



Realtime Analysis and Publishing of IED Data

Weekly News Update

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09 March 2012

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



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1. Prevent, Detect, Disarm: Eliminating The IED Threat

Tuesday, 06 March 2012

<http://www.sacbee.com/2012/03/06/4314581/prevent-detect-disarm-eliminating.html>

The 6th annual Counter-IED event returns to London to unite senior military personnel from the international C-IED community. This year there will be representation from countries including US, UK, Germany, Poland, and New Zealand who will be gathering to discuss the key C- IED issues. This year's event will explore the themes around Attack the Network, Train the Troops and Defeat the Device. Brigadier General Mark Wise, from the US Marine Corps Warfighting Laboratory is set to present on the continual battle against improvised explosives devices. Brig. Gen. Wise will also discuss how best to identify and target insurgent network vulnerabilities.

From the UK MoD the Head of Army EOD and Search will give an update on UK C-IED capability and future plans. Identifying the current limitations of a pre-emptive approach to C-IED and how these capabilities are likely to further evolve. Other speakers who will include Colonel Miroslaw Gumola, EOD Team Lead and Co-ordinator, Polish Ministry of Defence; and Thomas Ryan, Senior Intelligence Analyst, US Army.

The 3 day event will analyse the latest techniques and methodologies for using forensics and biometrics to destroy insurgent networks and attack the problem from the root cause. Discussions will also focus on how to utilise collaborative allied efforts to increase success in countering IED networks to enable a pre-emptive approach to dealing with this threat. In addition, the event will also explore the latest techniques both for personnel selection and training to ensure that militaries have the most capable team to deal with any given threat.

As the largest European C-IED event we are pleased to announce that this year the event will be partnered by both SAAB and Cobham.

To view the full programme or the speakers list, visit <http://www.counteriedevent.com>.

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2. How Taliban's Lethal IEDs Keep Troops Guessing In Afghanistan

Wednesday, 07 March 2012

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/2012/mar/07/afghanistan-improvised-explosive-devices?newsfeed=true>

Scroll through the list of Britain's dead in Afghanistan and time after time the cause of death is low-tech bombs made with fertiliser and a little know-how.

About 70% of Nato casualties have been due to improvised explosive devices and last year there were a record number of makeshift IEDs .

In the regional command of which Helmand is part, the number of IEDs jumped 13% between 2010 and 2011, despite attempts to smash the networks of insurgents manufacturing, distributing and planting the bombs.

That probably reflects the effect of the US "surge" of troops into the province in 2010, which pushed the Taliban onto the back foot and forced them to rely ever more on the deadly weapons.

"It's a great device to use against a conventional force," said Doug Czarnecki, deputy commander of Task Force Paladin, which counters the IED threat. "The insurgent can't fight that with conventional which means they have got to find something to attack."

Insurgents have been able to get hold of fertiliser without difficulty, turn it into bombs and move across the very porous border between Afghanistan and Pakistan. The US is trying to find ways to alter chemical fertilisers made in Pakistan so they are harder to turn into explosives. In Helmand, where most British troops are based, a higher than average number of IEDs are detonated by the weight of the victim who unwittingly stands on them.

Not only has there been a remorseless rise in the number of devices pouring out of backroom bomb factories, the insurgents have become ever more adept at making them more lethal.

"When we come up with measures to defeat their tactics, they change them," said Czarnecki. "When we introduce new counter-measures they change again."

When extra armour was added to vehicles the insurgents responded with bigger bombs. Then, when radio jamming equipment was introduced to foil remote control detonation, the rebels increased their use of command wires.

But the development that makes the bombs so difficult to counteract is the emergence of IEDs containing only tiny quantities of metal. They now tend to have no metal shrapnel, relying instead on damage caused by rocks surrounding the explosive hurtling into the body of the person who sets off the bomb. Metal triggers have also been abandoned. That means traditional metal detectors used to find buried bombs are largely useless.

Troops have responded with what officials call "better tactics and training". British troops arriving in Helmand will spend at least two weeks training at Camp Bastion before being sent out to the forward operating bases (FoBs). At Bastion there is a purpose-built training area that should help them identify in different types of terrain whether an IED has been planted . It will be drilled into them that little things really count – telltale clues of where to look, and what to look out for.

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Better still, the troops will be told they need to build relationships with villagers, who may know where IEDs are hidden.

In recent months, within the three districts where the British are operating, commanders have come to rely upon this type of intelligence. If the villagers aren't talking to you, watch which routes they are using – and which ones they are avoiding too.

The constant need for vigilance makes the work of patrolling the villages of southern Afghanistan incredibly arduous, but it seems to be paying off. Despite the increasing number of IEDs, the number of casualties caused by the bombs in the military region that includes Helmand declined by 20% between 2010 and 2011, officials said.

Another factor has been the speed and quality of treatment given to troops wounded in IED blasts.

The medical emergency response teams that fly from Camp Bastion have saved countless lives, not least because they take consultants out with them in adapted Chinook helicopters.

Specialist treatment begins as soon as the helicopter lands, not when the patient gets back to the operating theatre.

Many British troops badly injured in Afghanistan choose to have amputations even when their limbs can be saved, because recovery can be quicker and less painful.

Some soldiers who have lost their legs can be running within six weeks, while those with supposedly less severe wounds can need multiple operations over months before any improvement.

An estimated 300 troops have had amputations in the past decade, and 3,000 more need help with serious long-term injuries.

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3. Nine Afghan Policemen Killed In Bomb Attack

Thursday, 08 March 2012

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/asia/afghanistan/9130284/Nine-Afghan-policemen-killed-in-bomb-attack.html>

The attack in the southern province of Uruzgan late Tuesday follows a wave of incidents in recent weeks in which members of the Afghan security forces have turned their weapons on their NATO and US allies.

Six American soldiers, two of them senior US military advisers, were killed by their Afghan colleagues last month as the country was gripped by anti-US riots over the accidental burning of the Koran at a military base.

In Uruzgan, the rebels broke into the police post and opened fire on nine sleeping officers, killing all of them, local CID chief Gulab Khan told AFP.

"Nine police are dead. There were 10 people in the post, we believe one of the police led the Taliban into the post and while everybody was sleeping they opened fire and killed nine police," he said.

"The 10th person has disappeared and he's believed to have gone with the Taliban after the killings," Khan added.

Related Articles

The Taliban, a militant group waging an insurgency against the Western-backed government of President Hamid Karzai, claimed the attack but gave a different account.

The group's spokesman, Yusuf Ahmadi, telephoned AFP from an unknown location to say the officers were captured and later executed.

The Taliban campaign is mostly focused on the use of suicide attacks and improvised explosive devices. On Thursday, a roadside bombing wounded seven police and four civilians in the eastern city of Jalalabad, authorities said.

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4. Taliban IED Hideout Found Near Bastion

Tuesday, 06 March 2012

<http://bfbs.com/news/afghanistan/taliban-ied-hide-out-found-near-bastion-55424.html>

Details have just emerged of a joint UK/US/Afghan operation that's seized and destroyed a large cache of Taliban IED-making equipment south of Bastion Airfield.

Operation Backfoot involved 2 Squadron, RAF Regiment, warriors from Afghan Army's 3rd Brigade and US Marines from 2 Marine Expeditionary Force.

The force deployed by US Osprey aircraft, with its unique tilt-rotor capability, and as well as seizing the bomb making materials also gathered a wealth of intelligence despite coming under fire several times.

The operation took place in the Dasht (or desert) south of Bastion Airfield - a sparse landscape of rolling fields and scrub dotted with compounds and is increasingly being used as a harbour area by Taliban forces who have come under pressure elsewhere by successful coalition operations. Its protection is the task of 2 Squadron, operating as part of 3 RAF Force Protection Wing.

It is an area where insurgents have mingled with the local population - some of them Taliban sympathizers - and their presence has seen attempts to increase poppy production in the area to fund their summer campaign.

Because of the sparse agricultural cover in the area during the winter, the insurgents have based themselves in compounds to fire on ISAF foot patrols from cover.

The string of IEDs that has been sown across approaches to the area, together with their 'stand-off and shoot' tactics, was meant to block ISAF forces from approaching.

Sqn Ldr Jules Weekes, who commanded the RAF troops, said: "There is a certain dynamic to Taliban activities in this area. They operate in small teams of five or six, travelling by motorbike as their preferred guerrilla tactic. Part of this operation is to find out how 'he' does business."

Several suspect compounds were targeted which saw the Ospreys land troops at two separate landing zones, either side of the wide Chah-e Anjir wadi.

The dismounted troops - supported by a number of 2 Squadron Ridgeback and Jackal patrol vehicles and a specialist US Marine IED clearance team - did not go unchallenged. A number of small arms attacks were beaten off by the ground troops and heavier attacks were dealt with by Apache and Cobra gunships. One US Marine patrol, temporarily pinned down by heavy small-arms fire, was supported by a show of force from an F18 which was sufficient to deter the insurgents.

As well as gaining vital intelligence the operation found a substantial IED cache in a compound, which contained a variety of bomb-making equipment, mines and several complete IEDs which were ready to be used against ISAF forces.

Wing Commander Jason Sutton, the commander of 3 RAF Force Protection Wing, said: "The open approaches to this area mean that it is hard to gain the element of surprise. However, by using the Ospreys to approach rapidly from an unexpected direction, the operation managed to achieve it.

“The RAF Regiment’s role is to defend airbases and those who operate from them, but the old adage of attack being the best form of defence remains as true today as ever. Targeting the insurgents and their supply networks takes the initiative away from them so that we can dictate the terms of the fight. It disrupts the insurgents’ attempts to attack Bastion and its vital air operations, denies them freedom of movement and supports the Afghan National Security Forces as together we work to protect the population who live around the base.”

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5. Six UK Troops Killed In Afghanistan

Wednesday, 07 March 2012

http://www.boston.com/news/world/asia/articles/2012/03/07/motorcycle_bomb_kills_4_afghan_civilians/

Six British soldiers were believed killed after an explosion hit their armored vehicle in southwestern Afghanistan, Britain's Ministry of Defense said Wednesday. If confirmed, it would be the biggest loss of life for British forces in the country since a plane crash in 2006.

The soldiers were on patrol in Helmand province at the time of the blast Tuesday evening. Britain's defense secretary said efforts were under way to recover the vehicle and identify the soldiers.

The deaths were certain to fuel calls for the acceleration of a planned withdrawal of all U.S.-led coalition troops from Afghanistan by the end of 2014. The war has become increasingly unpopular in the United States and among its NATO partners in Europe.

Washington has also grown frustrated with the administration of President Hamid Karzai, who has been making increasing demands of America in order to sign a deal that will allow some troops to remain past 2014, mainly in a counterterrorism and training role.

Helmand has been the deadliest province by far for coalition troops since the Afghan war started over a decade ago. Most of Britain's 9,500 soldiers are based there, and the province also has thousands of U.S. troops.

The Taliban have fought fiercely for control of Helmand because it accounts for about half of all poppy production in Afghanistan. Poppy is the main ingredient in making opium and has been a significant source of revenue for the militants.

So far this year, 54 NATO troops have been killed in Afghanistan, including 38 from the United States and four from Britain.

Britain has lost more troops in Afghanistan — 398 until Wednesday — than any other country except for the United States, which has counted at least 1,780 deaths as a result of the U.S.-led invasion in late 2001, according to an Associated Press count. The AP count of U.S. deaths is six less than the Defense Department's tally. At least 1,484 U.S. military service members have died in Afghanistan as a result of hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

More than 2,800 troops from all nations have died since the start of the war in Afghanistan. There are about 130,000 troops from 50 countries serving with the international military coalition.

The Helmand deaths would be the biggest loss of life for Britain in a single incident in Afghanistan since a Nimrod aircraft crashed in 2006, killing 14 service members. It would also be the largest number of casualties in a ground operation for Britain in the country and the deadliest single incident for NATO since Jan. 19, when six U.S. Marines died in a helicopter crash in Helmand province. Last August, insurgents shot down a Chinook helicopter, killing 30 American troops.

