



Realtime Analysis and Publishing of IED Data

Weekly News Update

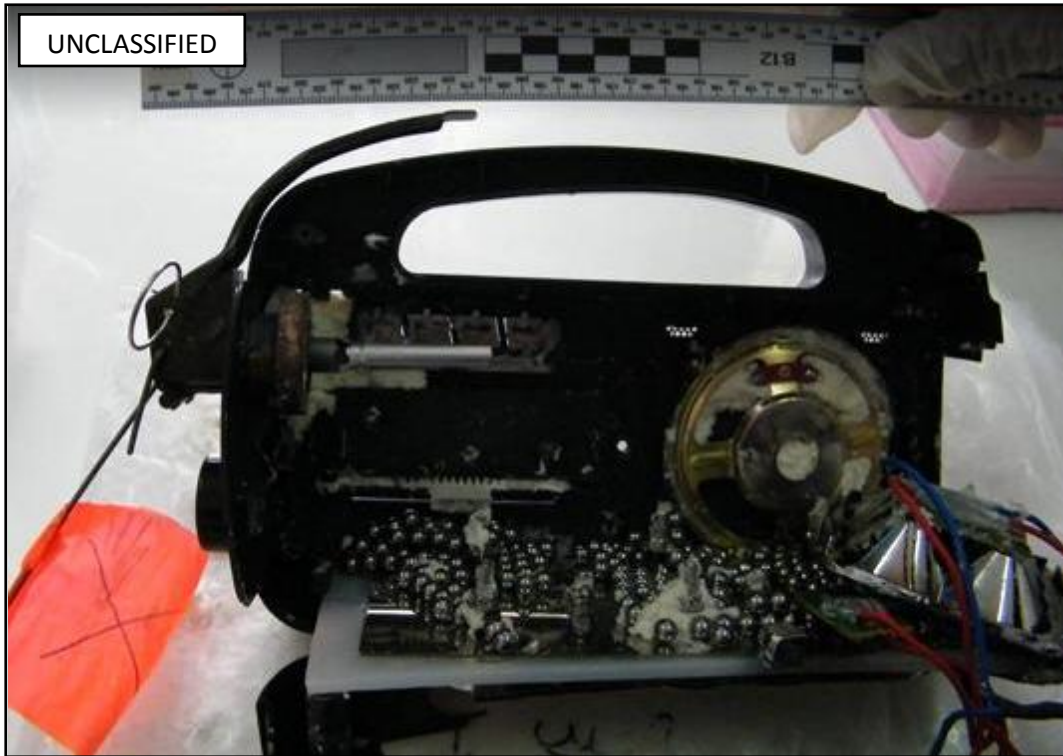
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The RAPID Weekly News Update is a weekly collection of unclassified media and news bulletins focused on noteworthy improvised explosive attacks and trends in the EOD/C-IED community. To subscribe to this weekly publication and/or to receive additional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

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1. Pentagon Has Six Bomb-Zapping Ray Guns

Thursday, 23 February 2012

<http://www.wired.com/dangerroom/2012/02/jieddo-ray-guns/>

Since January 2006, the Pentagon has spent more than \$18 billion trying to stop insurgent bombs — funding everything from radio frequency jammers to electronic dragnets that hunt bombmakers' phone calls. But while the military is good at shelling out cash for futuristic bomb stoppers, it's not as adept at tracking where its money goes. That's how it ends up spending over \$100 million on no fewer than six different kinds of directed-energy weapons designed to fry the bombs from a safe distance. And that's just the tally of the laser, microwave or radio-frequency blasters that are currently in development.

Those are the findings of a report from Congress' investigative arm, the Government Accountability Office (GAO), released on Tuesday. The report considered the bomb squad, known within the military as JIEDDO — the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization — a sprawling, bureaucratic mess. JIEDDO can't even keep track of all the different anti-bomb technologies it's supposed to coordinate, resulting in wasteful duplication.

“The military services have developed six different systems that emit energy, such as radio waves, directed at IEDs [improvised explosive devices, or homemade bombs] to neutralize them,” the GAO report found. (.PDF)

The cost? At least \$104 million, as best as the GAO could determine — although it could be higher, since the Pentagon's crappy bookkeeping makes it difficult to get an accurate tally. And the GAO total excludes any of the laser weapons JIEDDO previously funded, like a \$30 million “lightning gun” that's considered one of the bigger military technology flops of the last decade. Not to mention the parade of Humvee-mounted lasers and high-powered microwave generators backed by JIEDDO and its bureaucratic predecessor.

Directed-energy weapons are, to say the least, a gamble. The Navy has worked on laser guns in earnest for 15 years and still doesn't think it'll have one aboard a ship for another decade. The Air Force just unceremoniously retired its laser-firing 747 after 16 years of tests and billions of dollars spent. While there have been a few flashy demonstrations — and even a few battlefield trials — after all those billions, U.S. troops still don't have a way to blast away the most lethal threat they face: a \$265 improvised bomb.

None of this has been lost on those troops' commander. According to the GAO report, Gen. James Mattis, leader of all U.S. troops in the Middle East and South Asia, “conveyed concern” to JIEDDO in August about the multiple laser guns in development. “The correspondence called for coordination and cooperation by [the Defense Department] on its directed energy efforts to develop a directed energy system that works in theater as quickly as possible,” the report finds, “given that the development has been under way since 2008.”

The result? Well, let's just say that the Pentagon bureaucracy didn't immediately spring into action. Instead, JIEDDO decided that “the six systems will continue in development through fiscal year 2012 ... at which point, JIEDDO will determine which of the systems best satisfies U.S. Central Command's requirement.”

In other words: Don't expect a bomb-zapper anytime in the immediate future.

How'd the Pentagon's bomb-fighters wind up with so many redundant ray guns? Partially, it's a method built into the organization's DNA. When radio-controlled bombs became a nightmare for troops in Afghanistan and Iraq, JIEDDO pushed 14 different types of radio jammers out the door, in order to keep

the bombs from being triggered. Many of those jammers were of limited utility. Many interfered with radios, or even other jammers. The whole approach certainly burned through billions of dollars, not all of it well spent. But it saved lives. Small wonder that JIEDDO has taken a similar approach with other technologies.

What's more, the Pentagon's overall efforts at destroying homemade bombs were themselves redundant. In 2009, it set up two competing databases on those anti-bomb efforts, called the Technology Matrix Database and the Tripwire Analytical Capability — before ultimately scrapping both. The report found that JIEDDO is working on a new, pan-military database, but it's in the "conceptualization stage" and the GAO doesn't know when it'll be finished.

These are "recurring themes" for JIEDDO: The report dryly notes that it has internally warned of them since 2007. No wonder Congress has been intermittently skeptical of the organization's value almost since its creation.

JIEDDO claims GAO has it wrong. "Your report is inaccurate in stating that JIEDDO does not have a sound basis to determine how to invest our resources," writes the organization's director, Lt. Gen. Michael Barbaro, in an official rebuttal. "Coordination" between an alphabet soup of acronym'd military offices "ensures warfighter priorities, effectiveness of [anti-bomb] enablers (resourced by JIEDDO and other [Defense Department] activities) and cost reasonableness are addressed and evaluated."

They better. The bombs that became so famously deadly in Iraq and Afghanistan are now spreading globally: the organization estimates there are 500 bomb attacks outside the two warzones every month. Its brand-new strategic plan argued that the next generation of homemade bombs will use expensive "nanotechnology" and "microbial fuel cells," even though one of the reasons the deadly bombs are so resilient is because they're dirt cheap.

The current Pentagon budget cuts JIEDDO's funding by \$700 million. But another \$2.4 billion remains. And that's one part of the vast sum of money the Pentagon devotes to stopping these jury-rigged weapons. After reading this report, even legislators who want to boost defense spending might wonder how much of that largess is being spent wisely.

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2. 'Good Taliban' Leader Kills 39 Civilians In Kurram Suicide Attack

Friday, 17 February 2012

http://www.longwarjournal.org/threat-matrix/archives/2012/02/good_taliban_leader_fazal_saeed.php

A Taliban commander who left the Movement of the Taliban in Pakistan after an internal feud last year claimed credit for a suicide attack today that killed 39 civilians at a market in Parachinar in the Kurram tribal agency. Fazal Saeed Haqqani defected from the Movement of the Taliban in Pakistan last June after publicly chiding the group for intentionally killing civilians. This is what he said when he defected and joined the Haqqani Network, or what Pakistani officials like to call the "good Taliban" (those who do not attack the Pakistani state):

"I repeatedly told the leadership council of Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan that they should stop suicide attacks against mosques, markets and other civilian targets," Saeed told AFP by telephone.

"Islam does not allow killings of innocent civilians in suicide attacks," he said, likening what TTP does in Pakistan to "what US troops are doing in Afghanistan" and vowing to continue the fight alone against the Americans.

"I have therefore decided to quit TTP," Saeed said, claiming to have defected along with "hundreds of supporters." A 10-member consultative council will meet within days to formulate the group's programme, he told AFP.

Here is what he said today, while claiming credit for the suicide attack in a call to Reuters:

"We have targeted the Shia community of Parachinar because they were involved in activities against us," he told Reuters by telephone from an undisclosed location.

"We also warn the political administration of Parachinar to stop siding with the Shia community in all our disputes."

So, less than a year after he denounced the Taliban for intentionally killing civilians and defected to the Haqqani Network, Fazal Saeed decides he is justified in murdering civilians.

Last summer, when Fazal Saeed defected, the Pakistani military and government touted the development as a breakthrough in reducing the power of the Movement of the Taliban in Pakistan. The press uncritically repeated this line, held his defection up as yet another sign of the decline of the Movement of the Taliban in Pakistan, and inflated his position within the Taliban (the press called him the overall leader in Kurram when in fact he commanded several hundred fighters).

But at The Long War Journal and Threat Matrix, we warned you that such views were both wrong and dangerous. Here are two points from a post on June 27, 2011. We even predicted that Fazal Saeed may not consider the Shia to be civilians:

Note that Fazal didn't condemn suicide bombings, but only attacks against civilians, and at markets and mosques. Presumably all other targets are fair game. And one wonders if Fazal considers Shia to be "civilians," given that he's responsible for the butchering of quite a few in Kurram.

Fazal's defection from the TTP will likely be touted by some observers as a major blow to the terror group, but in all likelihood, little will change in the big picture. Fazal isn't going up against the TTP, he just dropped out of the fight. He still wants to impose Sharia, or Islamic law, in both Afghanistan and Pakistan, and is continuing to battle US forces in Afghanistan. In all likelihood, Fazal merely joined the so-called "good Taliban," the groups that are favored by the Pakistani state. The Haqqani Network has expanded its

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influence greatly in Kurram [see this report at AEI from Reza Jan and Jeffrey Dressler for more information], and Fazal may be positioning himself to ally with them (note that Haqqani Network fighters were killed in his camps during last week's Predator strikes).

