

# RAPID

*Realtime Analysis and Publishing of IED Data*

## WEEKLY NEWS UPDATE

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



### **Galmudug Police Seize Explosives In Galkayo**

Galmudug security forces uncovered explosives vests, wires and other explosive devices buried in Galkayo, Somalia. They are thought to belong to al-Shabaab.

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## AFPAK

### 1. [Security, Pakistan] Five Kg Bomb Defused In North Nazimabad

Friday, October 26 2012

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-4-139545-5kg-bomb-defused-in-North-Nazimabad>

A potential catastrophe was averted after a bomb weighing around five kilograms was found near the KDA Flats in North Nazimabad on Thursday and defused.

Locals saw the explosive device and immediately informed the police, who reached the spot. The Bomb Disposal Squad (BDS) was also called to the scene to defuse the device that was hidden in cement blocks.

It contained ball bearings, nut bolts and was attached to a remote controlled detonator. Tension developed in the area and its surroundings as news of the bomb spread.

Meanwhile, security was also beefed up in the locality with the deployment of additional police contingents and Rangers.

Police said that the device was similar to the bomb defused in the Haidery Market in Ramazan.

That device was found behind the Dolmen Mall – also in North Nazimabad – and contained 20 kilograms of explosives as well as five kilograms of ball bearings.





## **AFPAK**

### **2. [Attack, Afghanistan] Deadly Suicide Bomb Attack During Eid Prayers**

Saturday, October 27 2012

<http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/WO1210/S00252/deadly-suicide-bomb-attack-during-eid-prayers.htm>

UN Envoy Condemns Deadly Suicide Bomb Attack During Eid Prayers in Northern Afghanistan

New York, Oct 26 2012 1:10PM The United Nations top political envoy for Afghanistan today condemned a suicide bomb attack which killed at least 40 people in the country's north, during prayers linked to one of the holiest holidays of the Muslim faith.

"This heinous attack at a mosque, killing and injuring Afghan civilians as they celebrated the Eid-al-Adha religious festival has no justification and should be condemned by all in the strongest possible terms," said the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Afghanistan, Ján Kubiš.

The deaths occurred during Eid-al-Adha prayers when a suicide bomber wearing an explosive vest detonated at the entrance of the Eid Gah mosque, in the northern city of Maimana in Faryab province, according to the UN Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), which Mr. Kubiš heads. Another 52 people were injured in the attack.

Mosques are protected places under international humanitarian law, which strictly prohibits attacks against both civilians and civilian objects, including places of worship, UNAMA noted in a news release. It noted that suicide attacks that fail to distinguish between civilians and combatants are also prohibited, but continue to be used by anti-government elements.

"These illegal and indiscriminate suicide attacks that kill and injure many Afghan civilians must stop," Mr. Kubiš added. "Such attacks are completely unacceptable and those responsible are fully accountable for the deaths and injuries of civilians caused by their brutal acts."

UNAMA also expressed condolences to the families of those killed and wished a speedy recovery for all those injured.

Starting today and lasting over the weekend, the religious observance of Eid al-Adha -- or the Feast of the Sacrifice -- commemorates the willingness of Abraham to sacrifice his son Ishmael as an act of obedience to God.



## AFPAK

### 3. [Attack, Pakistan] Girls School Blown Up In Mardan

Saturday, October 27 2012

<http://www.geo.tv/GeoDetail.aspx?ID=73093>

The extremist elements blew up government girls high school with explosive material in Mardan, Geo News reported.

According to police, extremists blew up girls school in Katti Garhi area of Katlang, Mardan. Several rooms of the school were destroyed in the blast while watchman sustained injuries in the incident. Police have cordoned off the area and started further investigation.







## **AFPAK**

### **4. [Attack, Pakistan] Grenade Attack Leaves One Dead, Seven Injured**

Sunday, October 28 2012

<http://www.geo.tv/GeoDetail.aspx?ID=73253>

At least one person was killed and seven other were injured in a hand grenade attack on a police officer's house, Geo News reported on Sunday.

According to police, unidentified men hurled a grenade at the house of a Station House Officer (SHO) and fled the scene. Shrapnel from the exploding grenade killed one person and injured seven others.

The dead and the injured were shifted to a nearby hospital.

Police have launched an investigation into the incident.



## AFPAK

### 5. [Attack, Pakistan] Nowshehra Shrine Blast Kills Four

Sunday, October 28 2012

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-73260-Nowshehra-shrine-blast-kills-4,-injures-34>

A bomb exploded outside a shrine of Ziarat Kaka Sahib located in district Nowshehra, killing four persons and injuring 34 others, police said.

SHO Nowshehra Kalan said a remote control bomb was planted about 30 feet away from the main gate of the shrine in a water cooler.

The injured have been shifted to the District Headquarter Hospital where emergency was imposed. Seven are reported to be in critical condition.

Meanwhile, Federal Interior Minister Rehman Malik has condemned the incident and said an illegal mobile SIM was used in the attack.







### AFPAK

#### 6. [Attack, Pakistan] Blast Near Bacha Khan Markaz

Monday, October 29 2012

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-73384-Blast-near-Bacha-Khan-Markaz>

Unknown miscreants planted a remote control explosive devise under the bridge situated near Bacha Khan Markaz at Pajagai Road that went off with big bang but no one hurt, police control confirmed here Wednesday.

According to police control, an explosive material (IED) planted under the bridge situated near Bacha Khan Markaz went off suddenly with no causality reported, an official of the police control told APP. Soon after the blast that heard in the entire City, the officials of the police and security forces rushed on the spot by cordoned-off the area and started search operation.



## AFPAK

### 7. [Law Enforcement, Afghanistan] IED Planter Detained In Paktia

Tuesday, October 30 2012

[http://www.wakht.af/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=6814%3Aied-planter-detained-in-paktia&catid=6%3Asecurity-a-crime&Itemid=17&lang=en](http://www.wakht.af/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=6814%3Aied-planter-detained-in-paktia&catid=6%3Asecurity-a-crime&Itemid=17&lang=en)

A man suspected of emplacing an improvised explosive device (IED) was shot by Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) in the vicinity of Khvoshamand village, the alliance said Tuesday.

A statement from the coalition forces main Bagram base said the security forces had been in contact with Taliban insurgent forces when they came upon a man that appeared to be emplacing an IED.

The ANSF call out to the man and used hand and arm signals telling him to stop what he was doing, the statement said adding when the man ignored the warnings and continued to emplace the suspected device.

Despite warning shots fired into the air by the ANSF and following proper escalation of force the man ignored all signals to cease what he was doing, according to the statement.

As a last resort, the ANSF shot the man then immediately provided medical attention. The suspected insurgent is currently in stable condition and in ANSF custody for questioning.

No civilians were killed or injured during this event, on which no insurgents had commented so far.



## AFPAK

### 8. [Attack, Afghanistan] Afghan Roadside Bombing Kills Eight Civilians

Wednesday, October 31 2012

<http://dawn.com/2012/10/31/afghan-roadside-bombing-kills-eight-civilians/>

Eight civilians, including seven women, were killed in an insurgent roadside bombing in the Musa Qala district of the southern Afghan province of Helmand on Wednesday, the Afghan interior ministry said.

Two people were wounded in the attack, the Afghan interior ministry said in a statement, holding the Taliban responsible for the attack.

“Eight of our civilian compatriots, seven women and a man, were killed today when their vehicle hit a roadside bomb planted by the Taliban terrorists,” the statement said.

Roadside bombs, also known as improvised explosive devices (IEDs), are the deadliest insurgent weapon used in Afghanistan for both the military fighting the Taliban and civilians.

The crude devices, often built on old ammunition, are planted by the side of roads to target Nato and Afghan troops battling the Taliban insurgency aimed at bringing down Kabul’s Western-backed government, but they also kill civilians travelling on the same roads.

The United Nations (UN) said that 1,145 civilians were killed in the Afghan war in the first six months of this year, blaming 80 per cent of the deaths on insurgents, with more than half caused by roadside bombs.

Last year, a record 3,021 civilians died in the war, the UN has said, and this year around 30 percent of casualties have been women and children. Most of them were victims of roadside bombs.

The UN blames insurgents for 80 percent of the civilian casualties in 2012, saying pro-government forces, which include US-led Nato, were responsible for 10 percent.

On Oct 19, a bomb ripped through a minibus carrying guests to a wedding in the northern province of Balkh, killing 19 people.

A day after the Balkh blast, the UN urged the Taliban leadership to enforce their ban on IEDs, announced by the militants’ leader Mullah Omar in 1998.

IEDs are responsible for a large percentage of deaths among the Nato forces helping fight the Taliban.

Foreign combat troops are due to withdraw by the end of 2014







and there are fears that the Taliban will extend their activities across wider swathes of the country against ill-prepared Afghan forces.

On Friday, a suicide bomber wearing a police uniform killed 42 people, including five children, and wounded 50 more at a mosque in northern Faryab province after Eid prayers on the festival of Eidul Azha.

It was the worst death toll in a single attack in Afghanistan since 80 died on Dec 6 last year in a suicide blast at a shrine in Kabul on the Ashura.



## AFPK

### 9. [Trend, Afghanistan] Women Among Victims Of Afghanistan Attacks

Wednesday, October 31 2012

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/asia/2012/10/2012103184242459887.html>

Two roadside bombs have killed at least 11 civilians in southern Afghanistan, government officials say.

Among the dead in Wednesday's blasts were seven women and three children, the interior ministry said.

"Today at around 9am [0430 GMT] a roadside bomb blew up a civilian truck in Musa Qala that killed 10, including seven young women and three children." provincial spokesman Farid Ahmad Farhang told the AFP news agency.

Another woman and a man were wounded in the Helmand province attack.

Hours later, a second device destroyed a civilian motorcycle, killing a man and wounding a woman and three children -- all members of the same family -- Farhang said.

The government in Lashkar Gah, the provincial capital, blamed the Taliban for the improvised explosive devices, IEDs, but no group has claimed responsibility yet.

The crude devices, often built on old ammunition, are planted by the side of roads to target NATO and Afghan troops.

The UN says 1,145 civilians were killed in the Afghan war in the first six months of this year, blaming 80 per cent of the deaths on fighters - more than half of those caused by roadside bombs.

Also on Wednesday, seven policemen were killed in an attack on a checkpoint in Zabul province.

Police officials, who called the attacker a "Taliban infiltrator", said he fled the Shah Joy district scene with weapons he seized from the slain policemen.

Both developments come as the independent election commission officially announced April 5, 2014, as the date of the next presidential election in the Central Asian nation.

