Unknown	31
25. [Attack, Egypt] Security Forces Raid Weapon Caches In Sinai, Killing Five	34
26. [Attack, Syria] Blasts In Aleppo, Damascus As US Pushes For Regime Fall	35
27. [Security, Ireland] IED Made Safe In Dublin	38
28. [Law Enforcement, Germany] Germany Arrests Four For Exporting Nuclear Reactor Equip-	39
29. [Security, Ireland] Bomb Disposal Team Make Limerick IED Safe	40
30. [Security, India] Cops Find IED Hidden Under Naxal Banner	41
31. [Security, India] Experts Confirm Indian Mujahideen Hallmark In Pune Blasts	42
32. [Attack, Philippines] Six Injured In An Explosion That Blew Up A Bus In Zamboanga City	44
33. [Law Enforcement, Singapore] Seven Arrested For Setting Off Improvised Explosives	45
34. [Attack, India] Four Small Bomb Blasts In India	46
35. [Attack, Philippines] Blast Rocks Isabela City	47
36. [Security, India] Powerful IED Recovered In Assam	48
37. [Security, Philippines] IED Recovered In Kabacan	49
38. [Security, India] IED Recovered In Assam	50
39. [Security, India] Seven ULFA Cadre Arrested, Powerful Improvised Explosive Devices Recov-	51
40. [Security, United States] Explosive Device Found In Lake	52
41. [Trend, United States] Robot Hand Could Disable IEDs	53
42. [Trend, United States] Dead Man, Explosive Materials Found In Bucks Co. Home	54
43. [Trend, United States] New Military Robot "Feels" Explosives	55
44. [Attack, Colombia] Five More Killed In Southwestern Colombia Attacks On Power Infrastruc- ture	56
45. [Attack, Colombia] 'FARC' Attack Leaves Colombian Soldier Dead	57
46. [Attack, Colombia] Navy Kills Three, Captures Eight FARC Guerrillas In Western Colombia	58
47. [Attack, Colombia] 'FARC' Attack Leaves Southwest Colombia Without Electricity	59



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1. [Attack, Pakistan] Several Killed In Pakistan Airbase Raid

Thursday, August 16 2012

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/asia/2012/08/2012815234651368597.html>

At least nine men, armed with rocket-propelled grenades and automatic weapons, have stormed an air force base in Kamra, northwest of the Pakistani capital, killing five soldiers, security officials say.

Eight of the attackers were killed, a military spokesperson said, after the assault at the Minhas Airbase led to a fierce firefight that lasted several hours. The ninth attacker was killed when he exploded his suicide vest outside the perimeter of the base, the military said.

Commandos were called in to aid in the defence of the base, and police armoured personnel carriers were also involved in the operation to secure the facility.

Security forces opened fire on the attackers, some of whom were strapped with suicide bombing vests, as they approached aircraft hangars just before dawn on Thursday. The initial assault prompted other attackers to fire rocket-propelled grenades from outside the base's walls, an air force spokesman told Reuters news agency.

Base commander Air Commodore Muhammad Azam, who led the operation against the attackers, was wounded in the shoulder, but is in stable condition, said the spokesman.

Among the dead were three base security personnel and two regular airmen.

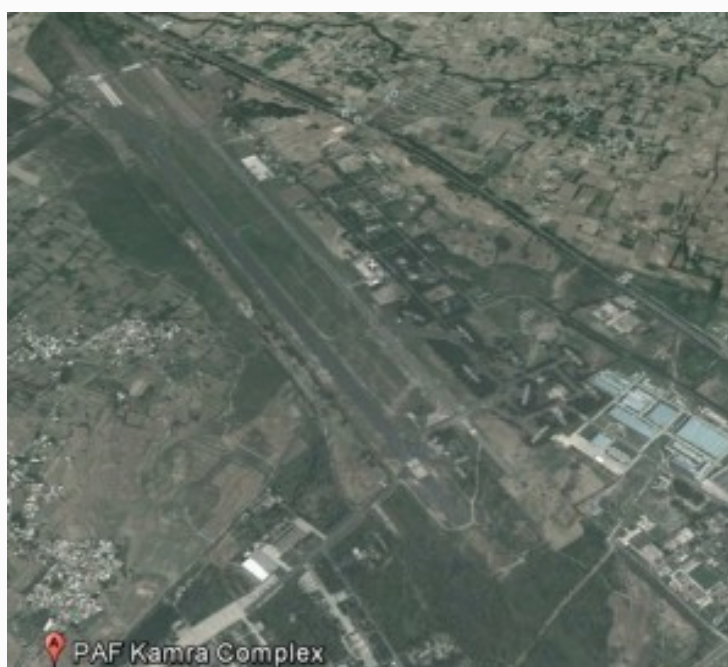
Al Jazeera's Imtiaz Tyab, reporting from Islamabad, described the attack as "deeply embarrassing for the Pakistani military".

The base was declared secure and clear of attackers by 12:25pm local time (07:25 GMT), 10 hours after the attack began, Air Force Spokesperson Captain Tariq Mahmood said.

At least one of the rockets hit a hangar holding a number of aircraft, said Mahmood. The rocket pierced the hangar wall, and shrapnel from the explosion damaged one of the aircraft parked inside.

After the rocket barrage, the attackers, some of whom were disguised in security forces' uniforms, scaled the wall surrounding the airbase, he said.

Guards inside the base then opened fire on the militants, and an intense firefight ensued, he said.





Security forces, backed by a team of elite commandos, fought the militants for two hours and were finally able to retake the base, the air force said.

Two improvised explosive devices were found during search operations after the attack, state media reported. They were destroyed in a controlled explosion by security personnel.

One officer told AFP news agency that he saw flames after waking up for his late night meal, eaten during the dawn-to-dusk Muslim fasting month of Ramadan.

"There was an announcement by megaphone for soldiers not to move from the barracks and we were forbidden from going to the area where I saw the fire," he said.

Faheemullah Khan, a civilian who lives near the base, said he was at a mosque praying when he heard gunfire and explosions, which he thought were military exercises.

"Then we came to a restaurant, which is next to the main entrance to the base, and heard a louder explosion," he said.

"We saw six police vans rush in, and realised something was wrong."

The Minhas Airbase, 75 km northwest of Islamabad, is adjacent to the Pakistan Aeronautical Complex, a major air force research and development centre. Pakistan manufactures JF-17 fighter planes, jointly developed with China, at the site.

Several squadrons of fighter jets, including F-16s, and surveillance planes are believed to be based at Minhas.

The air force said that one aircraft had been damaged in the attack. A spokesman also said that the base did not house any nuclear weapons.

All Pakistan's airbases have been placed on high alert following the attack, and facilities in Kamra have been cordoned off.

The Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan claimed responsibility for the attack, the Reuters news agency reported.

"We are proud of this operation. Our leadership had decided to attack Kamra base a long time ago," Ahsanullah Ahsan, a TTP spokesman, said by telephone from an undisclosed location.

According to a report in local media, the government was aware of the threat of an attack on an air force base in Punjab. The report cites a provincial government document detailing the threat, which it identified as coming from TTP fighters.

The Kamra base, between the capital and the main northwestern city of Peshawar, has previously been targeted in 2007 and 2009. In the latter attack, a suicide bomber killed six civilians and two air force personnel at a checkpoint.

On December 10, 2007, a suicide car bomber struck a school bus, wounding at least five children of employees.

Last year, six Taliban gunmen attacked a naval airbase in Pakistan's largest city Karachi to avenge the killing of Osama bin Laden. At least 10 military personnel were killed and 20 wounded in the 16-hour assault.



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2. [Trend, Pakistan] Kamra Attack: TTP Claims Responsibility

Thursday, August 16 2012

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-63616-Kamra-attack:-TTP-claims-responsibility>

The banned outfit Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) has claimed responsibility of the attack carried out at Kamra Air-base early Thursday morning, Geo News reported.

TTP spokesman Ehsanullah Ehsan claimed that all nine suicide attackers were Pakistani and the plan was hatched a long time ago.

Militants dressed in uniforms and armed with guns and rocket launchers stormed PAF base Kamra, sparking heavy clashes that left nine militants and a security official dead while a plane was also damaged.

The base commander, who led the counter-attack, was also injured in the battle.

The Air Force said the attackers with rocket propelled-grenades and suicide vests attacked the base, home to the Pakistan Aeronautical Complex that assembles Mirage and JF-17 fighter jets, at 2:00 am today.

A statement said there had been a shootout "for more than two hours" and 10 hours after the assault began, spokesman Tariq Mahmood confirmed the base was "totally safe".





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3. [Attack, Pakistan] Two IED Explosions In Kurram, Orakzai

Thursday, August 16 2012

<http://tribune.com.pk/story/422717/two-ied-explosions-in-kurram-orakzai/>

Two separate incidents of Improvised Explosive Device (IED) attacks in Kurram and Orakzai agencies killed one security operative and injured another 16 on Wednesday.

A security agency official said that an IED device targeted a convoy in the Khwai Darra area of Upper Orakzai as it was en route to Kurram. The dead and injured were shifted to Military Hospital, Parachinar.

Afterwards, security forces launched a search operation in the surrounding mountains. In a separate incident of IED explosion in Kurram, two civilians identified as Said Kamal and Muhammad Zaman were injured in the Bagzai area of Shesho.

Meanwhile, the security forces mounted another operation in the Mamozai area of Orakzai after an earlier militant attack killed 2 security personnel and injured another 15.

A security official said that so far 30 militants had been killed and several injured adding that a stockpile of rocket launchers and heavy weaponry had also been recovered from the area.



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4. [Attack, Pakistan] Miscreants Blow Up School In Mardan

Wednesday, August 15 2012

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-63520-Miscreants-blow-up-school-in-Mardan>

Unidentified miscreants Wednesday blew up the building of government school at village Katbano Lund Khwar in Mardan district.

According to police, the miscreants have planted explosive device to the building of the school late Tuesday night and detonated it with remote control device.

The structure and outer wall of the building was damaged, however, no causality was reported.

Police have started investigation.





