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WEEKLY NEWS UPDATE

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



North Korea 'Begins Installation Of Rocket On Launch Pad'

A satellite image showing North Korea's Dongchang-ri missile launch site.

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1. [Attack, Pakistan] Two Children Injured In Toy Bomb Blast

Friday, November 30 2012

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-77674-2-children-injured-in-toy-bomb-blast-in-Quetta>

Two children were injured in a toy bomb blast on Shah Wakshah road in the provincial capital on Friday.

Police sources said that unknown men had placed a toy bomb on Shah Wakshah road that exploded when two passersby children touch it. Resultantly, both children received serious injuries.

The rescue teams rushed to the site and shifted the wounded children to civil hospital where they were identified as Muhammad Hussain and Sanaullah.

The police cordoned off the entire area to trace the suspects.

It is noted here that Shah Wakshah road is passing through central area of the main city and it is famous as a food street as several restaurants having local traditional dishes are located on this road.

Afghan refugee and local rig-picker children also remain on this road whole day to get their required things from the garbage dumped by restaurants.



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2. [Law Enforcement, Pakistan] Three TTP Terrorists Held In Lahore

Saturday, December 1 2012

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-77874-Three-Tehrik-e-Taliban-terrorists-held-in-Lahore>

Crime Investigation Agency (CIA) personnel have arrested three members of a banned outfit with hoards of fire-arms, bombs and other explosive devices, Geo News reported.

“Agents in a raid conducted near Lari Adda area of Lahore held the malefactors who were armed to the teeth”, SSP CIA Umer Warak told Geo News.

Later DSP CIA, Tariq Ilyas Kayani, told a press conference that the arrestees namely Arshad, Umer Zaib, and Amjad were members of banned Tehrik-e-Taliban.

The held terrorists would be produced before an anti-terrorism court very soon, said he.

Lawmen also seized AK-47s, handguns, grenades, explosives, bombmaking paraphernalia, and various IEDs.





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3. [Attack, Afghanistan] Taliban Suicide Bombers Attack US Airfield In Afghanistan

Sunday, December 2 2012

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/asia/afghanistan/9717194/Taliban-suicide-bombers-attack-US-airfield-in-Afghanistan.html>

A squad of Taliban suicide bombers launched a dawn attack on a major American airfield in eastern Afghanistan by trying to blast their way through the gate with two suicide car bombs.

The attack on Jalalabad airfield triggered a gun battle lasting two hours, with Nato helicopters taking off to fire down on the attackers.

It was at least the third ambitious assault on a major base in Afghanistan this year, but initially seemed to have caused less damage than some of the previous attacks.

All nine attackers were killed and Nato officials said they had not managed to breach the perimeter.

A spokesman for the Taliban insurgents said their fighters had carried out the attack and claimed they had breached the defences.

Four private Afghan security guards were killed in the fighting and 14 more were wounded. Two civilians were killed in the crossfire, said Hazrat Hossein Mashreqiwal, spokesman for the provincial police.

No Nato troops were killed, though several were wounded. The base is garrisoned by American soldiers.

The attack began shortly before 6am with two cars packed with explosives driven at the gates of the airfield in eastern Afghanistan, which is also known as Forward Operating Base Fenty.

They were followed by a wave of around five fighters on foot, armed with assault rifles and some wearing explosive suicide vests.

The attackers had apparently been disguised in military uniform to bluff their way through checkpoints on the approach to the gates.

As Afghan and Nato forces fought to repel the attack, helicopter gunships from the airfield were scrambled to join the defence, said a Nato spokesman.

Fighting had ended by around 8.30am, with all of the attackers dead.

Afterwards bodies in Afghan police and military uniforms were scattered around the entrance witnesses told the Reuters news agency.

Two civilian medical students were also killed as they passed on their way to studies.

Lt Col Hagen Messer, spokesman for the coalition, said "multiple suicide bombers, attacked Jalalabad Airfield this morning", adding "none of the attackers succeeded in breaching the perimeter".

However an Afghan official told the AFP news agency that attackers had got through one gate of the layered defences, before they were shot down.

Jalalabad airfield has been attacked several times in recent years. In February, another suicide car bombing at the gate killed nine Afghans, six of them civilians.

A wave of spectacular attacks against major airfields has led Nato commanders to speculate they are a new tactic designed to portray the Afghan government as weak and derail the handover of security duties.

In September, the US suffered its biggest loss of aircraft in a single day since the Vietnam War when attackers breached the Camp Bastion airfield in Helmand, destroying six Harrier jets and damaging two more.

A truck bomb against Forward Operating Base Salerno in Khost province killed two Americans and seriously wounded about three dozen in June.



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4. [Law Enforcement, Pakistan] Pakistan Seizes 14 Tonnes Of Bomb-Making Chemical

Sunday, December 2 2012

<http://www.arabtimesonline.com/NewsDetails/tabid/96/smld/414/ArticleID/190627/reftab/69/t/Pakistan-seizes-14-tonnes-of-bomb-making-chemical/Default.aspx>

Pakistani authorities seized nearly 14 tonnes of potassium chlorate, a key ingredient in bomb-making, from a bus in the country's violent and unstable southwest on Sunday, officials said.

The haul was made when officials acting on a tip-off stopped a bus just outside the city of Quetta loaded with the volatile substance hidden under cartons of food, an official with the government paramilitary force said.

"We have seized some 13,900 kilograms of potassium chlorate from a bus and arrested five people," Frontier Corps Captain Johar Sarwar told AFP.

"The substance was hidden in sacks under various food items."

Frontier Corps spokesman Murtaza Baig confirmed the haul and said the substance could be used to make bombs and was so dangerous that only a simple detonator was needed to make a deadly device.

The bus was bound for the remote town of Naushki, around 110 kms (65 miles) west of Quetta, he said, adding that bomb disposal officers were summoned to check for detonators, but they found none.

Baluchistan province, of which Quetta is the capital, is frequently hit by bomb attacks.

The oil and gas-rich area borders Iran and Afghanistan, and suffers from sectarian violence, attacks by Taliban militants and a tribal insurgency. Baluch rebels rose up in 2004, demanding political autonomy and a greater share of profits from the region's mineral resources.

Baluchistan has also been a flashpoint for violence between majority Sunnis and Shiites, who make up around 20 percent of the population.





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5. [Attack, Pakistan] Bomb Hits Police Patrol In Northwest Pakistan, Kills Two Officers

Monday, December 3 2012

http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia_pacific/bomb-hits-police-patrol-in-northwest-pakistan-kills-2-officers/2012/12/03/640aa742-3d09-11e2-8a5c-473797be602c_story.html

A bomb ripped through a police van as it was patrolling in northwestern Pakistan on Monday, killing two officers and wounding two others, police said.

The attack took place on the outskirts of the city of Peshawar, which is located on the edge of Pakistan's tribal region, the main sanctuary for Taliban militants in the country. The city has been hit by frequent bombings over the past few years.

It's unclear if the blast was caused by a roadside bomb or a suicide bomber, said senior police officer Javed Khan. The bombing completely destroyed the police van that was hit, he said.