Fazel Ahmad Manawi, chief of the Independent Election Commission, said on Wednesday that provincial elections would take place on the same day.

Manawi, speaking in Kabul, said: "we are even prepared to pave the ground for the armed opposition, be it the Taliban or Hezb-e-Islami, to participate in the election, either as voters or candidates".

"There will be no discrimination," the IEC chief added.

In the case of no presidential candidate securing more than 50 per cent of the vote, a May 22, 2014, runoff will be implemented.



### AFPAK

#### 10. [Security, Pakistan] Bomb Defused In Karachi

Thursday, November 1 2012

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-73723-Bomb-defused-in-Karachi->

The Bomb Disposal Squad on Thursday recovered and defused a bomb in Safoora Chowrangi area of the metropolis, Geo News reported.

Police said that a four KG bomb was found near Safoora Chowrangi in Gulshan-e-Iqbal locality of the city. The police said that the Bomb Disposal Squad reached to the spot and successfully defused the bomb.

Karachi, home to at least 20 million people and commercial hub of the nation, has been witnessing unending sectarian, political and ethnic violence.





### AFPAK

#### 11. [Attack, Pakistan] Two Women Killed In Landmine Blast In Dera Bugti

Thursday, November 1 2012

<http://dawn.com/2012/11/01/two-women-killed-in-landmine-blast-in-dera-bugti/>

Two women were killed and three others critically injured in a landmine blast in Balochistan province's Dera Bugti district, DawnNews reported on Thursday.

The five women were travelling on foot when the landmine exploded.

The two women died on spot, whereas, the three injured women were shifted to Sui Hospital where they were reported to be in a critical condition.

Dera Bugti area is a hotspot for an ethnic Baloch-led insurgency that wants the impoverished province to have more autonomy and a greater share of the money derived from its natural resources.

Hundreds of people have died in violence ripping through the province since the insurgency flared in late 2004.

The region has also been hit by attacks blamed on Taliban militants.



## AFPAK

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

Thursday, November 1 2012

<http://www.globaltimes.cn/content/741708.shtml>

Six civilians were killed as a roadside bomb struck a civilian car in Marouf district of the Taliban former stronghold, the southern Kandahar province, 450 km south of capital city Kabul on Wednesday evening, provincial administration spokesman Jawed Faisal said Thursday.

"The tragic and deadly incident happened Wednesday evening in Sang village of Marouf district, as a result six people including two women, three children and a man were martyred," Faisal told Xinhua.

Since the site of incident is a far-flung area it was difficult to get information in its earliest, he added.

He also put the attack on the enemies of peace, a term used against Taliban militants by government officials. However, the outfit fighting the government has yet to comment.

In a similar incident on Wednesday in Musa Qala district of the neighboring Helmand province eight people including seven women were killed and two others injured, Interior Ministry confirmed.



## AFRICOM

### 13. [Attack, Nigeria] Nigeria Church Bombing Kills Seven

Sunday, October 28 2012

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970204840504578084592377064414.html?mod=googlenews\\_wsj](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970204840504578084592377064414.html?mod=googlenews_wsj)

A suicide bomber rammed an SUV loaded with explosives into a Catholic church holding Mass on Sunday in northern Nigeria, killing at least seven people and wounding more than 100 others in an attack that sparked reprisal killings in the city, authorities and witnesses said.

As rescuers tried to reach the wounded in the Malali neighborhood of Kaduna, angry youths armed with machetes and clubs beat to death two Muslims passing by the still-smoldering ruins of St. Rita's Catholic church. An Associated Press reporter saw the men's corpses outside the worship hall, as police and soldiers ordered those in the neighborhood of Christians and Muslims to go home before more violence broke out.

The car bombing, the latest high-casualty attack targeting churches, comes as people fear more reprisal killings and religious violence could follow in this city and elsewhere along Nigeria's uneasy religious fault line separating its largely Christian south from its predominantly Muslim north.

The attack happened around 9 a.m. as the reverend of the parish conducted Sunday worship. Witnesses said the suicide bomber plowed his SUV past a gate and a security guard before ramming into the church's wall and detonating the explosives hidden inside the vehicle. The blast left shattered glass and blood across the floors of the church's sanctuary. One of the brown walls of the church caved in and bore scorch marks from the blast.

Rescuers found the bodies of seven worshipers and the suicide bomber after the attack, said Yushau Shuaib, a spokesman for Nigeria's National Emergency Management Agency. Mr. Shuaib said more than 100 others suffered injuries in the blast and had been taken to local hospitals.

Kaduna state police commissioner Olufemi Adenaike told journalists at the church that authorities had urged those living in the religiously mixed neighborhood to return home and stay indoors to halt any further revenge attacks. Saidu Adamu, a spokesman for Kaduna state government, said the rest of the city was peaceful.

Reuben Abati, a spokesman for President Goodluck Jonathan, said the nation's leader condemned the attack.

"The persistence of messengers of evil will not prevail over the will of the government and the people to secure peace and safety," Abati said.

No group immediately claimed responsibility for the attack, which comes as the Muslims in the nation are celebrating the end of Eid al-Adha holiday in Nigeria. In recent days, rumors have circulated that the radical Islamist sect known as Boko Haram, which is blamed for hundreds of killings this year alone, might try to launch an attack during the holiday. The sect has demanded the release of all its captive members and has called for strict Shariah law to be implemented across the entire country. However, the group, which speaks to journalists in telephone conference calls at times of its choosing, could not be immediately reached for comment.

The sect has used suicide car bombs against churches in the past, most noticeably a 2011 Christmas Day attack on a Catholic church in Madalla near Nigeria's capital. That attack and assaults elsewhere in the country killed at least 44 people. An unclaimed car bombing on Easter in Kaduna killed at least 38 people on a busy roadway after wit-





nesses say it was turned away from a church.

Christians and Muslims largely live in peace, work together and intermarry in Nigeria, a nation of more than 160 million people. However, Kaduna, a major city of Nigeria's north that has a large Christian population, has seen hundreds killed in recent years in religious and ethnic violence. More than 2,000 died in Kaduna state as the government moved to enact Islamic Shariah law in 2000. In 2002, rioting over a newspaper article suggesting the Prophet Muhammad would have married a Miss World pageant contestant killed dozens in Kaduna.

After the April 2011 presidential election, protests in Kaduna over Mr. Jonathan, a Christian, winning quickly turned into ethnic and religious violence that saw hundreds killed in that state alone. On Oct. 14, gunmen armed with assault rifles attacked a rural Kaduna state village, killing at least 24 people, including worshipers leaving a mosque after prayers before dawn. Officials said the attack likely came from a criminal gang angry over the village killing some of their men. In another attack Sept. 30, gunmen detonated a bomb near an Islamic school in Zaria.

Three church bombings in June claimed by Boko Haram and retaliatory violence after the attacks in Kaduna killed at least 50 people. Some fear the reprisal killings may begin again.

"The northern parts of Nigeria have suffered from so much bloodshed and violence," said Shehu Sani, an activist who runs the Kaduna-based Civil Rights Congress. "We live in a continuous interval of bloodletting. We must not submit to violence or succumb to fear. Intolerance is eroding our liberties and insurgency is destroying our rights."







### AFRICOM

#### 15. [Law Enforcement, Somalia] Somali, AU Forces Launch Sweep In Kismayo

Tuesday, October 30 2012

<http://shabelle.net/somali-au-forces-launch-sweep-in-kismayo/>

Somali and African Union forces launched Tuesday a sweep in the port city of Kismayo, and captured landmines and other explosive materials, reports said.

Witnesses in the city told Shabelle Media via telephone that the allied forces discovered landmines placed in a road and explosives in a house during their security operations. Somali military officials in Kismayo, declined to comment further on the crackdown.

The operations followed after KDF announced last week that movement in and out of the town was being monitored at control points erected outside the town.





## AFRICOM

### 16. [Security, Kenya] Terror Threat Looms In Mombasa

Tuesday, October 30 2012

<http://shabelle.net/terror-threat-looms-in-mombasa-intelligence/>

Security has been tightened in Mombasa and its environs following intelligence reports of impending terror attacks.

Police reports show that terrorists are planning to hit key targets with systematic attacks which will cripple rescue efforts.

“Corroborative reports point towards an imminent terrorist attack in the coast, especially within Mombasa city,” the police report seen by Capital FM News titled ‘Imminent Terrorist Attacks within the Coast’ region states.

Police said they have established that the threats are a continuation of attacks thwarted in December 2011 when key terror suspects Fuad Abubakar Manswab and John Jermaine Grant were arrested.

“Fuad who is out on bond intimated four weeks ago that there would be major simultaneous attacks in Mombasa, the magnitude of which would cripple any rescue efforts,” the confidential intelligence report reads in part.

Vigilance House has not commented about the intelligence report, although our sources have told us that it has been shared widely amongst most senior officers there.

Police are particularly worried because Fuad is still at large, despite an appeal by Police Spokesman Eric Kiraithe two weeks ago for him to present himself to the nearest police station.

“He has ignored the same and continues planning the attacks,” the police say.

According to police, there are two [terror] groups operating in Mombasa planning the attacks.

One of the teams, the reports states, is named F1 and has been responsible for throwing grenades and Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) in various targets in the coast.

Police believe this particular team is led by a Kenyan only identified as Maalim Khalid and has eight members namely, Tua Ibrahim Jibril aka Tafa, Tua, Zarqawi who was arrested and sent to jail in connection with armed robberies in the coast and Hassan Omondi Owiti aka Budalangi aka Budapest who escaped an October 16 security raid.

Others in the vicious group are Kennedy Mugambi Mwirigi aka Amar whom police have linked to the attack of House of Miracles Church in Nairobi’s Ngara estate in April. Police believe the suspect is hiding in Mombasa where he is actively involved in organising attacks.



## AFRICOM

### 17. [Trend, Sudan] Sudan Denies Iranian Links To Bombed Factory

Tuesday, October 30 2012

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/africa/2012/10/20121029223348264150.html>

Sudan's foreign ministry has denied that Iran had any connection to a military factory which Khartoum says was attacked by Israeli aircraft last week.

The denial coincided with the arrival of two Iranian navy ships, the helicopter carrier Kharg and destroyer Admiral Naqdi, at Sudan's Red Sea port.

"The ministry of foreign affairs confirms what is known by all: that Iran has no need to manufacture weapons in Sudan, for Iran or for its allies," the ministry said in the statement on Monday.

"We want to deny any relation between Sudan's military manufacturing and any foreign partner."