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5. [Attack, Afghanistan] Grenades At East Afghan Mosque Wound Nine

Wednesday, August 15 2012

<http://www.egyptindependent.com/news/grenades-east-afghan-mosque-wound-9>

Two grenades exploded inside a mosque compound during morning prayers in eastern Afghanistan on Wednesday, wounding at least nine worshippers, an Afghan official said.

The attack in eastern Khost province came a day after a series of bombs around Afghanistan killed 46 people in the deadliest day for civilians this year as Taliban insurgents and their allies ramp up violence across the country. The Taliban summer offensive this year coincides with Afghan police and soldiers taking on more responsibility for security while international forces start to withdraw.

Three grenades were thrown into the mosque compound in Baghi Sara area, Khost police chief Sardar Mohammad Zazai said. One exploded inside the mosque itself, and one in the courtyard outside. The third failed to detonate.

Zazai blamed Taliban insurgents for the attack.

"This was the work of the enemy," he said. "It cannot be a private dispute. Why would anyone be so angry to throw grenades in a mosque while people are praying?"

He said many of those praying were Afghans who work at the nearby US base, Forward Operating Base Salerno.

Taliban spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid issued a statement that did not acknowledge the mosque attack but claimed an insurgent suicide bomber had attacked a US base in Khost, causing several American casualties.

A spokesman for the NATO military coalition said Wednesday that there was no attack on the Salerno base, which is close to the mosque in Baghi Sara. Lieutenant Colonel Hagen Messer said the American personnel at the base reported hearing gunfire from the mosque but Afghan police were investigating.

The latest violence comes after a particularly bloody day for Afghanistan. Suicide bombers launched multiple attacks in a remote corner of southwestern Afghanistan near the Iranian border on Tuesday, killing dozens of people, including shoppers buying sweets for Eid. The bombings left charred and smoldering bits of cookies and dried fruit among the bodies on the ground.

A separate market bombing later Tuesday, this one in northern Afghanistan, brought the overall death toll to 46, most of whom were civilians.

The attacks in provinces on opposite ends of the country — Nimroz in the southwest and Kunduz in the north — came as the Taliban and their allies step up their assaults in a display of force that often results in civilian carnage. Militants are especially trying to weaken the still-developing Afghan security forces, who are to assume control across their homeland in 28 months, when most foreign combat troops will have left.

The Taliban "want to expand their influence — show that they are everywhere," said Afghan political analyst Jawid Kohistani. "They want to show that the Afghan police are not strong enough so they are targeting the security forces and the government."



Altogether, at least 35 civilians were killed in the attacks in the two provinces, making Tuesday the deadliest day for Afghan civilians this year. The remaining victims were Afghan policemen.

"What we saw today were further acts of intentional mass murder," said General John Allen, the top commander of US and NATO forces in Afghanistan said Tuesday. "By targeting innocent civilians in populated areas, the insurgents have again shown they will kill non-combatants without hesitation to advance their backward-looking plans for Afghanistan. Once again, I call on [Afghan Taliban leader] Mullah Omar to rein in his murderers. His intentions not to target civilians are hollow," Allen said in a statement.

In past statements, Omar has asked his fighters to avoid civilian casualties. In one message in 2010, for instance, he said: "Pay attention to the life and property of the civilians so that ... your jihad activities will not become a cause for destruction of property and loss of life of people."

The UN reported last week that civilian deaths were lower in the first six months of 2012 than in the first half of 2011, but that an onslaught of summer attacks from insurgents were threatening to reverse that trend. In all, 1,145 civilians were killed in Afghanistan between January and June of this year, according to the UN report.



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6. [Attack, Afghanistan] Scores Killed In Afghan Suicide Attack

Tuesday, August 14 2012

<http://english.al-akhbar.com/content/scores-killed-afghan-suicide-attack>

Suicide attackers and a remotely-controlled bomb killed more than 40 people in Afghanistan Tuesday as the nation prepared to celebrate the end of the holy month of Ramadan, officials said.

Three suicide bombers killed 36 people, mostly civilians shopping for Eid celebrations, in a bazaar in the capital of Afghanistan's southwestern Nimroz province on the border with Iran, the provincial governor said.

Hours later in the northern province of Kunduz, a bomb attached to a motorcycle killed up to 10 people in the market of Archi district near the border with Tajikistan, provincial spokesman Enayatullah Khaliq told AFP.

"A bomb rigged to a motorcycle was remotely detonated in the market of Archi district this evening killing ten civilians and injuring more than 30 others," he said.

A police spokesman put the toll at nine adding that Taliban insurgents were responsible for the attack.

The earlier attack on Zaranj city, capital of Nimroz, was the biggest in recent memory in the relatively peaceful province and one of the deadliest anywhere in the war-torn country this year. At least 66 people were injured.

Three suicide attackers out of an original group of 11 blew themselves up in separate areas of the city, one outside a hospital, police said.

"This was a group of 11 attackers who wanted to conduct simultaneous attacks across the city," deputy provincial police chief Mujibullah Latifi told AFP.

"Security forces killed two of the suicide attackers last night and detained three others this morning. Three managed to detonate themselves while three others were gunned down.

"We have a lot of civilian casualties because two of the attackers detonated themselves near a bazaar where many people had gathered to do shopping for Eid", the Muslim celebration at the end of the fasting month of Ramadan, he said.

"We have confirmation that 21 civilians and 15 members of the security forces have been killed in these attacks and more than 66 others injured," provincial governor Abdul Karim Brahawi told AFP.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility, but similar attacks are usually blamed on Taliban insurgents fighting to overthrow the Western-backed government of President Hamid Karzai.

The attack in the normally peaceful province comes after 11 Afghan policemen were killed there on Saturday when one of their colleagues, believed to be a Taliban infiltrator, opened fire on them.

Afghan troops and police have come under increasing pressure as they take over more responsibility for security as NATO occupation troops prepare to leave the country.



But civilians continue to bear the brunt of the war.

The United Nations said 1,145 Afghan non-combatants lost their lives, mostly in Taliban and other insurgent attacks in the first six months of this year. Last year, a record 3,021 civilians died.

The spread of violence to Nimroz will add to growing concerns over the country's future once some 130,000 NATO troops withdraw as planned by the end of 2014, handing responsibility for security to Afghan forces.

Western politicians keen to get their troops out of an increasingly unpopular war regularly talk up the ability of the Afghan army and police to cope on their own, but there is widespread fear of a multi-factional civil war once they leave.



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7. [Law Enforcement, Afghanistan] Weapon Suppliers Held In Afghanistan

Tuesday, August 14 2012

http://www.rttnews.com/1947466/weapon-suppliers-held-in-afghanistan.aspx?type=gn&utm_source=google&utm_campaign=sitemap

Three militants engaged in arms delivery were arrested in separate operations carried out by Afghan-NATO security forces in various parts of Afghanistan since Monday.

A Taliban weapons dealer who provided Taliban fighters with weapons, ammunition and IED (improvised explosive device) materials for attacks against Afghan and coalition forces was detained in Panjwa'i district of Kandahar province on Tuesday, The NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) said in a press release.

At the time of his arrest, the weapons dealer was trying to arrange arms training for insurgents in the province.

A Taliban weapons supplier who provided the machine guns, rocket-propelled grenades and improvised explosive devices used by insurgents for attacks against Afghan and coalition forces was taken into custody in Chimtalt district, Balkh province, on Monday. He also placed IEDs along local roads.

The security forces also detained a Haqqani weapons supplier in Sabari district of Khost province on Monday. He smuggled assault rifles into the district and attempted to acquire grenades for a planned attack against Afghan and coalition forces. He is also responsible for coordinating multiple attacks against security forces. Several suspected insurgents were detained and multiple firearms seized during the operation.

A Haqqani leader, who led numerous attacks against Afghan and coalition forces in Logar province, was arrested in Pul-e 'Alam district on Sunday. In the days leading up to his arrest, he was attempting to acquire IED components for additional attacks.

Senior Taliban leader Mawawi Akbar was detained in Sarobi district, Kabul province, on Sunday. He was one of the most senior Taliban insurgents operating in Sarobi and was responsible for facilitating the movement of suicide bombers throughout Kabul province.

A group of armed insurgents were killed in an air strike in Watahpur district, Kunar province, on Monday.



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8. [Attack, Pakistan] Bomb Defused In Karachi's Hyderi Market

Monday, August 13 2012

<http://dawn.com/2012/08/14/bomb-defused-in-karachis-hyderi-market/>

A possible terrorism bid was averted when a 20-kg remote-controlled bomb planted near a shopping centre in Karachi's busy Hyderi market area was defused on Tuesday, DawnNews reported.

Sources said that panic and fear gripped the area upon the information of a bomb planted near a shopping centre in Karachi's Hyderi area.

Police and Rangers reached the spot and the bomb disposal squad was promptly called for.

The bomb disposal squad analysed the bomb after defusing it and submitted its initial investigation report to the police.

Sources said that the bomb weighed 20 kilograms and ample amount of ball-bearings were used in its making, whereas a detonator, two batteries a fuse cord were also used in its construction.

The bomb was installed with a remote-control device.

Police sources added that bombs of similar makes were used in the foiled terror attempts at the Chinese consulate in Clifton Karachi, the Sachal Rangers headquarters on the Superhighway, Jinnah Hospital and near Safoorah Chowk.

Moreover similar bombs were also used in the attack on Suparco bus and on a Ranger vehicle in Landhi.

Experts said that had the bomb exploded it would have caused damage in a 100 metre radius and extreme damage within a 50 metre radius whereas it would have caused devastation within a 25 metre radius.



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9. [Attack, Afghanistan] Five Injured As Bomb Explosion Hits Gov't Bus In E. Afghanistan

Monday, August 13 2012

<http://english.cri.cn/6966/2012/08/13/142s716929.htm>

Five civilians were injured as a bomb targeting a government employees' vehicle went off Monday morning in Jalalabad city, the provincial capital of eastern Afghan province of Nangarhar, official said.

"The blast occurred at around 8 a.m. local time Monday and five people including four government service members with the provincial justice department and a passer-by were injured," a spokesman for provincial government, Ahmad Zia Abdulzai, told Xinhua.

The injured were shifted to a provincial capital hospital shortly after the blast.