The circumstances of the explosion that killed the six British troops were unclear.

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6. Taliban Claim Suicide Attack Outside Bagram Air Base

Monday, 05 March 2012

http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2012/03/taliban_claim_suicid.php

The Taliban claimed credit for a suicide attack today outside of a major US base in central Afghanistan that killed two Afghans and wounded five people, including two Coalition soldiers. The Taliban also carried out a second suicide bombing in the east today, killing an Afghan intelligence official.

In Parwan province, the suicide bomber detonated his vest "in front of the third gate" at Bagram Air Base at 6 p.m. local Afghan time, according to Pajhwok Afghan News. Afghan officials said that two locals who worked at the base were killed, and two Coalition soldiers and three Afghan civilians were wounded in the attack.

The Taliban claimed the attack was carried out at Bagram to take "revenge" for the burning of Korans at the base more than two weeks ago, according to a statement released on its website, Voice of Jihad.

"The attack was in revenge for the burning of the copies of Holy Quran in the very base by US terrorist as Ant-US fury has deepened significantly triggering a series of widespread protests across the country since this worst act of blasphemy occurred," the Taliban statement said.

The Taliban claimed the suicide bomber, named Ahmad, "drove up to the gate third of the Airbase and detonated his bomb-laden car at a fairly large group of the American troops who had just returned from a patrol mission," and killed "as many as 12 American invading troops and injured many others." The Taliban often exaggerate the results of their operations.

The Taliban have been quick to seize on the Feb. 21 incident to incite protests outside the gate. Urdu-speaking Pakistanis have been spotted outside the gates of Bagram giving speeches and inciting the crowds to violence. Taliban flags have also been displayed during the protests.

In an official statement signed by the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan and released on Feb. 23 on its website, Voice of Jihad, the Taliban urged Afghans to strike at US and NATO bases and personnel, as well as against Afghan security forces.

"We should not be satisfied with mere protests and empty slogans but the military bases of the invaders, their military convoys and their troops should become a target of our courageous attacks," said the statement.

The Taliban and a host of terror groups are known to operate in Parwan, and have demonstrated the ability to execute attacks in the province. The May 2010 suicide assault on Bagram Air Base was executed by a joint Taliban, Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan, and al Qaeda strike team. And within the past six months, the Taliban and allied terror groups have carried out several major complex attacks in Parwan.

On Aug. 14, 2011, a Taliban suicide assault team launched a complex attack on the governor's compound in central Parwan province, killing 22 people, including six policemen. On Oct. 23, a suicide bomber attempted to assassinate the Afghan interior minister in the province. And a few days later, on Oct. 26, terrorists attempted to blow up a fuel tank inside of Bagram Air Base; the tanker exploded outside the gates, killing 12 Afghans.

Suicide Bombing In Nangarhar

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In addition to today's attack at Bagram in Parwan province, a Taliban suicide bombing in Nangarhar province killed a member of the National Directorate of Security's Reaction Unit and wounded another intelligence official, a policeman, and eight civilians in an attack in Jalalabad.

The suicide bomber attacked a police vehicle parked outside of the Radio Television Afghanistan, according to Pajhwok and Xinhua. The bombing occurred just 200 yards from the governor's compound.

The suicide attack in Jalalabad is the second since Jan. 27, when a bomber rammed his car packed with explosives into the main gate at Jalalabad Airfield, killing nine Afghans. The Taliban claimed the attack.

The Taliban have launched several attacks against Jalalabad Airfield in the past. The last major attack took place in November 2011, when a six-man suicide assault team was gunned down while attempting to storm the base. The year before, in June 2010, a suicide assault team attempted to penetrate security but was repelled during a firefight with US and Afghan security forces manning the perimeter.

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7. Bomb Hits ANP Rally, Seven Killed

Tuesday, 28 February 2012

<http://www.nation.com.pk/pakistan-news-newspaper-daily-english-online/national/28-Feb-2012/bomb-hits-anp-rally-7-killed>

At least seven persons were killed and 30 others injured when a remote-controlled bomb exploded outside the venue of a public meeting of Awami National Party (ANP) in Nowshera.

Those who died in Monday's bombing near the city's government high school in cantonment area included two children, who had come there to sell peanuts, local sources said.

The blast came just after the helicopter carrying Chief Minister Ameer Haider Khan Hoti and other senior ministers took to the air and, while the people were coming out of the venue of that huge public rally, they added. The explosive device was planted in a motorbike parked about 150 metres from the venue of the meeting and it went off when large number of participants and police were present, police sources said.

The blast caused panic and its intensity was so high that the body parts, jackets and caps of the victims blew for many feet. Large number of people and rescuers rushed to the site and shifted the injured to Combined Military Hospital (CMH) and Lady Reading Hospital, Peshawar and Nowshera District Headquarters Hospital. Doctor Rahim Jan at Peshawar's Lady Reading hospital said they received nine of the wounded people and two of them passed away.

Those killed included police personnel. The injured were identified as Lal Muhammad, Inspector Gulzar Khan, Jawad, Kamran, Aisar Gul, Javed, Abdullah, Naved, Rizwan, Shamsher Ali, Haji Liaqat Ali, Sher Shah, Naseem, Shah Jehan, Janas Khan, Ameer Khan, Liaqat Khan, Noor Muhammad, Javed, Haider Afridi, Liaqat son of Hakeem Khan, Muhammad Ajmal, Habibur Rahman, Aziz Khan, Abdur Rasheed, Ghani Gul, Muhammad Israr, Zeb, Mujahid and Rahatullah.

Police and security forces reached at the spot, cordoned off the area and collected the evidence from the site. Bomb disposal squad personnel Abdul Haq said that three to four kilograms of explosive material was used in the attack. Talking to The Nation, District Police Officer Muhammad Hussain Khan said that strict security measures had been taken for the rally and therefore the terrorist targeted outside area of the rally venue.

It was the third bomb in five days to hit the north-western province, which in recent months had seen a decline in violence largely linked to local Taliban insurgency. On Friday, three suicide bombers blew themselves up at a police station in Peshawar, killing four officers a day after a car bombing killed 13 people at a bus station on the outskirts of Peshawar. More than 530 bomb attacks have killed around 4,900 people across Pakistan since government troops in July 2007.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Ameer Haider Khan Hoti, Provincial President Afrasiab Khattak, Senior Minister Bashir Ahmad Bilour, Provincial Information Minister Mian Iftikhar Hussain, ANP Central Information Secretary Senator Zahid Khan and other office bearers of the party strongly condemned the incident. They expressed grief and sorrow over the loss of precious lives.

Provincial Minister for Excise and Taxation Liaqat Shab also visited the blast site and condemned the brutal attack at the innocent people. He expressed his deep sorrow and expressed heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families.

Meanwhile, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Barrister Masood Kausar has taken strong exception of the bomb blast and said that such heinous acts of brutality can never be tolerated.

Soon after the tragic incident, he talked to the chief minister on phone and enquired after him, expressing good wishes for his safety. He also talked to the provincial police chief, Akbar Khan Hoti and said that the incident was intolerable which needs to be thoroughly probed and the elements involved have to be brought to justice.

Barrister Masood also expressed his heartfelt sympathies with the bereaved families and prayed for the eternal peace of the departed souls as well as wished early recovery for the injured.

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8. Fifty-Five Pakistanis Killed In Violence In Khyber

Friday, 02 March 2012

http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2012/03/55_pakistanis_killed.php

At least 55 Pakistanis were killed in the contested tribal agency of Khyber today in a suicide bombing outside a mosque and an ambush on a military outpost. The outburst of violence takes place just two weeks after Khyber's political agent said military operations have "broken the back" of terrorists operating in the tribal agency.

In the first attack, the Lashkar-e-Islam, a radical, Taliban-like group that operates in Khyber, killed 10 Pakistani soldiers after ambushing a military checkpoint in Khyber's Tirah Valley. Pakistani troops manning the outpost returned fire and claimed to have killed 23 Lashkar-e-Islam fighters.

In the second attack, a Taliban suicide bomber detonated his vest outside a mosque in the Tirah Valley known to be frequented by members of the Lashkar-e-Islam. Twenty-two people were reported killed. The Lashkar-e-Islam claimed that only six of their fighters were killed in the attack.

The Taliban claimed credit for the suicide attack, and said it was carried out to avenge the deaths of several Taliban fighters at the hands of the Lashkar-e-Islam last month, according to the BBC.

Today's attacks cap a week of violence in Khyber, which included the killing of two women and a child in an IED attack on Feb. 29, and a clash on Feb. 24 that resulted in the deaths of seven Lashkar-e-Islam fighters and three Pakistani soldiers.

The week of violence occurs after the tribal agency's political agent said a military operation designed to sever the Tirah Valley from other areas of Khyber was so successful that it has "broken the back of Lashkar-i-Islam that has remained unchallenged in the area for seven years."

The Lashkar-e-Islam is run by Mangal Bagh [for more information, see LWJ report, A profile of Mangal Bagh]. The group has established its own Taliban-like government in large areas of the tribal agency, including in Bara, Jamrud, and the Tirah Valley. It also provides recruits to battle US and Afghan forces across the border, and has attacked NATO's vital supply line moving through Khyber before it was shut down by the Pakistani government last November. The Pakistani military has targeted the Lashkar-e-Islam during multiple operations over the past five years, each time declaring the group defeated. But the military has failed to dislodge the group from power.

The Lashkar-e-Islam occasionally allies with the Movement of the Taliban in Pakistan, and occasionally feuds with the terror group. Tariq Afridi, a powerful Taliban commander based in Darra Adam Khel, has taken control of Movement of the Taliban in Pakistan's operations in Khyber.

Lashkar-e-Islam's main enemy, particularly in the Tirah Valley, was the Ansar-ul-Islam, a rival radical Deobandi group based in the area that is supposedly banned by the Pakistani government. In the past, the two groups have fought each other for control over the Tirah Valley, and have even attacked each other using suicide bombers. The Lashkar-e-Islam has gained the upper hand over the Ansur-ul-Islam over the past several years.

Both the Taliban and the Lashkar-e-Islam are known to operate bases and training camps in the Tirah Valley as well as in Bara and Jamrud. These safe havens in Khyber enable these terror groups to launch attacks inside Pakistan as well across the border in Nangarhar province in Afghanistan. In November

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2008, the US military attacked Taliban forces in the Tirah Valley after they retreated across the Pakistani border from Nangarhar. US strike aircraft and artillery killed seven Taliban fighters during the hot pursuit.

The US has also launched several drone strikes in Khyber while hunting senior terrorist leaders. In 2009, US Predators killed Ibn Amin, a Taliban and al Qaeda commander, in one of four strikes between Dec.16-17 in the Tirah Valley. Amin was the commander of the Tora Bora Brigade, one of six formations in al Qaeda's Lashkar al Zil, or Shadow Army. He operated in the Swat Valley.

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9. Attempt To Smuggle Explosives Inside Wood Fails At Chaman

Saturday, 03 March 2012

<http://www.thenewstribes.com/2012/03/03/attempt-to-smuggle-explosives-inside-wood-fails-at-chaman/#.T1klsnmwWst>

An attempt to smuggle heavy explosives covered by wood failed when a truck carrying weapons overturned, sources said on Saturday.

The sources said that a truck carrying weapons and explosives overturned at Chaman, an area bordering Afghanistan adding that the truck overturned due to loosening of tie rod.

The smugglers wanted to smuggle weapons from Afghanistan to Quetta.

The smugglers succeeded in fleeing away from the spot. Security forces and Levis had cordoned off the area and search for the smugglers had begun.

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10. IED Defused In Dhi-Qar

Tuesday, 06 March 2012

http://alliragnews.com/en/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=5507:ied-defused-in-dhi-qar&catid=36:security&Itemid=37

Security force from Dhi-Qar police department defused an Improvised Explosive Device emplaced near a house of a judge in Nasr Court in the province on Tuesday.