According to Iran's official IRNA news agency, the ships were sent to the Djibouti area in September, media reports said, adding that they were carrying "the message of peace and friendship to neighbouring countries and were ensuring security for shipping lanes against maritime terrorism and piracy."

Sudan's links to Iran have come under scrutiny after the country accused Israel of sending four radar-evading aircraft to strike the Yarmouk military factory in the heart of Khartoum at midnight last Tuesday.

Israeli officials have expressed concern about arms smuggling through Sudan, and have long accused Khartoum of serving as a base of support for militants from the Islamist Hamas movement that rules the Gaza Strip.

Israel refused all comment on Khartoum's allegations about the factory blast.

An 'outlaw state'

But a top Israeli defence official, Amos Gilad, said last week that Sudan "serves as a route for the transfer, via Egyptian territory, of Iranian weapons to Hamas and Islamic Jihad terrorists".

Sudan's foreign ministry called Israel an "outlaw state... trying its best to pass fabricated information through different sources that have a link with Israel, in an effort to provide reasons for its aggression.

"This includes talk about claimed relations between the al-Yarmouk compound and Iran and Syria, and the Hamas Islamic struggle movement in Palestine, and Hezbollah in Lebanon."

The foreign minister, Ali Ahmed Karti, also said he had filed a complaint at the United Nations Security Council over the alleged airstrike.

Jonah Leff, of Small Arms Survey, a Swiss-based independent research project, said the project has documented the presence of a drone, landmines and other Iranian weapons in Sudan, but he thinks they were acquired directly from Iran rather than being locally manufactured.



"There's a lot of speculation that Iran has provided technical assistance to the Sudanese for their weapons manufacturing but I haven't been able to confirm that they're producing any Iranian weapons," he told the AFP news agency on Thursday.

Evidence from weapons packaging suggests that Chinese-origin arms and ammunition are exported to Yarmouk, Small Arms Survey says.

Ahmed Bilal Osman, Sudan's information minister, said that "traditional weapons" are made at the factory.

On a visit to Tehran last August, Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir described the relationship between Sudan and Iran as "deeply rooted."

In April last year, Sudan said it had irrefutable evidence that Israeli attack helicopters carried out a strike on a car in Red Sea state.

That incident mirrored a similar attack by foreign aircraft on a truck convoy reportedly laden with weapons in eastern Sudan in January 2009.





### AFRICOM

#### 18. [Attack, Somalia] Deadly Blast In Kismayo Leaves Four Dead

Wednesday, October 31 2012

<http://shabelle.net/deadly-blast-in-kismayo-leaves-4-dead/>

Witnesses said at least four people lost their lives in a huge explosion happened on Tuesday night in Somalia's southern port city of Kismayo, former rebel bastion located 500 Km (310 miles) south of Mogadishu.

Tuesday's blast which used a hand grenade went off at a teashop, killing four nearby civilians on the spot, according to the eyewitnesses. Dozens wounded seriously, in the attack and they taken to a hospital in the city.

"It was an enormous deadly blast at a popular teashop packed by dozens of people, including soldiers," said resident, although government officials reported no army casualties.

No group has yet said it carried out the attack. Alarming Insecurity acts have been on the rise and rampant since the allied forces moved in the city early this month.

Kismayo, a strategic port city that had been a main stronghold of the Shebab for over three years, but the Islamists said they had pulled out on 3rd October after Kenyan troops from the AU force launched a beach assault.



## CENTCOM

### 19. [Attack, Syria] Syrian Car Bomb Kills Three Soldiers

Friday, October 26 2012

<http://www.iol.co.za/news/world/syrian-car-bomb-kills-three-soldiers-1.1412234#.UJFAOoZ0aVo>

Three Syrian soldiers were killed and eight were wounded, most of them critically, in a car bomb attack in the southern city of Daraa on Friday, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

“At least three soldiers were killed and eight others wounded when a car bomb exploded in front of a military checkpoint on Hanano Street (in Daraa) next to the railway station” in Daraa, the Britain-based watchdog said.

The explosion, which “rocked the area” also left eight soldiers wounded, most of them in a critical condition, it said.

A separate car bombing in Damascus killed five people and wounded 32, Syrian state television reported.

The Observatory confirmed the attack, adding that children were among the wounded.

The car bombings came after the regime and the main rebel group, the Free Syrian Army, agreed to observe a ceasefire from Friday morning for the four-day Muslim holiday of Eid al-Adha.

The ceasefire had been brokered by UN and Arab League peace envoy Lakhdar Brahimi, but both sides had pledged to respond if attacked.

Jihadist group Al-Nosra Front, which has claimed the majority of deadly car bombings and suicide attacks over the course of the conflict, has categorically rejected any truce.





### CENTCOM

## 20. [Attack, Iraq] More Than 30 Killed In Baghdad Bomb Blasts

Sunday, October 28 2012

[http://www.gulf-times.com/site/topics/article.asp?cu\\_no=2&item\\_no=540141&version=1&template\\_id=37&parent\\_id=17](http://www.gulf-times.com/site/topics/article.asp?cu_no=2&item_no=540141&version=1&template_id=37&parent_id=17)

Bombings on Shia neighbourhoods in Baghdad and a blast on an Iranian pilgrim bus killed more than 30 people yesterday, marring Iraqi celebrations of the second day of Eid al-Adha.

Two car bombs exploded yesterday, one ripping into a restaurant in the Shia stronghold of Sadr City and killing at least 23 people, police and hospital sources said.

"I was just selling fruit and we were surprised by a huge explosion on the other side of the street," Hassan Falih Shami, a grocery stall owner near the site of the blast. "You can see pools of blood, the shoes and pieces of clothing."

Hours earlier, a roadside bomb planted near an open-air market killed seven people, including three children at a playground. Another blast killed six people when it hit a bus carrying Iranian pilgrims to a Baghdad shrine, police and hospital officials said.

Police said the attack on the Iranian pilgrims came from a bomb that had been attached to their bus. It exploded around 300m from a police checkpoint, sending the bus out of control before it flipped over on its side.

Insurgents have carried out at least one major attack a month since the last US troops left in December. Iraqi officials worry Syria's crisis is bolstering Iraqi insurgents.

The monthly death toll from attacks in Iraq doubled in September to 365, the highest number of casualties in two years, including a series of bombings targeting Shia neighbourhoods that killed more than 100 people.

Security officials had said they believe insurgents would try to carry out a large attack during the Eid holiday.

UN special envoy Martin Kobler condemned yesterday's violence as "atrocious", adding in a statement: "The targeting of worshippers is an appalling crime."

A Shia car salesman in the town of Muqdadiyah was shot dead, meanwhile, and eight people were wounded by a car bomb targeting a Shia religious foundation's offices in the town of Tuz Khurmatu.

In Mosul, 350km north of Baghdad, three attacks targeting the tiny Shabak community killed five people and wounded 10 others, officials said.

In separate shootings, gunmen burst into the homes of Shabak families and killed a total of five people, and wounded four others, including young children, while a bombing in the compound of a family home wounded six.

"The security forces are supposed to be responsible for protecting all the citizens of Mosul," said Qusay Abbas, a Shabak member of the provincial council of Nineveh, of which Mosul is the capital.

"This is a very troubling attack."





## CENTCOM

### 21. [Trend, Yemen] Ten Year Old Dies In Yemen Missile Accident

Sunday, October 28 2012

<http://yemenpost.net/Detail123456789.aspx?ID=3&SubID=6148&MainCat=3>

A 10-year old boy died while playing with an extruded missile in Yemen's southern province of Taiz on Sunday, the Yemeni state news agency Saba reported quoting a statement by a local security source.

Mubarak Muhammad Naji died and two girl children, 9-year old Ohoud and 12-year old Asmaa, were injured in the explosion of the missile that happened in 6th Street, the source said.

The authorities have and launched an investigation into the accident and warned to avoid such stuffs when found, Saba said.

Taiz was one of the Yemeni cities which turned into open battlefields for fierce battles between pro- and anti-revolution forces last year.

When mass protests erupted against the former regime, the unrest deepened the country's crises and then conflicts killed thousands and displaced hundreds of thousands of families in the north and south.

Scores have been killed and injured in landmine explosions since displaced families returned to their homes in Abyan where the army fought and drove Al-Qaeda out of their strongholds this year.



## CENTCOM

### 22. [Security, Egypt] Nasr City Terrorist Cell Planned Interior Ministry Bombing, Assassinations

Monday, October 29 2012

<http://www.egyptindependent.com/news/security-nasr-city-terrorist-cell-planned-interior-ministry-bombing-assassinations>

Investigations into the recently arrested members of a Nasr City terrorist cell suggest that the suspects were targeting state institutions in greater Cairo and the coastal areas, including the Interior Ministry. They were also planning a series of assassinations, authorities claim.

One of the suspects is a former police officer who was fired from the force in 2003, and has allegedly been working to train new members of the cell.

Investigators claim the group was formed two months after the 25 January revolution. Authorities claim one suspect, Mohamed Ashraf Farag, was the main coordinator. They say in February he received a letter informing him of a money transfer to the Sayeda Zeinab Post Office, but he did not go to claim it, as he suspected he was being watched.

Farag was arrested in March for possession of a hand grenade, but at that time denied having any relationship with the terrorist cell.

Prosecutors now claim that the money was sent by the suspect Abu Ahmed, who until recently lived in Arish but came to Cairo during this summer's Operation Eagle military campaign in Sinai. Five people frequently visited him in his apartment, including a Tunisian who is alleged to be an international expert in explosives. The group also met in another apartment in Nasr City.

While the suspects were allegedly planning a terrorist attack in that apartment, the police stormed in, killed one, arrested the others and seized a large number of sophisticated weapons.

One of the detainees confessed that three others in the cell had fired at a police checkpoint in Mahalla in April. Another confessed to storing weapons smuggled in from Libya in his Alexandria flat.

The US-based Federal Bureau of Investigations had provided the Egyptian National Security Bureau with information about the cell, which it accused of being involved in the attack on the US consulate in Benghazi. The FBI monitored the group until its arrival in Cairo.



### CENTCOM

#### 23. [Security, Syria] Syrian Army Defuses Massive Car Bomb In Aleppo

Monday, October 29 2012

<http://presstv.com/detail/2012/10/29/269296/syrian-army-defuses-car-bomb-in-aleppo/>

The Syrian army has defused a car bomb in the flashpoint city of Aleppo, where security forces are engaged in a battle with foreign-sponsored insurgents.