He said an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) was placed in a rickshaw parked in a road in Masjedi Eidgah area and was detonated by a remote control device when the car was running the area.

The area was cordoned off by security forces for fear of another blast and an investigation was launched, he said.

Violence has been on the rise since Taliban launched an annual spring offensive on May 3.

The armed outfit has said anyone working for the government and the NATO-led troops are legitimate targets.

Four people including the governor of Ali Shing district in neighboring Laghman province lost their lives as an IED struck their vehicle on Sunday.

Afghan Taliban has launched massive IED attacks against ISAF and Afghan national security force in recent years.

A total of eight people were killed and five others injured when a bomb exploded near a gov't bus in Paghman district of capital city of Kabul on Tuesday Aug. 7.

Separately, four Taliban expert bomb and IED makers were detained by the Afghan police in the country's southern province of Helmand, Khyali Jan, head of anti-terrorism Department in the province 555 km south of Kabul told Xinhua Monday.

He said Taliban bomb makers were detained in two separate operations in Nawa and Musa Qala districts on Sunday.

"Four IEDs, an AK-47 gun and a motorcycle were also found during the raid," Jan added.

Taliban has yet to make comments.





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10. [Attack, Pakistan] Quetta Blast Injures 12

Monday, August 13 2012

<http://dawn.com/2012/08/14/quetta-blast-injures-12-police/>

At least 12 people were wounded when a bomb hidden under a cot exploded near a restaurant where people had gathered to celebrate Pakistan's Independence Day in Balochistan late Monday, police said.

The explosive device, fitted with a timer, was placed outside the restaurant in the southwestern province's capital Quetta, local police chief Mir Zubair Mehmood said.

It was timed to explode late in the night when people had gathered on the eve of Pakistan's 66th Independence Day being observed on Tuesday, he said.

"At least 12 people were injured, one of them is in serious condition," Mehmood told AFP.

He blamed militants, saying "they wanted to create panic to disturb the national day celebrations".

There was no claim of responsibility for the latest incident but the province which borders Iran and Afghanistan suffers from Taliban attacks.

It is also a flashpoint for sectarian violence involving Sunni and Shia Muslims that has left thousands of people since the late 1980s.

Baloch rebels rose up in 2004, demanding political autonomy and a greater share of profits from the oil, gas and mineral resources in the region.



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11. [Attack, Pakistan] Three Shops Damaged In Orakzai Blast

Sunday, August 12 2012

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-7-126124-3-shops-damaged-in-Orakzai-blast>

Three shops were partially damaged when an improvised explosive device (IED) fastened around the back of a donkey by unknown militants went off in the Jalka Mela bazaar in lower Orakzai Agency on Saturday, official sources said.

Assistant Political Agent Fazal Qadir said the donkey was brought to Jalka Mela in the Ferozkhel area of lower Orakzai and the explosives were triggered when the reached the bazaar.

He added that most of the shops were closed and there was no rush in the markets as it was early morning.

After the incident, the security forces launched search operation in the Jalka Mela bazaar and markets in Anjani and Ferozkhel and eight suspects were arrested for questioning.



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12. [Attack, Afghanistan] IED Detonation Injures A Child In Sayagez

Saturday, August 11 2012

<http://www.dvidshub.net/news/93033/ied-detonation-injures-child-sayagez#.UC0bFKCO6So>

A child was injured by an improvised explosive device in the village of Sayagez, Arghandab district, Aug. 5.

After the boy found the IED, he attempted to transport it to a new location and it detonated.

The victim stated that the IED was round and bigger than a water bottle, said a coalition representative. When the boy picked up the IED he noticed that it contained something that looked like a finger.

The representative added that the object inside the bottle was likely a blasting cap.

The boy carried the IED for an undetermined amount of time and then decided to remove the “finger” from the device. As the boy took the blasting cap out of the IED, it detonated resulting in serious injuries.

The boy was treated for his injuries at a coalition medical facility.

Initially the victim claimed that his injuries were caused by a ricocheted bullet. After some questioning, the boy admitted being injured by an IED.

Once the victim was treated for his wounds, he informed coalition medical personnel that he saw more IEDs in the area where he sustained his injuries.

The boy volunteered to show officials where the other IEDs were located. The boy and his father accompanied coalition representatives to the area.

According to the coalition representative, the assistance of the injured boy resulted in the discovery of five additional IEDs.

If residents witness criminal activity or discover possible IEDs, they are encouraged to contact Afghan officials, said the coalition representative.

Insurgents have historically used IEDs to attack civilians, Afghan forces and coalition partners.



AFRICOM

13. [Attack, Nigeria] Explosion Rocks Ogoniland

Thursday, August 16 2012

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201208160051.html>

There was pandemonium Wednesday when two out of three locally made Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) went off in the controversial Rivers State-owned banana plantation located at Soghor in Tai Local Government Area.

The explosives were said to be made up of gun powder, just as two other devices planted within the vicinity of the plantation were diffused and recovered by men of the Anti-bomb Unit of the state Police Command.

It was gathered that the blast occurred about 9am yesterday in the Ueke-Tai axis of the 2,000-hectare banana plantation, which is jointly owned by the Rivers State Government and an unnamed Mexican firm.

Soghor community in Ogoniland, has been in disagreement with the state government over the planned citing of the banana plantation in the area.

However, reports said nobody was close to the explosion area, but the devices reportedly went off where one of the employees of the farm, identified as Mathew, a tractor operator, usually works.

The Police said the device may have been planted to cause havoc and described those behind the act as hoodlums who have failed in their bid to wreak havoc on society.

Confirming the explosion to THISDAY, the state Police Commissioner, Mr. Mohammed Indabawa, said the explosives were locally made with gun powder with some iron in it, stating that there was no casualty.

"The blast was from locally made explosive devices that happened around 9am. It occurred within the banana plantation. There was no casualty, but two other locally made explosive devices in the vicinity of the farm will be destroyed."

"Maybe the devices were planted to injure or cause harm, but that did not work. You know that there has been some issues in that area and we are not sleeping to ensure that there is peace there," Indabawa said.

Commenting on the explosion, the Youth President of Ueke-Tai community, Mr. Nnaa Rekipana, blamed the incident on some elements from another community within the Ogoni community.

Asked whether the people were against the banana plantation, Rekipana said: "We have no reason not to be happy with the project because the state government has sorted out the issue of compensation and the farm would offer job opportunities not only to the youths in Tai or Ogoni, but people from other parts of the country.

"We will only ask the state government to mount security watch around here to ensure the protection of lives of both local and expatriate workers on the farm in order not to disrupt work on the farm. There are some bad elements that are in the habit of kidnapping and causing unnecessary chaos, they are behind this."



AFRICOM

14. [Security, Nigeria] Police Defuse Improvised Explosive Device In Rivers Banana Farm

Thursday, August 16 2012

http://leadership.ng/nga/articles/32679/2012/08/16/police_defuse_improvised_explosive_device_rivers_bbananna_farm.html

The police in Rivers say they have defused an improvised explosive device (IED) in the state-owned banana farm at Ueken in Tai Local Government Area of the state.

Mr Ben Ugwuegbulam, the Spokesman for the police command, stated this in Port Harcourt on Thursday in an interview with the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN).

He said that the command had swept and secured the banana farm, adding that unknown persons might have planted the IED to scare workers from the plantation.

Ugwuegbulam said that the Bomb Disposal Unit (BDU) of the command had swung into action on receiving the information and defused the IED successfully.

He said that there was no casualty and that the incident occurred on Aug. 15.

NAN learnt that the state government had acquired the land to establish a banana farm with a Mexican firm last year.

The acquisition of the land had been causing misunderstanding in the community, as some persons alleged that government did not pay compensation after taking over their land.



AFRICOM

15. [Attack, Nigeria] Three Killed In Northern Nigeria Bomb Explosion

Wednesday, August 15 2012

http://zeenews.india.com/news/world/three-killed-in-northern-nigeria-bomb-explosion_793744.html

Three people, including two members of the radical Islamist sect Boko Haram, were killed on Tuesday as a bomb that was being carried on a motorbike accidentally went off in Nigeria's northern city of Kaduna, police said.

Two Boko Haram members carrying a bomb on a motorbike died as it accidentally went off, also killing another motorcyclist riding behind them who got wounded and died before he arrived at Army Referral Hospital where he was rushed to, an eyewitness said.

The eyewitness, Mohammed Ibrahim, said the two suspected bombers were heading towards the northern part of Kaduna metropolis before the bomb accidentally blew them up killing them instantly.

Confirming the incident, police spokesman for the state Abubakar Balteh, said: "The people carrying an object suspected to be an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) on a motorbike from Singer Round About towards Lugard Hall Round About died as the device exploded close to the NNPC filling station killing the two of them."

He said police have sent forensic experts to the area to take evidence which would be analysed for additional information.

Boko Haram, carries out frequent attacks in northern Nigeria.

The group has been waging a sustained war in Nigeria's northern cities in their bid to install an Islamic emirate in the country.

In several of the sects attacks, bombs, suicide bombers and drive by gun shots have been used to kill hundreds of people.

The oil rich African country has a population of 150 million equally divided among Christians and Muslims.

The Muslims are mostly found in the north while the Christians have their majority in the South.



AFRICOM

16. [Attack, Nigeria] Two Die In Fresh Kaduna Explosion

Tuesday, August 14 2012

<http://www.thenationonlineng.net/2011/news-update/57591-two-die-in-fresh-kaduna-explosion.html>

An object suspected to be an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) exploded along Ali Akilu road Tuesday afternoon, killing the two men carrying it on a motor bike and sending residents of the area scampering for safety.

Eye witnesses told The Nation that the two men were carrying an object which looked like a television set while heading towards the Ungwan Seriki Area, but luck ran out on them as the object exploded before they got to their destination.

The destination of the victims was not immediately known, but the State House of Assembly is located a few metres away from the scene, while a military check point and one of the biggest mosques in Kaduna is located about one kilometer from the scene.

The mosque was said to be hosting the final round of the Tasfir normally held during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

The explosion occurred at about 3.00pm opposite the Ali Akilu road branch of Sterling Bank which is also close the NNPC mega station located in the Abakpa area of Kaduna metropolis.