And see the conclusion to a July 5, 2011 post that addressed the so-called decline of the Movement of the Taliban in Pakistan in the context of Fazal Saeed's defection:

What you are witnessing [Kurram with Fazal Saeed's defection] is a very cynical game by the Pakistani military and intelligence establishment to get wayward Taliban groups back into the fold.

In other words, Fazal Saeed's "defection" from the Movement of the Taliban in Pakistan means little in the big picture when it comes to the jihadi groups that operate in Pakistan. He still supports jihad in Afghanistan, seeks to impose sharia law in Pakistan, and shelters terrorists, including la Qaeda, in areas under his control. Just like the Haqqanis and Taliban commanders such as Hafiz Gul Bahadar and Mullah Nazir, all of whom are not members of the Movement of the Taliban in Pakistan. The only difference between them and the Movement of the Taliban in Pakistan is that the former do not advocate attacking the Pakistani state.

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3. Afghan Police Intercept Suspected Suicide Bomb Children

Tuesday, 21 February 2012

http://articles.cnn.com/2012-02-21/asia/world_asia_afghanistan-child-bombers_1_afghan-police-suicide-bombers-kunar-province?_s=PM:ASIA

Afghan police have intercepted 41 children whom insurgents were planning to use as suicide bombers, an Interior Ministry spokesman said Tuesday.

Four suspected insurgents were about to smuggle the children across the mountains into Pakistan from eastern Kunar province on Friday, said Sediq Seddiqi, the spokesman.

"We strongly believe that the children were being taken to Pakistan to be trained, brainwashed and sent back as Afghan enemies," Seddiqi said.

The children are aged between 6 and 11, he said.

Police handed the children back to their families after they were rescued in the Watapur district of Kunar

"The insurgents cheat poor and ordinary Afghans and take away their children," Seddiqi said.

Afghan and foreign forces have arrested many would-be suicide bomber children in the past.

Earlier this month Afghan forces rearrested two children in Kandahar province on suspicion of planning to be suicide bombers.

The two were from a group of would-be suicide bombers who were pardoned by President Hamid Karzai last summer, according to a press statement from the Kandahar governor's office.

They had gone to Quetta, Pakistan, to get more training before being sent back to Afghanistan for suicide attacks, the statement said.

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4. ANA, AUP Conduct EOD Mission In Gardez

Saturday, 18 February 2012

<http://www.isaf.nato.int/article/news/ana-aup-conduct-eod-mission-in-gardez.html>

Signs of progress for the Afghan National Security Forces was made in the icy city of Gardez this week when an improvised explosive device was discovered by Afghan Uniformed Police and destroyed by an Afghan National Army explosive ordnance disposal unit on a muddy street near the wood market.

Improvised explosive devices being found and disposed of by EOD units is not a rare occurrence in this volatile region of the country. What was special about this particular operation was that no coalition forces played a hand in it.

“As far as we know, it’s unprecedented,” said 1st Lt. Clayton Smith, from Oxford, Maine, Scout Platoon leader for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 509th Infantry Regiment, Task Force Spartan. “They are coordinating this whole thing.”

Smith’s Scout Platoon, along with an EOD squad from Task Force Paladin, joined Afghan forces to watch and assess only.

The IED was planted on a street frequently patrolled by the scout platoon, and in fact was part of the route for a joint U.S. and AUP presence patrol the day before.

“It was most likely targeted at dismounted troops since they have been coming through here,” said U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Tom Maahs, of Maple Shade, N.J., a member of the Task Force Paladin EOD Team that was supervising the action.

Members of the local AUP had discovered the bag with wires coming out of it in a slushy culvert that morning. In a first for this region, and perhaps for the entire province, they did not call on U.S. forces stationed at Forward Operating Base Gardez just down the road to take care of the problem. Instead, they reached out to the newly graduated ANA EOD team stationed at FOB Lightning, which is also nearby.

With visibly excited U.S. soldiers and dozens of neighborhood children watching from behind AUP cordons, the ANA’s 2nd Company, 2nd Kandak EOD squad confidently approached the suspect bag, determined it to be an IED, planted their own explosives around it, cleared the area and signaled a two-minute warning to all the spectators.

Then, with a sharp “BAM!” the new Afghan EOD squad destroyed the IED.

“That was definitely an IED,” Maahs chuckled knowingly after the blast. “Probably 15 to 20 pounds of explosives in that bag.”

The significance of Afghan forces taking the lead on a mission like this was not lost on the soldiers from the Scout Platoon who will be overseeing this area of operation for the next eight months.

“If we weren’t there, it wouldn’t have made a difference,” said Smith. “That is what we’ve been working for, for 10 years.”

The mission was also significant in that it required great cooperation between the ANA and AUP, two organizations that have not worked well together in the past.

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“When we heard there was an IED here we made ourselves ready in five minutes,” said ANA 1st Lt. Ali Ahmad, platoon commander for the 2nd Company, 2nd Kandak EOD team. “We came here and coordinated with the AUP commander, and then we blew it up.”

“We found the IED and decided to call in the ANA,” said AUP Senior Capt. Abdul Kardur. “They came in and blew it up and I felt really good about that, because it was a mission between two Afghan forces.”

That should be a common occurrence from now on, said Ahmad, “We train here, so whenever [the local AUP] have issues like this, we can help.”

“I am really proud today, for all the Afghan people, because we showed that we can work together and defeat these threats,” said Kardur.

“Today we proved that we can take care of business,” said Ahmad.

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5. Five Dead In Kandahar Bomb Attacks

Monday, 20 February 2012

<http://www.pajhwok.com/en/2012/02/20/5-dead-kandahar-bomb-attacks>

Five people, including policeman, were killed and as many injured in two separate bomb attacks in the southern province of Kandahar, officials said on Monday.

One policeman was killed and five other people were wounded in a suicide car bombing in the fourth police district of Kandahar City at around 10am, the governor's spokesman said.

Zalmay Ayubi told Pajhwok Afghan News one policeman and four civilians were wounded in the assault. Soon after the bombing, security personnel cordoned off the site.

A doctor on duty at the Mirwais Civil Hospital, wishing not to be named, confirmed receiving four injured people. He said the wounded were in stable condition.

Barriers in front of the district police headquarters were destroyed and the building partially damaged. Body parts of the bomber could be seen at the site.

Resident Abdul Wasi said that the powerful explosion smashed windowpanes of his house, close to the scene. "I came out of my house after the blast and helped police take the injured to hospital."

On Feb. 05, 2012, five policemen were among seven people killed and 19 others, including children and women, injured in a similar attack in the Shaheedan square of the city.

Late on Sunday evening, four civilians were killed in a roadside bombing in the Sher Jan area of Shah Walikot district. A child was among the dead. There was no immediate claim of responsibility, but the Taliban are blamed for most such attacks.

Meanwhile, the governor's office strongly condemned the incident, accusing the insurgents of targeting civilians. The governor extended his condolences to the victim's families.

According to a report by the United Nation (UN), about 3,021 Afghan civilians were killed in 2011. Most of the deaths were caused by insurgents, with improvised explosive devices (IEDs) used more widely and suicide attacks becoming deadlier.

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6. Bombing Kills Nine Lashkar Men In Khyber Agency

Monday, 20 February 2012

http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2012\02\20\story_20-2-2012_pg1_2

At least nine members of a local militia were killed and four others injured when a bomb planted by terrorists exploded in Tirah Valley of Khyber Agency on Sunday.

According to local political administration, the bomb was planted by the Lashkar-e-Islam (LI) terrorists at Stana checkpoint at Nari Baba, which was recaptured by the Zakakhel lashkar, Tawheedul Islam (TI), following an encounter. The nine volunteers of the peace force, who were killed, included its commander, Naek Afzal Afridi. The TI volunteers had repelled an attack from the banned LI, but the terrorists had reportedly planted explosives in the checkpoint before leaving it. The bomb was detonated when the TI volunteers recaptured the post. As a result, nine TI men were killed and four injured. The terrorists also opened fire on militiamen retrieving bodies from the debris. Two of the terrorists were killed in retaliatory fire.

Pakistan has outlawed the Lashkar-e-Islam, which is not formally linked to the Pakistani Taliban. But it shares similar ideology with the Taliban and other terrorist groups in the tribal regions along Afghan border. The group sometimes shares manpower and resources with other terrorists.

The militia fighting the Lashkar-e-Islam is composed of local tribesmen frustrated with the growth of Taliban-style groups in their territory. Such militias were started by the government in its campaign against the Pakistani Taliban in the Tribal Areas.

The blast in the border region with Afghanistan shows the challenges that these militias and their government supporters face as they try to purge the volatile border region of groups such as the Taliban and al Qaeda who have grown in strength over the last decade. Separately, at Sheen Drand Akakhel in Bara, a mortar shell fired from an unidentified location landed in the house of one Abdalkhel, killing two children and injuring five others.

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7. Motorcycle Blast In Peshawar

Wednesday, 22 February 2012

http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2012\02\22\story_22-2-2012_pg7_6

An explosive device planted in a motorcycle in the city's Mathani area went off on Tuesday. The motorcycle was destroyed in the explosion and no casualty has been reported. According to police, a low-intensity bomb fitted on a motorcycle that was parked in the busy Mathani bazaar caused the explosion. Mathani is a restive area bordering the Frontier Region. Police have started their investigation into the incident.

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8. Bomb Blast Rocks Northwest Pakistan

Thursday, 23 February 2012

http://afpak.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2012/02/23/bomb_blast_rocks_northwest_pakistan

A powerful car bomb ripped through a minibus terminal in Pakistan's northwestern city of Peshawar on Thursday, killing 15 people and injuring dozens more (NYT, ET/AFP, Dawn, BBC, The News, AJE, AP). One security official said police had been warned about an impending attack by pro-Taliban militant group Lashkar-e-Islam, though no group had yet claimed responsibility. Meanwhile, Pakistani jets bombed militant hideouts in Upper Orakzai on Thursday, killing at least 15 suspected Taliban insurgents (AFP). Foreign Minister Hina Rabbani Khar on Wednesday firmly voiced Pakistan's intention to support, not lead, a peace process in Afghanistan, reiterating that the process must be Afghan-led (Reuters).

Reuters reported on Thursday that just before the United States resumed drone strikes in Pakistan following a two month pause, senior U.S. officials including Vice President Joe Biden and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton called their Pakistani counterparts and informed them that the strikes would begin again despite Pakistani opposition (Reuters). Also on Thursday, hundreds of people gathered in North Waziristan's largest city, Miranshah, to protest U.S. drone strikes and demand compensation for their losses (AFP). Pakistani native Majid Khan, who has been held at the Guantánamo Bay detention facility for nine years, has tentatively agreed to a plea deal that secures him a reduced sentence if he testifies against other detainees (NYT, CNN, Post, AP).