Syrian soldiers on Sunday found and defused the bomb inside a suspicious vehicle in the Khan al-Assal residential neighborhood of the city, located about 355 kilometers (220 miles) north of Damascus, as they were patrolling the area, the official SANA news agency reported.

The report added that the car contained some 1,000 kilograms of explosives.

Separately, insurgents fired five rocket-propelled grenades in al-Zahra neighborhood. Three of the projectiles struck al-Rasoul al-Azam Mosque in the district, causing material damage.

Insurgents also fired a mortar shell at the Municipal Palace of Aleppo on Saturday, damaging the building.

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

The Syrian government says that the chaos is being orchestrated from outside the country and accuses Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and Turkey of arming the insurgents.





## CENTCOM

### 24. [Security, Syria] Air Strikes And Car Bomb Signal Bloody End To Syria's Failed Truce

Tuesday, October 30 2012

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/air-strikes-and-car-bomb-signal-bloody-end-to-syrias-failed-truce-8231624.html>

President Bashar al-Assad's fighter jets wreaked destruction across Syria on the last day of a supposed ceasefire yesterday, leaving no doubt that the UN-brokered initiative had failed.

Admitting defeat, the UN-Arab League envoy Lakhdar Brahimi lamented that the violence was getting worse as smoke billowed above Damascus and other rebel strongholds following an estimated 60 strikes. Opposition groups claimed it was the most brutal use of firepower yet.

The UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon, said he was "deeply disappointed" that the four-day truce for the Eid festival had collapsed.

The violence came a day after the Syrian army claimed that "terrorists" had repeatedly violated the ceasefire and vowed to use an "iron fist" against them. It appeared to fulfil that promise yesterday. The heaviest air strikes were on areas in the northeast of the capital including Harasta, which the army has been trying to seize back from rebel hands.

Adding to the chaos, a car bomb exploded outside a bakery in the Jaramana district, a largely Druze and Christian area in the capital's south-east where residents are said to largely support the regime. The blast, which tore the fronts off several buildings, killed at least six people, according to state media, which ran footage of firefighters dousing the smouldering wreckage.

The announcement of the Eid truce had been met with scepticism and collapsed in many parts of the country almost as soon as it began, with neither side showing commitment to uphold it. With the latest effort to bring a halt to the fighting in tatters, Mr Brahimi was attempting to pick up the pieces yesterday, visiting Russia in an attempt to secure the assistance of one of Assad's most powerful allies in building a comprehensive solution.

Following talks with the Russian foreign minister, Sergei Lavrov, Mr Brahimi said: "The situation is very, very dangerous; the situation is bad and getting worse."

As the international community dithers, the death toll continues to mount. It is estimated that 32,000 people have been killed during the 19 months of violence. Activists claim as many as 400 people died during the first three days of the supposed ceasefire alone, with the Local Co-ordination Committees adding that 68 were killed yesterday, mostly around the capital.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said more than 60 air strikes were carried out yesterday in the heaviest use of airpower during the conflict, although other activists disputed that assessment. Damascus-based Mohammed Saeed said: "We have seen worse days."

Regime aircraft were also said to have hit the strategic town of Murat al Numan in Idlib province. Its earlier capture by rebels severed a key supply line for Assad's troops in Aleppo.



There were gruesome scenes in the Hajar Aswad area of southern Damascus after a minibus was purportedly hit by a regime shell, killing eight people including several children. One video showed a mangled body being pulled from the smoking wreckage. State television gave a conflicting narrative of events, saying the deaths were caused by a car bomb.

Despite the failure of the truce, Mr Brahimi said he would not be discouraged from his mission. "We will continue to work as hard as we possibly can, in co-operation with everybody inside of Syria and outside of Syria, to bring down the level of violence, put an end to it," he said, adding that there were no plans to send in UN peacekeepers.

Analysts said the fact that international efforts were focused on a brief, four-day ceasefire highlighted the lack of any real initiative to end the bloodshed.

"The international community wants to feel like it's doing something," said Salman Shaikh. "But you can't expect a fragmented opposition and the regime – which is increasingly losing control of very important strategic areas – to feel like they can let go at this time. This model doesn't work. We are losing Syria." Running on empty: the road to peace

Lakhdar Brahimi's effort to bring about a lull in violence over the Eid al-Adha festival is the latest initiative to crumble. Without any mechanism for monitoring or enforcing a truce, it stood little chance of success.

His predecessor Kofi Annan's attempt to forge a ceasefire in April was similarly doomed. Though it started with a brief decline in heavy bombardment, the violence soon ramped up to unprecedented levels, as 300 United Nations observers looked on helplessly.

The ceasefire was one step of Mr Annan's six-point peace plan, which failed to come to fruition. Some analysts say efforts must now focus on building unity in the opposition and forging a vision for a post-Assad Syria, rather than ceasefires and a transition led by Mr Assad.

An Arab League peace plan, which the Syrian regime agreed to in December, ended in controversy as UN monitors were accused of providing cover for the crimes of Assad's forces. The mission was suspended after just over a month.





## CENTCOM

### 25. [Attack, Syria] Bomb Near Shi'ite Shrine In Damascus Kills At Least Six

Wednesday, October 31 2012

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/10/31/us-syria-crisis-blast-idUSBRE89U0MY20121031>

A bomb killed at least six people on Wednesday near a Shi'ite shrine in a suburb of the Syrian capital Damascus, state media and opposition activists said.

State media said 13 people were also wounded in the explosion in the Sayeda Zainab district. The semi-official Ad-dounia television said the bomb was placed in a garbage bag. Another bomb in the area was defused, the station said.

"The explosion occurred just east of the shrine. Lots of people are also wounded," said one of the activists in the area, who declined to be named.

"Security personnel have swarmed the area. It is not clear whether the target was the shrine or a security compounding adjacent to it," he added. Groups opposed to President Bashar al-Assad say seven people died in the blast.

The poor neighborhood, inhabited by a mix of Sunni and Shi'ite Muslims, is marked by the colored tile and mirror shrine, located near several security compounds, as well as an office for Shi'ite Iraqi cleric Muqtada al-Sadr.

Concern among Shi'ites and moderate Sunnis have been rising that Sunni zealots could target the shrine for Zainab, the Prophets' granddaughter and wife of the Caliph Ali, who is highly revered by Shi'ites.

As the 19-month revolt against Assad turns bloodier, sectarian tension has increased between members of the country's Sunni Majority and Assad's Alawite sect, an offshoot of Shi'ite Islam that has dominated power in the country since the 1960s.





## CENTCOM

### 26. [Special Interest, Iran] Israel Says Iran Has Temporarily Put Nuclear Bomb Ambitions On Hold

Wednesday, October 31 2012

<http://english.samaylive.com/world-news/676516451/israel-iran-nuclear-bomb-ehud-barak-iran-nuclear-programme-top-n.html>

Iran has drawn back from its ambition to build a nuclear weapon but the respite is only temporary and Tehran will still have to be confronted by next summer, Ehud Barak, the Israeli defence minister, said on Tuesday.

Speaking to the Daily newspaper while on a visit to London, Barak said it was "probable" that a tipping point in Israel's standoff with Iran over its nuclear programme would have been reached before the US presidential election next month had Iran not diverted the fuel in August.

The decision put back any immediate plans Iran had for acquiring a nuclear bomb, but Barak told the British newspaper the "moment of truth" had only been delayed by "eight to 10 months". Israel has engaged in much sabre-rattling over Iran's nuclear programme in recent months, with several politicians proposing a preemptive military strike to avoid any possibility of Tehran acquiring an atomic weapon.

Barak explained that Tehran had amassed 189 kilograms of 20-per cent pure uranium -- a key step in the development of weapons-grade material -- but that 38 per cent of this was converted into fuel rods for a civilian research reactor.

In comments published on the Telegraph's website, Barak argued there were three possible reasons for this. "One is the public discourse about a possible Israeli or American operation deterred them from trying to come closer," he reasoned.

"It could probably be a diplomatic gambit that they have launched in order to avoid this issue culminating before the American election, just to gain some time. "It could be a way of telling the International Atomic Energy Agency 'oh we comply with our commitments'," he added.

Several rounds of negotiations between world powers and Tehran have failed to produce much progress on increasing the transparency of Tehran's nuclear programme, which the West suspects is a front for developing nuclear weapons.

Tehran denies the charge and insists it has a right to enrich uranium -- despite four rounds of UN sanctions over its refusal to cooperate with nuclear agency inspectors. Iran and the United States have recently both denied reaching a deal for one-on-one nuclear talks, as The New York Times had reported -- even though the White House said it was open to such dialogue.

Barak said he doubted that sanctions and diplomacy would resolve the crisis and predicted Israel would probably face a decision over whether to launch strikes in 2013. He insisted that Israel had the right to act alone and that a preemptive strike would be less risky than waiting until Iran had acquired a nuclear weapon.



### CENTCOM

#### 27. [Security, Yemen] Saboteurs Blow Up Yemen Gas Pipeline

Wednesday, October 31 2012

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5isA6qHel408mNo9nAtZbBggUZ6-g?docId=CNG.4fc2d4737d41513a77c7bcadd70c3733.181>

Saboteurs have blown up a pipeline linking gas fields in eastern Yemen to a maritime terminal in the country's mostly lawless south, Yemen LNG company said on Wednesday.

The blast occurred at 10:00 pm on Tuesday, almost 300 kilometres (more than 185 miles) north of the Balhaf terminal, the company said in a statement on its website, without reporting any casualties or the extent of the damage.

A Yemeni official who requested anonymity told AFP that the assailants had placed an explosive device on the pipeline 30 kilometres south of the Safer gas fields in the eastern province of Marib.

Similar explosions struck gas pipelines that also feed the Balhaf terminal in September, August, May and March, the latter forcing the suspension of gas exports for three weeks.

Gas and oil pipelines have been a regular target for sabotage attacks in the impoverished southern Arabian Peninsula nation, which relies on its modest exports as a main source of revenue.

The attacks, blamed on Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, or AQAP, have become more frequent in the wake of the 2011 popular uprising that forced out veteran strongman Ali Abdullah Saleh.





### CENTCOM

#### 28. [Security, Egypt] Egypt Police Seize Explosives, Arrest Suspects

Wednesday, October 31 2012

<http://gulfnews.com/news/region/egypt/egypt-police-seize-explosives-arrest-suspects-1.1096536>

Egyptian police seized dozens of bombs and arrested several people on Wednesday allegedly planning attacks in the country, the interior ministry said, in an apparent crackdown on militants.