Security source reported to AIN Tuesday "A security force succeeded to defuse a bomb which was emplaced in front of the house of the judge Salam Kadhim Tahir at the Nasr Court in Dhi-Qar province."

The Explosive Ordinance Disposal Unit defused the bomb without casualties, the source concluded.

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11. Bomb Attacks Kill 17
Thursday, 08 March 2012
http://www.boston.com/news/world/middleeast/articles/2012/03/07/officials_car_bomb_kills_2_iragis_in_baghdad/

Attacks in Iraq have killed 17 people, including 14 who died in twin bombings in the northern town of Tal Afar, just weeks before the country is due to host a landmark Arab summit.

The violence, which also left 24 people wounded, comes two days after suspected al-Qaeda gunmen killed 27 policemen in a pre-dawn rampage in western Iraq, as officials insisted Baghdad was ready for the March 29 meeting, which UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon is set to attend.

'At 1:00 pm (2100 AEDT), a car bomb exploded in west Tal Afar, and five minutes later, a suicide bomber blew himself up among the people who rushed to the scene,' said town mayor Abid al-Al Abbas.

'In total, 14 people were killed and 15 wounded.'

Athil al-Nujaifi, governor of Nineveh province of which Tal Afar is part, earlier put the toll at 13 dead and 15 wounded in a car bomb and suicide attack. Differing tolls are common in the chaotic aftermath of attacks in Iraq.

Tal Afar, a majority Shi'ite Turkmen town 380 kilometres north of Baghdad in mostly Sunni Nineveh, was the site of twin car bombings on December 14 in a market and restaurant area that killed two people and wounded 27.

The attack in Tal Afar comes two days after suspected al-Qaeda militants stormed the town of Haditha in western Iraq, in a pre-dawn shooting spree that killed 27 policemen.

In March 2006, then US president George W Bush Tal Afar hailed Tal Afar as a model town due to the low levels of violence at the time.

In Baghdad on Wednesday, two separate attacks in which insurgents placed bombs inside vehicles - one a taxi and the other a bus - killed three people and wounded nine, an interior ministry official said.

The capital's security command centre released a statement calling on residents to 'check their vehicles before driving and, after driving, do not leave your car in an unguarded public space.'

Violence in Iraq has declined in recent years after peaking in 2006 and 2007. According to official figures, 150 people were killed in February.

The latest attacks come ahead of a March 29 summit of the Arab League in Baghdad, the first non-emergency meeting of the 22-nation body to be held in the Iraqi capital in more than 30 years.

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President Jalal Talabani said on Monday that preparations for the summit were complete, 'and Baghdad is now ready to receive the Arab leaders.'

UN chief Ban Ki-moon is due to attend the summit, the first since the Arab Spring uprisings swept away veteran strongmen in Tunisia, Egypt, Libya and Yemen, Iraqi deputy foreign minister Labid Abbawi told AFP on Wednesday.

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12. Iraq Cabinet Minister Escapes Unharmed From Car Bombing

Wednesday, 07 March 2012

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-03-07/iraq-cabinet-minister-escapes-unharmed-from-baghdad-car-bombing.html>

Iraqi Construction and Housing Minister Mohammad Saheb al-Darraji escaped unharmed when a car bomb exploded near his convoy in Baghdad today, injuring six of his bodyguards, the ministry said. Two vehicles from the minister's convoy were burned by the explosion in the western part of the Iraqi capital, the ministry said in an emailed statement.

The violence adds to concern that the U.S. troop withdrawal at the end of last year has left a security vacuum in Iraq as it seeks investment and expertise to develop the world's fifth- largest crude oil reserves. Bombings have surged amid renewed political disputes, mostly between Shiite Muslim Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's coalition and opponents from the Sunni Muslim- backed Iraqiya alliance.

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13. Latest In Mysterious Car Bombings In Syria Kills Three

Saturday, 03 March 2012

http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/world_now/2012/03/latest-in-mysterious-car-bombings-in-syria-kills-three.html

A car bomb exploded Saturday in the southern Syrian city where the revolt against President Bashar Assad began almost a year ago, authorities said, the latest in a string of mysterious blasts that have added a disturbing element to the nation's already violent rebellion.

A "terrorist suicide bomber" detonated the payload at a traffic circle in Dara, killing three civilians and wounding 20 others, including law enforcement personnel, the official Syrian Arab News Agency reported.

The recent bombings have rattled Syrians and evoked memories of the carnage in neighboring Iraq that followed the U.S.-led overthrow of Saddam Hussein.

Syrian authorities have blamed the suicide attacks on "terrorists" and Islamic militants linked to Al Qaeda. The Syrian opposition has said the car bombs are the handiwork of security services seeking to discredit the uprising.

The car bomb in Dara was the first reported since Feb. 10, when twin explosions at state security buildings killed more than two dozen people in the commercial hub of Aleppo. The northern city had previously been relatively free of the violence sweeping much of the country.

Three other car bombs, also targeting security posts, exploded in Damascus in December and January, killing dozens and stunning the capital. Damascus, like Aleppo, mostly had been spared violent unrest and is viewed as a bastion of support for Assad.

Elsewhere in Syria, opposition activists reported renewed government shelling Saturday in the central city of Homs, the scene of the most concentrated fighting and the highest number of casualties since the uprising began last March.

The International Committee of the Red Cross said it had not yet received government permission to enter the former rebel stronghold of Baba Amr, a Homs neighborhood occupied for months by armed rebels. Syrian forces overran the battered district Thursday as insurgents withdrew in the face of a government onslaught.

The opposition says security forces shelled Baba Amr for weeks, reducing much of the district to rubble and killing hundreds of civilians, while creating a humanitarian catastrophe in a zone with little or no water, food or electricity.

The government says militants took over Baba Amr and imposed their rule on a terrified population.

Also Saturday, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent said it had turned over to diplomats in Damascus the bodies of two Western journalists slain in Baba Amr. The bodies of U.S.-born Marie Colvin, 56, a reporter for the Sunday Times of London, and Remi Ochlik, 28, a French freelance photographer, were expected to be repatriated to the United States and France, respectively.

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The two were reported killed on Feb. 22 during a rocket attack on a makeshift Baba Amr media center. French authorities say prosecutors have opened a preliminary murder inquiry into allegations that Syrian forces deliberately targeted the media center.

At least 7,500 people have died in Syria's almost year-long conflict, according to the United Nations. The government says more than 2,000 security personnel have been killed.

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14. IEDs Disarmed In Syria

Sunday, 04 March 2012

<http://translate.google.com/translate?sl=auto&tl=en&js=n&prev=t&hl=en&ie=UTF-8&layout=2&eof=1&u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.sana.sy%2Fprint.html%3Fsid%3D403947%26newlang%3Dur>

... On the other hand Idlib bomb disposal teams of armed terrorist groups in various parts of rural Elbow falls al-Jabal and security force patrols to target non-citizens are placed eight bombs defused.

Terrorist bombs ready to be detonated with remote control devices, each weighing approximately 50 kg are reported...

... Meanwhile, yesterday in an armed terrorist group trying to place a bomb near Idlib Boulevard in the City Maartamasrin exploded in their hands.

As a result of the bomb explosion killed three terrorists said...

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15. Small Bomb Blast Near Turkish PM Building

Monday, 05 March 2012

<http://kgmi.com/Small-bomb-blast-near-Turkish-PM-building/11461924?newsId=130753>

A small bomb exploded near the Turkish prime ministry building in the capital Ankara on Monday, about an hour before a cabinet meeting was due to be held there, and one person was slightly injured, officials said.

Police closed off the area where the explosion took place, at the entrance to a car park for both the prime ministry and the Appeals Court. Police described it as a percussion bomb, a device which makes a loud noise, but causes little damage.

"It is understood that the explosive material was 150 grams (5.2 ounces) of light explosives placed inside a plastic bottle," Ankara Governor Alaadin Yuksel told reporters.

Asked how such an attack could have happened at high security area of the capital, he said: "We are examining everything. Our colleagues are examining the camera recordings."

The blast follows a remote-controlled bomb attack in Istanbul on Thursday last week which wounded 15 policemen and one civilian.

Kurdish separatists, Islamist militants - including al Qaeda - as well as groups on the far left and right have all carried out bomb attacks in Turkey, but there was no immediate claim of responsibility for the blast.

A group connected to the separatist militant Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) claimed responsibility for a car bomb that killed three people in Ankara in September and threatened more attacks on Turkish cities.

The Kurdistan Freedom Hawks (TAK) said at the time the capital was the "beginning of a series of attacks" and said it was behind a previous attack in Antalya, on the Mediterranean coast, where several tourists were wounded by a small explosion on a beach.

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16. Four Dead In South Yemen Blasts, Al Qaeda Blamed

Saturday, 03 March 2012

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/03/03/us-yemen-explosion-idUSTRE8220BD20120303>

Two suicide bombers drove a car packed with explosives into a Yemeni army base in the southern province of al-Bayda on Saturday, killing one soldier, the Defence Ministry said, in an attack for which al Qaeda claimed responsibility.

Another soldier was killed by one of two blasts aimed at a central security forces building in the southern coastal town of Mukalla, where a March 25 suicide bombing killed at least 26 people. Authorities said they had made several arrests.

Militants linked to al Qaeda have exploited political upheaval to strengthen their foothold in Yemen, particularly in the south which is also home to rising secessionist sentiment.

Yemen's south has been mired in violence since protests against former President Ali Abdullah Saleh took hold early last year, weakening already loose central government control over whole swathes of the country.

Saturday's attack in al-Bayda, which targeted barracks of the Republican Guard forces, came just days after the interior ministry said it had information about an al Qaeda plot to blow up eight cars in the capital Sanaa and the port city of Aden.

"The explosion was very loud and took place in Dar al-Nasr, which is a military site of the Republican Guard," said an opposition website.

"Residents of the town were frightened by the force of the blast, which was felt more than two kilometers away and damaged dozens of neighboring houses and blew their windows out."

In a text message sent to Reuters, al Qaeda claimed responsibility for the attack it said was revenge for crimes committed by the Republican Guard. There was no way to verify if the text was from the militants but they have used the method to communicate with media in the past.

The group similarly claimed responsibility for assassinating the security chief in the town of Shibam on Saturday in southern Hadramout province, where a local security source said gunmen fired on the official's car, killing him instantly.

The United States, wary of al Qaeda entrenchment in Yemen, backed a plan brokered by Yemen's wealthy Gulf Arab neighbors under which Saleh handed over power to his deputy last month and secured himself immunity from prosecution.

The suicide bombing in Mukalla last month coincided with the swearing in of new President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi and also targeted the Republican Guard, led by Saleh's son. Al Qaeda's Yemen-based wing claimed responsibility for that attack as well.

On Friday, gunmen opened fire on a U.S. security team as it trained Yemeni soldiers in the south.

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17. "7/7 Widow" And The Bomb Factory Found In A House
Sunday, 04 March 2012

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2110245/7-7-widow-bomb-factory-house-Fugitive-mother-terror-inquiry-pictured-border.html>

This is the first photograph of the fugitive terrorist Kenyan police suspect is using the identity of 7/7 widow Samantha Lewthwaite.

The image was taken by an undercover officer as the woman crossed the border from Tanzania with her three children using a forged passport.

Anti-terror police have launched a huge hunt for the mother of three, who they believe was a 'key financier and bomb-making tutor' for the Somalian Al Qaeda affiliate Al Shabaab.

Officers on the case have found a devastating arsenal of bomb-making equipment which they suspect was for a planned attack on Western tourist targets in the coastal city of Mombasa.

They discovered batteries, hydrogen peroxide and other chemical ingredients during a raid on one of several Mombasa houses where they believe the woman had stayed until she disappeared in December.

The raid followed a tip-off that Al Shabaab was planning to blow up hotels and shopping centres over Christmas and New Year.

The suspect fled with her three children following the arrest of her co-conspirators, Briton Jermaine Grant and Kenyan Foad Abubakar.