Also Monday, a gunman riding on a motorcycle killed the leader of an Islamic seminary in the southern city of Karachi, sparking a riot by hundreds of seminary students who stoned shops and set vehicles on fire, said police officer Azhar Iqbal.

Karachi has a long history of political, sectarian and ethnic strife, which has been on the rise this year.



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6. [Attack, Afghanistan] Bomb Kills Five In Southern Afghanistan

Monday, December 3 2012

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-78076-Bomb-kills-five-in-southern-Afghanistan--->

At least five people, including two women, were killed when a bomb targeting an army vehicle exploded in southern Afghanistan on Monday, officials said.

The remote-controlled bomb was placed on a motorcycle and hit an Afghan army patrol truck as it was passing in Trin Kot the capital of Uruzgan province.

"Two Afghan army soldiers and three civilians were killed in the blast," provincial police spokesman Farid Ayal told AFP.

The Uruzgan governor's spokesman, Abdullah Hemat, said two women were among those killed.

The blast also wounded eight others, including two soldiers, he said.

No one has claimed responsibility for the attack, but in the past such attacks have been claimed by the Taliban, who are waging an 11-year old insurgency to topple the US-backed government of President Hamid Karzai.

The attack in Uruzgan comes a day after Taliban suicide attackers struck at a NATO base on an Afghan city airport, killing five people and wounding several foreign troops.



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7. [Attack, Pakistan] Two Militants Killed While Planting Bomb

Monday, December 3 2012

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-7-146250-2-militants-killed-while-planting-bomb>

Two militants were killed when the bomb they were planting near a checkpoint in Pindyali tehsil went off, official sources said on Sunday. The sources said the militants were planting explosive material near Chopan security checkpoint at midnight when the blast occurred. "Both the militants were killed when the bomb they were planting went off," an official said. The political administration launched search operation in the area after the blast and arrested two suspects whose identity could not be ascertained.



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8. [Attack, Pakistan] Six Hurt In Kalat Bomb Explosion

Monday, December 3 2012

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/Todays-News-13-19237-Six-hurt-in-Kalat-bomb-explosion>

Six persons were injured when an explosion occurred at the Nadra office in Kalat.

Sources said miscreants had planted an explosive device at the Nadra office, which exploded and as a result, six persons were injured. They were shifted to the Civil Hospital. Owing to the explosion, windowpanes of houses, shops and offices in the area of Babu Mohallah, including Treasury Office and Nadra Office were shattered.

Police and law enforcement agencies rushed to the site and started an investigation. In another incident, unknown armed men gunned down a doctor in Jaffarabad district. According to police, the victim identified as Doctor Shamsuddin was on his way to home when armed assailants opened fire at him and fled.

The doctor sustained multiple bullet wounds and died on the spot. The body of the deceased was handed over to the heirs after completion of legal formalities.



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9. [Attack, Pakistan] Suicide Truck Bomb Blast Wounds Eight In Northwest Pakistan

Tuesday, December 4 2012

<http://www.rferl.org/content/suicide-truck-bomb-blast-wounds-eight-northwest-pakistan/24788672.html>

A suicide attack targeting a police station in northwestern Pakistan has wounded five policemen and three civilians.

Police officer Muhammad Ismail said police shot the would-be suicide truck bomber on December 4 in the city of Bannu before the suspect could get to his presumed target, a nearby police station.

Ismail said the bomber was killed when the estimated 500 kilograms of explosives carried in the truck detonated.

Pakistani Taliban spokesman Ehsanullah Ehsan claimed responsibility for the bombing in a phone call to RFE/RL's Radio Mashaal.

Bannu is located just outside the North Waziristan tribal region where a mix of Pakistani, Afghan, and Al-Qaeda-linked militant groups are based.





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10. [Attack, Pakistan] Cracker Blast Hurts Four In Banaras

Tuesday, December 4 2012

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-78143-Karachi:-cracker-blast-injures-four-in-Banaras>

A cracker bomb exploded in Banaras area, injuring four people late on Monday night, police said.

According to the police, the incident took place when unidentified outlaws opened fire near a bus stop in Banaras area and then attacked with cracker bomb; resultantly four people got injuries.

Meanwhile, Rangers raided in Gulshan e Maymar area, detaining three activists of banned outfit Tehreek e Taliban. Weapons were also recovered from their possession, sources said.



AFPAK

11. [Security, Pakistan] Explosives Factory Found In Manghopir

Saturday, December 1 2012

<http://www.thenews.com.pk/article-77808-Explosive-material-factory-found-in-Manghopir>

Rangers carried out search operation in Manghopir area of the metropolis, detaining several suspects affiliated with banned outfit.

According to the Rangers official, a factory for manufacturing explosive material was also found in the area.

The paramilitary force entered the area with its Anti-Terrorism Squad and lady officials with a helicopter hovering over the slum locality for the aerial surveillance.

On the other hand, the residents of the area protested against the operation and blocked several roads while some protesters pelted stones that injured Geo News' cameraman Rehan and driver Jaffri. They were shifted to a nearby hospital for treatment.

During the operation, almost 100 suspects were rounded up and after the interrogation many of them were allowed to leave for their homes.

The sources told Geo news that more than 50 weapons were also seized during the operation.

On Friday, Rangers, who also enjoyed policing powers, had arrested some suspects from the same area.

Karachi has long been witnessing an unending violence with gory incidents of targeted killings taking place on daily basis.



AFPAK

12. [Attack, Pakistan] Pakistan Soldiers Die As Suicide Bombers Attack Waziristan Camp

Thursday, December 6 2012

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-20605503>

At least three soldiers died when suicide attackers tried to attack an army camp in a volatile tribal area of north-west Pakistan, the military says.

Suicide bombers targeted the Zari Noor military camp near Wana in South Waziristan, according to officials.

The army says that two suicide bombers in an explosives-laden car were spotted by sentries on duty who fired on it.

The subsequent explosion caused the roof of a building to collapse, killing the soldiers and injuring four more.

There are no journalists in the area and it is difficult to independently verify information from the area.

The attack comes just days after senior Pakistani militant leader Mullah Nazir was wounded in a suspected suicide bombing in the same region.

At least six others died, including three children, in the blast in Wana.



AFPAK

13. [Attack, Afghanistan] Taliban Assassination Attempt Injures Afghan Spy Chief

Thursday, December 6 2012

http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2012/12/taliban_assassinatio.php

A Taliban suicide bomber posing as a peace envoy detonated his explosives today as Asadullah Khalid, the chief of Afghanistan's National Directorate of Security, was welcoming visitors at an NDS guesthouse in Kabul.

NDS spokesman Shafiqullah Tahiri said that "[t]he bomber was a peace messenger sent by the Taliban to the Afghan government" for a meeting that afternoon, according to Reuters. The spokesman also said the Afghan spy chief is in "good" condition after surgery.

Two hours after the attack, Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid told AFP in an email that Khalid was the primary target of the attack, and also claimed that "[a]s a result of a suicide attack carried out by hero mujahedeen Hafiz Mohammad inside a guest house, a large number of intelligence officials were injured."

Khalid, who had survived an assassination attempt in 2007 when he was serving as governor of Kandahar province, was known for strong anti-Taliban measures and had only recently been appointed to the top post at NDS.