Pakistani-American businessman Mansoor Ijaz testified before the committee investigating the "Memogate" controversy via video link from the Pakistan High Commission in London on Wednesday and Thursday, and supplied written testimony including his BlackBerry PIN, phone numbers, and emails (DT, ET, BBC, Bloomberg, LAT, Dawn, ET/AFP). He reiterated his claim that former Pakistani ambassador to the United States Husain Haqqani had asked Ijaz to deliver a message to U.S. Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Adm. Mike Mullen requesting U.S. help preventing a coup by Pakistan's military leadership, but that Ijaz himself wrote the first draft of the memo because he couldn't get hold of Haqqani.

And the Associated Press on Wednesday examined the outrage sparked in Pakistan by U.S. Representative Dana Rohrabacher's (R-CA) assertion last week that the Baloch people in Pakistan, Iran and Afghanistan "have the right to self-determination and to their own sovereign country" (AP).

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9. Landmines Kill Two In Balochistan

Tuesday, 21 February 2012

http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2012\02\21\story_21-2-2012_pg7_18

At least two people were killed and a woman injured in two separate incidents of landmine explosions in Chamalang and Sui areas of Balochistan on Monday. According to sources, a man identified as Faizu was working in a field along with his mother when he accidentally stepped on a landmine planted by unidentified people. The explosion killed Faizu and injured his mother. The deceased and the injured were taken to a nearby hospital. Meanwhile, a man was killed in another landmine blast in Chamalang area. According to sources, a shepherd, Shafiq Khan, was on his way when he stepped on a landmine. As a result of the explosion, he died on the spot. The body was shifted to hospital for autopsy. Police registered a case against unidentified people and investigation was underway.

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10. ISI Adopts Thursday Bombings In Iraq

Friday, 24 February 2012

http://alliraqnews.com/en/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=4877:isi-adopts-thursday-bombings-in-iraq&catid=36:security&Itemid=37

The terrorist organization (Islamic State of Iraq) within the Terrorist Qaeda Organization has adopted the wave of explosions and armed attacks which Iraq witnessed on Thursday and caused dozens of dead and injured people.

The (ISI) terrorist organization published a statement on a website reported that, "These attacks, which included six different provinces and caused more that (250) wounded persons, targeted the Iraqi security forces as a respond to the torture and assassinations against the Sunni people in Iraq."

The statement added, "The government of the Green Zone has ignored our warnings to stop torture and assassination against the Sunnis, and showed no readiness to respond to these warnings."

The statement continued, "For that reason the Ministry of Defense within what is called the "Islamic State of Iraq" decided to react towards these crimes by launching a wave of invasions conducted by the (ISI) security body," stressing that "These attacks are implemented against targets that were carefully chosen that included security headquarters and military patrols."

Baghdad witnessed on Thursday morning several bombings by car bombs and IEDs that resulted in killing and wounding dozens of citizens and security elements as well as causing material damage to several buildings.

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11. Four IEDs Dismantled In Mussayab

Monday, 20 February 2012

http://alliraqnews.com/en/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=4582:4-ieds-dismantled-mussayab&catid=36:security&Itemid=37

The Explosive Ordinance Disposal Experts, within the Iraqi Army (31) Brigade/ 8th Division, managed to dismantle four Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) which were emplaced on the road in a village within Mussayab district 50 KM north of Babel province.

A police source mentioned to All Iraq News Agency (AIN) on Monday "The IEDs were emplaced on the main road which is used by the vehicles of the Army and Police."

The source added "The IEDs were dismantled without any human or material casualties."

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12. IEDs Dismantled In Tikrit, Salah-il-Din

Monday, 20 February 2012

http://alliraqnews.com/en/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=4567:ied-dismantled-in-tikrit&catid=36:security&Itemid=37

Security forces dismantled a local Improvised Explosive Device (IED) in Tuz Khormato district of eastern Salah-il-Din province.

Security source stated to All Iraq News Agency (AIN) "A force of The Explosive Ordinance Disposal Unit managed to dismantle the IED which was emplaced on a roadside in Tuz Khormato district (120 km) to the east of Tikrit city, the capital of Salah-il-Din province."

The source added "The IED was dismantled without any human or material casualties."

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13. Suicide Bomber Kills Nineteen Outside Baghdad Police Academy

Sunday, 19 February 2012

http://www.longwarjournal.org/threat-matrix/archives/2012/02/suicide_bomber_kills_19_outsid.php?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+LongWarJournalSiteWide+%28The+Long+War+Journal+%28Site-Wide%29%29

A suicide bomber, likely from al Qaeda in Iraq or the allied Ansar al Islam, killed 19 Iraqi policemen and cadets in an attack outside a police academy in Baghdad today. From Reuters:

The car exploded as it careered into a crowd of cadets whom police had just escorted out of the compound and were standing in the street outside, police working at the academy said.

Police and hospital sources said 14 cadets and five police were killed, and 26 people were wounded. All except two of the wounded were police or cadets.

"I can see body parts scattered on the ground and boots and berets covered with blood. Many cars were set ablaze," said a policeman working at the academy on Palestine Street in northeastern Baghdad.

As Reuters notes, today's suicide attack is the first major mass-casualty suicide attack in Iraq in three weeks. The last attack, on Jan. 27, killed 32 Iraqis, including 16 policemen and Shia worshippers, during a funeral procession in Baghdad.

While al Qaeda in Iraq has been weakened after years of targeting and counterinsurgency operations by Iraqi and US forces, the terror group still maintains a foothold in the country.

Al Qaeda in Iraq carried out three major suicide attacks in Iraq during January 2012. On Jan. 15, terrorists dressed as policemen attacked a government compound and a police station in Ramadi with four suicide bombers; seven police officers and at least six of the attackers were killed during the fighting. Al Qaeda in Iraq claimed credit for the attack.

Just one day earlier, on Jan. 14, a suicide bomber killed more than 50 Shia pilgrims and injured 91 others as they gathered for Arbain in Basra.

And on Jan. 5, at the beginning of Arbain, al Qaeda launched a series of attacks against Shia pilgrims, killing over 60 civilians. The deadliest strike occurred when a suicide bomber detonated at a security checkpoint near Nasiriya; 44 civilians were killed and dozens more were wounded.

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14. Thirty-One Civilians Killed, Injured In Kirkuk

Thursday, 23 February 2012

http://alliraqnews.com/en/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=4772:breaking-news-31-civilians-killed-injured-as-initial-count-of-kirkuk-explosions&catid=36:security&Itemid=37

31 civilians were killed and injured due to the two explosions that took place in Kirkuk province.

Security source reported to All Iraq News Agency (AIN) on Thursday "The initial count casualties of the two explosions was eight dead and 23 wounded."

Kirkuk province witnessed on Thursday two blasts, the first took place on the highway between Kirkuk and Baghdad province and the second car bomb exploded in the tes'an area.

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15. Forty-Seven Persons Killed In, Injured In Balad

Thursday, 23 February 2012

http://alliraqnews.com/en/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=4792:47-persons-killed-injured-in-balad&catid=36:security&Itemid=37

A car bomb exploded in southern Salah-il-Din province, the explosion resulted in killing and injuring more than 40 persons among them police elements.

The Director of the Health Department (Khalid Burhan) cited to All Iraq News Agency (AIN) on Thursday "The car bomb exploded, targeting a checkpoint of the Iraqi Federal Police, resulted in killing seven persons and wounding 40 including civilians in Balad district of southern Salah-il-Din province."

The source added, "The casualties are announced according to an initial count and expected to be increased."

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16. Al Qaeda Inserting Itself Into Syrian Rebellion

Tuesday, 21 February 2012

http://www.longwarjournal.org/videos/2012/02/al_qaeda_inserting_itself_into.php

[VIDEO: Please copy/paste above link into browser to view video.]

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17. Explosive Device Seized In Turkey

Thursday, 16 February 2012

<http://translate.google.com/translate?sl=auto&tl=en&js=n&prev=t&hl=en&ie=UTF-8&layout=2&eotf=1&u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.kentselhaber.com%2FV8%2FNews%2F479318%2FBaskan-yardimcisinin-evinde-7.5-kilogram-patlayici-yakalandi>

[APPROXIMATE TRANSLATION]

Vice Mayor Saliha Cabadak'in Nusaybin house, barn stored condition time bombs seized 7.5 kilograms.

Mardin Governor's Office, made a written explanation regarding BDP'li explosives in the house of another deputy. According to a statement by the Chief Public Prosecutor rights Nusaybin capture, search, seizure and analysis extracted from the decision of the Deputy Mayor of Nusaybin Cabadan Saliha and his sister's house last night Cabadak'in Dervis held by the police operation. Larissa Joy Sokak'teki Nusaybin District No. 6 for home operation, the condition stored in the basement floor, time bombs seized 7.5 kilograms. Syria is a large number of calls made in other parts of the house in the phrase Telecom phone cards, mobile phones, laptop computers, found the organizational document. Was taken into custody two people who are involved with the event in a person being sought is specified.

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18. Bomb Recovered In Turkey

Friday, 17 February 2012

<http://translate.google.com/translate?sl=auto&tl=en&js=n&prev=t&hl=en&ie=UTF-8&layout=2&eotf=1&u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.haberler.com%2Fbomba-susu-verilmis-duzenek-panige-sebep-oldu-3370231-haberi%2F>

[APPROXIMATE TRANSLATION]

Sisli Street of the Governor's Mansion Governor Huseyin Avni Mutlu 's left under a tree opposite the house caused a panic in a small handbag.

Sisli Street of the Governor's Mansion Governor Huseyin Avni Mutlu 's left under a tree opposite the house caused a panic in a small handbag. Guard at the mansion opposite the police to report it to police teams with bomb disposal experts from the scene, wearing special clothes, approached the package exploded with a detonator. Approaching the second package bomb expert for examination, Q-mechanism has detected that a bomb inside the package. The apparatus was taken to the police station for examination.

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19. IDF Uncovers Iranian-Made Explosive Device In Gaza

Sunday, 19 February 2012

<http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-4191437,00.html>

Engineering Corps officers have spent the past few weeks studying a powerful explosive device placed alongside other charges near the border fence and meant to target an IDF force. The explosives were successfully dismantled.

The device was found to contain unmistakable Iranian trademarks similar to previously intercepted weapons with Revolutionary Guards stamps on them which had made their way to the Gaza Strip.

A military source from the IDF's Gaza Division explained that the army has previously discovered devices it suspects were manufactured in Iran, but that in this case there was no doubt the explosives were Iranian-made.

"It's interesting but not surprising to find an Iranian device. Most devices are locally manufactured and few are smuggled in. Another 100 or 200 foreign devices will not change the picture," the source said.