Unconfirmed reports have it that a third person who was driving behind the two carrying the IED had his stomach ripped open and later died at the 44 Army Reference Hospital died on getting to the hospital.

A swam of bees invaded the area immediately after the explosion forcing onlookers to cut leaves to ward off the bees while security operatives had to shoot canisters.

An eye witness who identified herself as Fatima Yakubu told The Nation that she was passing through the area when she heard the blast and ran there only to see the three victims lying on the ground with their motorcycles affected by the explosion.

“I was coming from the house going to plait my hair when I heard the sound and I thought it was gunshot. Then I saw the three of them (victims) and three motorcycles. They were all lying on the ground, two of them are dead, while one of them was still moving. Then the bees spread around and started stinging people”. Yakubu stated

The Acting Police Public Relations Officer, DSP Abubakar Balteh who confirmed the explosion said “two people were carrying an object suspected to be an Improvised Explosive Device on a motorbike from Singer roundabout toward Lugard Hall roundabout close to the NNPC filling station the device exploded killing the two of them.

“There was no other casualty we have sent forensic experts to the area to take evidence which we would analyse for additional information. We are on top of the situation”, he said.



AFRICOM

17. [Law Enforcement, Nigeria] Police Detonate 963 IEDs In Kano

Tuesday, August 14 2012

<http://www.thisdaylive.com/articles/police-detonate-963-ied-s-in-kano/122380/>

Kano State police command has recovered and detonated 963 improvised explosive devices (IEDs) of different kinds and in different locations in the state in the last eight months.

The State Police Commissioner, Mr. Ibrahim Idris said: "From August 1, the command was able to detonated a bomb at FCE Kano, 10 undetonated explosives at Rijiyar Zaki along Jambulo Estate and four IEDs recovered and detonated at the same Rijiyar Zaki on August 6 and another one at BUK."

Idris said out of the 963 bombs detonated, two were suicide primed car bombs, adding that all the IEDs were successfully detonated from January 20 to date. He also said the detonated bombs causes no any injury or damage.

Addressing reporters on Tuesday at the Police Officers Mess, the police commissioner disclosed that items recovered by the command within the two weeks include, 26 IEDs, 10 round of ammunition, two pistols, one pump action shot gun, one air rifle and nine double barrel shot guns.

Idris said other items recovered were two AK 47, one AK 47 riffle, 226 cartridges, 12 knives, 11 stolen vehicles were recovered and 45round of ammunitions, stressing that the command is always ready to ensure its role of ensuring the security of people and their properties.

"We are always combat ready in the state and we are always appealing to the public to report any suspicious persons or movement to the nearest security outfit for proper action."

The commissioner also explained that 108 persons suspected to be criminals were arrested at different hideouts of the state, while 92 of them have been charged to court for different offences ranging from being in possession of Indian hemp, cutlasses and other dangerous weapons.

He said the command had a strategy to ensure a safe Eid Fitr celebration in the state.



AFRICOM

18. [Trend, Somalia] Al Qaeda In Somalia 'Promised Kidnapped Kids Paradise To Become Suicide Bombers'

Monday, August 13 2012

http://www.keydmedia.net/en/news/article/al_qaeda_in_somalia_promised_kidnapped_kids_paradise_to_become_suicide_bomb/

Al-Qaeda inspired Somali terrorist group Al Shabaab kidnapped young children in the troubled country and brainwashed them to become suicide bombers to launch future attacks on the West, it has emerged.

The group was running 'terrorist schools' to keep the children, some as young as seven, chained on to beds while they were taught an extreme version of Islam.

The kids, all under 10-years-old, were taught about suicide bombings and told they would go to paradise if they killed themselves in 'martyrdom-operations,' the Daily Mail reports.

According to the paper, terror investigator Neil Doyle revealed the pictures of the locked-up children after authorities carried out a raid on a school in Mogadishu

The raid was one of a number of operations sanctioned by the government in recent months and led to the arrest of 200 people.

The paper quoted a teacher, as saying that the children were in chains because they missed classes.

The latest revelation comes just days after Al Shabaab claimed responsibility for a remote-controlled bomb that killed at least eight Somali government troops when it hit their vehicle in Mogadishu.





AFRICOM

19. [Attack, Somalia] Landmine Explosion Kills Two Government Soldiers In Mogadishu

Sunday, August 12 2012

http://www.keydmedia.net/en/news/article/landmine_explosion_kill_2_government_soldiers_in_mogadishu/

Two Somalia government soldiers have been killed and two others injured in a landmine explosion in Somalia's capital city of Mogadishu, Press TV reports.

The explosion was set to target senior government officials. However, it missed the target and hit a military vehicle in Mogadishu's northern district of Huriwa late on Friday.

"The bomb planted near Suqa-holaha (Animal Market) went off. 2 soldiers died on the spot while 2 others were hit by shrapnel," Aden Mahir, an eyewitness, told Press TV.

"It's believed to have been targeting senior military officials, including Cap. Saney Abdulle an army commander," he added.

No group or individual has claimed responsibility for the attack. However officials are blaming al-Shabab militants.

Somalia has not had a functioning government since 1991, when warlords overthrew former dictator Mohamed Siad Barre.

The weak Western-backed transitional government in Mogadishu has been battling al-Shabab for the past five years and is propped up by thousands of African Union forces from Uganda, Burundi, and Djibouti.

Somalia is one of the countries generating the highest number of refugees and internally displaced people in the world.



CENTCOM

20. [Attack, Iraq] Multiple Attacks Leave Dozens Dead

Friday, August 17 2012

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-19281043>

A series of bombings and shootings across Iraq on Thursday left more than 70 people dead, officials have said. The violence began in the north and ended near midnight with explosions near busy markets, restaurants and ice cream shops in Shia areas of Baghdad.

No group has said it was behind them, but previous multiple attacks have been claimed by the Islamic State of Iraq, which includes an al-Qaeda offshoot.

The attacks came ahead of the Islamic holiday of Eid al-Fitr this weekend.

The authorities are trying to prevent further attacks as crowds gather in places such as parks and mosques to celebrate the end of Ramadan.

'No safe place'

In the deadliest incident on Thursday, at least 16 people were killed and dozens wounded when a car bomb exploded shortly before midnight near an ice cream shop in the main Shia area of Zafraniya.

All the best security measures could not stop terrorists from killing people"

Hassan Karim Survivor of Sadr City bombing

"I was sitting in the cafe when I felt a huge spark like electricity in my eyes, and a huge explosion," Amjad Saad, a college student, told Reuters news agency.

"After that I woke up in hospital with injuries to my arms and shrapnel in my back."

Another 14 people died when a bomb was detonated near another ice cream shop at a market in the capital's Sadr City district.

"Before yesterday, we thought there were still safe places to sit and have a nice time with friends, but with this explosion we know there is no safe place in Iraq," survivor Hassan Karim told the Associated Press.

"All the best security measures could not stop terrorists from killing people," he added from his hospital bed.

Earlier in the day, a car bomb killed at least seven people in Husseinia.

Political tensions

In Kirkuk, 250km (150 miles) north of Baghdad, four bombs were planted near the house of a military officer, the city's police commander, Brig Gen Sarhad Qadir, told AP.

The officer was unharmed but his brother was killed, while six other members of his family were hurt. The blasts left one other person dead.

In Daquq, a town in Kirkuk province, seven policemen died when a suicide bomber blew himself up at a counter-terrorism department's compound, the AFP news agency reported.

Gunmen in cars also opened fire on an Iraqi army checkpoint near the northern town of Mishada, killing seven soldiers and wounding eight, according to Associated Press.

It also said at least seven





people died after a suicide bomb attack in a teashop in Tal Afar, 420km (260 miles) north-west of the capital. Other attacks were reported in al-Garma, Tuz Khurmatu, Dibis, Fallujah and Baquba.

There has been a marked increase in violence in the country in recent months amid worsening political tensions.

The violence is thought to be linked to Sunni Islamist militant groups trying to undermine the Shia-led government.

More than 300 people died in attacks across Iraq in July - the highest monthly death toll since August 2010, according to government figures.

Although the violence is still below that seen at the height of Iraq's civil war in 2006 and 2007, it has been growing again since US troops withdrew last December.



CENTCOM

21. [Attack, Iraq] Deaths In Series Of Bombings Across Iraq

Thursday, August 16 2012

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/middleeast/2012/08/201281694941299281.html>

At least six people have been killed and 41 others wounded in five separate bombings in central and northern Iraq early Thursday, authorities say.

Thursday's attacks began with a pre-dawn raid on the house of a military officer.

Attackers planted four bombs around his house near the northern city of Kirkuk, according to the city's police commander Brigadier-General Sarhad Qadir.

The officer escaped unharmed, but his brother was killed and six other family members were wounded.

Hours later, a bomb in a parked car exploded near a string of restaurants, killing one and wounding 15, Qadir said.

The blast seriously damaged the eateries' storefronts, scattering shattered glass and debris across the sidewalk.

Several attacks

Another parked car bomb targeting a police patrol followed, injuring two policemen and two civilian bystanders.

Kirkuk, 290km north of Baghdad, is home to a combustible mix of Kurds, Sunni Arabs and Turkomen.

They all claim rights to the city and the oil-rich lands around it.

In Baghdad's northeastern and mostly Shia neighbourhood of Husseiniyah, a parked car erupted in an explosion that killed three people. Eight others were injured, two police officers said.

The target was unknown.

Just north of the capital, in the city of Taji, yet another parked car bomb went off next to a passing police patrol, killing one person.

Eight people, including police and civilian bystanders, were wounded, two other policemen said.

Figures confirmed

Health officials in nearby hospitals confirmed the casualty figures.

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

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for Thursday's attacks, but they bore the hallmarks of al-Qaeda's Iraq branch.

It has declared its aim to reclaim areas from which it was routed by the US and its local allies.

Violence in Baquba, 60km northeast of Baghdad, claimed at least 13 lives, including that of a police officer, on Wednesday.

More than 100 people have been killed in violence across the country since the start of the month, showing that the fighters remain a lethal force eight months after the last US troops left the country.