The ministry said police found 83 bombs in a car on a highway outside Cairo, and later arrested two men allegedly linked to them.

At a Cairo apartment, they also seized half a kilogramme of ball bearings, which can be used in bombs to cause greater damage and injury, and a manual on bomb manufacture.

The statement added that police separately arrested two men with electrical circuit boards that could be used in bombs.

A ministry official declined to say whether the suspects were militants, but did say they were planning attacks in the country.

Police said last week a suspected militant was killed in an explosion in a Cairo apartment during a police raid, and several militants were later arrested.

State-run media published contradictory accounts on the man's identity, with some reporting that he was an Al Qaida linked Libyan and another saying he was Tunisian.

The interior ministry issued a statement criticising the conflicting accounts, but has not disclosed the man's identity.







### CENTCOM

#### 29. [Attack, Syria] Several Killed In Bomb Attack In Central Syria

Thursday, November 1 2012

<http://www.presstv.ir/detail/2012/11/01/269936/several-killed-in-central-syria-bomb-blast/>

Several people have been killed and many others wounded after a bomb went off in central Syria as clashes continue between foreign-sponsored insurgents and government forces.

The blast took place in the city of Hama, located 213 kilometers (132 miles) north of Damascus, on Thursday, Syria's state-run TV reported.

Earlier in the day, a number of armed men were killed during intense clashes with Syrian troops in the city. The insurgents were planning to attack al-Jeed, al-Aziziyeh and Jisr beit al-Raas villages in al-Ghab area of Hama province.

In addition, Syrian soldiers launched an offensive against insurgents near Kherbet al-Masasneh village on Thursday, killing scores of them.

The Syrian Army also seized a large amount of weapons, and destroyed a car used by insurgents in the process.

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

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



### CENTCOM

#### 30. [Trend, Syria] Bombing Attempt Thwarted In Syrian Capital, One Killed By Blast In North

Friday, November 2 2012

<http://www.nzweek.com/world/bombing-attempt-thwarted-in-syrian-capital-one-killed-by-blast-in-north-20292/>

The Syrian authorities thwarted Thursday a car bombing attempt in the capital Damascus, while an explosive device killed one person in a northern province, local media reported.

A car bomb, rigged with 80 kg explosives, was dismantled in the Damascus suburb of Somarieh on Thursday, the state-run SANA news agency said, adding that the car was parked near a main bus stop in the area.

Meanwhile, the pro-government Sham FM said an explosive device went off in the northern province of al-Raqqa, killing one person and wounding many others.

Earlier in the day, the state TV reported the blast of an oil pipeline in the eastern province of Deir al-Zour, but gave no further details.

Explosions, particularly in Damascus, have become increasingly common lately. The Syrian government blames al-Qaida-linked fighters of using bombing tactics in their fight against the administration.

On Tuesday, five explosions rocked Damascus in several districts, leaving at least 12 people killed.



## EUCOM

### 31. [Attack, Ireland] Viable Pipe Bomb Thrown At Police Near Belfast

Friday, October 26 2012

<http://www.independent.ie/national-news/viable-pipe-bomb-thrown-at-police-near-belfast-3274685.html>

A viable pipe bomb device was thrown at police in Northern Ireland after they were lured into the area by a hoax emergency call, it was disclosed.

It failed to explode but could have caused serious injury or death, a senior officer said. Police were attending a report of a violent domestic assault in Poleglass near Belfast last night.

Superintendent Philip Knox said: "One of the officers involved tells me that the device passed inches from his face before landing close to the police vehicle. Luckily the fuse burnt itself out on the ground."

Officers were attending a report of a violent domestic incident in the Glenwood View area of Poleglass, an estate to the west of Belfast, when they were targeted with the device shortly before 8.40pm last night but it failed to explode.

Police enquiries have established that the original emergency call was a hoax. Two crews of three officers responded to the reported domestic incident in two vehicles. The officers at whom the explosive was hurled were Lisburn-based response constables, a man and a woman. All six officers were unharmed but shaken.

Mr Knox said a detailed examination of the device concluded that it was viable and capable of causing serious injury or death.

"The officers targeted were responding to what they believed was a genuine call for help. It now transpires that they were lured to the area with a hoax call so some cowardly individual could attack and try to kill them with a pipe bomb," he added.

"We consider ourselves extremely fortunate today that we are not dealing with a much more serious incident and that all of the responding officers were able to walk away from that situation unharmed. "

This is the second time in just over four months officers have been targeted in this way and police appealed for help to identify the perpetrators. They issued a description of a man around 5ft 10in tall, wearing a dark hooded and dark baggy tracksuit bottoms.

The previous incident happened in the Whin Park area of nearby Twinbrook during the early hours of June 6. On that occasion officers attended following a report that a window had been smashed in the area. They were leaving the house when a blast bomb was thrown at them.







## EUCOM

### 33. [Security, Israel] Israel To Limit Cluster Bombs In Possible War With Hezbollah

Monday, October 29 2012

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/10/29/us-israel-lebanon-clusterbombs-idUSBRE89S0UF20121029>

Israel would use a lot fewer cluster munitions in any future war with Hezbollah than it did in their 2006 conflict, even though it would go into southern Lebanon earlier and harder, a senior Israeli military officer said on Monday.

The disclosure confirms Israel already has detailed planning for an offensive aiming to avoid some controversial tactics used in the 34-day push against the Iranian-backed guerrillas.

Israel has not signed the Convention on Cluster Munitions, whose adoption in 2008 was spurred partly by Lebanese casualties of the bomblets, some of which lay scattered and unexploded until they were accidentally detonated by civilian passersby.

"Due to a whole range of considerations -- legitimacy, our non-indifference to the treaty, effectiveness and other factors -- cluster use is expected to be reduced in combat in the rural areas," the officer told foreign journalists.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, he said "rural areas" meant "most of southern Lebanon". The scattering of cluster bombs, whether by artillery or the air force, would be "much reduced, significantly reduced", he said.

Hezbollah is outgunned by the technologically superior Israeli forces, but in 2006 it proved adept at fighting covertly and hitting Israeli towns with rockets. Some 1,200 people were killed in Lebanon, mostly civilians, and 160 Israelis, mostly soldiers, died in the war.

#### ONE IN EVERY VILLAGE

If Israel carries out its veiled threats to attack Iran's nuclear program, it could mean another war with Hezbollah.

Israel sees the Shiite militia as the long arm of its enemy Iran. Israeli television has reported that 10,000 Lebanese sites are now listed as potential targets -- far more than Israel had on its list in 2006.

Suggesting the depth of Israeli intelligence penetration, the officer said there was "more than one Hezbollah cell" in each of some 240 Shiite villages in southern Lebanon. Some have guerrilla bunkers, launch pads and arms caches.

Israel hopes Lebanon can rein in Hezbollah, which acts like a state within a state. If not, the officer predicted a future war would be settled more quickly by Israel, whose forces were fought to a standstill in 2006.

Israel had relied initially on aerial bombing, shifting to a ground offensive only after days of withering guerrilla rocket attacks on its northern towns. Next time, the tanks and troops would go in "very early on", the officer said.

Israel must also brace for attacks on Israelis abroad, he said. Iran and its Lebanese ally have been accused of several plots. Many may have been foiled, but on July 18 a bomb in Bulgaria killed 5 Israeli tourists. Iran denied any role. Hezbollah has not responded to the charges of involvement.



If a bomb attack killed many Israelis, would Israel see it as justification for launching a new Lebanon war?

"My personal opinion? Absolutely," the officer said.





### EUCOM

#### 34. [Security, Northern Ireland] Deep Concern After Huge IED Find

Monday, October 29 2012

[http://www.policeoracle.com/news/Crime/2012/Oct/26/Fed-Deep-Concern-After-Huge-IED-Find-\\_57251.html](http://www.policeoracle.com/news/Crime/2012/Oct/26/Fed-Deep-Concern-After-Huge-IED-Find-_57251.html)

Concern is mounting that Republican terrorists in Northern Ireland are continuing to develop IEDs of greater complexity following a disturbing find in Belfast.

A mortar bomb-based device containing significantly more Semtex plastic explosive than has previously been seen was recently discovered in the Ardoyne area of city – fuelling fears that dissident groups are continuing to bolster their deadly arsenals.

While the terrorist threat from Republican groups on the UK mainland has been downgraded from Substantial to Moderate in the past week, it remains Severe in the province.

Terry Spence, Chairman of the Police Federation for Northern Ireland, said there was “no doubt” that dissidents were determined to attack officers and the security forces.

He told PoliceOracle.com: “From our point of view here, the terror threat is just as high as it has ever been and the situation continues to give us great cause for concern.

“The device that was found in the Ardoyne contained four times the amount of Semtex than we have normally seen – thankfully this has now been seized.

“It is quite clear to us that these terrorist groups are out to target police officers.”

Mr Spence said that the threat to personnel was mounting as the PSNI continued to contract – and there was no longer any backing from the British Army.

He added that discussions had also begun with the Northern Ireland Justice Department about whether any elements of the Winsor Review of pay and conditions – which has caused huge controversy in England and Wales – are appropriate for the province.

Mr Spence said that the Fed was “keen to avoid the worst excesses” of the two-part report, adding that it was crucial that the morale and well-being of PSNI officers was preserved.

As previously reported on PoliceOracle.com, the terrorist threat in Northern Ireland has continued to cause concern for officers, who have been targeted with firearms and explosives.

In addition to the growing organisation of the Republican terror groups – most of which formed themselves into a loose alliance earlier in the year – there are also fears that loyalist paramilitaries are also gaining a greater profile.



## EUCOM

### 35. [Special Interest, Poland] Poland Denies Explosives Found On Crashed Jet

Tuesday, October 30 2012

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/europe/2012/10/20121030213317721310.html>

Polish military prosecutors have denied a newspaper report that said investigators had found traces of explosives in the 2010 plane crash in Russia, which killed Polish President Lech Kaczynski and 95 others.

Rzeczpospolita daily said on Tuesday that Polish investigators who examined the remains of the plane in Russia found signs of TNT and nitro-glycerine on the wings and in the cabin, including on 30 seats.

The report strengthened accusations by rightists groups that investigators ignored evidence of outside involvement and prompted opposition leader Jaroslaw Kaczynski, the twin brother of Lech, to call for the government to resign.

"We demand the resignation of the government of (Prime Minister) Donald Tusk," Kaczynski told reporters. "It cannot be that Poland is governed by people who have obfuscated for 30 months in the matter of what we can now say is a heinous crime."