The house was also used as an impromptu bank where police say the suspect would dole out dollar bills to Al Shabaab recruits – funded by ransom money handed to pirates targeting ships off the Horn of Africa.

Shown photographs of Home Counties mother Lewthwaite, Muslim leaders from the mosque closest to the building said it bore a resemblance to a white woman who had been praying there.

Married to a bomber: Lewthwaite with Jermain Lindsay who blew himself up in the 2005 terror attack near Russell Square which claimed 26 lives

Imam Hussein said that it was unusual to see a European woman in the area and he remembered giving her permission for her to pray in the mosque.

Missing: Samantha Lewthwaite during her school days. Her family in Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, say they have not seen her for several years

Another local said the woman was very secretive and her three children did not go to school. Lewthwaite, 28, who converted to Islam aged 15, was in an arranged marriage with Jermaine Lindsay, the King's Cross bomber who blew himself up in the 2005 terror attack near Russell Square which claimed 26 lives.

She was pregnant with Lindsay's second child at the time and has since had a third. Police believe the suspect also owned three houses in Somalia and is accused of running bomb-making tutorials there for Al Shabaab recruits.

Kenyan officers say they are hunting a British woman who has used Lewthwaite's name, and have issued a photograph of the suspect to every border point.

A team from Scotland Yard and the CIA are in Kenya helping the police hunt the suspect, who is believed to have fled further up the coast towards Somalia.

Police released the new image – taken at the Kenyan-Tanzanian border in August last year – as part of an appeal for a female Al Shabaab terror suspect who had been using a forged passport bearing the name of Essex nurse Natalie Faye Webb, who was the victim of identity fraud.

The passport also carried a photograph of a woman bearing a resemblance to Lewthwaite.

The border picture also shows a man, who is understood to be British terror suspect Habib Ghani, from Hounslow, Middlesex who police believe is now on the run with the suspect.

Police believe she arrived in Mombasa in November and rented several houses and apartments, including a luxury villa in Shanzu where police later found AK47 magazines hidden in the sewers, the forged passport and a smashed laptop without a hard-drive.

Landlord Nelson Korir said the woman living there 'alerted suspicion' as she wanted to be left alone and without any staff. Another property where the suspect stayed was an £80-a-night apartment just 200 yards from one of the alleged hotel bombing targets – the five-star Serena Beach Club.

Shortly before her disappearance she also rented a £150-a-month villa in nearby Nyali – paying in advance for a year up front but staying only two weeks.

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18. Boko Haram Plans "To Eradicate Christians"

Sunday, 04 March 2012

http://www.longwarjournal.org/threat-matrix/archives/2012/03/boko_haram_plans_to_eradicate.php

Boko Haram, the radical Islamist terror group that has been linked to al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb as well as Shabaab, al Qaeda's affiliate in East Africa, is intent on turning its insurgency in the north of Nigeria into a full-fledged war between Christians and Muslims. The terror group has bombed numerous churches in the country in the past two years, including a suicide attack at a church in Jos at the end of February. Leadership, a Nigerian news outlet, interviewed a Boko Haram spokesman who said that the group will "eradicate Christians from certain parts of the country" while fighting to establish "a proper Islamic state."

A Nigerian spokesman for the Islamic militant group Boko Haram told Bikyamasr.com on Sunday that they are planning a "war" on Christians in the next few weeks.

According to the spokesman, speaking via telephone from northern Nigeria, the group "will launch a number of attacks, coordinated and part of the plan to eradicate Christians from certain parts of the country."

Boko Haram have taken responsibility for a number of bomb attacks on Christian churches across the country since a Christmas Day bombing left dozens of people killed.

The government has promised to crackdown on the group and has deployed military units across the country in an attempt to curtail the Islamic group's activities, arresting and killing a number of members in recent weeks.

But the spokesman said the government "cannot be prepared for what is to come."

He said, without giving specific details, "we will create so much effort to end the Christian presence in our push to have a proper Islamic state that the Christians won't be able to stay."

On Friday, the group reportedly killed three of its own members late on Friday in the northeastern state of Maiduguri, police and military sources confirmed.

"This was part of our planning and it is unfortunate," said the spokesman.

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19. Three Suspected Boko Haram Members Killed In Explosion
Saturday, 03 March 2012

<http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/32111-three-suspected-nigerian-islamists-killed-in-explosion>

Three suspected members of the Boko Haram sect were killed while assembling bombs in the Nigerian city of Maiduguri, considered the group's stronghold, an army spokesman said Saturday.

The explosion in the Kaleri suburb of the northern city on Friday destroyed a house and dismembered the three Islamist sect members, Lieutenant Colonel Hassan Mohammed of the special military unit in Maiduguri said.

"We found some assembled IEDs (improvised explosive devices) and a large amount of bomb-making components. It is certain the victims of the explosion were Boko Haram members who got killed while coupling IEDs in an accidental explosion," Mohammed said.

Other items recovered at the scene included remote control devices, wrist watch timers, metallic drums and copies of the Koran, he said.

The sect converts homes into bomb-making factories for attacks, the spokesman said.

As well as in Maiduguri, there have been accidental and fatal explosions in suspected Boko Haram bomb-making factories in the northern cities of Damaturu and Kaduna in recent months.

Gunmen shot dead a soldier Friday in the northern city of Kano where members of Boko Haram recently killed 185 people in coordinated bomb and gun attacks, residents said.

Violence blamed on the sect, whose goals remain largely unclear, has since mid-2009 claimed more than 1,000 lives, including more than 300 this year alone, according to Agence France Presse and rights groups.

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20. Bomb Kills Ten At Suleja PDP Rally

Sunday, 04 March 2012

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201103040222.html>

The Peoples Democratic Party, PDP, Zone B rally in Niger State was , yesterday, rocked by a massive bomb blast that killed at least 10 people leaving scores severely injured.

Vanguard gathered that no fewer than 20 people were rushed to the Suleja General Hospital as a result of various degrees of injuries they received from the incident, while four are in critical condition. The State governor, Dr. Mu'azu Babangida Aliyu and his deputy, Alhaji Ahmed Ibeto who were present at the rally ground, however, escaped unhurt.

Yesterday's bomb blast was denounced by former Military President Ibrahim Babangida who said that it was "disturbing and disheartening to note that bombings are becoming part and parcel of the democratic process."

The Action Congress of Nigeria, ACN, gubernatorial candidate in Niger State, Alhaji Bawa Bwari also condemned the bomb blast. Bwari said that violence and intimidation were strangers to the democratic process.

The rally started on a good note with the state governor, Dr. Mu'azu Babangida Aliyu and other PDP stalwarts in attendance, but the venue, Government Secondary School, Suleja, was rocked by the blast when they were about to leave.

It was learnt that as the crowd was singing the National Anthem to round off the rally, a moving vehicle along the Suleja-Abuja road slowed down at the venue of the rally while someone from the vehicle threw the bomb into the large crowd.

The bomb exploded immediately leaving no fewer than 10 people dead and scores of others injured. The moving vehicle which nobody could immediately identify was said to have sped off the scene after unleashing the terror on the innocent people.

Governor Mu'azu Babangida Aliyu, and his deputy, Alhaji Ahmed Ibeto, were hurriedly ferried out of the venue by security operatives while other top government officials also jumped into their vehicles and zoomed off for safety.

News of the blast threw Suleja town into confusion as traders along the area closed shop immediately and ran for safety.

Consequently, residents of the town especially those living along Rafin Sanyin area who got wind of the incidence panicked with many immediately placing their homes under lock and key. At press time, more policemen had been drafted to the scene, keeping vigil over the area.

Vanguard noted that the confusion would have led to another stampede and an increase in the number of casualties if the venue did not have many exit points.

The rally which was organized to kick start Senator Dahiru Awaisu Kuta's campaign for return to the National Assembly had the state governor, Dr. Aliyu urging the people of the zone to vote en-masse for

Senator Dahiru Kuta to enable him to continue with the good work he had started at the National Assembly.

The pomp and pageantry and other activities that were supposed to add colour to the rally could not hold as the rally came to an abrupt end.

An unconfirmed source later told Vanguard that a similar blast erupted few metres from venue of the rally which further threw the ancient city of Suleja into confusion, but it could not be ascertained whether there were casualties and the extent of damage.

Efforts to get the state police command spokesman, ASP Richard Oguche, to react and confirm whether any arrests had been made proved abortive as his phone was put off.

Reacting to the bomb explosion yesterday, Babangida in a statement issued by his spokesman, Prince Kassim Afegbua said: "Bomb explosions are gradually removing the beauty and attraction of political campaigns from being a platform where issues are presented to the electorate to being one that is dominated with fear, apprehension, suspicion, intimidation and threat to humanity.

The callous act of the bombers calls for total condemnation by all, and we must not shy away from the fact that security remains a major concern to all of us in our bid to creating an egalitarian society where everyone's rights are protected.

"It is utterly shocking, disturbing and disheartening to note that bombings are becoming part and parcel of the democratic process.

"My heart goes to the families of those who lost their precious ones as a result of this ugly incident. My heart goes to the people and government of Niger State over this barbaric act. My heart goes to the Emir of Suleja, the host town over this spectre of violence that has brought shame to all of us. My heart goes to Mr. President and the good people of Nigeria over this sad incident."

Bwari in his reaction to the bombing condemned it, saying: "Bombing or whatever form of violence are strangers to our democratic process. We must join hands to ensure that such aberrations are uprooted from the system."

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21. Suicide Bombing Tarest Algerian Security Station

Monday, 05 March 2012

http://www.magharebia.com/cocoon/awi/xhtml1/en_GB/features/awi/features/2012/03/05/feature-02

One day after a suicide bomber attacked the National Gendarmerie headquarters in Tamanrasset, Algerian security officers on Sunday (March 4th) caught two surviving suspects.

The Malian and Algerian men were allegedly attempting to flee the area with weapons, a bomb, explosives and 7,000 euros. They were captured after a clash with counter-terror forces, El Khabar reported.

Al-Qaeda splinter group Jamat Tawhid Wal Jihad Fi Garbi Afriqqiya (Movement for Unity and Jihad in West Africa, or MUJAO) sent a message to AFP claiming responsibility for the bombing that wounded 15 officers, 5 civilian workers and 3 passers-by.

A Defence Ministry statement reported that most of those injured were discharged from the hospital in good health. Two gendarmes remained under medical observation.

Witnesses to the early-morning attack reported seeing a four-wheel drive vehicle storm the main gate of the gendarmerie facility in Tamanrasset. Seconds later, they heard three blasts and saw the building's external wall collapse.

Security authorities closed the land border with Mali and Niger for several hours to prevent those involved from escaping. Security forces and gendarmerie installed dozens of checkpoints near the entrances and exits of the cities of Tamanrasset, Bordj Badji Mokhtar and Ein Qazam.

Explosives experts managed to defuse a second bomb planted near the gendarmerie headquarters in Tamanrasset. The bomb, disguised in a plastic bag, appeared to be targeting a senior military commander who visited the headquarters minutes after the attack.

In the first official reaction to the attack, Prime Minister Ahmed Ouyahia said, "It does not matter to us who is behind it. We condemn this attack, no matter who adopted it – it targeted the people and Algeria."

He added that he is "aware that a new name for a terrorist group appeared", referring to the new MUJAO cell. He stressed that the name of the group is unimportant, "because terrorism remains terrorism".

"These are criminals and we will eliminate them," Ouyahia said.

Preliminary investigations suggest that the bomber took advantage of a truck entering to bring food to the headquarters every morning, sneaking in behind it to storm the headquarters because of the ease of entry, as the guards usually removed the barricades in front of the truck.

The suicide bombing was the first of its kind targeting the southern wilayas since the attack on the National Gendarmerie in July 2010. There was also a kidnapping of German and Italian foreign nationals at the Rabouni camp near Tindouf in March 2011, for which the MUJAO also claimed responsibility.

Security expert Omar Wali said the operation targeted "the city specifically home to the main headquarters of the Unified Military Command of the Sahel Countries, which co-ordinates information exchange and search operations on the border against 'al-Qaeda' in... Algeria, Mali, Mauritania and Niger".