CENTCOM

22. [Attack, Syria] Syrian Rocket Attack Kills At Least 25 People At Bakery

Thursday, August 16 2012

http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/world_now/2012/08/syrian-rocket-attack-kills-at-least-25-people-in-bread-line.html

At least 25 people waiting for bread outside a bakery were killed Thursday morning as forces loyal to the Syrian government continue to pound the embattled city of Aleppo, activists said.

A rocket fired by a warplane struck the bakery in the rebel-held Qadi Askar neighborhood as a crowd was lined up to buy bread, a staple of the Syrian diet, they said. Faced with a flour shortage across the city, bakeries are regularly inundated with hungry customers trying to buy a few loaves.

Grisly video said to be from the aftermath of the attack showed a line of bodies crumpled on the blood-soaked ground.

“Their goal is terrorizing the people,” said Abu Hashim, an activist in Aleppo.

In another neighborhood, Shiaar, eight people were killed as they tried to flee the intensifying air attacks by President Bashar Assad’s forces, Hashim said.

“The situation is very bad, the electricity is cut and the water is cut and the refugees can’t find a place to flee to,” he said. “Where are the people going to go?”

The accounts of the two attacks could not be independently verified because the Syrian government restricts the access of outside media to the conflict zones.

At least 60 people were killed in Aleppo on Thursday, among the almost 100 killed nationwide, activists said. That came a day after almost 200 people were killed across the country, including at least 30 slain during airstrikes on Azaz, a suburb of Aleppo.

As the violence grew in Aleppo in recent weeks residents fled to the suburbs, which seemed safer. But attacks on the rebel-controlled suburbs has increased recently even as the shelling on the city continues.

The ongoing bloodshed came as the Organization of Islamic Cooperation suspended Syria’s membership and as the United Nations was set to discuss the future of its monitoring mission, which has failed to stem the growing violence.

Meanwhile, United Nations emergency relief coordinator Valerie Amos said about 2.5 million Syrians face destitution as fighting becomes more intense in populated areas.

“There is more we could be doing right now in areas that are safe enough and where we have established solid partnerships with NGOs and the Syrian Arab Red Crescent,” Amos said, speaking as she neared the end of a three-day visit to Syria and Lebanon.



CENTCOM

23. [Trend, Yemen] Sanaa Woman Thwarts Bombing

Thursday, August 16 2012

http://al-shorfa.com/en_GB/articles/meii/newsbriefs/2012/08/16/newsbrief-08

Yemeni officials on Wednesday (August 15th) honoured a woman who cooperated with security agencies to prevent a bombing in Masiq, Shaoub directorate, state media reported.

According to the official news agency Saba, the woman reported that an improvised explosive device (IED) was placed near a garbage bin in the neighbourhood of al-Mahariq, allowing security forces to swiftly defuse the bomb. In appreciation of her actions, Amanat Sanaa security director Brig. Gen. Rezq al-Jufi gave the woman a certificate of recognition and a monetary reward at the behest of Yemen's Interior Minister and Sanaa's mayor.

The woman expressed her thanks and appreciation for the recognition, saying her action is every citizen's duty, since preserving security and stability is the responsibility of all Yemenis.



CENTCOM

24. [Attack, Syria] Aazaz Bombed, Fate Of Lebanese Hostages Unknown

Wednesday, August 15 2012

<http://english.al-akhbar.com/content/lebanese-hostages-wounded-syria-airstrike-rebels>

An airstrike on the northern Syrian town of Aazaz on Wednesday killed 20 according to activists.

The town which is held by Syrian rebels is also home to the group that has been holding 11 Lebanese hostages since last May.

There were conflicting reports with regards to the fate of the Lebanese hostages with a rebel commander declaring four of them missing.

"The building they (the hostages) were in was hit ... We were able to remove seven from the wreckage. They are wounded, and some of the injuries are serious," rebel commander Ahmed Ghazali told the Lebanese TV channel al-Jadeed.

"Four more of them are still missing and we are continuing search and rescue operations. We pray to God that they will still be alive."

However, Hezbollah owned TV station al-Manar reported that all 11 hostages were not in Aazaz at the time of the raid.

The airstrike flattened a string of houses, with activists claiming at least 20 people were killed, including children. A local doctor in Aazaz placed the death toll at over 80 with 150 wounded.

Hundreds of others fled across the border to Turkey, an AFP correspondent on the border said.

Turkey's state-run Anadolu news agency said 757 Syrians fled their country and streamed into Turkey on Wednesday.

"Bashar did this. God help us, these animals will kill us all," said one man, hoisting a bloodied arm that had been piled up on the pavement outside the hospital in the town of Aazaz after the bombardment.

An AFP correspondent said at least 10 houses had been flattened in the bombardment Aazaz which lies just to the north of the main battleground city of Aleppo and is often used as rear base by rebel Free Syrian Army fighters.

Syrian Observatory for Human Rights director Rami Abdel-Rahman, not his real name, said more than 20 people were killed in the attack.

Witnesses told AFP at the scene shortly after the attack that at least five bodies had been pulled from the rubble and many more were still trapped.

Associated Press journalists saw at least seven bodies pulled from the rubble.

"This was a civilian area. All these houses were packed with women and children sleeping during the fast," said witness Abu Omar, a civil engineer in his 50s, referring to the dawn-to-dusk fast Muslims observe during Ramadan.



Witnesses and FSA forces who reinforced security around the town after the strike said the jet fired twice, targeting a makeshift media center used by foreign reporters in the second, smaller strike.

Some rescuers brought a generator and electric saw to cut through steel reinforcement bars in the concrete. Nearby, a woman sat on a pile of bricks that was once her home, cradling a baby.

The attack came amid heavy shelling of several districts of Aleppo, regarded as a pivotal battleground in the conflict that is now entering its 18th month.

The Britain-based Observatory said the strike by a MiG fighter jet targeted a former Baath Party headquarters which had been taken over by rebel groups.

"The whole of the area was flattened," Abdel-Rahman said. "Those killed included civilians and fighters, but what is clear is that there was a Free Syrian Army base there."

Dozens of people, many wailing and shouting, were climbing over the rubble, trying to pull out victims.

"That's it, I'm leaving for Turkey with my family today. Life here is impossible," said another witness who gave his name as Jomaa.

At the local hospital, people brought in the body of a little girl apparently aged no more than four.

Abdel-Rahman said that among those wounded were four of a group of 11 Lebanese Shia pilgrims who were kidnapped near Aazaz in May.

Witnesses said the bomb must have weighed at least half a ton and the impact shattered windows up to four blocks away.

On the pavement outside the hospital, body parts had been heaped in a pile under a blanket

A burly red-haired man with a bushy beard and hands covered in blood lifted the blanket after helping to bring in a wounded girl, grabbing a severed arm with skin and flesh dangling from it.

"I don't know how many people these parts belong to, look here there's half a woman and here half of somebody else," he said as a crowd gathered around.

When he saw the mangled dust-caked body of a child less than a year old, he sat down on the pavement, clasped his head with both hands and started sobbing.

"It was a massacre, an entire family like mine was exterminated," said one woman who refused to give her name.

In Aleppo itself, an AFP correspondent said a new front had opened in the northeastern district of Baaideen, forcing residents to flee as regime forces pounded the area using tanks and warplanes.

Abu Ubayda, a local rebel commander, said regime forces were trying to encircle the FSA between Baaideen and southwestern district of Salaheddine which the government retook last week.

Syrian state media, SANA, confirmed the clashes in Baaideen, adding that the Syrian army had also attacked re-



bels in the al-Sabaa Bahrat, Bab al-Nasr and Saif al-Dawla neighborhoods of Aleppo.

SANA also reported an army attack on rebels in Kefr Hamra, north of Aleppo, stating it had destroyed a number of rebel vehicles, without specifying a death toll.

The Local Coordination Committees, another opposition group, said there was also fighting near a border cross-with Turkey that the rebels had captured last month.

A local official in the Turkish border town of Reyhanli said clashes could be heard coming from the region on Tuesday but that the situation had calmed by Wednesday morning. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to the media.

The LCC also reported violence in the eastern province of Deir Ezzor, the northwestern region of Idlib, Daraa to the south and in suburbs of the capital Damascus.

In Damascus, a bomb attached to a fuel truck exploded Wednesday outside a hotel where UN observers are staying, wounding at least three people, Syrian state TV reported.

Deputy Foreign Minister Faisal Mokdad toured the area of the blast and said none of the UN staff was hurt. The explosion occurred as UN humanitarian chief Valerie Amos was in the Syrian capital but her team is believed to be staying at a different hotel.

The blast was the latest in a series of explosions that have hit Damascus in past months as clashes between government troops and rebels reached the capital, which had been relatively quiet since the uprising against Assad erupted in March last year.

Wednesday's explosion went off about 300 meters from the military command. According to an Associated Press reporter at the scene, the blast was inside the parking lot of a military compound.

The lot is near the Damas Rose Hotel, popular with the UN observers in Syria and where many of the mission staff were staying.

There have been several high-profile bombings in the Syrian capital. On July 18, an explosion in a key government headquarters in Damascus killed four top generals, including Assad's brother-in-law. And in March, a double suicide bombing in Damascus killed 27 people.

"Those who carry out such terrorist attacks are destroying their country in order to get some pounds," shouted a Damascus resident, Ali Mohammed Ismail, 48, who said he was in the area when the explosion went off.



CENTCOM

25. [Attack, Egypt] Security Forces Raid Weapon Caches In Sinai, Killing Five

Monday, August 13 2012

<http://www.egyptindependent.com/news/security-forces-raid-weapon-caches-sinai-killing-five>

A joint army and police operation has confiscated several weapons in Kharouba, northern Sinai, with the help of local Bedouin residents, said Interior Minister Ahmed Gamal al-Din at a press conference.

The minister said rocket-propelled grenades were fired on forces while they were raiding the location. Security forces exchanged fire with the assailants, killing five.

The confiscated weapons included five anti-tank mines, one anti-tank missile, and mortars, as well as automatic weapons and a machine gun.

Din said investigators are working to determine who might be behind the attacks in Sinai.