Ireneusz Szelag, a spokesman for military prosecutors, said experts who examined the wreckage in recent weeks in Russia detected no explosives on plane parts or at the site of the crash.

He said, however, that some chemical substances were found on parts of the wreckage that will be submitted for laboratory tests. It will take months to name those substances, he said.

"It isn't true that tests have revealed traces of trotyl and nitroglycerin on and inside the wreckage," Szelag told reporters.

"Evidence and opinions collected so far have in no way provided support to the belief that the crash was a result of actions by third parties, that is to say an assassination," he told a news conference.

The Rzeczpospolita daily later said on its website that it "made a mistake" writing about those two chemicals.

Its story reignited accusations from the opposition and some victims' families that the crash in heavy fog on approach to the rudimentary military airport in Smolensk was an assassination.

The crash was Poland's worst tragedy since World War II and it has deeply divided Poles on what could





be its cause.

A government report in 2011 blamed the crash on human error coupled with bad weather and airport conditions, but excluded any explosion as causing it.

Moscow and Warsaw have faced renewed criticism over their handling of the Smolensk investigation after Polish prosecutors admitted last month that families of two of the victims received and buried the wrong remains.

On Tuesday, Szelag said two more bodies were mis-identified and lawyers for families of other victims feared more remains may need to be exhumed.





## EUCOM

### 36. [Security, England] Bomb Scare As Mortar Found At Totnes Waste Depot

Tuesday, October 30 2012

<http://www.thisissouthdevon.co.uk/story-17197608-detail/story.html>

The recycling centre at Totnes was closed for 90 minutes yesterday morning while bomb disposal experts removed a rocket propelled mortar which had been placed in a skip and narrowly missed being crushed by a digger.

Devon County Council, which owns the site, confirmed that the site was evacuated while police, then bomb squad officers, were called.

Investigators removed the mortar in a bomb-proof container for further examination. It is not yet known whether the mortar had already been deactivated before being disposed of in the skip, or whether it had potential to explode.

Roger Croad, Devon County Council's cabinet member responsible for recycling centres, said the rocket should never have been placed in the skip in the first place.

"We like to think that we can recycle most things to avoid them going into landfill, but rocket propelled mortars are definitely not on our list of recyclables," he said.

"Seriously though, it's rather irresponsible to leave ammunition or explosives at your local recycling centre, and possibly endangering staff and the public."



## EUCOM

### 37. [Law Enforcement, England] Fifty-One Year-Old Man Arrested After Bomb Disposal Squad Carry Out Search Warrant On Merseyside Suburban House

Thursday, November 1 2012

<http://www.liverpooldailypost.co.uk/liverpool-news/regional-news/2012/11/01/100252-32146291/>

A bomb disposal squad was called to help execute a search warrant in a leafy Merseyside village this morning. Officers from Merseyside Police's specialist anti-gun crime Matrix team were joined by explosive experts and the fire service as they searched a property in Birkdale, near Southport.

Police confirmed a 51-year-old man from Birkdale has been arrested on suspicion of possession of a firearm and possession of a controlled drug following the execution of the warrant.

Matrix vans, police cars and a bomb squad team swarmed upon a three-storey building on Liverpool Road around 10am.

Controlled drugs were seized during the search of the property, which neighbours believe has been converted into flats.

Despite a heavy police presence there was no police cordon set up outside the building, or to block off the busy main road.

Neighbours said they were unaware of the reasons behind the operation and had not been told anything by police. One man, who did not wish to be named, described his shock as he returned to find a bomb squad van near his home.

He said: "There were three Matrix vans and at least two police cars, plus the bomb disposal, which is a little bit worrying. They [the police] haven't said anything to us."

A spokeswoman for the police said: "Officers executed the warrant at a property in Liverpool Road at around 10am.

"A quantity of controlled drugs has also [been] seized during the search of the property.

"The Explosive Ordinance Division and the Fire Service are in attendance to give advice and guidance to the police search teams.

"A search of the property is ongoing."



## EUCOM

### 38. [Security, Ireland] Bomb Disposal Team Make Athy Device Safe

Thursday, November 1 2012

<http://www.breakingnews.ie/ireland/bomb-disposal-team-make-athy-device-safe-572550.html>

An Army Bomb Disposal Team made safe a viable Improvised Explosive Device in Athy, Co Kildare last night.

The Defence Forces deployed a team to a residential area near the Carlow Road in Athy, following a request from the gardaí.

The area was cordoned off and some houses were evacuated during the operation.

The team found the IED near a vehicle, outside a house, when they arrived on the scene at 11.15pm. The device was made safe by means of controlled explosion.

The scene was declared safe at 1.20am and the team returned to base.





## EUCOM

### 39. [Attack, Turkey] Car Bomb Near Turkish Military Base Injures Five

Thursday, November 1 2012

<http://www.presstv.ir/detail/2012/11/01/269965/blast-near-turkey-army-base-injures-five/>

At least five people have been wounded in a car bomb explosion outside a military post in Turkey's southeastern province of Hatay.

A car rigged with explosives exploded in front of a gas station in the city of Iskenderun, located 470 kilometers (292 miles) southeast of the capital Ankara, at around 5:30 p.m. local time (1530 GMT) on Thursday, Turkish-language Zaman newspaper reported on its website.

The blast reportedly took place 150 meters from the entrance to the Ahmet Tor military barracks in the city.

Ambulances subsequently rushed to the scene of the explosion and transferred the injured to Iskenderun Public Hospital for treatment.

Law enforcement forces have cordoned off the area, and launched an investigation into the incident.

No individual or group has yet claimed responsibility for the explosion.





### EUCOM

#### 40. [Security, Israel] IDF Fires At Suspect Trying To Place Explosive Device On Gaza Border

Friday, November 2 2012

<http://www.haaretz.com/news/diplomacy-defense/idf-fires-at-suspect-trying-to-place-explosive-device-on-gaza-border-1.474005>

IDF tanks fired toward a man suspected of attempting to place an explosive device on the Israel-Gaza border on Friday.

Palestinian sources said that the man was seriously hurt. A spokesman for the Hamas-run health ministry said that a 22-year-old man was hit by Israeli tank fire on the border in the central Gaza Strip, and seriously wounded, according to an AFP report. The IDF did not comment.

There has been recent escalation on the Israel-Gaza border. Earlier this week, an Israel Air Force craft struck a Palestinian rocket launching pad and two militant activity sites in the Gaza Strip after Gaza militants fired some 15 rockets and mortars into southern Israel overnight.

Two more rockets struck Israel shortly after the attack on Gaza.



## PACOM

### 41. [Law Enforcement, India] Special Cell Nabs IED Maker

Friday, October 26 2012

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/India-news/NewDelhi/Special-cell-nabs-IED-maker/Article1-950675.aspx>

A middle-aged fruit-seller, allegedly associated with an Indian Mujahideen (IM) module that was planning to carry out a 'fidayeen' attack at Bodh Gaya in Bihar to avenge 'atrocities' perpetrated against Muslims in Myanmar and replicate Pune serial blast in Delhi during the festival season, was arrested by the special cell, police said on Friday.

Sayed Maqbool, a resident of Maharashtra's Nanded, was apprehended from Hyderabad on October 23, said S N Srivastava, special commissioner of police (special cell). Srivastava said Maqbool has also taught the four recently-arrested members of the IM's 'Maharashtra module' behind Pune's serial blasts how to engineer Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs).

"Maqbool was in close association with the other four involved in the Pune serial blasts - Asad Khan, Imran Khan, Sayyed Feroze and Langde Irfan Mustafa. Together, they had planned to execute fidayeen (suicide) attacks on Buddhist shrines at Bodh Gaya," Srivastava claimed.

The group, which had executed the Pune serial blasts in early August to avenge the murder of IM member Qateel Siddiqui at Pune's Yerawada Jail, had got the approval of Riyaz Bhatkal for carrying out the attack as a 'retaliation to atrocities on Muslims in Myanmar', police said.

Maqbool first came in contact with Imran and was later introduced to the other members of the group. He taught them how to make IEDs using urea, diesel and fire cracker powder at Asad's farm house in Aurangabad, police said.

"In April, Imran introduced him to Riyaz and Iqbal, the Bhatkal brothers, over the Internet," Srivastava said.

On the instructions of Riyaz Bhatkal, Srivastava claimed, Maqbool helped Imran in conducting a recce of Dilkush Nagar, Begum Bazar and Abuds in Hyderabad.





## PACOM

### 42. [Security, Indonesia] Poso Police Find 10-Kg Bomb In Tamanjeka

Monday, October 29 2012

<http://www.thejakartaglobe.com/home/poso-police-find-10-kg-bomb-in-tamanjeka/552983>

Police in Poso, Central Sulawesi discovered a 10-kilogram bomb on the lawn of a local resident on Sunday.

"It was found in somebody's yard," said Adj. Sr. Comr. Soemarno of the Central Sulawesi police said on Monday, as quoted by Vivanews.com. "The owner of the house is being questioned."

The bomb, around 20 centimeters in length and composed of metal shards, a 12-volt battery, gun powder and a detonator, had the potential to set off a massive explosion. It was found by police officers and soldiers while combing the area of Tamanjeka in Poso, and was located in the yard belonging to a citizen with the initials of AS.

The explosive was taken to the police office to be defused.

Police and military personnel were sweeping the area on Sunday in search of terrorists who allegedly murdered two policemen — First Brig. Andi Sapa and Brig. Sudirman — on Oct. 16.

Tamanjeka is believed to be a training camp for a group of terrorists under the authority of Nurdin M.





### PACOM

#### 43. [Security, Japan] Construction Workers Find WWII Bomb At Sendai Airport

Wednesday, October 31 2012

<http://www.djc.com/news/co/12046695.html>

A major airport in northern Japan was closed Tuesday after construction workers found an unexploded bomb believed to be from World War II.

All 92 flights in and out of Sendai airport were cancelled after the 550-pound bomb was uncovered during construction near a runway, local police official Hiroshi Ouchi said. The bomb was identified as American-made and is believed to be a dud from World War II.



## PACOM

### 44. [Attack, Thailand] Five Police Injured By Pattani Bomb

Wednesday, October 31 2012

<http://www.bangkokpost.com/breakingnews/318916/>

Five policemen were wounded, one of them seriously, by a bomb explosion while they were travelling on a pickup truck in Pattani's Nong Chick on Tuesday night, reports said.

About 9pm, Pol Sub-Lt Somchai Phumphanang, duty officer at Nong Chick police station, received a report that a police operations base inside Wat Ban Rai in tambon Bang Tawa was attacked by gunmen and had asked for reinforcements, the reports said.