The past year has seen a drop in the amount of explosives uncovered by the army in Gaza with an average of 50 explosive fields detected a year. The majority of the devices did not detonate and were discovered by scouts and Engineering Corps combatants and with the help of the Military Intelligence Directorate.

The devices are usually dismantled by a robot unless there is fear it will detonate, in which case snipers or tanks handle the matter. "The device is the least important part in an explosives field. What is more important is how the devices are placed, disguised and activated."

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20. IED Discovered On Israeli-Egypt Border

Wednesday, 22 February 2012

<http://israelmatzav.blogspot.com/2012/02/deadly-terror-attack-foiled.html>

I'm sure that a lot of you missed this, but a powerful, cell phone activated bomb was discovered on the Egyptian-Israeli border on Tuesday. IDF robots detonated the bomb. The picture above is of some of the shrapnel which was added to the bomb to make it more deadly.

"The bomb was meant to hurt people, and its long-distance activation mechanism would have allowed it to be detonated safely by the terrorist," an officer from the army's elite combat engineering unit said. "If the explosive was activated in a mall, a bus, a town or near an IDF unit, we would have been dealing with a different kind of story."

According to the preliminary investigation, the belt was hidden in a bag that was thrown over the border from the Egyptian side into Israel. An elite force that was laying in ambush detected the terrorist, who escaped back into Sinai.

Large IDF forces were deployed to the scene, closed off the area and used robotic equipment to study the bomb from afar. It was then detonated in a controlled environment. When the troops studied the aftermath they discovered a cell phone meant for the bomb's remote activation.

Aren't you glad we got rid of Mubarak and put the Muslim Brotherhood and the Egyptian army in charge of security in Sinai?

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21. Four Explosive Devices Dismantled In Hama

Sunday, 19 February 2012

<http://www.champress.net/index.php?q=en/Article/view/113612>

In another context, the military engineering units in Hama dismantled 4 explosive devices planted by armed groups to target citizens and a railway.

SANA reporter said that one of the explosive devices was planted on a railway while the others were planted on Hama-Khattab road, noting that there were no injuries during the dismantling operation.

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22. Bomb Plated At Playground In Kaduna

Friday, 17 February 2012

<http://spyghana.com/world-news/inside-africa/nigeria-news/bomb-planted-at-children-playground-in-kaduna/>

A time bomb was alleged planted at Mounted Troop in Kabala Doki Police Barracks, yesterday, where children were planning innocently with the disguised object.

The Kids were cleared from the playground when the object was identified as a possible bomb.

An eyewitness said that “the children were unconsciously playing with the bomb and nothing happened to them, before it was discovered that the object was an explosive with a timer on it.”

The anti-bomb squad arrived on time to destroy the bomb.

This is the height of wickedness and desperation by Boko Haram, as they choose Children now as their target. Shame of them!

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23. Bomb Blast Rocks Christ Embassy Church In Suleja

Sunday, 19 February 2012

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/02/19/us-nigeria-blast-idUSTRE81I09V20120219>

A bomb exploded near a church in the Nigerian town of Suleja, on the edge of the capital, Sunday, wounding five people, a spokesman for the emergency services said.

A Reuters reporter on the street near the Christ Embassy Church saw five vehicles with their glass shattered, two of them largely destroyed. Grey ash was cast across the ground.

"No person died in the Suleja explosion. One person was seriously injured and is now in hospital. Four victims had minor injuries while five vehicles were damaged," said Yushua Shuaib, a spokesman for the National Emergency Management Agency.

The street seemed otherwise largely unscathed. Soldiers cordoned the area off and were patrolling in large numbers.

Nigerian officials say Suleja and surrounding Niger state have been infiltrated by militants from the Boko Haram Islamist sect which is waging an insurgency against the Nigerian government, formerly confined to the largely Muslim far north and northeast.

The sect, which wants sharia law more widely applied across Africa's most populous nation, has become increasingly sophisticated and deadly in its methods in the last six months.

Uyi Idugboe, pastor of Christ Embassy Church, said one of his congregation had spotted a suspicious looking package between two cars when he went outside to check his vehicle was locked. He then alerted everyone to stay indoors.

"The blast struck just a few minutes after our service started at 10 a.m. When we were alerted, about 25 minutes before the detonation, we called everybody inside the church. That is why we don't have casualties," he said, declining to comment on whether the bomber was targeting the church.

Boko Haram has radiated from its northern heartlands and struck in or around the capital a few times, including a truck bomb last August that gutted the United Nations headquarters and killed at least 25 people.

On Christmas Day, a bomb blast claimed by Boko Haram against a Catholic Church in Madala, just outside Abuja, killed 37 people and wounded 57. The attack heightened sectarian tensions in the country of 160 million, split roughly evenly between Christians and Muslims.

Wednesday, gunmen suspected to be from Boko Haram stormed a prison in Kogi state in central Nigeria, killing one warden and freeing 119 prisoners, the prison authorities said.

Although the majority of the sect's attacks still occur in its home base in the northeast, its threat has spread and become more lethal. At least 178 people were killed in the sect's most deadly attack last month in Nigeria's second biggest city, Kano.

24. Six Children Die In IED Blast In Middle Shabelle

Saturday, 18 February 2012

http://www.somaliareport.com/index.php/post/2829/6_Children_Die_in_Middle_Shabelle_From_IED

At least five young children were killed, and more than six others seriously injured tonight, after an explosive device with which they were playing detonated in the outskirts of Maqogiri in the Middle Shabelle region, according to eyewitnesses who spoke to Somalia Report.

“It was 7:30pm (1730GMT) local time when I heard a huge explosion, followed by fire. I rushed to the scene and found the dead bodies of five young children and six others who were suffering serious injuries,” said Abdiwahab Ali Maqogori, a resident who spoke to Somalia Report.

“Although ambulances were not able to reach the scene, as residents we used a passenger car which took an hour to reach the hospital, during which the injured children bled thoroughly. Our children die everyday as the result of explosive devices which were left behind carelessly, and the young children think it is just shiny material which can be played with,” he lamented.

The number of children who have died from such explosions has increased recently due to the higher number of bombs and improvised explosive devices (IEDs) being used in the civil war between al-Shabaab and the TFG.

Residents in Maqogori blame the TFG for neglecting their duties of securing the area and eliminating landmines and explosive devices from civilian areas.

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25. Iranian Bomb Suspects Partied With Thai Hookers

Friday, 17 February 2012

<http://abcnews.go.com/Blotter/police-iranian-bomb-suspects-partied-thai-hookers/story?id=15716110#.T0eaJXmwWss>

Three Iranians suspected of plotting bomb attacks in Bangkok spent at least two nights partying in a Thai resort town with female sex workers just before their alleged bomb plot ended in failure, according to new information released by Thai authorities.

Thai police said Friday that they had identified a woman who said she and her two friends had partied with the three suspects last week while they were in Pattaya, a beach destination known for its rampant sex industry.

The woman, described as a prostitute in her twenties and identified only as Nan, said that she had spent time with one of the suspects, Mohammad Kharzei, and later had two of her friends join -- one for each of Kharzei's two cohorts, Masoud Sedaghatzadeh and Saied Moradi.

A cell phone photo taken by the woman and published by the Bangkok Post shows the three suspects lounging around a Hookah bar, embracing and kissing two women.

Nan said that the group drank and played snooker together, and that nothing seemed amiss, except when one of the men "barred her from approaching a closet" in their hotel room, according to the newspaper.

Thai authorities said they hope the woman can help tie the suspects together.

"What we got from Ms. Nan is circumstantial evidence that helps confirm to us that they were here together in Pattaya," Thai immigration officer Thawatchai Nongbua told the Bangkok Post. While the Associated Press said that the men spent at least two nights in the resort town, the Bangkok Post said hotel

The suspects' alleged plot was disrupted Tuesday when a cache of explosives detonated, apparently by accident, in a residence in downtown Bangkok where the men had been staying.

One of the suspects, Saeid Moradi, was wounded in the explosion. He ran to the street, covered in blood, and tried to hail a cab. When the vehicle wouldn't stop for him, he allegedly hurled a grenade at it, injuring the driver. When Moradi allegedly threw a second grenade at police who had come to arrest him, the bomb bounced off a tree, exploding near him and taking off one of his legs. Four Thai nationals were injured in the explosions.

The other two suspects were arrested while trying to flee from Thailand; Sedaghatzadeh was arrested in Malaysia, allegedly on his way to Iran, and Kharzei was detained at the Bangkok airport.

Thai Police said Friday they were also seeking two other suspects. Police said they thought Leila Rohani, the woman believed to have rented the Bangkok house that was damaged, was already back in Iran. According to the AP, a police spokesman said the fifth suspect was a white-bearded 52-year-old of unspecified nationality named Javad Nikkhahfard, and said he was thought to be a bomb maker who might have trained the other men. All four men were seen leaving the Bangkok residence on a security camera.

26. Bomb Suspects “Were Anti-Iran Exiles”

Sunday, 19 February 2012

<http://www.bangkokpost.com/breakingnews/280604/bomb-suspects-were-anti-iran-exiles>

Four Iranians suspected of involvement in a botched bomb plot targeting Israeli diplomats in Bangkok were members of an exiled Iranian opposition group which wanted the incident to reflect badly on Teheran, Syedsulaiman Husaini, Shia leader of Thailand, said on Sunday.

He claimed the four belonged to the Mujahedin-e Khalq Organisation (also known as MEK, MKO and the People's Mujahedeen Organisation of Iran, or PMOI) which aims to overthrow the current Iranian government.

The MEK has been on the US Department of State's list of foreign terrorist organisations since 1977.

Thai authorities and security agencies were not familiar with the group, said Mr Syedsulaima, who is also director of the Islamic studies centre at Al Mahdi Institute and former president of the Iran University Alumni Association.

The Islamic scholar said the bomb incident was unlikely to be the work of the Iranian government as speculated because Bangkok and Teheran have good bilateral relations.

A secret report by Iran's security agency also indicated that the Iran nationals linked with Bangkok's latest bomb plot were members of the MEK, reports said.

Formed in the 1960s, the organisation participated in Iran's 1979 Islamic revolution that replaced the country's pro-Western ruler, Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, with a Shi'ite Islamist regime led by the Ayatollah Khomeini. The MEK, whose ideology mixes Marxism and Islam, was expelled from Iran two years later after trying to stage an armed uprising against Khomeini.

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27. Photos Show Alleged Iran Bombs Hidden In \$27 Radio

Tuesday, 21 February 2012

<http://abcnews.go.com/Blotter/exclusive-photos-show-alleged-iran-bombs-hidden-27/story?id=15759301#.T0fkK3mwWss>

An alleged Iranian hit squad used \$27 portable radios to hide at least five bombs that Israeli and American authorities say they intended to use against Israeli targets in Bangkok, Thailand.