At the press conference, which was held at the Cabinet, Din thanked all of the security forces who proved that they are competent enough to raid such positions. "We are aware that we face a dangerous enemy and we are protecting the country. We know that we are capable of achieving stability and security with the help of God and honest citizens, particularly in Sinai."





CENTCOM

26. [Attack, Syria] Blasts In Aleppo, Damascus As US Pushes For Regime Fall

Saturday, August 11 2012

<http://www.egyptindependent.com/news/blasts-aleppo-damascus-us-pushes-regime-fall>

Syrian forces shelled rebels in the battle-scarred Aleppo and blasts rocked Damascus on Saturday, as US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton called for the regime's downfall to be speeded up.

State television said two bombs exploded in the heart of the capital, without reporting casualties.

But across the country the renewed violence has killed at least 47 people -- 27 civilians, nine soldiers and 11 rebels, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

The Britain-based monitoring group said that in the city of Aleppo "areas of Salaheddin district came under shelling by Syrian regime forces," who forced the rebels to stage what they termed a "tactical withdrawal" on Thursday.

A rebel commander insisted his fighters were still putting up strong resistance around Salaheddin.

"Fierce fighting has continued without respite for the past 24 hours as the army tries to push us out of the neighbourhood," Abdel Qader Saleh told AFP by telephone.

The Local Coordination Committees, a network of activists on the ground, later reported "intense and indiscriminate bombardment by aircraft flying over Sakhur and Hanano districts" of Aleppo, Syria's commercial capital.

Troops backed by artillery stormed Salaheddin on Wednesday in the first stage of an offensive to recapture areas of the northern city taken by the rebels since July 20.

In the face of the escalating violence, the US top diplomat on a visit to Turkey said the "number one goal" of Washington and Ankara was to hasten the end of President Bashar al-Assad's regime and stop the bloodshed.

"We are continuing to increase pressure from outside," Clinton told a joint press conference in Istanbul after meeting Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu and Syrian opposition activists.

"Yesterday in Washington we announced sanctions designed to expose and disrupt the links between Iran, Hezbollah and Syria that prolong the life of the Assad regime."

Washington on Friday announced sanctions against Syrian state oil company Sytrol for trading with Iran, in a bid to starve both Tehran and Damascus of much-needed revenue.

The US Treasury also said it was adding the Lebanese Shiite militant group Hezbollah, which has close ties with Iran and Syria, to a blacklist of organisations targeted under Syria-related sanctions.

Washington already classes Hezbollah a "terrorist organisation" and it is under US sanctions, but Friday's move explicitly ties the group to the violence in Syria, where Assad is attempting to put down a 17-month revolt.

"Our goal number one is to hasten the end of the bloodshed and the Assad regime, that is our strategic goal," Clinton said.



But no end to the bloody conflict is in sight as witnesses Saturday reported gunfire on the densely-populated Baghdad Street in the heart of the Syrian capital.

Elsewhere in Damascus, state television quoted an official as saying that an "armed terrorist group detonated a bomb in the Marjeh district and fired randomly."

Fighting was also reported in Tadamun, where there were "fierce clashes between the Free Syrian Army and the regime forces," said the Local Coordination Committees.

With the unrelenting violence, Arab foreign ministers will hold emergency talks in Saudi Arabia on Sunday to discuss the conflict and a replacement for international mediator Kofi Annan, who resigned in frustration over a failed peace deal.

World powers are expected to name veteran Algerian diplomat Lakhdar Brahimi as the new UN-Arab League envoy for Syria early next week.

In Istanbul, Clinton met with Syrian activists and refugees, who she said were committed to "a free, inclusive and democratic Syria" but need support from the international community to be ready for the eventual fall of the Assad regime.

French President Francois Hollande also Saturday backed "support for the Syrian opposition and the determined search for a political transition in Syria," as well as humanitarian aid.

Clinton also announced an additional US\$5.5 million in aid for those fleeing fighting in Syria that monitoring groups say has now claimed over 21,000 lives.

Turkey is currently home to some 55,000 refugees living in camps along the Syrian border, with close to 10,000 seeking safety this week alone.

A French cargo plane carrying tonnes of aid supplies and medical equipment landed on Saturday in Jordan for tens of thousands of Syrian refugees from across the border.

In Lebanon, another neighbour where tensions have spilled over, the military prosecutor general accused Syrian security chief General Ali Mamluk and former Lebanese minister Michel Samaha of planning attacks.

A judicial source said they were "suspected of forming





a group to provoke sectarian killings and terrorist acts using explosives, which were transported and stored by Michel Samaha."

Their targets, mostly in northern Lebanon near the border, would have been religious and political figures, and the men are accused of attempting to stir sectarian strife and undermine the Lebanese state, the source said.



EUCOM

27. [Security, Ireland] IED Made Safe In Dublin

Thursday, August 16 2012

<http://www.irishexaminer.com/breakingnews/ireland/ied-made-safe-in-dublin-563206.html>

An Army Bomb Disposal Team made safe a viable Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) in Kilbarrack Co. Dublin this afternoon.

The Defence Forces were deployed to Coláiste Dhulaigh, Kilbarrack in Dublin 5 following a request from the Gardai.

The area had been cordoned by the Gardai and local residents were evacuated to a safe location.

The team arrived on scene at 11.40am and examined the device which was found on the grounds of Coláiste Dhulaigh.

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 12.30 pm.

This is the 128th callout and 62th viable IED made safe by the Army Bomb Disposal Teams so far this year.



EUCOM

28. [Law Enforcement, Germany] Germany Arrests Four For Exporting Nuclear Reactor Equipment To Iran

Wednesday, August 15 2012

https://www.opensource.gov/portal/server.pt/gateway/PTARGS_0_0_13152_240_0_43/content/Display/EUP20120815102006

German prosecutors said four men were arrested Wednesday [15 August], suspected of delivering equipment to Iran for use in a nuclear reactor the West fears could be used as part as a covert weapons programme.

Three men with joint Iranian-German nationality, identified only as Kianzad Ka., Gholamali Ka. and Hamid Kh., and German national Rudolf M. were picked up early Wednesday by a force comprising 90 officers.

"The accused are believed to have contributed in 2010 and 2011 to the delivery of special valves for the construction of a heavy water reactor in Iran and thereby contravened the Iran embargo," prosecutors said.

The four are accused of breaking both an arms embargo and export restrictions on goods that can be used for both civil and military purposes.

Western powers suspect that Iran wants to develop nuclear weapons, an accusation Tehran denies.

Iran is currently building a heavy water plant in Arak, central Iran. Iran says the plutonium the plant will produce is for medical research.

But the West fears the plant could be used to produce plutonium for a potential bomb.

In order to circumvent the export ban, the four men arrested are believed to have said the parts were for companies based in Turkey and Azerbaijan.

Authorities raided their homes and businesses as well as those of a fifth suspect, who was not named.



EUCOM

29. [Security, Ireland] Bomb Disposal Team Make Limerick IED Safe

Saturday, August 11 2012

<http://www.irishexaminer.com/breakingnews/ireland/bomb-disposal-team-make-limerick-ied-safe-562665.html>

An Army Bomb Disposal Team has made safe a viable Improvised Explosive Device in Rathkeale, Co. Limerick.

A team from the Defence Forces went to the scene at The Five Crosses Road in Rathkeale just after midday, following a request from the Gardai.

The Disposal team found the device in a roadside ditch, and a controlled explosion was carried out.

The remains of the device have been handed over to Gardai for further investigation.

Gardaí evacuated local residents for a time but it is understood they will now be allowed to return to their homes.



PACOM

30. [Security, India] Cops Find IED Hidden Under Naxal Banner

Friday, August 17 2012

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/nagpur/Cops-find-IED-hidden-under-Naxal-banner/articleshow/15524269.cms>

Alert cops of Kasansoor sub-police station foiled an ambush bid by Naxalites by unearthing explosives hidden under an anti-Independence Day banner on Wednesday. Cops deactivated the booby trap and recovered two steel boxes full of explosive along with a detonator and electric wire.

Police sources said Naxalites had installed a banner against Independence Day celebrations in the village market adjacent to Kasansoor Gram Panchayat in Etapalli tehsil. On getting information, cops cautiously approached the scene. The Naxalites had erected a banner on bamboo poles. Closer scrutiny revealed that it was a booby trap.

The Naxalites had installed explosives attached to an electric wire and detonator under the bamboo poles. Experts in bomb disposal deactivated the device and seized the explosives. Offence against unidentified Naxalites has been registered in this connection and anti-Naxal operations have been intensified in the area.



PACOM

31. [Security, India] Experts Confirm Indian Mujahideen Hallmark In Pune Blasts

Thursday, August 16 2012

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/maharashtra-pune-blasts-indian-mujahideen/1/213378.html>

Bombs of a near identical make claimed more than 60 lives when they went off in Jaipur on October 13, 2008, two weeks before Diwali. But for faulty detonators, a similar fate would have befallen people of Pune during the August 1 serial blasts.

On a visit to Pune last week, home minister Sushil Kumar Shinde was shown a prototype of the bomb defused in the aftermath of the four low-intensity blasts, and that was suspiciously similar to the ones used in Jaipur and the more than 25 unexploded bombs found planted in Surat between July 28 and July 30, 2008.

The life-size bomb prototype shown to Shinde was fitted with the same detonators and circuit as the original bomb.

The similarity has bolstered the Maharashtra Anti-Terrorist Squad's (ATS) conviction regarding the role of Indian Mujahideen in the Pune blasts, as the terror outfit had emerged as the primary suspect in both the Jaipur as well as Surat cases.

Shinde, along with home secretary R. K. Singh and Maharashtra Chief Minister Prithviraj Chavan, met top Improvised Explosive Device (IED) experts in Pune on August 4, and was explained at length the similarity between the bombs recovered from each of the three sites.

The experts said that two of the three detonators planted in each of the bombs in Pune failed to go off, leading to an "inadequate booster" for the primary explosive— ammonium nitrate, which is why the city was saved the fatalities incurred in the Jaipur attack.