The NDS chief had reportedly been expecting an important emissary from the Taliban to the meeting today. Pajhwok News reports: "Khalid had told two women Wolesi Jirga lawmakers that he would be meeting a key individual of the armed opposition on Thursday. And, the lawmakers advised Khalid to be very careful when meeting the person."

According to AFP, Afghan police described the attack on Khalid as a grenade attack, and officials said the attacker had been searched before entering the guesthouse. The NDS spokesman told Pajhwok News that "[t]he man detonated his explosives when he was meeting the NDS chief." TOLONews reported that the blast wounded two other people besides the NDS chief, who is said to be in stable condition.

Today's assassination attempt bears a strong resemblance to the Taliban's assassination of Afghan High Peace Council head Burhanuddin Rabbani, who was killed in September 2011 by a Taliban suicide bomber posing as a peace envoy. The Taliban suicide bomber hid a bomb in his turban and detonated it as he hugged Rabbani in his home in Kabul.

The Taliban claimed credit for the assassination of Rabbani. Afghanistan's Interior Minister and Khalid directly linked Rabbani's assassination to the Taliban and its Quetta Shura, as well as to Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence Directorate, or ISI.

There is "no doubt the ISI is involved" in Rabbani's assassination, Interior Minister General Bismillah Mohammadi told the Afghan House of Representatives shortly after the attack.

Another member of the Afghan High Peace Council was assassinated by the Taliban in May. The Mullah Dadullah Front, a Taliban group closely linked to al Qaeda, claimed credit for the assassination of Arsala Rahmani, a senior member of the Afghan High Peace Council. Rahmani, who had served as a deputy education minister during Taliban rule in Afghanistan, was gunned down in the Afghan capital. The Mullah Dadullah Front said he was killed for negotiating with the Taliban on behalf of the Afghan government.



AFRICOM

14. [Attack, Somalia] AU Peacekeepers Hit By Roadside Bomb In South

Sunday, December 2 2012

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201212030111.html>

A convoy of the African Union peacekeepers known as AMISOM has been hit by a roadside bomb as their convoy was moving along a street in the Somalia's seaside Marko city, witnesses said Sunday.

Eyewitnesses told Shabelle Media that the blast had caused serious damage to an AU convoy carrying mainly Ugandan peacekeepers but were not able to say how many had been killed or wounded.

Following the blast, the AU forces sealed off the scene and opened fire that caused unconfirmed number of deaths and wounds. No group has claimed responsibility for the attack.

In a bid to know the exact casualty toll, Shabelle station has tried to get in touch with Somali authorities in the region, but failed to reach them for comments on the Bomb attack against AMISOM forces.

However, Somali government forces, their AU peacekeepers allies have been routinely targeted by Al shabab over the past few months since the seizure of several towns and locations beyond Mogadishu.



AFRICOM

15. [Attack, Nigeria] Blasts Hit Two Northern Nigerian Cities

Monday, December 3 2012

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/africa/2012/12/2012123103826959372.html>

Two heavy explosions have rocked two different northern Nigerian cities frequently targeted by deadly attacks blamed on Boko Haram, residents say.

It was not yet clear if there were any deaths linked to Monday's explosions in Kano, the largest city in Nigeria's north, and Maiduguri, a northeastern city.

Borno state, where Maiduguri is located, has been the epicentre of a violent campaign by Boko Haram, which is fighting Western influence and wants to form an Islamic state in Nigeria's north.

A blast outside a mosque near Kano's main textile market went off around 8:30am in an area where traffic police were stationed, residents said.

The area was later cordoned off by troops and policemen, an AFP news agency reporter saw.

"We just heard a loud explosion followed by billows of smoke and we realised that the traffic police that rest near the mosque and take turns in manning the traffic were the target," said a resident who lives in the area.

Residents of Maiduguri reported a huge explosion but could not provide any details.

"There was a very heavy explosion this morning that shook the entire city," a resident said.

'Slaughtered like sheep'

The blasts came after suspected Boko Haram members killed 10 Christians in a village called Chibok, in a remote part of Borno, on Sunday.

"Suspected Boko Haram came at night and set people's houses on fire before killing their victims," said Nuhu Clark, a former councillor of the village who escaped the attack.

A local government official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said "the attackers came in around 9pm chanting 'Allahu Akbar', which made us suspect they are Boko Haram. They moved into selected homes in the predominantly Christian part of the town and slaughtered 10 people like sheep". He said he counted 10 bodies afterwards.

A police spokesman said they were aware of the incident but were still trying to confirm casualties.

Armed fighters have killed hundreds of people since launching a rebellion against the government in 2009, the usual targets being security forces, government officials or Christians, whom Boko Haram sees as infidels.

Al Jazeera's Yvonne Ndege, reporting from Maiduguri, said there was fear among the people in the area.



"People are on edge and are constantly worried about violence. Maiduguri has been at the epicentre of violence, with criminal acts perpetrated by members of Boko Haram for at least two years now," she said.

"Almost on a daily basis we found, while on the ground there, that people witnessed suicide attacks, car bombings, churches being attacked, and major fighting between the armed group and a joint task force set up to fight Boko Haram."

In another development, security forces said on Sunday they had killed a senior Boko Haram commander, Mohammed Ibrahim, one of several who had a bounty placed on his head last week of 25 million naira (\$158,900) in his case.

"He was killed in an operation in Gwange ward [Borno state] along with two of his unit commanders," a spokesman for joint military and police forces in Borno state, Lieutenant-Colonel Sagir Musa, said.

Attacks on Christians seem calculated to ignite sectarian tensions in Africa's most populous nation, which is split roughly evenly between Muslims and Christians.



AFRICOM

16. [Security, Nigeria] JTF Storms Bomb Factory In Yobe

Monday, December 3 2012

<http://dailytrust.com.ng/index.php/news/182522-jtf-storms-bomb-factory-in-yobe>

Operatives of the Joint Task Force (JTF) in Yobe State yesterday stormed a bomb-making factory in Damaturu and recovered arms and ammunitions.

Spokesman of the JTF, Lieutenant Lazarus Eli, said an early morning cordon and search operation was carried out at Buhari Estate along Gashua road which led to the discovery.

He added that a decomposing body was also found underground at the bomb factory. "It could probably be the body of a suspected terrorist that died from gunshot wounds in a recent cross fire," he said.

He said bomb-making materials, two rifles, medical supplies, tear gas canisters ammunition, magazines as well as military, police and immigration uniforms had been recovered in the house.

Last week, the JTF in Yobe State had recovered 5, 207 rounds of ammunition and assorted arms in Kandahar ward of Damaturu metropolis.



AFRICOM

17. [Trend, Nigeria] Seventy Percent Of Sect's Bomb Threats Aborted – Jonathan

Monday, December 3 2012

<http://www.vanguardngr.com/2012/12/70-of-sects-bomb-threats-aborted-jonathan/>

The Joint Task Force, Department of State Security and the Nigeria Police Force Dog section, in a combined special operation yesterday, in Maiduguri, killed a top commander of the Boko Haram, Abdulkareem Ibrahim and two of his sub commanders. Abdulkareem Ibrahim was top on the wanted list of the JTF.