He and four other police officers then boarded the pickup truck and rushed to the scene.

As their vehicle was crossing Khlong Yuyong bridge on Pattani-Hat Yai highway at Moo 3 in tambon Yuyong of Nongchick, a home-made bomb hidden inside a motorcycle parked on the bridge exploded.

The police pickup was wrecked and all five policemen were injured in the explosion. They were all taken to Nong Chick hospital.

Pol Sub-Lt Roengchai Saengchansiri was seriously wounded and was forwarded to Pattani provincial hospital.

It was reported that no police were hurt in the outpost that was attacked.

Police blamed separatist militants.





## PACOM

### 45. [Special Interest, Japan] New Device Can Detect Explosive Material On Boarding Passes

Thursday, November 1 2012

<http://www.yomiuri.co.jp/dy/national/T121031003522.htm>

A new device that can quickly detect fine particles of explosives on people's hands and boarding passes with 99 percent accuracy has been developed and will undergo trials at airports soon, it has been learned.

The detector instantaneously collects particles by expelling a jet of air at a speed of 10 to 20 meters per second when the device scans a boarding pass. The air travels back into the device and is swirled around to create a mini tornado, thereby amassing the air's particles in its center. The device determines if any particles are explosive by measuring the weight of their molecules. The process takes only a few seconds and the device can inspect about 1,200 passes per hour.

The device was developed by Hitachi Ltd., Yamanashi University and other entities.

Explosive compounds are often sticky, making it difficult to completely remove them from, for example, wrinkles on a finger. The device needs just one nanogram of particles to conduct its analysis.

Tests have shown the device has a 99 percent rate of accuracy. Trials of the device will be conducted at airports and other places in the near future.





## PACOM

### 46. [Security, Indonesia] Police Seize Homemade Bombs In Poso Computer Shop Raid

Thursday, November 1 2012

<http://www.thejakartaglobe.com/news/police-seize-homemade-bombs-in-poso-computer-shop-raid/553622>

Police seized homemade bombs, explosives and a detonator in the second day of raids in the restive district of Poso, Central Sulawesi, a region police say is a hotbed for Indonesia's homegrown terrorist cells.

Officers found the explosives in a computer repair shop in Bakti Agung village Wednesday night, according to National Police spokesman Brig. Gen Boy Rafli Amar.

"It was only for cover that they opened that computer service shop," he said after detailing the bomb-making materials pulled from the shop. "There were five homemade bombs, four pipe bomb casings, electronic wiring, a walkie-talkie that is suspected to be a detonator, a laptop, seven cell phones and computer service equipment."

The Wednesday night raid came one day after police engaged in a firefight with suspected terrorists, killing one man and arresting two others, during a raid of a home in nearby Kalora village.

Police raided the computer shop based on a tip from the two men arrested the day before. No additional arrests were made on Wednesday.

The surviving suspects, Nasir, who also goes by the name Cecep, and Mamat, who also answers to Rahma, were allegedly affiliated with the hard-line Umar bin Khatab Islamic boarding school in Bima, West Nusa Tenggara.

The school has been linked to several acts of terrorism in Indonesia, including the murder of a police officer by a student who urged Muslims to wage jihad against police officers. School head Abrori M. Ali was arrested with five other people after a bomb exploded in the school.

Nasir and Mamat, along with two other men arrested in Poso, were flown to Jakarta's Mobile Brigade (Brimob) headquarters, Boy said.

"The suspects who are alive have been flown to Jakarta to be detained at the Brimob headquarters," he said. "[The two others] Imam and Salman were arrested a while ago when we held a roadblock to check in Poso. They are suspected in taking part in the [paramilitary] training there."

The body of Jipo, who was killed in Tuesday's shootout, was also flown to Jakarta to be officially identified, Boy said.

The National Police brigade has swarmed the restive district after two officers were killed





on Oct. 16 while investigating an alleged paramilitary training camp. The unit is also looking for a suspected terrorist named Santoso after the wanted man reappeared in Poso.

Police believe Santoso was running a terrorist training camp in Poso.





### PACOM

#### 47. [Attack, Malaysia] Limkokwing Manager's Office Petrol Bombed

Thursday, November 1 2012

<http://www.observer.org.sz/index.php?news=44818>

Limkokwing University Campus Manager Zachariah Mthethwa woke to a shocking discovery yesterday morning when he found his office burned to ashes.

The fire destroyed computers and some office documents. Police have since arrested Students Representative Council (SRC) President Kelvin Dlamini, who is suspected to be amongst the culprits responsible for burning the office.

Police PRO Superintendent Wendy Hleta confirmed that a student had been arrested in connection with the arson attack and they were still investing the matter. She said the student would be charged with arson and was expected to appear in court today.

The campus manager said he only came to know about the incident when he got to the office. "When I entered the office at about 7:40am, all I could see was the ash all over," said Mthethwa, who said the fire miraculously failed to spread to the other rooms. He said he suspected that a flammable liquid was used and a small container thrown into the office.

He believes the aim was to burn down the whole university block. He said it was clear that someone used one of the opened windows to throw in what was believed to be a petrol bomb. Mthethwa said a matchstick was found outside the building, which was another sign that someone had lit the fire from outside before throwing the burning substance inside. It is yet to be established how the arsonists entered the building but information gathered was that they allegedly cut through a fence to gain entrance into the university – probably in the early hours of the morning. Mthethwa confirmed that the fence had been cut.

Upon his discovery, the campus manager called the police, who promptly arrived at the scene. About 11 police officers from the Serious Crimes Unit, Lukhozi arrived and raked through the university's premises looking for clues. While the police patrolled the school, students were not aware of what was happening as they thought it was a backup to prevent possible protest.

Another student, known to this publication, is also said to be wanted by the police as he has since gone into hiding.



### PACOM

#### 48. [Security, India] Bomb Found At Tirupparankundram Hill

Friday, November 2 2012

[http://www.thestatesman.net/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=429339&catid=36](http://www.thestatesman.net/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=429339&catid=36)

A high intensity bomb was found planted between a cave-like structure between Kasiviswanathanar Temple and Sikander Dargah at Tirupparankundram hill, police said today.

Police personnel along with Bomb Detection and Disposal Squad went to the hillock and defused the bomb, which was connected to a time device, yesterday.

Police said the bomb was packed in a polythene bag and kept in a plastic bucket. The timer of the bomb, connected to 16 nine volt batteries, was set for 11 p.m. yesterday.

The seized material had been sent to Chennai for examination, police said.

In May this year a low-intensity bomb rigged to a cycle exploded near an auditorium-cum-temple complex here causing a security scare ahead of the BJP state-level conference.

In October last year, a pipe bomb was unearthed at a nearby village on the Jan Chetna Yatra route of BJP senior leader LK Advani.



## NORTHCOM

### 49. [Trend, United States] Terrorist Pipeline Continues To Flow From Minn. To Somalia

Friday, October 26 2012

<http://minnesota.publicradio.org/display/web/2012/10/26/news/terrorist-pipeline-continues-to-flow-from-minnesota-to-somalia/>

Four years after federal authorities in the Twin Cities began investigating homegrown recruitment for the terrorist group al-Shabab, at least two additional men slipped away to Somalia as recently as July.

Federal authorities believe the Minneapolis men joined the group and are still in the East African nation.

The FBI's confirmation this week that a terrorist conduit continues to flow from Minnesota to Somalia perplexes members of Minnesota's Somali community, who have watched with dismay as young men have disappeared.

#### FAMILY STUNNED

Among those missing is 19-year-old Mohamed Osman, who once called a leafy little cul-de-sac in south Minneapolis home.

Inside his family's two-story house, Osman's older cousin, Jamal Salim, recalled when the family realized that Osman, who graduated last year from Southwest High School, was missing.

"One day we're at home, like, 'Where is Mohamed?' " Salim said. "It's been two days, and we're thinking he's out with friends. The parents are going crazy. They think he's got arrested or something."

Salim said Osman's mother didn't realize her son was in Somalia until she received a visit from the FBI. Salim said his aunt was stunned.

As were earlier waves of about 20 Twin Cities men who federal authorities say enlisted with al-Shabab, the introverted Osman was especially secretive about his plans, his cousin said.

"It made me mad because he didn't speak to no relative about it," Salim said. "We're heartbroken about it because he's like our sibling. Imagine not knowing what's going on with your own brother — how he's been feeling, who he's been talking to, and what they're telling him. We lost a brother, and I don't know how to get him back."

Authorities say Osman and 20-year-old Omar Ali Farah left Minneapolis for Somalia on July 18.

Salim said Osman was religious — to the point of nagging Salim for not praying, and for not wearing the long white tunics favored by some devout Muslim men. Osman had no desire to go to college. He taught the Qur'an to kids at an Islamic school on Lake Street.

Osman's family didn't worry about him, because he appeared to be staying out of trouble.

Salim said he now regrets not intervening in his cousin's life.

"To me, it's like he made a stupid mistake," Salim said. "If he would have talked to the elders who were responsible for him, they would told him, 'What's the reason we brought you from Somalia if you're going to go back?'"

#### COMMUNITY LEADERS PUZZLED

What's even more puzzling to Somali-American community members is why someone would want to join al-Shabab now. Aside from the fact that it's a ruthless militia known to behead, amputate and bomb its victims, military pressure has forced al-Shabab to withdraw from several major cities it used to control.

"It's really surprising," said Saeed Fahia, executive director of the nonprofit Confederation of the Somali Community in Minnesota. "It doesn't even seem rational."

Fahia said only someone vulnerable would be duped into fighting for a badly losing team. He said most young Somali-Americans he knows are excited to return to their homeland to help its people.

"They are going back for business, to find work, to connect with their roots, to learn about the culture," Fahia said.

"Mogadishu seems to be thriving."

But al-Shabab still needs a fresh supply of fighters and is willing to recruit from around the world, said E.K. Wilson, the FBI's supervisory special agent in charge of the massive federal investigation known as "Operation Rhino."





"While it seems like it's not the most opportune time to become a member of al-Shabab or fight under those circumstances, we are aware that there are continued efforts on the part of al-Shabab to take in and receive foreign fighters to reinforce their losses," he said.

Wilson would not say how many men have left Minnesota this year to join al-Shabab. But it's clear that the group has lost one of its main rallying points — a nationalistic appeal to Somalis around the world.