Wali told Magharebia that the operation might be linked with events in northern Mali, because of the on-going conflict between government forces and Touareg rebels.

"This operation confirms fears expressed by Algeria that events in Mali may strengthen the thorns of the al-Qaeda Maghreb branch," Wali said. He added that Algerian security forces were already troubled by arms smuggling from Libya.

The operation sparked a wave of denunciations in political circles. The National Liberation Front (FLN) condemned the attack, adding that the attack confirms fears of the growing terrorist threat in the Sahel.

"There is no way to meet these challenges except... with the agreement of all countries in the region through the co-ordination of joint security," the FLN asserted.

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22. Mogadishu Hit By Car Bomb, No Bystanders Killed Or Wounded
Saturday, 03 March 2012

http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/africa/somalia-capital-hit-by-car-bomb-no-bystanders-killed-or-wounded-police-say/2012/03/03/gIQApLDdoR_story.html

Somalia — Police say a man driving a car laden with explosives blew himself up in Somalia's capital.

Policemen Nur Hassan at the scene said Saturday it appeared the man detonated his explosives prematurely. He died on the scene. No one else was wounded or killed.

Mogadishu has long been a battleground during Somalia's 21-year-old civil war.

The al-Qaida-linked al-Shabab group withdrew from most of its bases in August and recent pushes by African Union and Somali troops have helped bring partial security to more of the city.

But insurgents in disguise can still move freely and assassinations, suicide attacks and bombings are still very frequent.

Somalia has not had a functioning government since 1991.

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23. Bomb Blasts Shake Republic Of Congo Capital For A Second Day

Monday, 05 March 2012

<http://www.thenational.ae/news/world/africa/bomb-blasts-shake-republic-of-congo-capital-for-a-second-day>

Small detonations shook the capital of the Republic of Congo for a second day yesterday, after a fire inside a weapons depot set off a series of explosions so violent that they flattened houses, businesses and churches, killing hundreds and trapping countless others under the falling debris.
Topic

Firefighters had put out the main blaze in the north of Brazzaville, and were working to extinguish several smaller fires that were still burning yesterday.

A large crowd had gathered outside the municipal morgue, which along with a nearby hospital had registered 206 deaths in the hours after the first blast on Sunday.

In a two-hour stretch yesterday, another seven bodies were brought in to the morgue, bringing the death toll to at least 213. That number is expected to rise as rescuers begin clearing the debris including from St Louis Catholic Church where dozens of worshippers were attending Mass when the building buckled under the force of the blast.

The government spokesman Bienvenu Okyemi blamed a short circuit for the fire that set off the blasts.

President Denis Sassou-Nguesso described the ordeal as "a tragic accident". And the country's defence minister rushed to reassure people in this nation, which is still recovering from a 1997 civil war, that the fire was not a sign of a coup or a mutiny.

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24. Man Arrested With Explosives In Dang

Friday, 02 March 2012

<http://www.parakhi.com/news/2012/03/02/man-arrested-with-explosives-in-dang>

According to Nepal Police, Jasram Budha of Rolpa was arrested with a huge cache of explosives in Tulsipur Chowk, Dang district yesterday evening. Budha claims to be a member of the Magarath State Committee of UCPN (Maoist). He was arrested while on his way home from Gulmi. The police are yet to confirm Budha's membership in the Maoist party.

According to police officials, Budha was held with 10 gelatin sheets and detonators, 7m long data cable and two mobile phones. The explosives could have triggered a much bigger blast than the recent bomb blast outside the gates of Nepal Oil Corporation in Kathmandu. The police suspect that the explosives were smuggled from India and Budha might be carrying out extortion and other illegal activities in his home district.

UCPN (Maoist) have declined to comment and have not confirmed Budha's membership in the party. Many former Maoist cadres who have left the party have been found to have started their own militant group in their home districts. They are involved in extortion and abduction of traders and other influential people in their districts.

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25. Railway In Kasaragod District To be Monitored On Daily Basis

Saturday, 03 March 2012

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/states/kerala/article2957655.ece>

With the explosive looking substances on the railway track at Cheruvathur station in the district on Saturday creating public scare and putting authorities on toes, the railway tracks in the district stretching from Payyanur to Mangalore would be put under close surveillance, Deputy Inspector General of Police (North) S. Sreejith has said.

A decision to this effect was taken at a high level meeting chaired by Mr. Sreejith, who had rushed to the railway station where three "pipe bomb" like substances were found placed in one of the tracks around 6.30 a.m. by a passenger early this morning creating scare as teams of dog squad, bomb squad and finger print experts rushing to the spot to ascertain the situation.

The over 100 km long double line track stretching from Payyanur to Mangalore would now be put under close surveillance by intense patrolling on a daily basis jointly by the local and Railway Police as the operation would be supervised by Superintendent of Police (SP) and Dy. SP of Kasaragod, Mr. Sreejith told The Hindu.

The close examination of the sealed three PVC pipes connected with wire using insulation tapes was later found to have been filled with mixture of semi-wet cement and sand, he said adding that it could be suspected that the explosive looking substances could have been placed on the track by some "subversive" elements to test the alertness of security forces.

The suspicious substance on the track came days after a high level meeting chaired by S. Surendran, Kasaragod SP and senior railway officials here following recurring cases of train sabotage attempts on the 50 km long railway stretch between Kasaragod and Mangalore.

The meeting followed after train sabotage attempts were reported from Kumbala, Uppala and Majeshwaram where heavy stone and rail pieces were found placed on the tracks during the night hours.

However, major train mishaps were averted due to timely notice of heavy substances by railway gangmen and residents nearby the tracks.

Isolated incidents of stone pelting on running trains had also been reported from the northern parts of the State.

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26. Huge Cache Of Arms, Explosives Recovered In Karimganj

Saturday, 03 March 2012

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/guwahati/Huge-cache-of-arms-explosives-recovered-in-Karimganj/articleshow/12126433.cms>

The BSF and Assam police recovered a cache of arms and explosives from a house in a joint search operation at Harinadik village under Badarpur circle in Karimganj on Saturday noon. A senior BSF officer said that during the search operation, the team recovered a country-made carbine weapon and two packets (approx weight 500 gm each) of suspected Improvised Explosive Device (IED) connected with wires from the house of Abdul Rouf (26) and Mujibur Rahman (22) in the village.

BSF sources said, the seizure of such explosives along with arm have averted a major tragedy in this part of Assam. Later, recovered arms were handed over to the police for necessary action. Both the suspected IEDs were destroyed by the police on Saturday afternoon.

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27. Three, Including A Minor, Arrested In Connection With Uthangarai Bomb Blast
Wednesday, 07 March 2012
<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Coimbatore/article2970970.ece>

Three persons, including a minor, were arrested in connection with the Uthangarai bomb blast incident that shook the district on Monday night.

An associate of the blast being a minor, would be produced before the Juvenile Justice Board in Salem and two others allegedly associated with the victim to commit a major crime G. Viji (22) and P. Sakthivel (22) were produced before the Uthangarai Judicial Magistrate M. Ramachandran and were remanded to police custody.

Two accused would be lodged in Salem Central Prison and the minor boy would be sent to Juvenile Home.

Mr. Abishek Dixit, Superintendent of Police told the reporters here on Wednesday night that the victim of the bomb blast in Uthangarai T. Srinivasan (as per the army records) and his associates had planned to loot cash from the bank staff while they were about load cash in the ATM, usually done in the evening, reveals inquiry from the minor boy who had escaped from the scene soon after the blast near a tea shop in Uthangarai bazaar.

The victim and his associates had also visited two SBI ATMs in Tirupattur and Viswamanagalam before targeting the Indian Bank ATM in Uthangarai, as there was no guard in the bank.

The boy, who was escaped from the blast site, had gone to Tirupathur with injuries for treatment. He was caught by the police and was brought to Samalpatti Police Station for enquiry on Tuesday. Police had conducted a marathon enquiry till late in the night on Tuesday with him.

However, it was yet to be established the place of sourcing the materials including the gelatine sticks by the victim. The dealer of the explosive would be found and action would be initiated against him during the course of further investigation.

The body of the deceased was handed over to their relatives after the post mortem at the Salem Hospital. Forensic report is yet to be received.

Uthangarai police have registered a case under sections 342, 392, 307 of IPC and Section 5 of the Indian Explosive Substances Act.

Mr. S.R. Senthil Kumar, Additional Superintendent of Police, Crime In charge and PEW, Mr. V. Kasi Viswanathan, Deputy Superintendent of Police, Uthangarai and other officials were present during the press briefing.

Meantime, a hand was found near the ATM on the bazaar street on Wednesday morning. It was immediately brought to the notice of the local police. Uthangarai police recovered the hand and are investigating.

Police officials had also viewed the recordings of surveillance camera fitted in the bank on Tuesday and conducted a detailed enquiry with the bank officials and employees.

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28. Blast Victim Served In Army Under Different Name

Wednesday, 07 March 2012

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/states/tamil-nadu/article2967756.ece>

The man who died in the bomb blast at Uthangarai in Krishnagiri on Monday evening has been identified by the police.

A preliminary enquiry with Defence forces revealed that he had worked as washerman in the Army in Arunachal Pradesh, said Superintendent of Police Abishek Dixit here on Tuesday.

The victim joined the Army giving his name as T. Srinivasan while his original name was T. Sakthivel hailing from Padathanurkottai. His SSLC mark sheet shows his name as T. Sakthivel. Photocopies of affidavits in stamped paper submitted to the Army state his name as T. Srinivasan.

Sources in the Police Department said that they were investigating the affidavit submitted by him to the Army for appointment.

According to the health card issued by the defence forces, his service number is 16116177 P, MEG & Centre TB – I, 'B' Coy of 7th Engineering Regiment, TENCOY in Arunachal Pradesh.

The victim was identified with the help of the engine and chassis numbers of the vehicle used by him and his associate just before the bomb went off. He used a fake registration number of Vellore district. As many as 30 items, including printed circuit boards, five gelatine sticks (used as industrial explosives), two pellets, batteries, detonating wires and timer circuits, were recovered from the residence of Srinivasan by a bomb detection and disposal squad from Chennai headed by Inspector K.K. Mohammed.

Abash Kumar, Inspector-General of Police, Internal Security, and Sanjay Kumar, Deputy Inspector General of Police, Salem Range, visited the site on Tuesday.

The victims' associate was identified as J. Ramamurthy of Andiyur, half a km away from Padathanurkottai village bordering Tirupattur in Vellore. A circuit board and a detonator wire were seized from his mobile phone repair shop. The police reached the residence of Srinivasan and took his brother-in-law Madhaiyan, mother T. Kantha, maternal aunt, and a relative Murugan for inquiry into custody.

Major (Retired) M. Muthuram, Assistant Director, District Ex-servicemen Welfare Board, accompanied the SP during inspection. The 'Q' branch police are conducting a probe, sources in the police said.

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29. Journalist Arrested In New Delhi Bomb Attack

Wednesday, 07 March 2012

<http://abcnews.go.com/Business/wireStory/journalist-arrested-delhi-bomb-attack-15866227#.T1e3tnmwWss>

Police arrested an Indian journalist in connection with last month's bombing of an Israeli diplomatic vehicle in New Delhi, authorities said Wednesday, the first apparent breakthrough in an attack that Israel accused Iran of orchestrating.

The Press Trust of India said the suspect had claimed to work for an Iranian news organization, a fact Indian police declined to confirm.

Though Indian authorities have not implicated Iran in the bombing, any leads that point in that direction could complicate India's delicate efforts to ward off growing Western pressure and maintain its strong economic ties with Tehran.

Energy-starved India remains a large market for Iranian oil, and those purchases could blunt the effect of intensified sanctions being imposed by the United States and European Union to force Iran to roll back its nuclear ambitions.

"India finds itself between a rock and a hard place over Iran," said Arundhati Ghose, a retired Indian diplomat. "It's a tough call for the government, but one that New Delhi will have to confront eventually."