Exclusive photos of one undetonated bomb, obtained by ABC News, show the inside of the radio packed with tiny ball bearings and six magnets. Bomb experts say the magnets indicate the bomb was designed to be stuck to the side of a vehicle.

A surveillance photo of one of the alleged hit squad members, identified as an Iranian national named Saeid Moradi, shows him holding a radio in each hand.

According to authorities, a bomb exploded in the Bangkok house where Moradi and two other Iranians had been staying. After the blast, Moradi attempted to hail a cab. When the driver refused to pick him up, he allegedly threw a bomb, injuring four bystanders.

When police approached, Moradi allegedly threw another bomb, but lost both of his legs when it bounced back and exploded near him, according to Thai authorities. He was arrested following the incident and remains in custody in Thailand.

Bombers Target Israeli Diplomats Watch Video

Israeli Ad Mocks Iran Nukes Watch Video

Iranian Nuclear Scientist Allegedly Assassinated Watch Video

After the attack, police say they discovered two unexploded bombs in the house where Moradi and the other Iranians had been staying, including the one shown in the photos.

The authorities in Bangkok say they recovered more than a pound of white military explosive from one unexploded bomb that they said was to be detonated with an M26 hand grenade fuse. The photos show a pin that when pulled, authorities said, would trigger an explosion about four and a half seconds after it was pulled.

Israeli authorities and U.S. bomb experts say the bomb in the photos is strikingly similar to those used in other attacks last week in the republic of Georgia and India. "While there are small differences," said one U.S. expert, "they appear to be factory made."

Multiple authorities told ABC News the devices were either slipped through airport security or smuggled in a diplomatic pouch.

A magnetic bomb was discovered attached to the car of an Israeli diplomat in Tbilisi, Georgia and a similar device was believed responsible for the attack in New Delhi, which injured the wife of an Israeli diplomat, her driver and two passing motorists.

Iran has denied any connection with the arrests in Bangkok or to the other attacks.

Yoram Cohen, the head of Israeli's internal security service, Shin Bet, told an audience at a closed forum in Tel Aviv recently that Iran is trying to hit Israeli targets because of what it believes are Israeli attacks that have killed at least five scientists in its nuclear program.

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What concerns authorities in the U.S. is that should Israel go to war with Iran, Israeli and Jewish targets in the U.S. could be hit by similar bombs in a terror campaign.

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28. Police Bust Naxal Den In Chhattisgarh, Seize Explosives

Friday, 17 February 2012

<http://news.outlookindia.com/items.aspx?artid=751755>

A joint team of BSF and Chhattisgarh police today busted a bomb-making unit of the banned CPI (Maoist) and seized around 300 kg of explosives and equipment used for assembling IEDs.

A joint team of Border Security Force, Special Task Force and Kanker district police raided a naxal hideout in the forest between Beenagunda and Uchhekoti villages in Abuzamad area, where they came under hostile fire, Kanker district police chief Rahul Bhagat told PTI.

Bhagat said the naxalites retreated after opening fire and there was no report of any injury to the police contingent.

Police later searched the hideout and found the cache of explosives and equipment used for manufacturing IEDs.

"We seized Ammonium Nitrate, TNT, a huge stock of detonators, Cardex Wire measuring 200 meters and live cartridges from large drums kept at the spot during the operation," said Bhagat.

The squad had been combing the jungles in search of the Naxalites for the last three days, he said.

Bhagat said the hideout was used by Naxals to make bombs and it is suspected that the explosives were sent to various places from here.

"A large number of pipes, tiffins, besides other items used by the Naxals in making bombs were among the things that have been seized," he said, adding that several important documents have also been recovered.

Bhagat said police is preparing to destroy the explosives recovered during the operation, which is considered to be a major success.

The Abuzamad area, surrounded by dense forest spread across 4,000 square kilometres from Maharashtra's Gadchiroli district to Bastar region in Chhattisgarh, is considered to be a Naxal den.

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29. Huge Cache Of Explosives Seized In Perla

Sunday, 19 February 2012

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/states/kerala/article2910320.ece>

In a major crackdown on illegal explosive being smuggled into Kerala, police has seized huge cache of explosive substances from a parked car at Perla under the Badiaduka police station limits in the district.

The seizure of nearly 200 Kg Ammonium Nitrate kept in four plastic bags, 500 aluminium detonators kept in five packets and six roles of wicks were seized by the Badiaduka police inside a car parked close to a petrol pump at Perla around 7 p.m. on Saturday.

The seizure was made during a routine check up of vehicular traffic in the township bordering Karnataka.

The car, bearing Karnataka registration number and owned by Muhammed, son of Abdul Khader, a resident of Puthur in Karnataka, was impounded by the police.

The identity of the seized vehicle owner was established through the mobile phone recovered from the car, police said.

A police team led by Kasaragod Circle Inspector Babu Peringath and Badiaduka Sub Inspector M. Sreedharan is inquiring into the smuggling of the explosive substances believed to be from Karnataka.

No arrests have been carried out in connection with one of the major seizures of its kind in recent time, police said.

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30. Malegaon Blast—NIA Team Reaches Beltangady, Detains Two
Tuesday, 21 February 2012

http://www.daijiworld.com/news/news_disp.asp?n_id=130066

Officials of National Investigation Agency (NIA), who have been probing the bomb blasts which occurred at Goa during Deepavali celebrations in 2009, and the infamous Malegaon blast, arrived here on Monday February 20. They took into custody two youth living at Totattady within Neriya gram panchayat in the taluk for questioning them. The officials brought both of them to the local police station on Monday evening, where the two were interrogated extensively.

The arrested persons are Uday and Vinay, children of Shanmugan from Aniyoor village. Reportedly, the two are relatives of Jayaprakash, one of the main accused in Malegaon blast case, in which the name of Sadhwi Pragya Singh Thakur has emerged as the main accused. It is said that the two used to live with Jayaprakash at Goa in the past, and that Uday, who continued to be stationed in Goa, was on a visit to his native village since the last some days.

Jayaprakash belongs to Kadaba. He had married a close relative of Uday and Vinay, after which the youth shifted to Goa with Jayaprakash. It is unclear as to whether these two youth had direct participation in the bomb blast, or they are being questioned in an effort to locate the present whereabouts of Jayaprakash. The locals too do not know much about these two youth, except that out of the two who used to live in Goa, one had recently shifted to Bangalore.

It is said that the family of the above two youth has close association with an ancient organization, and the family members used to be active propagators of the principles preached by this organization, duly encouraging the people to enroll into this organization. The family used to be hoteliers, and the locals have expressed surprise about the fact that the youth from the family are being linked to a crime.

The people are curious about the outcome of the present visit of the investigators, as they recall that during the previous visit of an NIA team about a year back, some surprising information had emerged. At that time, involvement of the district unit of a saffron organization in terrorist activities had been revealed. The local police, however, have feigned ignorance about the said case or the purpose of the NIA questioning.

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31. Maoists Destroy House In Jharkhand

Thursday, 24 February 2012

www.hindustantimes.com/India-news/Jharkhand/Maoists-fire-at-police-station-in-Jharkhand-kill-man/Article1-815656.aspx

Maoists fired indiscriminately at a police station in Jharkhand's Latehar district in the wee hours on Thursday, leaving a man dead.

The man was sleeping on the roadside around 1.30am, when a bullet hit him as Maoists opened gun fire at Balumath police station and a nearby camp of security personnel, Vinay Kumar Singh, officer-in-charge of the police station, told reporters in Latehar.

The Maoists were forced to retreat after retaliatory action by the security forces. No casualties have been reported from either sides.

The body of the destitute was recovered this morning.

The rebels also blew up the vacant house of panchayat member, Rajendra Sahu, around the same time in the area, police said.

Agitated villagers have put up road blockade on NH-99 protesting against the incident.

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32. Three Children Killed, 30 Injured By Landmines Since 14 Jan 12

Thursday, 16 February 2012

http://translate.google.com/translate?sl=auto&tl=en&js=n&prev=t&hl=en&ie=UTF-8&layout=2&eotf=1&u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.elliberal.com.co%2Fliberal%2Factualidad%2Fcolombia%2F107989-3-ninos-muertos-y-30-heridos-en-accidentes-con-mapmuse-en-24-dias%3Fquicktabs_3%3D2

[APPROXIMATE TRANSLATION]

An alarming number of children who have been victims of landmines - MAP - or UXO-MUSE-in the beginning of 2012. Between 14 January and 6 February, three children have died and 30 others injured in six accidents in the departments of Cauca, Nariño, Putumayo, Caquetá and Cauca Valley.

As of February 15, 2011 there had been 6 children and 1 victim was killed. This represents an extremely high and great concern over the current year.

The first of the 2012 accident occurred on 14 January in the village of La Frontera municipality of Puerto Asis, Putumayo when a 9 year old boy stepped on a mine and suffered a fractured left foot.

On 24 of the same month in the town of Caloto, Cauca, an 8 year old boy from a family of peasants stepped on a landmine while playing in the orchard of a farm near his home. As a result of the explosion the boy died.

On Wednesday, 1 February a 12 year old boy also died while handling a grenade they had found on a soccer field near the airport in Iscuandé, municipality of Santa Barbara, Nariño. 6 other girls 8, 9, 10, 16 and two aged 15, suffered multiple injuries. The two most serious are the child of 10 who have an open wound of the chest and the 16 who suffered serious multiple injuries.

A day later in the municipality of Curillo in the department of Caquetá near the border with Cauca, there was another accident that affected an 8 year old girl and a 6. According to initial reports received by the campaign, children were with their families on a walk near the river when the little ones away from the group and the explosion of a booby trap. The child is receiving medical care in Caquetá, while the youngest, who is in a more serious, was taken to a clinic in Neiva.

On Sunday February 5 four youths, two pairs of brothers, belonging to the indigenous community Kiwe NASA suffered another accident with mine in the town of Florida, Valle del Cauca. One of them died 15 years and brother of 17 injured as two other children who were hit by several fragments.

On Monday 6, at school Jambaló Agricultural Technical High School, Cauca, 3 other children were seriously injured while handling an explosive device in the bathroom of the institution at the time of rest. The three children are 12 and are in sixth grade. For the severity of their wounds, were referred to the clinic Valle de Lili in Cali. The Campaign has reported that 15 other children also suffered minor injuries and require medical evaluation.

These accidents show a high degree of vulnerability in which children are in the midst of conflict. You need to take urgent measures for the protection of minors and intensify programs of risk education in areas where the danger is very high. The CCCM is doing closely monitor each case to ensure that victims have access to their rights and receive a comprehensive rehabilitation.