They added that ammonium nitrate is not as sensitive as RDX and needs a strong booster to go off. The bombs planted, thus, had as many as three detonators. The perpetrators believed that the three going off simultaneously would boost the bombs' potency.

But fortunately, only one detonator exploded in each of the bombs, rendering their impact negligible.

The experts added that but for this stroke of luck, the bombs would have had as ghastly an impact as in Jaipur as the nearly one kilogram of ammonium nitrate in each of the bombs was "very potent" and had not been affected much by moisture due to rains.

Another similarity was that the bombs in Pune were placed in bicycle baskets facing the main road, in wooden frames filled with ball bearings to act as splinters.

Such bombs are commonly known as directional IEDs, which aim at causing damage in one direction—the bombs planted in Surat and Jaipur employed the same strategy, the experts said.

The only difference, in fact, was that while the bombs recovered in Pune had a Casio wrist-watch for a timer, the latter two had a Samay digital clock.



With the suspicion of the blasts' IM-genesis growing stronger, raids have been launched in Gujarat as well as Beed in Maharashtra to nab the perpetrators, home ministry sources say.

"One person from Beed is being interrogated, while some of his accomplices are on the run. The Gujarat Police, which probed the Surat bombings, is working with the Maharashtra ATS... a breakthrough could be announced very soon," a source added.

Beed is emerging as a strong link in the Pune blast probe as it happens to be the hometown of Abu Jundal. He has allegedly revealed names of certain IM operatives from Beed who may be involved.

The accused named in the charge sheets for Surat and Jaipur, but on the run, are also under the scanner.





PACOM

32. [Attack, Philippines] Six Injured In An Explosion That Blew Up A Bus In Zamboanga City

Thursday, August 16 2012

<http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/story/270095/news/regions/six-injured-in-an-explosion-that-blew-up-a-bus-in-zamboanga-city>

An explosion tore through the rear section of a bus and injured at least six passengers as the vehicle was approaching the Zamboanga City land transport terminal at 10:00 p.m., local police said.

All the injured—two of whom are in critical condition—were rushed to a local hospital.

Police investigators are at the blast site to piece together what happened and gather evidence.

According to the police's initial investigation, an improvised explosive device (IED) caused the blast. Recovered from the scene of the crime were nails, debris of the IED and a cellular phone battery.

The bus came from Pagadian and was just a few meters from the terminal when the explosion occurred.

Investigators said the suspect in the bombing may have been the passenger who got off the bus shortly before the bomb detonated.



PACOM

33. [Law Enforcement, Singapore] Seven Arrested For Setting Off Improvised Explosives

Thursday, August 16 2012

<http://news.asiaone.com/News/AsiaOne%2BNews/Crime/Story/A1Story20120816-365797.html>

Four men and three women, age 21 to 38, were arrested in the vicinity of Punggol for setting off improvised explosive devices.

Officers responded to a call at about 1am on August 16 informing them that a group were playing with firecrackers.

The subjects were found to be using improvised devices that were constructed using sparklers.

Investigations are ongoing.

According to a statement from the police, the public is reminded that while the importation and sale of some types of sparklers are legal in Singapore, the use of sparklers should be done in a responsible manner according to the safety guidelines prescribed by the manufacturer.

Such improvised explosive devices are a potential fire hazard, and causes noise pollution and undue alarm to the public.

The blast effect from the explosion may also cause injury to persons and damage property.

Anyone caught setting off improvised explosive devices may be prosecuted in Court for either an offence of negligent conduct with respect to any fire or combustible matter.

If convicted, they may face a fine of up to \$5,000 and/or a jail term of up to one year.

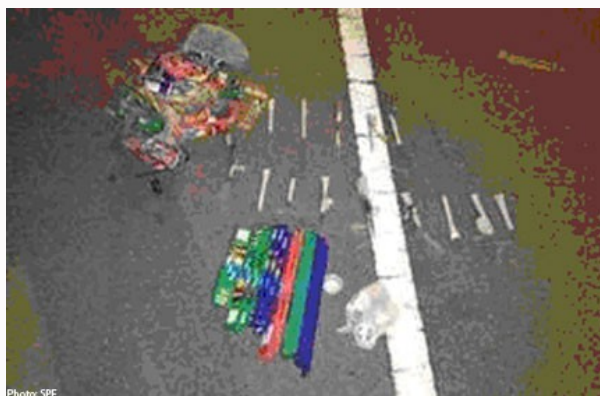


Photo: SPF



PACOM

34. [Attack, India] Four Small Bomb Blasts In India

Wednesday, August 15 2012

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-63438-Four-small-bomb-blasts-in-India>

Four roadside bombs exploded in the northeastern Indian state of Manipur on Wednesday as the country celebrated independence day, police said, adding that no one was injured.

Separatist violence has for years dogged remote Manipur, where dozens of militant and tribal groups wage an insurgency against rule from New Delhi. "There have been four roadside blasts of moderate to low intensity, three in and around (the state capital) Imphal and one in Thoubal district," A. Singh, a police official in the Imphal control room, told AFP.

"The blasts took place over two hours this morning, there were no casualties."



PACOM

35. [Attack, Philippines] Blast Rocks Isabela City

Tuesday, August 14 2012

<http://www.sunstar.com.ph/zamboanga/local-news/2012/08/14/blast-rocks-isabela-city-237431>

An improvised explosive device (IED) blasted in Isabela City, the capital of Basilan province, the police said Tuesday.

The Basilan Police Provincial Office (BPPO), however, said no one was either killed or wounded in the explosion that took place around 7:45 p.m. Monday in front of a restaurant in the corners of Valderosa Street and Roxas Avenue, Isabela City.

Investigation showed that two men riding-in-tandem on a motorcycle passed in front of JJ Twins Restaurant and tossed the IED that exploded some 20 minutes later, the police said.

The explosive ordnance demolition (EOD) personnel of the police have recovered Trinitrotoluene (TNT) residue, parts of cellular phone, metal pellets, one-inch concrete nails, and fragment of tin can from the explosion site, the police said.

The explosion has caused slight damaged on the restaurant, the police said.

The police eyes extortion as the possible motive of the incident.



PACOM

36. [Security, India] Powerful IED Recovered In Assam

Monday, August 13 2012

<http://news.oneindia.in/2012/08/13/powerful-ied-recovered-in-assam-1052790.html>

A powerful Improvised Explosive Device (IED) was recovered by security forces in Assam's Kamrup (Rural) district today, official sources said.

Acting on a tip-off, personnel of the Army's Punjab Regiment recovered the bomb, weighing over two kilograms, from Puthimari Nagaon village.

The bomb was kept behind the house of a poor farmer. It was later defused by bomb experts.

Meanwhile, security has been beefed up in the state following intelligence reports of ULFA's anti-talk faction planning to create disturbances in the run-up to the Independence Day.



PACOM

37. [Security, Philippines] IED Recovered In Kabacan

Monday, August 13 2012

<http://www.mindanews.com/top-stories/2012/08/13/ied-recovered-in-kabacan/>

Police and bomb experts recovered an improvised explosive device (IED) beside the national highway in Barangay Kayaga at around 4:20 p.m. Monday.

Police Supt. Raul Supiter, town's police chief, told MindaNews that residents noticed the IED which was covered with rice straws but partly exposed, and immediately reported to the police.

Supiter added that the IED is made of an 81mm mortar shell, and a mobile phone.

The Barangay Kayaga junction along the Davao-Cotabato highway also to the highway leading to Carmen town.

Supiter said they have been receiving reports that some groups have been planning to sow terror as they are preparing for the town's 65th Foundation Anniversary on August 18.

On Monday noon, Supiter told MindaNews that they have been "beefing up our security measures to ensure the safety of the people."

In the past, extortionists have been targeting the Rural Transit Bus plying Cagayan de Oro-Tacurong route with IEDs.

On Friday evening, a 40 mm grenade exploded on the roof of an internet café here but no one was hurt since the café was already closed by then.

Supiter suspected that the 40mm was launched using an -79 grenade launcher .

Based on trajectory, Supiter said it was launched from somewhere near the Kabacan Pilot Elementary School.



PACOM

38. [Security, India] IED Recovered In Assam

Sunday, August 12 2012

<http://www.business-standard.com/generalnews/news/-ied-recovered-in-assam/43120/>

An Improvised Explosive Device (IED) was today recovered in Sibsagar district of Assam today. The police said villagers at Bapukhuri noticed a packet near a drain around noon and informed the authorities. Army and police personnel reached the spot, along with the bomb disposal squad. The IED was defused. Police officials said they suspect anti-talk faction of the ULFA had planted the IED. Security forces are conducting combing operations in the area in search of militants. The Assam police has already sounded a "red alert" across the state in the run-up to the Independence Day celebrations.



PACOM

39. [Security, India] Seven ULFA Cadre Arrested, Powerful Improvised Explosive Devices Recovered

Friday, August 10 2012

http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2012-08-10/india/33136368_1_explosive-devices-ulfa-cadre-ulfa-men

Seven ULFA operatives were arrested tonight and two powerful improvised explosive devices (IED) recovered following an encounter in Assam's Tinsukia district, the police said.

Acting on a tip-off about the presence of a group of ULFA operatives to carry out subversive activities in the district in the run-up to the Independence Day, the police launched a search operation in Borburi area since this evening and an encounter followed in which two militants were nabbed while another fled away.

Five more ULFA men were arrested following the interrogation of the duo and two powerful IEDs recovered from an abandoned cremation ground, 500 metres from the parade ground where the district administration was due to hold the I-Day parade, source said.

The bombs have been defused and search operations were on to arrest the militants who fled, the police said.



NORTHCOM

40. [Security, United States] Explosive Device Found In Lake

Wednesday, August 15 2012

<http://www.sturgisjournal.com/news/x1405825497/Explosive-device-found-in-lake>

Michigan State Police were dispatched to Grey Lake in Sherman Township to investigate an improvised explosive device that was found Tuesday night.

A Sturgis resident found the device while swimming in about two feet of water, police said. The State Police bomb squad helped safely destroy the item.

The remains of a similar device also were found in the area. That device appeared to have already been detonated, police said.

The incident remains under investigation.