Police arrested Syed Mohammed Kazmi on Tuesday after investigations showed he had been in touch with a suspect they believe may have stuck a magnetic bomb on an Israeli diplomat's car, police spokesman Rajan Bhagat said.

Police said they searched Kazmi's house over the past two days to gather evidence that might link him to the Feb. 13 attack, which wounded the diplomat's wife, her driver and two other people in a nearby car. Police did not say what evidence they found.

Kazmi, 50, was being questioned and was scheduled to appear in court Wednesday before being handed over to officials of the investigating agencies for further questioning, Bhagat said.

The New Delhi blast came the same day a bomb was discovered on an Israeli diplomat's car in the former Soviet republic of Georgia. The next day, three Iranians accidentally blew up their house in Thailand, and Israeli authorities said the similarity between their explosives and the two earlier bombs linked Iran to all three incidents.

Indian officials have refused to assign blame while the investigation continues.

Israel has accused Iran of waging a covert campaign of state terrorism and has threatened military strikes on Iranian nuclear facilities.

If Kazmi's arrest and interrogation leads to evidence of Iran's involvement — either directly or through its proxies — in the New Delhi attack, the fallout could put India in a diplomatic quandary.

Iran is one of India's major suppliers of oil, accounting for 12 percent of its energy needs.

So far, India has fended off criticism for its growing economic ties with Iran by saying it does not heed unilateral sanctions, such as those being imposed by the United States and European Union.

"We have accepted sanctions that are made by the United Nations," Foreign Secretary Ranjan Mathai told reporters in Washington at a recent press briefing. "Other sanctions do not apply to us."

Western sanctions have made it harder for Indian companies to pay for Iranian oil, with international banks unwilling to handle transactions from Tehran without breaching the new American sanctions on Iran's financial earnings from oil.

Last month, India and Iran agreed to an arrangement for 45 percent of the \$11 billion in annual oil payments to be made in Indian rupees, with the rest to be paid in a barter system.

Tehran is looking to trade oil for Indian-made machinery, iron and steel, minerals and automobiles, while Indian companies plan to invest in infrastructure projects in Iran including developing oil and gas fields, roads and railways.

India brushed off the international outrage over the blasts and said it would go ahead with a visit to Tehran this weekend by an Indian trade delegation headed by the commerce secretary.

"India needs the Iranian crude. It would be very difficult to find alternative sources of oil that would be acceptable to Indian refineries," a commerce ministry official said on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media.

Many of India's aging oil refineries are configured to use Iranian crude oil. Retrofitting these refineries would be costly, the official said.

India is also looking after its strategic interests in Iran's neighbor Afghanistan, which India hopes to prevent from falling under the sway of its archrival, Pakistan, after the 2014 withdrawal of NATO troops.

India uses Iranian ports to send goods to Afghanistan as it scrambles to maintain influence there.

"India is now in a panic over what lies ahead in Afghanistan. The Americans are leaving Afghanistan; they are talking to the Taliban. India will find itself scrambling for access in Afghanistan," says K.C. Singh, a former Indian ambassador to Iran.

To this end, India is helping develop the southern Iranian port of Chabahar and a rail link that will offer it direct access to Afghanistan.

New Delhi has not remained completely immune to sanction pressures and is slowly easing its dependence on Iranian oil.

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Trends show a gradual decline in Iranian oil imports, with a temporary spike in January due to the bunching of earlier supplies that were delayed due to payment hurdles.

India has also developed close ties with Israel after diplomatic relations were established in 1992, and Tel Aviv has emerged as an important arms supplier.

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30. Bomb Blast In Sibsagar, Two Bombs Recovered

Monday, 05 March 2012

<http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/story/249631/news/regions/unidentified-men-hurl-explosive-at-ltfrb-office-in-iloilo>

The police are tracking a group of men who hurled an improvised explosive device (IED) at the regional office of the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) in Iloilo province before dawn on Tuesday.

The IED, which did not explode, consisted of a fragmentation grenade tied to a 50-millimeter mortar, radio dzBB's Iloilo affiliate reported.

Sketchy initial reports indicated about three men threw the IED at the LTFRB office.

A security guard stationed at the LTFRB said he heard a sound at 2:00 a.m. but did not think much about it until a team from the Jaro police arrived.

The police said a man called to say that a bomb had been planted at the LTFRB office. The police found the IED after inspecting the area.

Explosive and Ordnance Division operatives from the local Philippine Army also arrived to secure the explosive.

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31. Israeli Bomb Attack Case: Kajmi In Police Custody

Wednesday, 07 March 2012

http://zeenews.india.com/news/nation/israeli-bomb-attack-case-kajmi-in-police-custody_762618.html

Syed Mohammed Ahmad Kazmi, arrested for his alleged role in the February 13 Israeli car bombing case, was on Wednesday remanded in police custody for 20 days by a Delhi court.

Kazmi was produced before Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM) Vinod Yadav, who remanded him in police custody till March 27 after the Special Cell of the Delhi police said he was an integral part of the entire conspiracy and his custodial interrogation was necessary as there was possibility of involvement of foreign nationals in the crime.

"The accused (Kazmi) is remanded to police custody till March 27," the CMM said, while allowing the police request for Kazmi's remand for 20 days.

The investigators told the court that the attack was launched in a well-planned manner and it was not an accident.

"The entire incident was not an accidental act as it was done in a well-planned manner," the Delhi Police said.

The prosecutor, however, refused to share all the information in the open court saying the main accused in the case might go out of the reach if all the information about the investigation is disclosed at this stage.

Advocate Vijay Aggarwal, appearing for Kazmi, vehemently opposed the application for his police custody saying the police have not followed the prescribed procedure while arresting his client yesterday.

"The court cannot send him (Kazmi) under police custody unless they have a proper case diary and even the arrest is illegal as the men who arrested him were in plain clothes which are in violation of the guidelines of the Supreme Court," he said.

He said the police was branding Kazmi as an international terrorist whereas he is a journalist who had covered the Iraq war and also covers issue related to Iran.

The court, however, brushed aside Aggarwal's contentions and remanded Kazmi in police custody.

Kazmi, who claims to have been writing for an Iranian publication, was picked up after a probe showed that he had been in touch with the suspect who is believed to have stuck the magnetic bomb on Israeli diplomat Tal Yehoshua's car on February 13, official sources were reported as saying today.

Kazmi is alleged to have helped the suspect in conducting the reeve of the Israeli Embassy to keep a tab on arrival and departures of the diplomats, the sources said.

Police conducted searches at his native place near Delhi, they said. Israeli diplomat Tal Yehoshua and an Indian driver of the embassy vehicle, was among four people injured in the blast caused by a magnetic bomb stuck to her vehicle by motorcycle-borne miscreant.

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32. One Killed, Seven Wounded By Bomb In Tak Bai District, Narathiwat Province
Monday, 05 March 2012

<http://www.bangkokpost.com/lite/topstories/282984/1-killed-7-wounded-by-tak-bai-bomb>

A villager was killed while three other civilians, one of them a Malaysian man, and four soldiers were wounded by a bomb that went off at a roadside shelter near a fresh market in Tak Bai district of Narathiwat province on Monday morning.

Pol Capt Boonsak Nooman, the duty officer at Tak Bai police station, said he was informed of the incident about 10.30am.

Pol Col Nanthadet Yoinual, the Narathiwat deputy police chief, Somsak Sithiworakarn, the Tak Bai district chief, Pol Col Nitinai Langyanai, the Tak Bai police chief, led a team including forensic police to scene, the Ban Taba market opposite a marine police station.

According to accounts from eyewitnesses, after completing a patrol around the market, the 12 members of a unit led by Mst-Sgt Thammakorn Chamram took a rest under roadside shelter where a number of villagers were also sitting.

A bomb planted under the roof of the shelter was remotely detonated. The explosion injured four soldiers and four civilians. They were all admitted to Tak Bai Hospital.

The wounded soldiers are Mst-Sgt Thammakorn, the patrol leader, Pvt Likit Thanomsombat, Pvt Chakrapong Thepsena, and Pvt Phusit Basri, all from the Narathiwat Task Force 36.

The wounded civilians included two men, identified as Sanadi Dolo, 37, and Paosi Awa, the Malaysian, and two women identified as Meeno Boonchan, 54, and Nida Daraman.

One of them, Sanadi Dolo, later succumbed to serious injuries at the hospital.

The shelter was badly damaged by the 5kg improvised bomb which was placed in a steel box.

In nearby Yala, a soldier who was high on methamphetamine, or yaba, shot at his colleagues at a military base in Yala's Kabang district on Monday, killing one person and wounding three others.

Reports said Private Bancha Raklaemkae, 22, looked paranoid and appeared to be hallucinating before he opened fire with his M-16 rifle at other soldiers.

Sgt Vichien Priksi was killed in the shooting.

Three other soldiers were wounded and two of them were in a critical condition. They were rushed to Yala hospital.

After Private Bancha was restrained, he confessed that he was addicted to yaba but was unable to use it at the military base because it was illegal. His withdrawal symptoms caused him to lose control of himself and open fire at his colleagues.

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33. Abu Sayyaf Tagged In Jolo Bombing

Monday, 05 March 2012

<http://www.philstar.com/Article.aspx?articleId=783930&publicationSubCategoryId=63>

Police have tagged the Abu Sayyaf as behind Saturday's bombing that killed two civilians and wounded 14 others in downtown Jolo, Sulu.

Sulu police director Senior Superintendent Antonio Freyra said police have gathered information linking the Abu Sayyaf to the bombing in front of the Cleopatra Commercial Store along Serantes Street in Jolo.

An improvised explosive device concealed in a plastic bag was abandoned near a generator set in front of the store, he added.

Investigation has yet to be completed to determine the type of bomb, he said.

Freyra said based on their information, the attack could be in retaliation for the killing of a holdup suspect 10 days ago in Jolo during a police security operation.

The suspect's brother, an Abu Sayyaf member, has vowed to avenge his death, he added.

Freyra said the Abu Sayyaf could have also targeted businessmen who have not heeded extortion demands.

"But we are validating this information to determine the motive of the attacks," he said.

Troops have been placed on standby to assist police after investigation pointed to the Abu Sayyaf, Lt. Col. Randolph Cabangbang, Armed Forces Western Mindanao Command spokesman said.

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34. Two Thai Soldiers Wounded In Bomb Blast In Restive South

Tuesday, 06 March 2012

<http://english.cri.cn/6966/2012/03/06/2561s685141.htm>

Two soldiers of teacher protection unit were seriously wounded by a bomb which went off Tuesday morning while they were patrolling on foot on Kuwa-Thamnob road in Krong Pinang district of southernmost Yala province.

The two soldiers, identified as Sgt. Maj Preecha Kongpakdi, 52, and Lance Corporal Thongchai Boonchuay, 23, were badly injured as shrapnel penetrated their heads and torsos. They were later admitted to Yala Hospital.

Police preliminary investigation showed that perpetrators detonated an Improvised Explosive Device (IED), which was hidden in a garbage dump on the roadside when nine soldiers of the teacher protection unit were patrolling on Kuwa-Thamnob road.

The police said the IED could weight from 3 to 5 kg but could not tell how it was detonated. Separatist insurgents were blamed for the incident.

Since the resurgence of insurgency in January 2004, over 11,000 violent incidents have happened in the southernmost provinces of Yala, Pattani and Narathiwat. Altogether over 5,200 people, mostly villagers, have been killed in violent incidents instigated by suspected secessionists in these Muslim-dominant provinces which were once independent sultanate of Pattani before being annexed by predominantly Buddhist state in 1909.

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35. Soldier Killed In Southern Thailand Bomb Blast

Friday, 02 March 2012

<http://bikyamasr.com/60061/soldier-killed-in-southern-thailand-bomb-blast/>

A roadside bomb killed at least one Thai soldier and severely wounded another Friday in an attack blamed on southern Muslim separatists, police said.