The sect top commander and his sub-commanders were killed on a day President Goodluck Jonathan disclosed that 70 per cent of the sect's activities were aborted before they occurred, insisting that Nigeria remains safe in spite of bombings just as the Sultan of Sokoto, Alhaji Sa'ad Abubakar 111 stressed the need for collective action against the bombings.

How operation succeeded — JTF

On the killing of Boko Haram top commander, the JTF in a statement by its spokesman, Lieutenant Colonel Sagir Musa, said Abdulkareem was a notorious terrorist Commander, who has been responsible for the recent spates of assassinations and bomb attacks in Maiduguri.

He said: "In a follow up operation by the JTF to arrest some key Commanders of the Boko Haram Terrorists in Bulabulin area of Maiduguri on November 29, 2012, where the JTF lost a personnel with one other injured, the Joint Task Force with members of the Department of State Security and the Nigeria Police Force Dog Section, in a combined operation this morning, launched a special raid operation along Damboa – Biu Road to capture one of the major Terrorist Commanders Abdulkareem Ibrahim, top on its wanted list.

"During the operations and in the ensuing fire fight, Abdulkareem Ibrahim and two of his sub Commanders were killed and an AK47 rifle with other arms and ammunition were recovered.

Abdulkareem was a notorious terrorist Commander who has been responsible for the recent spates of assassinations and bomb attacks in Maiduguri. He is one of the top "Amirs" (Commanders) recently declared in the Bounty list released by the JTF to members of the public. The JTF will continue to appreciate all information that will lead to more arrest of the sect Commanders declared in the Bounty as well as other information that will help in its conduct of operations to eliminate terrorist activities in the State".

Nigeria still safe — Jonathan

Meanwhile, President Goodluck Jonathan has insisted that Nigeria remains safe in spite of bombings, and urged Nigerians not to entertain any fear in their daily activities even as the Sultan of Sokoto, Alhaji Sa'ad Abubakar 111 called on Nigerians to come together in the fight against terrorism and other violent crimes in the country.

There have been an upsurge in the activities of the Islamic sect, with the latest attacks in strategic places like the Military Church in Jaji and the SARS Headquarters in Abuja which had raised doubts in some quarters on the capability of the present administration to tackle insecurity.

But President Jonathan, in a statement issued yesterday by his Senior Special Assistant on Public Affairs, Dr Doyin Okupe, stressed that it was in the character of insurgency worldwide to audaciously attack institutions that will promote maximum fears in the heart of the citizenry.

The President, who recalled when the IRA bombed the hotel in which the British Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher and core members of her Cabinet were holding a meeting, said it was not surprising that such strategic places were attacked in Nigeria.

Said he: "It is not surprising therefore that as a consequence of the recent activities of the insurgents; some dailies reported that "nowhere is safe in Nigeria." In truth and in reality this statement is not correct. "President Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, wishes to assure Nigerians that in spite of this situation, the country is still largely safe and secure. "President Jonathan wishes to state categorically of his unwavering commitment and determination to fight inse-



curity wherever they are found in Nigeria,” Okupe noted.

He assured that the Jonathan-administration was prepared to further enhance and ensure the security of lives and property of all Nigerians, irrespective of their locations within the country.

FG boosts Intelligence gathering

As for intelligence gathering, Okupe explained that Government has acquired and deployed highly sophisticated security equipment and members of the security agencies have received and continue to receive adequate training such that intelligence gathering capacity have witnessed a monumental increase in capacity to gather information.

According to Okupe, this has been responsible for the reduction in over 70 per cent of the activities of the Boko Haram and other sinister plans before they occur but said unfortunately, these are not made known to members of the public.

Rather than entertaining fears, Okupe stressed that in times like this, Nigerians should endeavour to exhibit the fire of patriotism, and advised the nation to rally round the government in its efforts to root out the criminal elements within the society.

He said: “We should not allow fear and despair to overcome us, rather we should draw strength from our well-known spirit of nationalism and forbearance to support the government and the security agencies in their effort to curb the menace.”

He also urged the media to join hands and key in into the transformation agenda and ensure that sensational reports that could tarnish Nigeria’s image and bring the country into disrepute and create anxiety and panic are avoided as much as possible.

He said: “This government is committed to moving the country forward.

“The reform in the power and agricultural sectors and current infrastructural rehabilitation and development are taking shape.

“These will encourage the growth of local enterprise and increase in foreign direct investment in an unprecedented manner which will in turn provide more jobs, create wealth amongst the citizenry and reduce tendencies towards criminality and other social malaise in our Nation.

“The President wishes to assure Nigerians that government will not rest but will continue to work.”

tirelessly with all the security agencies in the country to bring to a complete end as soon as possible, cases of insecurity.”



AFRICOM

18. [Attack, Nigeria] Bomb Explosion Injures Three In Kano

Tuesday, December 4 2012

<http://www.thisdaylive.com/articles/bomb-explosion-injures-three-in-kano/132444/>

An early morning bomb explosion yesterday, injured three security personnel at a junction close to Kantin Kwari textile market by IBB way in Kano.

An eyewitness told THISDAY that the suspected time-bomb was planted around the fence of the Eid praying ground, where some security agents usually use as their resting place during work.

The account added that the bomb exploded around 9 a.m., when traders were going to the market to open for the business of the day, adding that soon after the bomb exploded, there was pandemonium as people scampered to safety.

THISDAY gathered that those who were critically injured include an official of the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC), an official of the state Road Traffic Agency (KAROTA) and one official of the Hisbah guard. Confirming the incident, the state Police Command said the explosion injured three persons, who were at the junction of the busy textile market in Kano metropolitan, but, however, did not disclose the identities of the injured persons.

Spokesman of the command, Mr. Musa Magaji Majia, an Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP), told journalists, that: "Security operatives under the aegis of Joint Task Force (JTF) condoned the scene of the blast and the entire area with a view to made the arrest."

He noted that the three injured persons were taken to a nearby hospital for treatment, while two of the three persons had already been discharged from the hospital, after been certified fit.

"There is nothing to panic about traders are already trading their goods without any fear as the situation is under control," he said.

The police also advised people to stop spreading the rumours that the blast occurred at the market, stating that the police was on top of the situation.

However, when THISDAY visited the scene of the explosion, it was observed that people were busy going about their businesses without fear or favour, while policemen and soldiers were seeing patrolling the area to avert the breakdown of law and order.



AFRICOM

19. [Attack, Kenya] Officer Hurt In Petrol Bomb Attack

Tuesday, December 4 2012

<http://www.nation.co.ke/News/Officer-hurt-in-petrol-bomb-attack/-/1056/1635764/-/yhivugz/-/index.html>

Three men hurled a petrol bomb into a police station at Kiembeni in Kisauni early Monday morning, seriously injuring an officer.

Two of the raiders were shot by officers who responded to a distress call from a resident. They, however, escaped.

Police believe the group intended to steal firearms. "We cannot rule out that they wanted to steal weapons," Kisauni police boss Julius Wanjohi said.

Ms Faith Mwikumi, who lives next to the station, said she heard gunshots at around 2am.

"We heard a noise and after a few minutes, there were gunshots for about three minutes," she said.