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33. Army Seizes FARC Explosives, Mining Equipment

Wednesday, 22 February 2012

<http://translate.google.com/translate?sl=auto&tl=en&js=n&prev=t&hl=en&ie=UTF-8&layout=2&eotf=1&u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.elpilon.com.co%2Finicio%2Fincautado-material-explosivo-de-las-farc-que-seria-utilizado-en-la-mineria-ilegal-en-el-sur%2F>

[APPROXIMATE TRANSLATION]

The crackdown on illegal mining does not let up, this time of the Fifth Brigade soldiers seized explosive material suspected FARC guerrillas, would be used to illegally mine gold in southern Bolivar department, in order to increase their finance for terrorist purposes.

The location was recorded in rural area of Santa Rosa, south of Bolivar, about 55 minutes away from the river port of Gamarra, Cesar, after intelligence work of the Jungle Battalion No. 48 'Manuel Rodriguez Prócer Torices' in coordination with the Attorney General's Office.

Authorities said the operation was developed to counter the criminal activities of the front 37 of the FARC, who under pressure and left abandoned checkpoints four cans with 200 kilos of indugel, 200 electric detonators, a four engage for crushing coconuts land and gold mining, two electric motors of 50 horsepower, 200 kilos of explosives and 400 meters of detonating cord.

The seizure of this material was subsequently destroyed, caused great losses to the finances of these structures because they intended to use subversive to extract gold and thus buy new military equipment for delivery to its members who would strengthen the mobility corridors south of Bolivar and Magdalena.

It was further stated that the newly trained soldiers in CIE Aguachica, and belonging to the Fifth Brigade, continue offensive operations to dismantle the structures that are engaged in this type of activity to cause harm to civilians.

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34. Army Seizes Explosives In Arauca

Thursday, 16 February 2012

<http://translate.google.com/translate?sl=auto&tl=en&js=n&prev=t&hl=en&ie=UTF-8&layout=2&eotf=1&u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.prensalibrecasanare.com%2Farauca%2F2517-ejyrcito-incautu-material-explosivo-de-alto-poder-en-arauca.html>

[APPROXIMATE TRANSLATION]

The Eighth Division reported late on the neutralization of six explosive devices and the location of abundant explosive materials in the department of Arauca.

Task Force units Chiron unfolded on the sidewalk and the curb blue tube tube Bridge Township Arauquita, located 100 kilos of ANFO and four gas cylinders loaded with explosives and shrapnel, arranged by a member of the Tenth Front of the FARC to be used in attacks against civilians and troops providing security in the area.

During the operation, were found 200 meters of detonating cord, 12 tatucos, 10 launchers and tubes of ca different for the manufacture of explosive devices. With the highly destructive material the FARC planned to carry out a terrorist campaign of bombings in the department of Arauca. The location of the material allows thwart terrorist plots against the security sector.

Likewise, units belonging to the Eighteenth Brigade found and destroyed a low-power explosive device installed by terrorists of the Commission 'Ernesto Che Guevara "the ELN in the neighborhood of Villa Fanny Saravena. Based on information provided by the community, uniformed EXDE group checked the load with a dog who alerted to the presence of explosives located on a main road. The device installed to be activated through a remote control was neutralized in a controlled manner avoiding no victims or damage.

Result is added to the neutralization of a cylinder bomb left by terrorists of the mobile column 'Alfonso Castellanos' of the FARC in the Santo Domingo in the municipality of Tame. The device composed of ANFO was able to be neutralized by units of time Meteor Plan Task Force Chiron.

The Command of the Eighth Division rejected the insane practices of war where through explosive ordnance indiscriminately affects civilians in the jurisdiction.

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35. FARC Explosives Seized In San Carlos

Tuesday, 14 February 2012

<http://translate.google.com/translate?sl=auto&tl=en&js=n&prev=t&hl=en&ie=UTF-8&layout=2&eotf=1&u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.elmundo.com%2Fportal%2Fnoticias%2Fantioquia%2Fhallaron-dos-caletas-pertenecientes-al-noveno-frente-de-las-farc.php>

[APPROXIMATE TRANSLATION]

The National Police in the rural Highlands village of San Miguel, in the municipality of San Carlos, found two caches belonging to the 9 th Farc front which were seized 25 kilos of ANFO explosives, which detonated a controlled manner.

This operation, called Operation Republic 51, was executed by intelligence provided by human sources and staff of the San Carlos station in the company of the Army.

In the rural village of Agua Bonita was found another creek with 6 ramps and 50 artisan cuts gas canisters and improvised explosive devices, which would be used to attack the police.

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36. Explosive Devices Seized In Cajibío

Friday, 17 February 2012

<http://translate.google.com/translate?sl=auto&tl=en&js=n&prev=t&hl=en&ie=UTF-8&layout=2&eof=1&u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.elliberal.com.co%2Fliberal%2Fjudicial%2F108014-desactivados-artefactos-explosivos-improvisados>

[APPROXIMATE TRANSLATION]

In offensive operations conducted in the municipality of Cajibío, troops from Infantry Battalion 7 'General José Hilario López', along with police personnel, located two improvised explosive devices, apparently belonging to James Sands Mobile Column FARC.

According to military intelligence work, the material found which had a great capacity for destruction, would be used by insurgents in violent acts perpetrated against the population of the municipality of Cajibío and the security forces.

The seizure of the two powerful explosive devices were made in the development of search and control operations, area under the military operation called 'Eclipse'.

The command of the Brigade 29, said his troops will continue with the intensive offensive operations carried out in the Cauca, so time to stop the violence that could disturb public order of the different populations.

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37. R1 Grenade Recovered In Miranda

Saturday, 18 February 2012

<http://translate.google.com/translate?sl=auto&tl=en&js=n&prev=t&hl=en&ie=UTF-8&layout=2&eotf=1&u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.rcnradio.com%2Fnoticias%2Feditor%2Fmiranda-se-volvio-salvar-de-otro-atentado-137948>

[APPROXIMATE TRANSLATION]

Police thwarted an attack in the municipality of Miranda, to capture a suspected guerrilla of the FARC who was in possession of an explosive device intended to turn against a military objective of this town in northeastern department of Cauca.

According to the Cauca police commander, Colonel Ricardo Alarcon, all started with an information that was related physical characteristics and clothing of an individual who had the task of launching a device against the police headquarters.

Thus, and thanks to the rapid deployment of the authorities managed to stop red-handed fly Montaña Philip Anderson, 20, who was carrying a grenade in a sling loaded with explosive R1, of great destructive power.

The guerrilla was captured once, tried to disarm the police guarding him, but returned to be submitted and delivered to the prosecutor, who judicializó before a judge for the crime of terrorism and unlawful possession of war material for the exclusive use of the Armed.

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38. Colombian Peasant Tortured For Refusing To Place Bomb In Cauca

Thursday, 23 February 2012

<http://translate.google.com/translate?sl=auto&tl=en&js=n&prev=t&hl=en&ie=UTF-8&layout=2&eotf=1&u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.caracol.com.co%2Fnoticias%2Fjudicial%2Ffarc-torturan-a-campesino-por-negarse-a-ubicar-burro-bomba-en-cauca-ejercito%2F20120223%2Fnota%2F1633264.aspx>

[APPROXIMATE TRANSLATION]

By refusing to place a "donkey pump" in the district of El Palo in rural area of Caloto, Cauca, a man's mouth was sewn with wire, he lacerated his hands and handed stab wounds.

The action was committed by three FARC guerrillas in civilian clothes, who wanted to commit a terrorist attack against the security forces located between El Palo and Tacueyo, north of the department of Cauca.

The man, who is in poor health, is admitted to the Hospital of Santander de Quilichao, where he underwent surgery.

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39. Military Seizes FARC Explosives Cache In Cauca Tambo

Thursday, 23 February 2012

<http://translate.google.com/translate?sl=auto&tl=en&js=n&prev=t&hl=en&ie=UTF-8&layout=2&eotf=1&u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.periodicovirtual.com%2Fnoticias%2F2-cauca-popayan-uno%2F3403-las-farc-iban-por-el-tambo.html>

[APPROXIMATE TRANSLATION]

The army foiled a terrorist in the Cauca Tambo to discover a cache that was stored in the large amount of war material

Battalion of High Mountain No. 4 General Benjamin Herrera Cortes, located the creek owned by Jacobo Arenas Column of the FARC in the 37 artifacts that were stored Tatuco improvised explosive type, a launch ramp, 9 and 5 grenades artisanal manufacturing in PVC, as well as large numbers of cartridges, mortars and vanilla.

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40. FARC Explosives Seized In Popayan

Tuesday, 21 February 2012

<http://translate.google.com/translate?sl=auto&tl=en&js=n&prev=t&hl=en&ie=UTF-8&layout=2&eotf=1&u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.periodicovirtual.com%2Fnoticias%2F3--cauca-popayan-dos%2F3386-caleta-con-explosivos-es-encontrada-en-popayan.html>

[APPROXIMATE TRANSLATION]

The military reported finding creek with plenty of explosive material and quartermaster, who belonged to the FARC.

The military action of the brigade 29, was recorded in the Junin area located south of the city.

Units of Service Battalion Number 29, found at:

- 20 improvised explosive devices.
- 5 electric detonators.
- 320 cartridges caliber 5.56 mm
- 50 cartridges caliber 5.56 mm linked together
- 74 cartridges caliber 7.62 mm
- 40 meters detonating cord.
- 30 meters of safety fuse.
- 47 cartridges caliber 5.56 mm
- 2 and 5 cintelas uniforms of exclusive use of the Armed Forces

The material found on this creek was intended to be used by these groups outside the law, to execute terrorist attacks against the civilian population and road infrastructure and capital supply to the Cauca. The military said in a statement.

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41. Second Discovery Of Explosives In Caguan

Thursday, 23 February 2012

<http://translate.google.com/translate?sl=auto&tl=en&js=n&prev=t&hl=en&ie=UTF-8&layout=2&eotf=1&u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.ellider.com.co%2F2012%2F02%2F23%2Fsegundo-hallazgo-de-explosivos-en-el-caguan%2F>

[APPROXIMATE TRANSLATION]

A second explosive device was found in the Simon Bolivar neighborhood by the army in the hours before his visit yesterday Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos to San Vicente del Caguan to commemorate ten years of failed peace process and the purpose of a council of ministers in this area north of Caquetá.

The explosive material contained pentolite ten bars that were inside a metal cylinder, packed with shrapnel and an activation system radio frequency remote control like a car alarm, which apparently was intended to generate panic during the visit of Governor Victor Isidro Ramirez and President John M. Santos to the former demilitarized zone.

The problem of insecurity in San Vicente is still one of the most difficult to overcome for Colombia, despite the forces that now makes permanent presence, the FARC has not vacated its surroundings. Drug trafficking, crime and sporadic attacks still affect the safety of this town Caqueta.