Police said a unit of eight soldiers was patrolling in Mayo district of Pattani province to protect local teachers when insurgents detonated the homemade bomb with a mobile phone.

The explosion followed a series of arson and bomb attacks on Thursday that injured at least a dozen people and caused extensive damage in the southern provinces of Pattani and Narathiwat.

Also on Thursday, a Muslim husband and wife were shot dead at their home in Pattani's Sai Buri district by gunmen who fired from a motorcycle.

The couple's son, who was a government defence volunteer, was killed by insurgents in 2010.

A total of 39 people were killed and 69 wounded in incidents in the provinces of Pattani, Narathiwat and Yala in February, the Deep South Watch group at the Prince of Songkla University Pattani reported on Friday.

The research group said there were 74 violent incidents – nine explosions, 42 shootings, 16 cases of arson, and seven other attacks in February.

Altogether some 5,000 people have been killed and thousands more injured since the separatist insurgency flared up in January 2004.

The insurgents say they are fighting for the independence of the three southernmost provinces, which are predominantly Muslim, while the rest of the country is overwhelmingly Buddhist.

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36. Tibetan Man Dies While Bombing Building In Western China

Wednesday, 29 February 2012

<http://worldnews.msnbc.msn.com/news/2012/02/29/10541756-report-tibetan-dies-while-bombing-building-in-western-china>

A Tibetan man died when detonating a bomb in a government building in western China over the weekend, Radio Free Asia reported.

The man identified as Tashi, 32, part of the large Tibetan minority population concentrated in the western province of Sichuan, targeted a building used to monitor local residents, the report on Monday said, citing India-based Tibetans with contacts in the area.

"He died in the explosion that also damaged the building. The extent of damage on the government building is not clear," an India-based friend of Tashi told RFA.

The report did not say whether there were other people or casualties in the building at the time, nor report the extent of the damage to the building.

The state-controlled media in China normally does not report on ethnic unrest, so reports like this one typically get out by word of mouth. Radio Free Asia is a U.S. government broadcaster that beams news into undemocratic countries in the region.

Such acts of violence are rare in Tibet and Tibetan-populated areas, though the conflict with the Han Chinese authorities has been more severe since 2008, when a series of protests and demonstrations spread from the Tibetan capital, Lhasa, to other Tibetan areas and descended into rioting. The violence was largely aimed at Han civilians and was harshly suppressed by China's paramilitary. The clashes left at least 10 dead officially and dozens more wounded — though some Tibet watchers say that the casualties were many times higher and that thousands of Tibetans have been arrested.

A more common form of protest among Tibetans has been self-immolation. According to records kept by The International Campaign for Tibet, a group advocating for human rights and democracy in Tibet, 10 Tibetans have set themselves on fire in the months of January and February alone.

China severely represses actions or expressions of support for Tibetan independence. The Dalai Lama, spiritual leader of Tibetans, fled in the early days of China's Communist rule, where he has lived in exile ever since.

Ethnic tensions have increased in the past decade with Beijing's "Open up the West" economic development campaign which has systematically increased the population Han Chinese living in traditionally Tibetan and other minority areas.

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37. FARC Bomb Detonated In Puerto Jordan: One Child & One Soldier Dead, Three Wounded
Saturday, 03 March 2012

<http://translate.google.com/translate?sl=auto&tl=en&js=n&prev=t&hl=en&ie=UTF-8&layout=2&eof=1&u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.lavozdelcinaruco.com%2F%3Fid%3D6550>

The insurgents detonated a bomb in the center house of the village town of Puerto Jordan, rural municipality of Tame in Arauca department.

The balance, less than 8 years and one soldier dead and four wounded reported so far the authorities in Arauca.

The youngest of only 8 years old, was identified by authorities as Jaider Martin Jacome, who died as a result of wounds received in his body and this powerful blast of consignment packed in this humble home for the Tenth Front guerrillas FARC military accurately.

The wounded a lieutenant and three soldiers were evacuated to St. Vincent de Paul hospital in the city of Arauca where they receive primary care physicians, most of them with serious injuries to her lower extremities.

A general rejection expressed by sectors in Arauca how the FARC is anticipated criminal action against the civilians and soldiers on a public street of the village of Puerto Jordan in Tame, an action that also left extensive damage to nearby houses which was triggered this high-powered explosive charge.

The command of the army in Arauca department and the governor, Facundo Castillo Jose Cisneros through their press officers announced an official statement for the afternoon of Saturday.

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38. Three Killed By FARC Attack In Arauca

Saturday, 03 March 2012

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-latin-america-17248934>

Two soldiers and an eight-year-old boy have been killed in an explosion in north-eastern Colombia.

Military officials said the explosives were planted by Colombia's largest left-wing rebel group, the Farc.

Three soldiers were also injured in the attack near the town of Tame.

Colombian Defence Minister Juan Carlos Pinzon said the security situation in Colombia had deteriorated over the past few months, but that the government was meeting the threat head on.

The explosion happened in the same area where nine employees from an oil company were abducted on Wednesday.

It is not clear who kidnapped the workers as a number of illegal groups are active in Arauca province, where Tame is located.

The Farc rebel group announced last Sunday that it would abandon kidnappings for ransom.

But a smaller left-wing rebel group, the ELN, and a number of drug gangs continue to abduct people in the region.

Last year, a 10-year-old girl was abducted on her way to school, also in Arauca province.

She was held for 18 days before her kidnappers, suspected of belonging to the Farc, released her after negotiations led by the International Red Cross.

The Marxist-inspired Farc has been active since the early 1960s.

It has been severely weakened by military offensives and the killing of two of its top leaders, but remains capable of carrying out attacks, in part due to cash raised through its involvement in the illegal drugs trade.

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39. Pentolite Seized From Mattresses In Valle Del Cauca

Thursday, 01 March 2012

<http://translate.google.com/translate?sl=auto&tl=en&js=n&prev=t&hl=en&ie=UTF-8&layout=2&eotf=1&u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.rcnradio.com%2Fnoticias%2Feditor%2Fdecomisan-explosivos-que-iban-para-la-140539>

59.4 kilograms of high explosive known as pentolite, were seized by police in a hold of the transport terminal in the capital of Valle del Cauca.

The coming war material bound for the different fronts of the FARC operating in the northern Cauca Valley and came to the city through the system and hidden commend in three new orthopedic mattresses, said police commander Metropolitan General Fabio Castaneda.

The officer added that the 132 block of explosive cylindrical, worth about 20 million, came from Ipiales, Nariño.

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40. Army Destroys 299 Blocks Of Pentolite

Thursday, 01 March 2012

http://translate.google.com/translate?sl=auto&tl=en&js=n&prev=t&hl=en&ie=UTF-8&layout=2&eof=1&u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.elcomercio.com%2Fseguridad%2FAyer-destruyeron-explosivos_0_655134673.html

Yesterday morning, the military destroyed 299 blocks pentolite (explosive). This occurred in the group Yaguachi Cavalry, south of Ibarra. The material, which is for military use, was confiscated by police in 2011.

According to preliminary data, was taken by people who presumably supplied the illegal armed groups from the north country, as the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC).

A loud bang followed by the formation of a mushroom cloud and earth was the result of the explosion caused by military specialists. In that event was attended by staff of the Prosecutor and the Judicial Police of Imbabura. The material was in the custody of the Army.

This, by order of the authorities and after the explosion that occurred last year at the headquarters of Intervention and Rescue Group (GIR) in Pusuquí-Quito. Meanwhile, in the cellars of the 400 blocks Yaguachi pentolite rest but were confiscated by police.

That seizure occurred on January 25 last, while traveling on board a passenger bus from Ibarra to San Lorenzo-Esmeraldas.

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41. Four Persons Arrested With Explosives In Cali

Saturday, 03 March 2012

<http://translate.google.com/translate?sl=auto&tl=en&js=n&prev=t&hl=en&ie=UTF-8&layout=2&eotf=1&u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.rcnradio.com%2Fnoticias%2Feditor%2F4-personas-detenido-con-explosivos-en-cali-141128>

The director of the Military Aviation School, "Marco Fidel Suarez," Ramses Rueda said that they were captured in the district the village, east of the capital of Valle del Cauca.

According to the official, detainees, two men and two women, were found in a home 15 kilos of pentonita, 4 grenades, 14 artifacts for tatucos, and 15 weapons and long range.

These items were for the sixth head of the FARC and the urban front, Manuel Cepeda, the FARC, said the official, adding that the operation was made jointly by the Air Force and National Police.

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42. Authorities Seize Indugel Near Monterrey

Monday, 05 March 2012

<http://translate.google.com/translate?sl=auto&tl=en&js=n&prev=t&hl=en&ie=UTF-8&layout=2&eotf=1&u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.prensalibrecasanare.com%2Fprincipal%2F2691-once-barras-de-indugel-hallu-la-policna-en-monterrey.html>

2750 grams of indugel, high-powered explosive material was found in the village center of the village "Brisas del Llano".

In the village center of the village "Brisas del Llano" located 45 minutes from the town of Monterrey, police found 11 indugel bars, with a weight of 2750 grams.

The explosive material was buried in the backyard of a home, wrapped in a green canvas.

The group SIJIN explosives, carried out the work of destruction.

It is assumed that the explosives could have belonged to a paramilitary group, since in this sector such groups operated outside the law.

The finding was made possible by a telephone call by a citizen.

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43. FARC Hides 123 Pentolite Bars In Mattresses

Thursday, 01 March 2012

<http://translate.google.com/translate?sl=auto&tl=en&js=n&prev=t&hl=en&ie=UTF-8&layout=2&eotf=1&u=http%3A%2F%2Fflarazondecali.com%2Fnlarazon%2Findex.php%2Fcali%2F822-las-farc-ocultaban-123-barras-de-pentolita-en-colchones-ortopedicos>

Thanks to the work of mediating advanced monitoring and control checkpoints, review of the bus station, courier companies and background constant concern to individuals, units attached to the Cali Metropolitan achieved in the last hours of the seizure of an important material explosives.

The police action took place in a warehouse of parcels in the transport terminal, where 132 blocks were placed in cylindrical type pentolite explosives, weighing approximately 59.4 kilograms.

It should be noted that military equipment is worth about 19'800 .000 pesos to thanks to the skill and police was found (camouflage) into three new orthopedic mattresses.

According to information from the explosive apparently came to the capital of Valle coming from the city of Ipiales and these guerrilla fronts intended to supply the Department of Valle del Cauca and North, who in recent days have sustained clashes with the police.

This is achieved operational activity contribute to the shortage of explosives for guerrilla structures that offend in this region.

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44. Authorities Seize 15 Kg. Explosives And Grenades In Cali

Monday, 05 March 2012

http://translate.google.com/translate?sl=auto&tl=en&js=n&prev=t&hl=en&ie=UTF-8&layout=2&eotf=1&u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.eltiempo.com%2Fcolombia%2Fcali%2FARTICULO-WEB-NEW_NOTA_INTERIOR-11278621.html

A statement said that in compliance with the Policy and Citizen Security and Coexistence through proactive intelligence FAC Dijin National Police and in coordination with the Attorney General's Office, we were able to thwart a terrorist in the southwest of the country, northern Cauca and Valle.

In a raid on the run with street 28D4 72 The Village II neighborhood, commune 13, were captured four people (two men aged 20 to 27 years and two women from 23 to 46 years).

There they seized 15 kilos of crushed pentolite, 04 IM26 grenades, 14 improvised explosive devices percussion activation system, 32 meters of detonating cord and 46 meters safety fuse.

According to the information you celebrate, this armament reportedly reached the capital of Valle coming from Cauca and pretend to supply the militia of the Sixth Front of FARC, who commit crimes in the Valley.

The captured and explosives seized were turned over to the Tenth Special Prosecutor and is awaiting the completion of the respective probate hearing of the capture and charging of fees.