She said after the attack, the injured officer came to her house and asked her to call his boss, Mr Wanjohi.

Speaking to journalists later, Mr Wanjohi said the three men walked into the station posing as residents who wanted to report an incident.

He said they tried to force themselves in and when they failed, they threw a petrol bomb at the officer.

"We have launched a manhunt for the men, two of who have gunshot wounds," he said.

Attacks on police officers have been on the increase in the past few months in Coast region, with the incidents being attributed to the Mombasa Republican Council (MRC) and Al-Shaabab.

More than 15 police officers have been killed and tens of others injured in the province this year. (Read: Coast worst hit by killing of policemen)

On October 19, a group of youth attacked an Administration Police post at Kaloleni, injuring an officer and stealing a G3 rifle.

Two days earlier, Corporal Eric Chesang was killed while nine of his colleagues were injured after a suspected terrorist hurled a grenade at them at Majengo Mapya in Likoni.

This was just two days after Fisheries minister Amason Kingi's bodyguard, Constable Harrison Maitha, was killed





by suspected MRC members.

On September 14, an AP officer on patrol was hacked to death in Kwale County.

On September 4, nine police officers were killed after about 500 Pokomo raiders attacked Kilelengwani village in Tana River and torched a police camp and several other buildings.



AFRICOM

20. [Attack, Kenya] Blast Hits Somali District In Kenyan Capital, Three Wounded

Wednesday, December 5 2012

<http://www.trust.org/alertnet/news/blast-hits-somali-district-in-kenyan-capital-3-wounded>

An explosion struck a predominantly Somali neighbourhood in the Kenyan capital Nairobi on Wednesday, wounding at least three people during the evening rush hour, police said.

Ambulance sirens wailed through the city's congested streets and a Reuters reporter at the scene saw pools of blood on the ground. The victims had been swiftly moved from the blast site.

"I can confirm there has been a blast Eastleigh. At least three people are wounded," Nairobi police chief Moses Ombati told Reuters by telephone as he travelled to the scene.

Kenya has suffered a wave of deadly attacks in Nairobi, the port city of Mombasa and the eastern garrison town of Garissa since it sent troops into Somalia over a year ago to fight al Shabaab militants there.



AFRICOM

21. [Law Enforcement, Nigeria] Nigeria Arrests Eight In Failed Bomb Attempt

Friday, December 7 2012

<http://www.newvision.co.ug/news/637925-nigeria-arrests-eight-in-failed-bomb-attempt.html>

Eight suspected Islamists were arrested in northern Nigeria on Thursday after police said they threw an improvised bomb at a police patrol vehicle but missed.

The suspects, believed to be from the Islamist sect Boko Haram, followed the police vehicle in a taxi in the city of Kano before hurling explosives out of the window, but missed their target, police spokesman Magaji Musa Majiya said in a statement.

"The police officers swiftly disembarked, cordoned off the area and arrested the eight occupants," he said. "No injury was sustained during the attack."

Boko Haram has become the main security threat to Africa's top oil producer.

At least 2,800 people have died in fighting in the largely Muslim north since the sect launched an uprising against the government in 2009 in a bid to impose Sharia law on Nigeria, watchdog group Human Rights Watch says.

Its fighters usually target security forces, politicians or Christians worshippers.

Kano, Nigeria's second biggest city, has been relatively quiet in the latter half of this year. In January, it was scene of the single deadliest attack of the insurgency, a coordinated strike on several police stations in which 186 people were killed, many of them civilians.



CENTCOM

22. [Attack, Iraq] Pilgrims Targeted In Car Bomb Attacks

Friday, November 30 2012

<http://www.eveningtimes.co.uk/news/pilgrims-targeted-in-car-bomb-attacks-108673n.19549174>

A wave of bombings has left at least 43 people dead.

The deadliest blasts, in Hillah, began with a roadside bombing which was quickly followed by a car bomb targeting emergency response teams.

The explosions killed at least 29 people and wounded as many as 90. Hours earlier, a car exploded in Karbala, killing six people.

A suicide bomber also drove his explosives-laden car into a police checkpoint in Fallujah, killing three policemen. And in Mosul, a parked car bomb went off as a police patrol passed, killing two people and wounding two.

Another police patrol was hit by a roadside bomb in the town of Balad Ruz, killing one policeman and wounding six others. In other violence, a roadside bomb killed an Iraqi soldier and wounded five others in Taji and a parked car bomb struck a restaurant in Madain, killing a civilian and wounding 12.



CENTCOM

23. [Special Interest, Jordan] In Foiled Jordanian Terror Plot, Officials See Hand Of Resurgent Al-Qaeda In Iraq

Sunday, December 2 2012

http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/in-jordanian-terror-plot-officials-see-hand-of-resurgent-al-qaeda-in-iraq/2012/12/02/43f1698c-3421-11e2-bb9b-288a310849ee_story.html

The plan was to unleash mayhem across an entire city and “bring Amman to its knees,” in the words of one security official. It would start with suicide bombings at two shopping malls, then build momentum as teams of terrorists blew up cars and raked cafes with machine-gun fire.

In the midst of the chaos that would ensue, the attackers would turn their attention to the U.S. Embassy, the primary target and a long-sought prize for the organization that investigators say provided critical support for the scheme: al-Qaeda’s affiliate in Iraq. Using the terrorist group’s expertise and weapons from Syria’s civil war, the plotters planned to rain mortar shells on the American compound and homes nearby.

“They wanted to kill as many as possible — Muslim and Christians,” said a Jordanian government official, speaking on the condition of anonymity to discuss an ongoing probe into the most serious terrorist plot uncovered here in nearly a decade.

Jordanian authorities foiled the plot last month, arresting 11 men said to be the ringleaders. Although the suspects are Jordanians, the investigation has affirmed the key role played by al-Qaeda’s Iraqi branch, commonly known as AQI, which analysts say is rebounding after being all but destroyed by U.S. troops in the past decade.

New evidence shared by security authorities here, including intercepted e-mails, shows that the terrorist cell received guidance from AQI. The instructions included recipes for powerful explosives intended to blow up shops, restaurants and embassies, according to Western and Middle Eastern officials briefed on the investigation.

The same kinds of explosives also are turning up in Syria, intelligence officials and terrorism experts say, underscoring AQI’s expanding role in that country’s 20-month-old civil war.

“What we’re now seeing is al-Qaeda in Iraq’s revival, not only as a movement in that country but as a regional movement,” said Bruce Riedel, a former CIA counterterrorism expert who is with the Brookings Institution. From its base in the Sunni provinces west of Baghdad, AQI appears to be attempting to rebuild old networks into Syria and Jordan “at an alarming rate,” Riedel said.

Equally worrisome, analysts say, is Syria’s emergence as a training ground for Islamist fighters from outside the country, including some who are linked to AQI. A Western intelligence official familiar with the Amman plot said most of the suspects had fought in Syria before returning to Jordan with new skills and a changed perspective toward their native country.

“They already were true believers,” the official said, “and they came back to Jordan seeing their own country through the same eyes with which they viewed the regime in Syria.”