The earliest recruits who left Minnesota in 2007 said they enlisted to fight Ethiopian troops who they heard were raping Somali women and killing their countrymen. But the Ethiopian military has long left Somalia.

#### RELIGION A FACTOR

So religion appears to be al-Shabab's predominant battle cry. Al-Shabab's end game has always been to radicalize its troops through its extreme interpretation of Islam, Wilson said.

One local figure who has emerged as an alleged recruiter in the plan to send Minnesota men overseas to fight is Omer Abdi Mohamed. Former Twin Cities recruits have testified at trial that he used his knowledge of the Qur'an to preach jihad. Mohamed pleaded guilty last year to being a part of the conspiracy, and this week a federal judge ordered him jailed while he awaits sentencing.

A big concern, said U.S. Attorney B. Todd Jones, is that Mohamed may be still involved with the effort to send more men overseas to fight.

"There are indications that there are people who have traveled to Somalia, and he may have had some role in it," Jones said.

Mohamed's attorney said his client had nothing to do with it.

Federal authorities, however, note that Mohamed is in a position to influence young people through his association with an Islamic school on Lake Street in Minneapolis. It's the same school where Mohamed Osman, the 19-year-old traveler who left in July, taught the Qur'an.

Jones said the federal government, which has poured countless resources into the investigation, considers the pipeline a huge concern of national security.

"There are serious risks with this dynamic of people leaving the United States with U.S. passports, going to a foreign country, receiving training from a designated foreign terrorist organization and potentially coming back home," he said.

Jones said while the federal investigation has made important strides, including last week's conviction of its first case to go to trial, there are still some disaffected youth in the community who are vulnerable to being exploited.

He said "Operation Rhino" is anything but over.



## NORTHCOM

### 50. [Security, Cuba] Sandy Uncovers Suspected Old Bomb At Guantanamo Base

Tuesday, October 30 2012

<http://www.mcclatchydc.com/2012/10/30/173138/sandy-uncovers-suspected-old-bomb.html>

The U.S. military shut down a ferry landing at the Navy base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and sent for a bomb disposal team from Florida on Tuesday after Hurricane Sandy churned up a suspicious object in the bay that might be a live, 500-pound bomb.

The object was discovered at 10 a.m. EDT Tuesday, said Jose Ruiz, spokesman at the Pentagon Southern Command in Miami. "We don't know conclusively what type of bomb it was and whether it was live or inert."

Base officials evacuated the area around the bomb and dispatched a Navy plane to Mayport, Fla., to fetch the special bomb disposal crew, known as an Explosive Ordnance Disposal team. The experts were due at the base Tuesday night to determine if it was a live bomb.

"If it is," Ruiz said, "they'll neutralize it and then they'll dispose of it."

Guantanamo disclosed the discovery of "an object that appears to be unexploded ordnance" in a news release advising the 6,000 or so residents on the remote base in southeast Cuba of suspension of regular ferry service from the base's Windward side across the bay.

Instead, a smaller boat was ferrying residents from a dock near the Officer's Club, on Windward, to the Leeward side.

Base workers were still cleaning up the damage from last week's Category 2 hurricane, notably debris and broken glass around the Pentagon's crude Camp Justice compound that was built for the Sept. 11 and USS Cole capital murder tribunals.

The storm tore up tents and tarps around the Expeditionary Legal Complex. But it was still not known Tuesday if any water seeped inside and did damage to the state-of-the-art courtroom that beams proceedings to special viewing sites on U.S. soil.

Guantanamo's recreational beaches were still closed Tuesday. Movies were once again being screened for troops, however, at the base's open-air theater.



## NORTHCOM

### 51. [Attack, United States] Police Probe Explosions At Homes In Fredericksburg, Stafford

Tuesday, October 30 2012

<http://news.fredericksburg.com/newsdesk/2012/10/30/police-probe-explosions-at-homes-in-fredericksburg-stafford/>

Police are investigating three separate incidents early Tuesday in which homemade explosive devices were thrown or placed in or near area residences.

The first occurred about 4 a.m. in Fredericksburg, while the next two took place in Stafford County. No one was injured in the explosions, but there was property damage at all three residences, police said.

Sources said police Tuesday were actively looking for a man believed to have been involved in the explosions, but the man was not named or referred to in official police releases. Sources said the man, who is already wanted on unrelated charges in Stafford, was apparently targeting two Stafford deputies and an ex-girlfriend who lives in the county.

Stafford Sheriff's Maj. David Decatur would not comment on whether his deputies were targeted or whether police were looking for a specific person, but he did say that police believe all three incidents are related.

Fredericksburg police spokeswoman Natatia Bledsoe said city police and firefighters responded to a reported explosion inside a home in the 3100 block of Normandy Avenue about 4 a.m. A woman who was there alone when the device went off got out of the home safely, along with her dog.

A Virginia State Police bomb dog searched the residence and found no additional devices. Bledsoe said the explosion blew a hole in the ceiling, significantly damaged three rooms and blew out many windows in the house.

At 4:33 a.m., Stafford deputies responded to a home in Kings Grant subdivision for what was initially reported as a shot fired into a residence. Decatur said police later learned that a homemade incendiary device was thrown into the residence, breaking a window.

The home had minor damage, Decatur said, but none of the residents was hurt.

About an hour and 20 minutes later, at 5:53 a.m., deputies went to Country Ridge subdivision for an explosion outside a residence. Someone had thrown or placed the device at the back of the home, Decatur said, causing minor property damage.

In addition to Stafford and Fredericksburg police, the Stafford Fire Marshal's Office, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and state police are among those working on the investigation.





### NORTHCOM

#### 52. [Security, United States] Omaha Experts Blow Up Pipe Bomb Found In City Park

Wednesday, October 31 2012

[http://fremonttribune.com/news/state-and-regional/omaha-experts-blow-up-pipe-bomb-found-in-city-park/article\\_6243ef9c-fa5d-581b-a56c-b971cbe788cf.html](http://fremonttribune.com/news/state-and-regional/omaha-experts-blow-up-pipe-bomb-found-in-city-park/article_6243ef9c-fa5d-581b-a56c-b971cbe788cf.html)

A pipe bomb found in a city park in south-central Omaha has been detonated.

Omaha police say officers were sent to Seymour Smith Park around 3:45 p.m. Tuesday. The pipe bomb had been found in a wooded area of the city park, near the skate park area.

Bomb squad member say the pipe was filled with an explosive powder. A 300-foot safety perimeter was cleared, and the bomb was detonated a little after 6 p.m.

Officers haven't determined how or why the bomb ended up in the park.



### NORTHCOM

#### 53. [Security, United States] Man Planned To Set Off Explosions At Edmond Park, Roommate Tells Police

Wednesday, October 31 2012

<http://www.koco.com/news/oklahomanews/edmond/Man-planned-to-set-off-explosions-at-Edmond-park-roommate-tells-police/-/11777934/17211432/-/hvi4mvz/-/index.html>

A roommate of an Edmond man recently arrested in connection with an arson said he planned to blow up phone poles and power boxes at a local park, police said.

Police said they found a large amount of chemicals in the home of Charles Columbus in the 600 block of Vista Lane while serving a narcotic search warrant on Oct. 9. Bomb technicians said the chemicals could be used as components of explosives and were very dangerous.

According to a police report, a witness said Columbus had made anti-government statements and said that he wanted to use explosives to damage Edmond utilities. Officers said they found damage to a water well site near Hafer Park that was described to them by the witness.

The witness also said Columbus had mixed the chemicals several times before, causing explosions, officers said. Detectives at the scene found bags labeled as "Potassium Nitrate," "Sodium Nitrate," "Aluminum Powder," "Red Iron Oxide" and "Calcium Carbonate Limestone."

The chemicals were transported to a bomb squad bunker for safe keeping and testing, police said.



## NORTHCOM

### 54. [Law Enforcement, United States] Suspect Tossed Bombs From Car During Chase

Thursday, November 1 2012

<http://abcnews.go.com/Blotter/cops-suspect-tossed-bombs-car-chase/story?id=17619700#.UJPSHoZqOV0>

The man suspected of targeting two policemen and one woman with pipe bombs this week was caught today after leading police on a chase through Montana in which he tossed explosives from his car, authorities said.

Police had been on the hunt for Laurence Alan Stewart, 25, since Tuesday morning when he allegedly detonated three pipe bombs within a few minutes of each other at separate locations in Virginia's Stafford County. Stewart apparently turned taillights on his pursuers and headed across the country to Montana before the authorities caught up with him there. He was nabbed in the late morning.

The targets of Stewart's Virginia attacks were a county detective, a county deputy and an ex-girlfriend of Stewart's, police said.

While no one was killed or injured in those attacks, authorities had been worried Stewart represented a threat to the public until he was caught.

"It was my fear that he could have been driving around with a car load of bombs and unfortunately we were right," Richard Marianos, special agent in charge of the ATF's Washington, D.C. field office, told ABC News today.

"Fortunately, we were able to stop him before anyone got hurt."

No policemen were injured in the pursuit, Marianos said.

Stewart had been charged with two counts of attempted murder, two counts of arson and one count of using a weapon or device for a terror act stemming from his alleged actions in Virginia, police said.





## SOUTHCOM

### 55. [Attack, Colombia] West Colombia 'FARC Attack' Kills Two, Injures At Least 17

Thursday, November 1 2012

<http://colombiareports.com/colombia-news/news/26792-farc-attack-leaves-2-dead-dozens-injured.html>

A suspected attack by Colombia's largest insurgency group FARC has killed two people and injured at least 17 more, local media reported Wednesday.

A grenade blast in the town of Pradera, located in the southwestern Valle de Cauca department, has reportedly left two people dead and 31 injured, including 14 minors.

The explosion in the town of Pradera, located in the southwestern Valle de Cauca department, took place around 7:20PM one block from the main park and local police station. Preliminary reports indicate two men on a bicycle set of the explosive device.

The number of casualties was augmented by the fact that many residents were out on the streets celebrating Halloween. Three of the injured children were "severely affected by shards of metal," according to Mayor Adolfo Escobar.

"We were celebrating with about 7,000 people in the park, mostly children, and then this abominable thing occurs. Who would do such a thing," Escobar told reporters Wednesday evening.

Initial reports suggested insurgents targeting the local police station carried out the attack. While investigations are still in their infancy, authorities noted the 6th front of FARC has been active in the region lately.

Local police commander, Colonel Nelson Ramirez, claimed the two people who died were the same ones carrying the grenade. "Their bodies were unrecognizable. Anti-explosive experts are in place to establish the type of device and the amount that was used," said Ramirez.