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45. Authorities Neutralize Car Bomb In Tame, Arauca Department

Thursday, 08 March 2012

<http://translate.google.com/translate?sl=auto&tl=en&js=n&prev=t&hl=en&ie=UTF-8&layout=2&eotf=1&u=http%3A%2F%2Fmicurillo.blogspot.com%2F2012%2F03%2Fautoridades-neutralizan-carro-bomba-en.html>

Bomb technicians from the National Police and Army neutralized a car bomb that the ELN sought to turn against members of the security forces.

Colonel Wilson Bravo Cardenas, commander of police in Arauca, revealed that a car was abandoned Toyota Land Cruiser with 40 kilos of explosives in the village Zaparay in the municipality of Tame.

In the police action proceeded to establish the mode of activation and composition of the explosive, to prevent the device was detonated by subversion.

Ex-proof staff used advanced technology to install a hidrocarga with a hook and rope equipment in the vehicle for a controlled detonation.

Yesterday a soldier died and three others wounded in an attack near the exhibition center located in the village Panama de Arauca, in Arauquita.

The affected soldiers belonging to the Battalion Energy Road Number 16, which in the enforcement work carried out on the roads in the region.

The 18 Brigade Commander, Colonel Cesar Oswaldo Morales, attributed the incident to the FARC. The incident occurred one day after the front of the ELN Domingo Lain 8 workers freed an oil company that held hostage for six days with three people.

Last Saturday an 8 years and two soldiers died in the township of Puerto Jordan, in Tame, after the guerrillas triggered various explosives.

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46. Deputies Find Explosives At Lynnwood Pot Grow

Friday, 02 March 2012

<http://www.komonews.com/news/local/Deputies-find-explosives-at-Lynnwood-pot-grow--141211763.html>

An undisclosed amount of C-4 plastic explosive and firearms were discovered Friday inside a home being used for a marijuana grow operation, according to the Snohomish County Sheriff's Office.

Deputies served a search warrant at the home, in the 18200 block of Larch Way in Lynnwood, at about 8:15 a.m. Friday, said Snohomish County sheriff's spokesman Kevin L. Prentiss.

Investigators found about 100 marijuana plants at in various stages of growth when they searched the home Friday morning.

They also discovered an undisclosed amount of C-4 explosive and firearms inside the residence. Members of the Washington State Patrol Regional Bomb Squad were called in to collect the explosive, Prentiss said.

A 26-year-old Edmonds man was arrested at the house and booked into the Snohomish County Jail on suspicion of manufacturing a controlled substance with intent to deliver. His name was not immediately released.

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47. Bomb Squad Deactivates Bomb In Marion County, Illinois

Saturday, 03 March 2012

<http://www.ksdk.com/news/article/307861/3/Bomb-squad-deactivates-device-found-in-Marion-County>

A bomb squad from the Illinois Secretary of State's Office responded to Marion County Saturday night to deactivate an apparent bomb found on private property.

Blake Chastain and Jarrod Burner took several pictures of the device they found behind Jarrod's parents' house Saturday afternoon while searching in the woods for scrap metal.

Chastain said, "We take it up to the house and get it all dusted off and go inside, set it on the counter, and we took a grinder to get some of the dust off of it."

Burner spoke of the law enforcement reaction.

"They're all over there," he said. "Kicked us out of the house, said we can't be there because it could blow up."

Jarrod's father, Dale Burner, said, "The state police came in our house and said, 'Get out of here, leave right now.'"

"We had it on the kitchen counter at one point," said Traci Burner, Jarrod's mother.

Illinois State Trooper John Faulkner said, "The secretary of state's office investigated and found it to be a non-live round."

But Jarrod's parents say investigators told them something else.

"They told us it was a real bomb," said Dale. "And they deactivated it."

Traci said, "They said those propellers are on there for a reason. When it comes out of an airplane it twists and goes fifteen times. The sixteenth time it would detonate. There's a primer in it and it could go off. So if the kids would have twisted it 15 times, 20 times, whatever... it could have detonated and it could have gone off."

The Burners said they have no idea where the device came from. After deactivating it, investigators removed it from the property.

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48. Bomb Found During Routine Traffic Stop

Friday, 02 March 2012

http://ccheadliner.com/news/bomb-found-during-routine-traffic-stop/article_7337835e-64a9-11e1-b762-001871e3ce6c.html

It's the best thing that could have happened to two men when Ozark police made a routine traffic stop at about 1 a.m. March 1 at Jackson and 12th streets, Ozark, and found an improvised explosive device in the bed of their pickup. Had they carried out their original plan, the results could have been tragic.

"There was no sinister intent on their part," said Capt. Thomas Rousset. "It was just something they made just to see if they could do it."

And to see what kind of explosion the device might cause if given the chance. Rousset said the two Ozark-area suspects, who were arrested but not yet charged, reconsidered the stunt that could have caused serious injuries had the bomb detonated.

Rousset said the officer making the stop didn't immediately recognize the bomb "for what it was." But when the officer saw a fuse coming out of it, that prompted him to call the fire department. The OFPD directed the officer to the Springfield Bomb Squad who responded.

"They did not detonate it," Rousset said. "They rendered it harmless."

Rousset said the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms is assisting in the investigation while officials determine whether to press state or federal charges.

Rousset said one of the suspects took full responsibility for the incident.

Local officers don't often come across explosives during traffic stops, but it does happen sometimes, Rousset said. He added that even though the device was unlikely to explode while in transport because it needed an ignition source, the two suspects are fortunate they did not carry their plan to fruition.

"It contained gun powder and was capable of causing serious bodily injury," he said.

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49. Pipe Bomb Disposed Of After Citizens Turn In Device
Thursday, 01 March 2012
<http://www.dnj.com/article/20120302/NEWS/303010036>

One device appearing to be a pipe bomb was detonated safely by state officers Thursday at the Rutherford County Sheriff's Office, according to a RCSO news release.

A citizen brought the device to the sheriff's office, said evidence technician Lt. Philip Martin, via that release.

"The state Bomb and Arson and Tennessee Highway Patrol's Bomb Squad responded to the sheriff's office, reviewed the device and rendered the device safe," Martin said.

State agencies will investigate, according to the RCSO.

"If a device is found or something you feel is a real device, call your local law enforcement agency," Martin recommended. "Do not transport the device in your vehicle. Allow qualified and certified law enforcement officers to handle the item."

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50. Arrest Made In Bear Pipe-Bomb Incident

Wednesday, 07 March 2012

http://www.delawareonline.com/article/20120307/NEWS01/120307070/Arrest-made-Bear-pipe-bomb-incident?odyssey=tab|topnews|text|Home&nclink_check=1

James Hamby's basement walls, cabinets and shelves had pock marks from where police detonated a pipe bomb found in his Bear home today.

There also was a chunk of his workbench that was missing, and a door had several holes where fragments blasted through it. A scent of of gunpowder remained in the air.

"They blowed it up in here," the 55-year-old said, pointing out the damage sprayed across his Sparrow Run home basement.

The detonation came toward the end of a multi-agency investigation of a suspicious package that was found inside the home about 8 a.m., Assistant State Fire Marshal Michael Chionchio said.

Late tonight, authorities announced the arrest of Hamby's stepson, Kevin Beal. He was charged with four count of possessing an explosive device and four counts of reckless endangerment. He was committed to Howard Young Correctional Facility in lieu of \$8,000 secured bail.

Hamby was in his basement leaving a doggie door there when he found a box over an aquarium where his grandson keeps crickets for his pet bearded dragon.

"You remember this," was written on the box.

Not knowing what it was, Hamby removed it from the aquarium and took it to another part of the basement, where he rested it on his workbench. His stepdaughter, Tammy Labelle, then opened the taped box.

Hamby said he took a look and realized he needed to call authorities.

"The guy in the bomb squad said it could have gone then," Hamby said. "I'm glad nobody got hurt."

County police officers found the package and alerted the State Fire Marshal's Office and the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Hamby, his family and his neighbors were evacuated for several hours.

Several pipe bombs were found in the home's basement left behind by a relative, Hamby said.

While some of the pipe bombs were safe to remove from the home, one of them was deemed unsafe to remove and was set off in the basement by the New Castle County police's Explosive Ordnance Disposal unit.

"It was the most safe option to do," he said.

Officers used bomb-sniffing dogs to go through the home and found live ammunition, as well as another pipe bomb behind a picture of Jesus.

Chionchio said investigators are trying to determine how the devices got into the house and whom they belonged to.

Hamby said the box belonged to a relative who had been staying at his house until recently.

"I feel violated," he said. "I tried to help him out and he turned out and in turn he did something like this."

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51. Grenade Found Inside Montclair House; Bomb Squad Responding

Wednesday, 07 March 2012

[http://www.northjersey.com/news/141796813 Grenade found inside Montclair house bomb squad responding.html](http://www.northjersey.com/news/141796813_Grenade_found_inside_Montclair_house_bomb_squad_responding.html)

Contractors discovered what appeared to be a vintage grenade and some other type of explosive device in the basement of a Montclair house this afternoon, and a bomb squad has been called in to investigate.

Painters who were working on a three-story house on Munn Street, between Park Street and Cottage Place, found the two bombs on a shelf in the basement today at shortly after 2:30 p.m.

James Conklin, the owner of Little Falls-based JRC Painting, said a member of his crew, which has been working on the house for three weeks, went into the basement to retrieve painting supplies that were being stored near the slop sink.

While in the cellar, the painter, who is one of Conklin's brothers, spotted an Army-green grenade with the pin still inside it and some other type of old-fashioned, cylindrical bomb that was brown with a black lid. Conklin said that weapon appears to be the sort of stick grenade that German soldiers tossed during World War II.

He called Conklin to the basement to check out the finds, which both men suspect to be war memorabilia.

"It looks like a play toy," Conklin said of one of the explosives. "It doesn't look real."

Concerned that the weapons, which were in good condition, could still detonate, Conklin called the real estate agent who is listing the home, which dates to the early 1900s. He noted that the elderly owner of the residence recently passed away.

Eventually the Montclair police were called, prompting police officers and firefighters to descend on the residence and shut down Munn Street, from Park Street to North Fullerton Avenue, as the school day was ending and students were walking home on a warm, sunny afternoon.

As of this writing, the Essex County Sheriff's Bomb Squad was at the scene.

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52. Blast From Homemade Bomb Rattles West Wichita

Wednesday, 07 March 2012

<http://www.kansascity.com/2012/03/07/3474696/blast-from-homemade-bomb-rattles.html>

Someone set off a large improvised explosive device in west Wichita early Wednesday morning, nearly injuring a sleeping child in a nearby apartment, police said.

The blast occurred at about 4 a.m. in the 1200 block of North Illinois and was heard for several blocks, Capt. Max Tenbrook said. Officers discovered shrapnel flew over apartment buildings at Morgan's Landing, an apartment complex near 13th and West Street.

One piece of shrapnel went over nearby apartments and then through an apartment window in a more distant building and struck the bed where a 2-year-old boy was sleeping, Tenbrook said.

"We were lucky" the child wasn't injured or killed, he said.

"Right now, that's the only damage we are aware of, but we're still in the process of investigating the scene," Tenbrook said.

Many of the shrapnel pieces were 6 to 8 inches long, he said. The bomb squad was called out and determined someone had filled a fire extinguisher with what appears to be black gunpowder and set it off using a long fuse, he said.

"We do know that it was intentionally detonated," Tenbrook said. "What their intent was, we do not know. Who might have done this, we do not know."

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives has been called in to investigate, along with the Kansas Highway Patrol.

Evidence at the scene indicates the bomb was set off in a cul-de-sac on North Illinois, south of Morgan's Landing, Tenbrook said.

Investigators want to talk to people who may have seen anyone walking or acting suspiciously in that area just before 4 a.m. They also want to talk to those who know of anyone who keeps a large amount of black gunpowder.

This is the second time in less than a year a fire extinguisher bomb has been set off, he said. Another was set off under a Kellogg bridge at Water in downtown Wichita last April.

That blast was so powerful it imbedded shrapnel in concrete a block away, Tenbrook said. Burn marks from the blast are still visible in the concrete, he said.

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