The reemergence of AQI comes at a time when U.S. officials and analysts are expressing growing concern about other al-Qaeda affiliates, including al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, which operates in Yemen, and al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb, which operates in North Africa. U.S. intelligence officials have said that some of the fighters involved in the Sept. 11 attack on the American diplomatic outpost in Benghazi, Libya, were associated with the North Africa branch.

The Western intelligence officials and most others interviewed for this article declined to speak on the record while discussing the ongoing terrorism investigation.

The Jordanian plot, revealed by the kingdom’s officials on Oct. 21, is described as the most ambitious in the country since Nov. 9, 2005, when suicide bombers linked to AQI simultaneously struck three Amman hotels, killing 60 people and wounding more than 100. In a nod to that attack, the leaders of the new Jordan cell christened their plot “9/11 the Second,” a reference to Nov. 9, using the day-month format common outside the United States.



In interviews over several days, Jordanian officials said the scheme was hatched during the spring and summer by 11 Jordanians connected to the Salafi movement, an ultraconservative, puritanical sect within Sunni Islam with growing numbers of followers throughout the Middle East.

One Jordanian government official briefed on the plot described the cell members as casual acquaintances who bonded after volunteering as jihadist fighters battling government forces in Syria. He said the men, who were in their 20s and 30s, had crossed into Syria multiple times, gaining extensive fighting experience and weapons training.

“They are real fighters,” the official said. “From Syria, they had weapons training and tactics. They were good at shooting, and they knew how to use complicated communications systems.”

They also had another important advantage: easy access to the almost endless supply of weapons in Syria, where arms bound for rebel fighters arrive daily across the Turkish border. Cases of TNT, mortar shells, grenade launchers and even belt-fed machine guns were smuggled into Jordan for an attack that planners hoped would wreak havoc across the capital and lead to the collapse of the country’s Western-backed government.

The objective, according to an internal Jordanian report summarizing the plot, was to “cause chaos and anarchy and spread fear among the population, setting the stage for further operations to follow.”

A blueprint drawn up by the group, and later reconstructed by Jordanian counterterrorism officials, called for three distinct waves of attacks in Amman. The terrorists would open with coordinated bombings of two of the capital’s largest shopping centers, followed by strikes on luxury hotels frequented by diplomats and tourists.

With the city’s police occupied at those locations, the attackers would launch the main assault on the U.S. Embassy and the city’s affluent Abdoun district. They planned to hit the American compound and surrounding streets with bombs, sweeping machine-gun fire and a torrent of mortar shells, officials briefed on the plans said in interviews.

To build the biggest bombs, the Jordanians received vital help from AQI, including a formula for enhancing the explosive power of ordinary TNT, the officials said. The instructions were passed via e-mails, and the key ingredients were delivered to a safe house in Syria.

“They were planning to bring it in two nights before the operation was to take place,” the Jordanian government official said.

A prime target

The pickup never took place. As the plotters prepared to move to an operational phase, they were under constant surveillance by Jordanian intelligence operatives who had penetrated the cell and monitored its communications. All 11 suspected cell members were rounded up in mid-

October, along with a cache of machine guns, ammunition, explosives and forged documents.

Computers seized from the accused further documented the links to Iraqi terrorists, who appeared to view the Jordanian scheme as a long-sought opportunity to strike a blow against the Amman government and its ally United States, Jordanian officials said.

The dismantling of the terrorist cell will probably only reinforce Jordan’s status as a prime AQI target, Western intelligence officials and terrorism experts say. And, as Syria’s civil war continues, it is likely that new cells of radicalized, battle-hardened jihadists will emerge.

With the arrival of ever-larger numbers of foreign jihadists, Syria is emerging as a base for training and a launchpad for operations for the Iraqi terrorist group, said Bruce Hoffman, a former counterterrorism scholar-in-residence at the CIA and a professor at Georgetown University.

“You have a well-developed infrastructure that is only getting stronger,” Hoffman said. “It’s not like the ‘underwear bomber,’ where al-Qaeda enlists amateurs in sophisticated terrorist operations. You’re talking about people with experience — perhaps not the ‘A Team’ but close to it.”

Moreover, Hoffman said, Syria is adjacent to al-Qaeda’s foremost nemeses in the Middle East: Israel, which finds itself increasingly besieged and isolated in the region, and Jordan, which Islamists view as more vulnerable in the wake of the Arab Spring uprisings.

“Luckily, this last attempt was foiled,” Hoffman said. “But al-Qaeda will continue to play the odds, with the hope that eventually they will succeed.”



CENTCOM

24. [Trend, Iraq] Iraq Reportedly A Major Weapons Route To Syria

Sunday, December 2 2012

<http://www.thecuttingedgenews.com/index.php?article=77593&pageid=20&pagename=Security>

A report says the air corridor over Iraq has become a main supply route for weapons for the beleaguered government of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad. The New York Times, in a story posted on its website late Saturday, said the American effort to stem the flow of Iranian arms to Syria has faltered because of Iraq's reluctance to inspect aircraft carrying the weapons through its airspace. The newspaper says the weapons include rockets, antitank missiles, rocket-propelled grenades and mortars.

The report, which cites anonymous U.S. officials, says the Obama administration is disappointed that American efforts to persuade the Iraqis to randomly inspect the flights have been "largely unsuccessful."

The New York Times says adding to American frustrations are U.S. intelligence reports indicating Iraqi officials have "tipped off" Iran about the timing of inspections, helping Tehran to avoid detection. A U.S. official told the newspaper Iraq should be "diligent and consistent" in fulfilling its international obligations by requiring flights over Iraqi territory en route to Syria from Iran to land for inspection, or by denying overflight requests for Iranian aircraft going to Syria.

According to the newspaper account, Iraqi officials continue to insist they oppose the ferrying of arms through Iraq's airspace. The story says Iraqi officials claim Iran is "merely delivering humanitarian aid." The newspaper reports Iraqi officials say the American charges are "unfounded." The New York Times cites an anonymous Iraqi official who said some officials in Baghdad had done the "bare minimum" to placate the U.S. because they are "in fact sympathetic to the Iranian efforts in Syria."



CENTCOM

25. [Attack, Syria] At Least Seven Dead In Syria Car Bomb Blast

Monday, December 3 2012

<http://www.laht.com/article.asp?CategoryId=12395&ArticleId=653638>

At least seven people died on Sunday when a car bomb exploded in the central Syrian city of Homs, according to groups opposing the regime of President Bashar al-Assad.

The Syrian Human Rights Observatory said in a communique that the vehicle blew up in the Al-Malaa al-Baladi neighborhood.

The bomb caused great destruction, judging from a video released by opposition forces. A large number of people were injured in the blast, some of them seriously, and the Observatory said the death toll could go higher.

Meanwhile, opposition activists with the General Committee of the Syrian Revolution said that eight people had been killed, among them at least three children and a woman.

This group accused the Syrian security forces loyal to Al-Assad of planting the bomb, as Homs activist Sufian al-Homsi also said.

Al-Homsi said that the Al-Malaa al-Baladi neighborhood is presently surrounded by security forces, who have set up blockades to control access in and out.

Therefore, he said, it is impossible that the vehicle could enter the area without the security forces having checked it out and passed it through.