NORTHCOM

41. [Trend, United States] Robot Hand Could Disable IEDs

Wednesday, August 15 2012

<http://www.livescience.com/22409-robot-hand-could-disable-ieds.html>

Researchers are showing off a robotic hand that they say could be dexterous enough to disarm an improvised explosive device (IED) and cost-effective enough to be used widely by troops.

"Hands are considered the most difficult part of the robotic system, and are also the least available due to the need for high dexterity at a low cost," said lead researcher Curt Salisbury of Sandia National Laboratories.

The device, named the Sandia Hand, is modular so that different kinds of fingers, as well as tools like flashlights, screwdrivers or cameras, can be quickly plugged into the hand frame with magnets. The researchers say modularity allows the fingers to fall off, instead of breaking, if the operator — who controls the robot with a glove — accidentally slams the hand into a wall or another object.

"In addition, if a finger pops off, the robot can actually pick it up with the remaining fingers, move into position and resocket the finger by itself," Salisbury explained in a statement from Sandia.

The researchers also outfitted the hand with lifelike features, including a gel-like layer to mimic human tissue underneath the hand's tough outer skin, which helps the robot securely grab and manipulate objects. Such features might allow soldiers to use robot to delicately disarm an IED without blowing it up.

For now, the retail cost of a Sandia Hand is estimated at about \$10,000. While that sounds like a lot, the researchers point out that current robotic hands can cost more than \$250,000.





NORTHCOM

42. [Trend, United States] Dead Man, Explosive Materials Found In Bucks Co. Home

Tuesday, August 14 2012

<http://abclocal.go.com/wpvi/story?section=news/local&id=8773408>

Investigators descended on a home in Bucks County Tuesday after the homeowner was found dead and a cache of explosive materials discovered inside.

Police say those materials include an anti-tank rocket used for training by the military and some highly explosive chemicals.

The scene unfolded at 71 Barry Road in New Britain Township.

At nine o'clock Tuesday morning, police and paramedics responded to a call of a man in cardiac arrest. They found the homeowner, 34-year-old Christopher Kanter, a software engineer, unresponsive in the kitchen. He'd been for hours.

Police then discovered an inert anti-tank rocket in a container in the living room.

In the basement, kitchen and bedroom they found large quantities of a black powder, fireworks, and liquid chemicals including pitric acid, which is highly explosive in its crystallized form.

"It looked like he was making improvised explosive devices," said New Britain Twp. Police Chief Robert Scafidi. Scafidi added that authorities have no idea if he had any intention of using them.

ATF agents and other explosives experts closed down the street and set up a mobile lab to analyze the dangerous chemicals stockpiled inside the home.

"There's a chemist here checking what they are," said Scafidi, "what can be removed and what has to be detonated on the scene."

Police had not been called to the home before for anything unusual, just medical calls. Kanter lived here with his girlfriend and had a house guest from North Carolina.

Neighbors said they only saw him coming and going. But they heard him firing weapons and setting off fireworks sometimes in the middle of the night.

They never imagined he'd acquired enough explosive materials to do some serious damage.

"It's just unnerving," said neighbor Jessica Kosluk. "There are children and families. Just to live right next door, could have killed any one of us. Anyone."

The bomb squad, hazmat and ATF expect to be on the scene into Tuesday evening. Some of the chemicals are too dangerous to even transport, so they will be detonated here.

Police do not think Kanter's girlfriend or the house guest had anything to do with what they found. An autopsy will be performed to determine how Kanter died.



NORTHCOM

43. [Trend, United States] New Military Robot “Feels” Explosives

Monday, August 13 2012

<http://kplr11.com/2012/08/13/new-military-robot-feels-explosives/>

A new robotic arm would give U.S. troops in Afghanistan the ability to feel the improvised explosive devices they are remotely trying to disarm, potentially allowing for greater precision than ever before.

The arm, called the RedHawk, gives its operator the sense of touch by using “haptic technology.” The perceptions of force, vibrations, and motion allow the operator to feel like they are touching the object.

“RedHawk’s haptic control technology reduces operator workload, preserves forensic evidence, and provides such realistic, intuitive feedback that operators can pick out an individual wire in an IED,” said Bill Gattle of Harris Government Communications Systems.

The system’s precision will aid the operator in dismantling an IED’s triggering mechanism without destroying it, allowing the military to lift fingerprints or other clues to who made the bomb, according to the company.

A total of four sensors are built into the robot’s two fingers. If the sensors come in contact with an object like an IED, the sensors communicate that back to a grip like handle that the operator is using. The handle is equipped with motors to replicate the sensations.

“Anytime the robot would contact something you as the operator would feel like you have contacted it,” said Paul Bosscher, a scientist at Harris Corporation that worked on the development of the arm. “It will feel like the grip of that handle is an extension of your own hand.”

The arm can even be programmed to filter out an operator’s shaky hand.

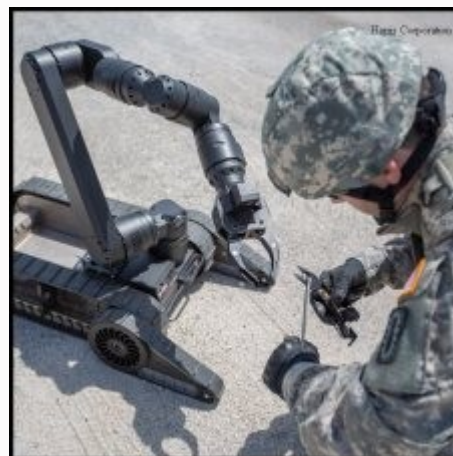
“You can be more precise with the robot than you are with (y)our hand because you can adjust how sensitive the robot is,” said Bosscher.

Harris Corporation revealed the robot during the Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International’s conference in Las Vegas, Nevada this week.

This is the first unit of its kind that will be available to the military, according to Bosscher. The arms are also plug-and-play, meaning they can be attached to the thousands of medium sized ground robots already owned by the military.

Defense Department officials are interested in the technology, which has been in development for three years, said Bosscher.

According to Harris Corporation RedHawk can also be used to disarm chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear weapons as well as aid in first responder search and rescue operations.





SOUTHCOM

44. [Attack, Colombia] Five More Killed In Southwestern Colombia Attacks On Power Infrastructure

Thursday, August 16 2012

<http://colombiareports.com/colombia-news/news/25594-5-more-killed-colombia-attacks-on-power-infrastructure.html>

Alleged FARC attacks on Colombia's electricity infrastructure left five dead and six injured Thursday.

Explosives placed around electricity towers killed five people and injured six while toppling three pylons in the southwestern Nariño department.

A suspected FARC bomb was detonated near a power substation in Cauca in the early hours of Thursday morning. Although the power station and surrounding houses were damaged, local authorities reported there were no fatalities, and the attack will not affect the electricity supply to the area.

The latest attacks in the south western Nariño and Cauca departments came one day after three electricity workers were killed by landmines while repairing pylons destroyed by alleged FARC landmines last week.

The area around the town of Tumaco has been without electricity for six days and according to local reports, workers for the local power company are afraid to enter the area due to the surge in attacks.

The governor of Nariño sought immediate intervention from the National Government to send specialists to help with the repairs which he says will amount to millions of dollars.

Colombia's mining and energy minister told Radio Caracol that he will "take great care in the repair process to ensure that the guerrillas did not leave explosives that may affect workers."

Energy company has condemned the attacks and has reiterated its commitment to providing a service with quality, continuity and security, according to Colombian television news program CM&.



Photo: Caracol Radio



SOUTHCOM

45. [Attack, Colombia] FARC' Attack Leaves Colombian Soldier Dead

Tuesday, August 14 2012

<http://colombiareports.com/colombia-news/news/25530-farc-attack-leaves-colombia-soldier-dead.html>

An alleged attack by the guerrilla group FARC has killed one Colombian soldier and wounded a lieutenant, according to local news reports.

The homemade explosive device was detonated as soldiers were carrying out operations in the rural area of Arauquita in Colombia's northern Arauca department.

The latest attack comes in the wake of a surge of violence in the oil-rich Arauca department, according to data compiled by Colombia Reports, which records nine attacks in the first week of August alone.

The Colombian Defense Minister has claimed that many of the attacks are planned from across the "porous border" with Venezuela where the leader of the FARC's 10th Front, alias "Efren Arboleda," is believed to be hiding.



SOUTHCOM

46. [Attack, Colombia] Navy Kills Three, Captures Eight FARC Guerrillas In Western Colombia

Monday, August 13 2012

<http://colombiareports.com/colombia-news/news/25506-navy-kills-3-captures-8-farc-guerrillas-in-western-colombia-minister.html>

Colombia's Navy has killed three and captured eight FARC guerrillas held responsible for an attack on electricity towers in the west of the country that has left tens of thousands without electricity, the defense minister said Sunday.

According to Minister Juan Carlos Pinzon, the armed forces' offensive basically made an end to the guerrilla unit of the FARC's Manuel Cepeda Vargas Front, active near the Pacific port city of Buenaventura.

In what Pinzon called an "impeccable" operation, two of the unit's guerrillas voluntarily surrendered.

In a separate operation, army forces found a FARC weapons cache with some 150 grenades, eight rifles, five M16 rifles, three handguns and two AK47s.

Following an increase in FARC attacks in Colombia's southwest, President Juan Manuel Santos sent Pinzon to the city of Cali to personally coordinate the armed forces' counter-insurgency operations.



SOUTHCOM

47. [Attack, Colombia] FARC' Attack Leaves Southwest Colombia Without Electricity

Friday, August 10 2012

<http://colombiareports.com/colombia-news/news/25487-farc-attack-leaves-southwest-colombia-without-electricity.html>

An alleged FARC attack destroyed power stations in the Southwestern departments Valle de Cauca and Cauca leaving 30,000 people without electricity, reported local media Friday.

Two car bombs detonated at the power station Ingenio la Cabaña on Thursday afternoon cutting the power supply for the residents of the Cuachane municipality in Cauca.

Another alleged FARC bomb destroyed transmission towers in the area of El Placer and La Esmeralda in the Valle de Cauca.

The attacks leave in total 30,000 people without electricity.

No deaths or injuries were reported.