According to Brigadier General José Vicente Segura, commander of the Police in the departments of Tolima, Huila, Caquetá and Putumayo, "the overall security has improved," the murder, and crime have been reduced. However, "there remains a problem and terrorism, which requires more work and hitting the structures that offend in this area."

According to the General, turning off the explosive charges in the last days before the President's visit was made "with information already handled before." Segura General considered that the main concern for policymakers is the presence of 15 and 62 fronts of the FARC, and the continued action of the mobile column Teofilo Forero ', often carry out attacks wherever he goes. In this sense, the official said "there is a strong work being done, but must improve in intelligence and collaboration with the community."

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42. Police And Army Seize Explosives In Putumayo

Thursday, 23 February 2012

<http://translate.google.com/translate?sl=auto&tl=en&js=n&prev=t&hl=en&ie=UTF-8&layout=2&eof=1&u=http%3A%2F%2Fmiputumayo.com.co%2F2012%2F02%2F23%2Fpolicia-y-ejercito-logran-el-hallazgo-de-explosivos-en-el-putumayo%2F>

[APPROXIMATE TRANSLATION]

Coordinated operations continue looking for the consolidation of security policy and citizen of the national government, intelligence operations of the National Police and troops from Jungle Brigade Number 27, allowed the location of a cache with high explosive material belonging narco-terrorist group Front ONT-48 of the FARC.

The discovery was made in the village of Puerto Umbrian town of Villa, in the Department of Putumayo, where the National Police and troops from Infantry Battalion Number 25 coordinated operations carried out, finding a cache with (145) anti-personnel mines, (50) meters of electrical cable (8) pentolite tubes, (6) electric detonators and (100) plastic syringes, which are used as the activation system.

Landmines are handcrafted with a high explosive core, made with lace, pentolite and shrapnel, and were packed in PVC tubes 14 cm in height by 3 inches thick, with an electrical activation systems.

The explosive material was ready for use by terrorists of the FARC, in different parts of the Department of Putumayo attacking the security forces and civilians, again violating the human rights and international humanitarian law.

The National Police and the Commander of the Twenty Seventh Brigade invite the community to report such crimes promptly, through lines 123, 147 and 146, denouncing any action that threatens the public safety department.

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43. Army Seizes FARC Explosives & Drug Materials

Tuesday, 21 February 2012

<http://translate.google.com/translate?sl=auto&tl=en&js=n&prev=t&hl=en&ie=UTF-8&layout=2&eotf=1&u=http%3A%2F%2Favozdelcinaruco.com%2F%3Fid%3D6509>

[APPROXIMATE TRANSLATION]

Troops of Task Force Chiron took by assault a FARC guerrilla camp in the area of Bocas del Ele, confirmed its commander, Brigadier General, Antonio Carlos Fonseca Rubiano.

According to the officer, this was one of the camps Tenth mother of FARC Front, which seized a quantity of explosives still undetermined as are grenades, material for production of explosives.

At about 300 meters from the same camp, general Rubiano said Fonseca was found a crystallizing with all its elements to crystallizing the coca base belonging to the Tenth Front of the FARC, which were destroyed by national army units.

The officer considered this action as a blow to the finances and logistics of this guerrilla cell in the region.

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44. Cache With Explosives Found In Cemetery

Thursday, 23 February 2012

http://translate.google.com/translate?sl=auto&tl=en&js=n&prev=t&hl=en&ie=UTF-8&layout=2&eotf=1&u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.eltiempo.com%2Fcolombia%2Fmedellin%2FARTICULO-WEB-NEW_NOTA_INTERIOR-11199421.html

[APPROXIMATE TRANSLATION]

In total there were 67 bars indugel, 100 meters of fuse and five detonators.

These were d entered a cemetery crypt Fe Gardens, north of the AburráValley between Bello and Copacabana.

According to sources Pedro Nel Ospina Battalion, the material belonged to an urban network of the FARC and was to be used for attacks in the metropolitan area of Medellin.

Their meeting was due to the cooperation of citizens and intelligence activities.

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45. Army Finds FARC Material South And West Of Huila

Monday, 20 February 2012

<http://translate.google.com/translate?sl=auto&tl=en&js=n&prev=t&hl=en&ie=UTF-8&layout=2&eotf=1&u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.quintadivision.mil.co%2F%3Fidcategoria%3D322356>

[APPROXIMATE TRANSLATION]

Crews dismantle the FARC with interference in the department of Huila, closing access roads and neutralizing terrorist plans by seizing war supplies and uniforms, remains the target of the Ninth Brigade soldiers who in the last hours reached the location of material of great importance to the illegal armed group.

In southern Huila remains the offensive against the gang 13 'Cacica Gaitana', this time in the village of La Esperanza, the municipality of San Agustin, the information provided by the Donor Network allowed troops from Infantry Battalion 27 'Magdalena' succeed in placing elements and explosives.

The units seized 20 pieces of pentolite, 1,000 rounds of 7.62 mm, 385 meters of detonating cord and a laser device to align vision and aims for rifle.

In the municipality of Palermo, more precisely in the village of Prairie, troops from Artillery Battalion 9 'Tenerife' found material belonging to the front 66 'Joselo Lozada'. Units at the site found 49 homemade grenades for 60-mm mortar.

The results are due to the ongoing offensive and decided to act jointly troops working with other state security agencies to act quickly and efficiently against the actors generate violence.

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46. Authorities Recover Four Improvised Explosives Filled With R1

Sunday, 19 February 2012

<http://translate.google.com/translate?sl=auto&tl=en&js=n&prev=t&hl=en&ie=UTF-8&layout=2&eotf=1&u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.portalaraucano.com%2Findex.php%3Fmodulo%3Dnoticia%26id%3D1267>

[APPROXIMATE TRANSLATION]

As a result of offensive operations and military control of area, troops of the Eighteenth Brigade, attached to Task Force Chiron in the Eighth Army Division, managed to thwart the criminal actions of the FARC in Arauca Department.

Battalion Special Energy Road No. 16, located in a rural area of the municipality of Arauquita, at 08:30 am on February 16, on the banks of Caño Colorado, in the village of Three Crosses, 04 cylinders of 40 pounds loaded with about 30 kilos of R1 each.

Later in the same military action on the field, around 05:00 pm, a distance of approximately 200 meters from the first operation, the troops located 03 cylinders with the same characteristics (40 pounds loaded with about 30 kilos of R1 each), ready to be detonated with the cable adjustment method, which were installed by the mobile column front Reinel Mendez tenth of the FARC.

The artifacts were only 800 meters from a house and after the evacuation of its inhabitants, the explosives expert group of the Army, proceeded to destroy a controlled manner.

The commander of the Eighteenth Brigade Colonel Lord Cesar Oswaldo Morales Ramirez rejects the fact of how armed groups outside the law, continue to harm civilians.

Meanwhile, the troops remain in the area of operations to provide security to the inhabitants of Arauca Department of neutralizing the terrorist attacks sought by armed groups outside the law.

The command of the Eighteenth Brigade thanked the community at large for the information provided through secure lines 146 and 147 and invites citizens to continue to report all suspected acts which relate to terrorist acts that jeopardize the security and tranquility Department and its inhabitants.

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47. Authorities Seize More Than A Mile Of Det Cord In Cauca

Sunday, 19 February 2012

<http://translate.google.com/translate?sl=auto&tl=en&js=n&prev=t&hl=en&ie=UTF-8&layout=2&eotf=1&u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.cartagonoticias.com%2Fnoticias.php%2F2012021903%2FInicio%2Fregional%2Fconfiscado-mas-de-un-kilometro-de-cordon-detonante-a-las-farc%2F>

[APPROXIMATE TRANSLATION]

The material would be used by insurgents to commit acts of terror against the population of Cauca. At this time the judicial authorities and police try to capture those responsible for the transport of military equipment.

Thanks to information provided by the network of collaborators, the National Police managed to intercept an explosive parcel of the FARC would target the terrorist acts in northern Cauca.

Once known the alert citizen, the National Police launched the plan padlock on the Pan American Highway. At kilometer 55, Mondomo jurisdiction, Cauca, the police intercepted a bus from the department of Nariño, into which came a parcel recipient or sender without sparking suspicion to the police. When checking the huge cardboard box the strength of the security forces found an approximately thousand meters of detonating cord which was seized.

According to intelligence work, military equipment would target terrorist groups of the FARC who commit crimes in the northern department on behalf of the mobile column Jacobo Arenas and Sixth front.

Meanwhile, agents of the Criminal Investigation Branch, Sijin, investigate the possible responsibility of the parcel who have used the services of the automobile from rural area of the city of Pasto Narino.

Police operations will continue on the Pan American Highway in order to counter the terrorist activities of illegal groups that have caused so much harm to the population Caucana. The explosive cord is destroyed by a controlled explosion-proof agents of the National Police.

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48. Odessa Had Hidden Explosives In Beehives

Sunday, 19 February 2012

<http://translate.google.com/translate?sl=auto&tl=en&js=n&prev=t&hl=en&ie=UTF-8&layout=2&eotf=1&u=http%3A%2F%2Fkp.ua%2Fdaily%2F180212%2F325659%2F>

[APPROXIMATE TRANSLATION]

The fact that a local beekeeper in fact, for many years instead of honey sells TNT detectives learned by accident. Spill the beans recently arrested rowdy: they say, and what it is you my life for drunkenness sew when my neighbor's house a weapons cache. We decided to check out. And indeed, in the yard at the address a few hives, and in them instead of bees and honey - shells and grenades. The owner of the deadly kind - 45-year-old local man tried to explain that he collects the cartridges and explosives in the house dragging to children are not blown. But he did not believe.

According to our sources, the arrested person has hunted for many years, the so-called black archeology - talk to the press service of the regional Interior Ministry. - His findings, he hid in the beehives. In addition, the investigation disposes of the information that he marketed melted out of ammunition explosives.

Results for "collectors" were seized over a thousand rifle cartridges, detonators, a dozen cans of gunpowder, a few dozen grenades, seven mortar rounds, six artsnaryadov and even bombs.

After examining the confiscated experts concluded that a large part of the collection is quite suitable for further use and represented a danger to others. The term for keeping all this stuff is not small - up to 5 years. While there is a consequence of, "beekeeper" was released on bail.

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49. President of Abkhazia Survives Assassination Attempt

Wednesday, 22 February 2012

<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/02/23/world/europe/president-of-abkhazia-survives-assassination-attempt.html>

Unidentified assassins tried on Wednesday to kill the president of Abkhazia, a Russian-backed rebel enclave of Georgia. The assailants used automatic rifles, grenade launchers and a powerful roadside bomb in an attack that raised fresh questions about Moscow's ability to preserve order there.

The president, Aleksandr Z. Ankvab, survived the attack without injury, but at least one bodyguard died and two more were seriously wounded. It was the sixth attempt on Mr. Ankvab's life in less than a decade, a testament to the volatility of Abkhazia.