Car bomb attacks are becoming more and more frequent in Syria, although the majority of them so far have occurred in Damascus and the surrounding towns.

Syrian authorities blame this type of attack on “terrorist groups,” as the regime refers to the opposition forces.

Violence has surged in Syria amid the paralysis among mediating politicians, who have not managed to bring the internal conflict, which broke out in March 2011 and has devolved into an extremely bloody civil war, to a conclusion.





CENTCOM

26. [Attack, Syria] Car Bomb Explodes In North Syria

Monday, December 3 2012

<http://www.kuna.net.kw/ArticleDetails.aspx?id=2278378&Language=en>

A car bomb blew up in front of the Faculty of Engineering in Aleppo in Northern of Syria on Monday killing four people and resulting in damage to the site, the official Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA) said. Syrian officials said in a statement to the agency that the bombing led to the burning of two cars and shattered a number of vehicles near the site and caused fire, which was brought under control.



CENTCOM

27. [Attack, Egypt] Petrol Bombs Thrown Outside Egypt Presidential Palace

Wednesday, December 5 2012

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/12/05/egypt-politics-clashes-idUSL5E8N5B6I20121205>

Petrol bombs were hurled during clashes between supporters of President Mohamed Mursi and his opponents outside his presidential palace, a Reuters witness reported on Wednesday.

The clashes erupted after the Muslim Brotherhood, the group that helped Mursi win a presidential election in June, told its supporters to go to the palace where opponents had gathered to protest against the president's expanded powers.

Brotherhood supporters say they had been shot at during the clashes, where rival sides brawled and threw stones at each other. One protester showed off what he said was a gunshot wound to the leg, with blood pouring from the wound.



CENTCOM

28. [Attack, Yemen] After Fixed In Marib, Oil Pipeline Detonated In Shabwa

Wednesday, December 5 2012

<http://www.sabanews.net/en/news290375.htm>

The oil pipeline was detonated again on Wednesday and this time, the attack occurred in Shabwa province, security sources said.

The attack was happened few hours after being repaired in Marib province.

The sources said the oil pipeline was blown up by saboteurs in Rawdha district of Shabwa province, adding that an engineering team coupled with a military escort has been headed to the explosion location to fix the pipeline.

The attack took place after the engineering teams managed today in Serwah district at Marib province to fix the pipeline, which was attacked last Saturday, December 1st, by Mohammed Kalfot, they said.

Saturday attack occurred just half an hour after the pipeline, which was targeted last November 11th, was repaired and, once more, Kalfot was behind the explosion, according to the Interior Ministry.

Yemen loses around \$15 million per day as a result of the stoppage of pumping oil in the pipeline.



CENTCOM

29. [Attack, Syria] Blast Hits Syrian Red Crescent HQ In Capital

Thursday, December 6 2012

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/12/06/us-syria-crisis-bomb-idUSBRE8B50AM20121206>

An explosion in front of the Damascus headquarters for the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) killed at least one person on Thursday, Syrian state television said.

Syria TV said "terrorists from al Qaeda" blew up an improvised explosive device in a car, causing damage to the SARC building. State media often refers to the rebels trying to topple President Bashar al-Assad as al Qaeda terrorists.

The Syrian Arab Red Crescent has come under fire several times, and members accuse both the government and Syrian rebels of attacks.



CENTCOM

30. [Security, Lebanon] Bomb Found In Beirut Neighborhood

Thursday, December 6 2012

<http://www.dailystar.com.lb/News/Local-News/2012/Dec-06/197493-bomb-scare-in-beirut-neighborhood.ashx#axzz2Elm29qSE>

Security forces are inspecting the site where an explosive device was found Thursday in the Beirut neighborhood of Tariq al-Jadideh.

Meanwhile, Future Movement MP Ammar Hourri voiced concern that he could have been the possible target of the bomb.

"I was on my way to pay my respects in a mosque in Tariq al-Jadideh 100 meters from where the mortar shell was found," Hourri told a local radio station.

"It is possible that the aim of the incident was to assassinate me," the MP, who has said he received death threats, added.

Police cordoned off the area around a police station and a street in the area after a woman brought in a bag suspected of containing a bomb.

Security sources told The Daily Star that the bag contained a mortar shell, some wires and a watch.

A woman in her 60s brought police the bag for inspection, saying she found the suspicious object on the side of the road.

After suspecting the bag could contain explosives, police immediately blocked the road leading to the station.

They also headed to location where the woman claimed she found the bag, near a dumpster, and blocked the road as they began investigating the incident.





EUCOM

31. [Trend, Israel] Iron Dome Sparks Interest From Potential Buyers Around The World

Monday, December 3 2012

<http://www.thecuttingedgenews.com/index.php?article=77615&pageid=20&pagename=Security>

Following the Iron Dome missile defense system's success in last month's conflict with Hamas, several nations have expressed interest in purchasing the Israeli-created and American-funded system, The New York Times reported on November 29. While experts note that Iron Dome has limitations—it was designed to intercept unsophisticated rockets with a range of less than 50 miles—countries such as South Korea and Singapore have reportedly been in discussions to purchase the system.

Some South Korean officials believe Iron Dome could defend its populated areas near the border with North Korea, according to Times.

Anti-missile defense advocates in the U.S. are also urging the military to consider Iron Dome for the defense of ground units such as those deployed in Afghanistan, the report said. "I think the successes of Iron Dome create a pretty big opening," Missile Defense Advocacy Alliance Chairman Riki Ellison was quoted as saying.

Israel also acknowledges that Iron Dome is not enough to provide full defense against longer-range rockets, and the defense industry is currently developing David's Sling, a system designed to protect against medium- and long-range ballistic missiles, such as those fired by Hezbollah in the past. However, Iron Dome itself has not disappointed missile defense advocates, boasting an impressive interception rate of 85 percent in the recent conflict with Hamas, according to Israeli officials.

Speaking at the opening gala dinner at the Saban Center for Middle East Policy on November 30, even U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton praised the missile defense system. "The Iron Dome system—invented by Israel, underwritten by America—knocked rockets out of the sky like never before," she said.

Eric S. Edelman, a former undersecretary of defense policy, stated that missile defense systems "will be especially relevant as we move into an era in which there will be more countries with small inventories of rockets and missiles—and more countries that will want to defend against them in a reasonable way."





EUCOM

32. [Attack, Greece] Bomb Goes Off Outside Greek Neo-Nazi Party's Office

Tuesday, December 4 2012

http://www.novinite.com/view_news.php?id=145717

An explosive device went off outside the office of Greece's neo-Nazi Golden Dawn party outside Athens early on Tuesday, destroying part of the building.

No injuries or casualties have been reported.

The explosion, caused by a home-made explosive device that appeared to contain dynamite, occurred before dawn at the party's office in the town of Aspropyrgos, authorities have said, as cited by the Greek Reporter.

The blast caused significant damage to a shop on the ground floor of the building and to the party offices on the first floor. It also blew out windows of several nearby stores.



EUCOM

33. [Security, England] Bomb Squad Raids House In Blackburn After Suspect Material Found

Tuesday, December 4 2012

http://www.lancashiretelegraph.co.uk/news/blackburn/10086974._/

A bomb disposal squad carried out a controlled blast after suspected explosives were found in a terraced house.