Reached by telephone at his office in Abkhazia's capital, Mr. Ankvab's voice was faint and shaky.

"I'm sorry, I can't talk right now, especially about this topic," he said about the assassination attempt.

The attack was likely to provoke new anxiety in Moscow, which has been struggling to put a damper on recent political tremors in Abkhazia and another breakaway Georgian enclave, South Ossetia. After its war with Georgia in 2008, Russia defied international condemnation and recognized both regions as independent states.

Along with tactical dividends, the two regions have also brought Moscow some headaches.

Russian businesses that have tried to make inroads into Abkhazia's potentially lucrative tourist economy have been stonewalled. And in recent presidential elections, voters in both enclaves have rejected the candidates that the Kremlin clearly favored.

Though Russian troops are stationed in both regions, disputes over politics, clan issues or business deals gone wrong often lead to bloodshed. In South Ossetia this month, the apparent winner of the recent presidential election was hospitalized after an alleged assault by the police.

On Wednesday, the Russian Foreign Ministry raised concerns that the attack on Mr. Ankvab was an attempt to "destabilize the situation in the republic."

"Russia strongly supports President Ankvab's course toward peaceful and progressive development in Abkhazia," the ministry said in a statement. "We are certain that attempts to interfere with that realization of this course, which meets the aspirations of the Abkhaz people, are doomed to failure."

Officials in Abkhazia had no immediate information on possible suspects in the attack.

Mr. Ankvab took office in August after a hotly contested election and immediately began a campaign against criminal groups that he said had infiltrated government agencies. Most recently, he dismissed the entire staff of the immigration bureau on suspicion of corruption.

"These things all provoked a negative reaction in certain parts of society," said Kristian Bzhania, Mr. Ankvab's spokesman. He said it was doubtful that Georgia was behind the assassination attempt, but investigators were checking just the same.

Mr. Bzhania said the attack began around 8:30 a.m. with a powerful roadside bomb that ripped into Mr. Ankvab's motorcade; then at least five gunmen armed with automatic rifles and grenade launchers opened fire.

“There was an intense firefight that lasted no less than five minutes,” he said. “As a result, one member of the guard detail died, and two were injured.”

Dmitri A. Medvedev, the president of Russia, telephoned Mr. Ankvab shortly after the attack and offered help in the investigation, the Kremlin press service said in a statement.

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50. Man Accused Of Making Explosive Device

Wednesday, 22 February 2012

<http://www.nbcwashington.com/news/local/Man-Accused-of-Making-Explosive-Device-140097903.html>

The Prince George's County Sheriff's Office said deputies have arrested a man who allegedly built an explosive device that was found in a shed in Aquasco.

Christopher Bolton, of Silver Spring, has been charged with manufacturing or possession of a destructive device. He was arrested on Wednesday and is being held on \$750,000.

Deputies said in September, Bolton threatened to kill a person he had a disagreement with and began building a device out of screws, batteries, .40 caliber ammunition rounds and an unknown liquid in a plastic bottle.

On Feb. 7, the device was found in a shed and removed safely by the Fire Marshal's bomb squad. On that date, a warrant was issued for Bolton's arrest.

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51. Suspected Pipe Bomb Found On Kent Island

Thursday, 16 February 2012

http://www.abc2news.com/dpp/news/region/eastern_shore/suspected-pipe-bomb-found-on-kent-island

Roadways were closed for several hours in Stevensville Thursday morning as crews investigated a suspected pipe bomb, police say.

A galvanized pipe with caps on each end was found by road crews in the area of Grollman and Old Love Point Roads.

The closest home is several yards away so there was no immediate danger to residents, says Lt. Dale Patrick, spokesman for the Queen Anne's County Sheriff's Office.

The State Fire Marshal's office was called to the scene and their bomb technicians sent in a robot to detonate the suspected bomb, says Lt. Patrick.

Deputy State Fire Marshal Bruce Bouch says the suspected pipe bomb turned out to be nothing. The pipe was void of any materials inside and there were no notes or fuse connected to it.

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52. Deputies Find 49 Explosives During Traffic Stop

Thursday, 23 February 2012

http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci_20027140

Sonoma County sheriff's deputies arrested a Sebastopol man Tuesday after they allegedly found 49 explosive devices in his vehicle during a traffic stop.

Deputies also found materials used to make devices when they searched Robert Justin Vasseur's home, sheriff's Sgt. Michael Raasch said.

A deputy stopped Vasseur's silver Ford sedan in the 2300 block of state Highway 116 for two vehicle code violations around 5:45 p.m. Tuesday, Raasch said.

The deputy learned Vasseur's driver's license was suspended for failing to appear in court for a previous traffic ticket. He was arrested and his vehicle was searched, Raasch said.

During the search the deputy found 49 homemade explosive devices with fuses, Raasch said. Possession of the devices is a felony offense, Raasch said.

Deputies with training in explosive ordnances also responded and found materials used to make the devices, Raasch said.

Deputies then searched Vasseur's residence and found more homemade explosive devices, cardboard tubes, fuses and what appeared to be gunpowder, Raasch said. Deputies also confiscated several rifles and handguns in the residence, Raasch said.

Vasseur was booked into the Sonoma County jail for possession of explosive devices and material to make them and driving on a suspended license. He is being held under \$50,000 bail and is scheduled to be arraigned Thursday afternoon in Sonoma County Superior Court.

50-year-old Tamblyn Borton at Vasseur's residence for interfering with deputies when she allegedly lunged at them during the search of Vasseur's home, Raasch said.

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53. Liberty High School Student Arrested With Explosive Device
Friday, 17 February 2012
<http://www.turto23.com/news/30485761/detail.html>

23ABC was contacted early Thursday morning and told that a Liberty High School student was arrested after reports that he planned to detonate an explosive on school grounds.

The source, who did not want to be named, told 23ABC that the student had some type of water bottle explosive that they were planning to use on the high school campus.

23ABC contacted the Kern High School District regarding the allegations and district officials said they were investigating the incident.

Officials at the KHSD said that a 16-year-old sophomore was in possession of material to make a destructive device.

Officials told 23ABC that the student had in his possession: rubbing alcohol, chlorine tab and a plastic water bottle.

The student was planning on combining the material together and shake it and explode it in a bathroom as a prank and wasn't intending on hurting anyone, KHSD officials said.

Another student alerted authorities to what the 16-year-old was planning on doing, officials said.

KHSD police officers arrested the teen Wednesday.

The student faces extreme punishment and could be expelled from the school, KHSD officials said.

The student had the materials on campus and said he learned how to make the explosive from the Internet, officials told 23ABC.

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54. Bomb Techs Disarm IED In Spokane

Tuesday, 21 February 2012

<http://www.krem.com/news/local/Residents-Bomb-squade-called-out-to-North-Spokane-neighborhood-139903823.html>

Spokane Police says bomb techs rendered an explosive device safe in North Spokane around 3:45 p.m. Tuesday.

Tuesday afternoon, just before 2pm, a neighbor living in the area called police to report he located what he thought was a bomb inside a vehicle.

The man explained that he was looking inside a vehicle that had been “abandoned” in the area the day before. He found a tube with a fuse on the end inside the car, recognized the potential threat and called police.

Officer. Bode, who had checked on the report of the abandoned vehicle the day before, responded again. Monday, the vehicle, which had a flat tire, was parked legally and no police enforcement was necessary at that time. Officer Bode reported he did not see a device inside the vehicle when he investigated.

Tuesday the neighbor who initially called police reported he was looking through the inside of the car, located the device wedged in between the seats, picked up the device, realized it could be dangerous, placed the device on the front seat and then called police. Officer Bode recognized the potential danger and called the Spokane Regional Explosive Disposal Unit.

Technicians rendered the device safe, collected evidence and will determine whether or not criminal charges exist.

The bomb squad robot was used on the vehicle. The bomb squad set a charge to it and it exploded around 3:45 p.m.

Police have interviewed the car's owner but don't have information of why the IED. Was in there at this time

No arrests have been made

No one was injured.

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55. Attempted Suicide Attack On US Capitol Thwarted By FBI

Friday, 17 February 2012

http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2012/02/attempted_suicide_at.php

The FBI has yet again employed a counterterrorism tactic that has proven extremely useful over the past few years in disrupting terror plots aimed at the United States. Amine el Khalifi, an illegal alien of Moroccan decent, was arrested today while wearing a suicide vest which he intended to detonate inside the US Capitol building in Washington DC. The attack would have been devastating were it not for the interception of his plot by undercover FBI agents, who posed as al Qaeda operatives and provided him with a non-functioning explosive vest.

"The complaint filed today alleges that Amine El Khalifi sought to blow himself up in the U.S. Capitol Building," US Attorney Neil MacBride said in a press release issued Department of Justice. "El Khalifi allegedly believed he was working with al Qaeda and devised the plot, the targets, and the methods on his own."

El Khalifi "became known to the JTTF [Joint Terrorism Task Force] because of his stated desire to carry out attacks in the US, specifically, the US Capitol building," James McJunkin, the Assistant Director in Charge of the FBI Washington Field Office said. "This arrest is the result of dedicated special agents, task force officers and intelligence analysts from the FBI and our partner law enforcement agencies that make up the JTTF."

Officials have been tight-lipped as to how el Khalifi raised suspicions, but the DOJ press release said that a confidential human source reported el Khalifi's intention to carry out an attack on US soil. It was during a meeting at an Alexandria, Va. home earlier this year that el Khalifi, along with other unidentified individuals, handled weapons and discussed his displeasure with the 'war on terror', which alarmed the confidential source who contacted law enforcement. It was after this report that the FBI began their investigation on el Khalifi.

He was then introduced by a man he knew as "Hussein" to another man named "Yusuf," both of whom el Khalifi believed to be al Qaeda members, but who in fact were undercover law enforcement officers. During meetings with the undercover agents, el Khalifi discussed various targets, eventually settling on a suicide mission against the Capitol building. On Jan. 15, el Khalifi expressed his willingness and competency in carrying out an attack by remotely detonating an explosive in a West Virginia quarry, then selected Feb. 17 as the day his operation would take place. Over the next few weeks, el Khalifi staked out his target and decided on a point of entry into the Capitol, where he would conduct his attack. Throughout this time, el Khalifi was closely monitored by law enforcement.

Today after first after praying at the Dar al-Hirjah mosque in Northern Virginia, el Khalifi set out to execute his plan. Holding an inoperable MAC-10 automatic weapon and wearing what he believed to be a suicide vest, he walked alone from a parking garage toward the US Capitol. Before he could exit the garage, he was taken into custody. El Khalifi had his first court appearance today at 4:15, where he is charged with attempting to use a weapon of mass destruction against a property that is owned and used by the United States. If convicted, he faces up to life in prison.

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[APPROXIMATE TRANSLATION]