Police were called to Wensley Road, Blackburn, where they seized black powder, an ammunition box and fuses.

The bomb team was not able to make the items safe at the house so officers carried out a controlled explosion on Blackpool beach.

Police said they were doing tests to see what the materials were and whether any offences have been committed.

Landlord Iqbal Patel, who rents out the house, said he was shocked when police told him suspected explosives were found.

The 46-year-old decorator said: "This has been an absolute nightmare. It has been a terrible shock that the police have found these items.

"It was left in such a state, but I am just glad to have my house back."

Neighbours said six police vehicles met at a car park off Apple Street at around 11am on Saturday (Dec 1), before making their way to the house.

The bomb disposal team arrived a few hours later and the officers were there until around 6pm.



EUCOM

34. [Special Interest, Turkey] NATO Agrees To Send Patriot Missiles To Turkey

Tuesday, December 4 2012

<http://dawn.com/2012/12/04/nato-agrees-to-send-patriot-missiles-to-turkey/>

Nato gave the go-ahead on Tuesday to stationing Patriot surface-to-air missiles in Turkey to protect the country from any spillover of the civil war in neighbouring Syria.

“In response to Turkey’s request, Nato has decided to augment Turkey’s air defence capabilities in order to defend the population and territory of Turkey,” Nato foreign ministers said in a statement.

Russia, Syria and Iran have criticised Turkey’s request to the alliance to send the Patriots which can be used to intercept missiles.

Turkey asked Nato for the missiles in November after weeks of talks with allies about how to shore up security on its 900-km (560-mile) border.

It has repeatedly scrambled fighter jets along the frontier and responded in kind to stray Syrian shells flying into its territory.

A major player in supporting Syria’s opposition and planning for the post-conflict era, Turkey is worried about Syria’s chemical weapons, the refugee crisis along its border, and what it says is Syrian support for Kurdish militants on its own soil.

Turkey made similar calls for military support during the two Gulf Wars, when Nato deployed surface-to-air missiles on its soil in 1991 and 2003.



EUCOM

35. [Security, Ireland] Families Evacuated Late At Night As Viable Bomb Discovered Outside Suburban House

Thursday, December 6 2012

<http://www.independent.ie/national-news/families-evacuated-late-at-night-as-viable-bomb-discovered-outside-suburban-house-3317889.html>

Several families had to flee their homes in Dublin late last night after a viable bomb was found outside a house.

The incident happened on Plunkett Drive, Finglas, just before midnight.

Gardai evacuated a number of houses on the road until the bomb squad made the device safe.

The Explosive Ordnance Disposal unit arrived on scene at around half-past midnight and examined the device which was located outside a house.

Residents in nearby properties confirmed they were evacuated from their homes but said they had no idea why the bomb had been placed near their home.

"We got a knock at the door from the guards telling us we had to leave the house because there was some sort of pipe bomb. We were out for about an hour but because the weather was so cold most people went to friends or family," said one man.

"There was no explosion or anything. Somebody must have spotted something and rang 999," they added.

The viable device was made safe at the site by the bomb squad without the need for a controlled explosion.

It was then removed to a secure military location for further examination.

The remains of the device have been handed over to the Gardai to assist with their investigations.

The scene was declared safe at 1.35am.

This was the 199th callout so far this year for the bomb squad, and brings to 93 the number of viable improvised explosive devices dealt with by the Army Bomb Disposal Teams so far in 2012.



EUCOM

36. [Security, Northern Ireland] Bomb Found Before Clinton Visit

Friday, December 7 2012

<http://www.formbytimes.co.uk/news/formby-breaking-news/2012/12/07/66401-32381186/>

Four men have been arrested after a bomb was found in Northern Ireland shortly before a visit by Hillary Clinton. Police said the viable bomb was discovered after officers investigating dissident republican activity stopped a car in Londonderry - the UK's City of Culture for 2013.

Witnesses said police rammed the vehicle in the Westway area of Creggan at about 8.40pm on Thursday. The army bomb disposal unit was called in after officers became suspicious about contents in the car.

A spokeswoman for the Police Service of Northern Ireland said: "Detectives from the serious crime branch investigating ongoing dissident republican activity in the Londonderry area arrested four males in the Creggan area of the city last night.

"At approximately 8.40pm, police stopped a car and subsequently arrested two males aged 47 and a male aged 40 after the discovery of what is believed to be a viable IED (improvised explosive device). A fourth male aged 41 was arrested nearby."

All four suspects were taken to the PSNI serious crime suite in Antrim for further questioning.

The discovery of the bomb comes ahead of a visit by US secretary of state Mrs Clinton, who is due to meet Northern Ireland's First and Deputy First Ministers at Stormont. Mrs Clinton's husband, former US president Bill, was a key player in the peace process during the 1990s.

It is understood the men who have been arrested are well-known dissident republicans from the Co Londonderry area.

SDLP Foyle MLA Pat Ramsey said people were angry at the disruption caused by this latest bomb alert. He said: "Once again, the people of the Creggan are the victims of disruption, distress and anger. People are genuinely fed-up with this. And this may have something to do with it because the dissidents have consistently said we will not have anything resembling normality during the UK City of Culture year.

"It was freezing cold last night and there were people in their 80s and 90s who were moved from their home. Some forgot medication. The people they tell us they represent are the people who are being disrupted. This has to stop. Thank God the police found the bomb and the people of this city or somewhere else are not waking up to destruction today."



EUCOM

37. [Attack, Greece] Makeshift Bomb Explodes Outside Greek Ex-Minister's Home

Friday, December 7 2012

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/12/07/us-greece-explosion-idUSBRE8B60F320121207>

A small makeshift bomb exploded outside the home of a former Greek finance minister on Friday, torching two of his cars but causing no injuries, police said.

Homemade bomb attacks against politicians - usually gas canisters or explosives packed together - have been on the rise as Greece suffers record unemployment and a fifth year of recession. There is widespread anger among Greeks worn down by austerity.

Seven gas canisters exploded in the early hours of the morning outside Yannis Panantoniou's apartment building in an upmarket Athens suburb, police said. No one has claimed responsibility for the attack, they said.

Panantoniou was finance minister from 1994 to 2003, holding the post when Athens adopted the euro in 2001. He also held the post of defense minister from 2003 to 2004.

Three similar blasts have occurred in the past two weeks - outside the homes of a criminal prosecutor and a former environment ministry official as well as the offices of the ultra-nationalist Golden Dawn party in Athens.



EUCOM

38. [Security, Ireland] Letter Bomb Left Inside Postbox

Friday, December 7 2012

<http://www.independent.ie/breaking-news/national-news/letter-bomb-left-inside-postbox-3318628.html>

Army bomb experts have defused a letter bomb left in a postbox in Co Down.

The viable device was discovered in the village of Clough. A spokesman for the Police Service of Northern Ireland said they had received reports of a man acting suspiciously at a postbox at Dundrum Road at about 9pm on Thursday.

He said: "Police investigating the report subsequently sealed off the area and tasked ATO to the scene. Examinations were carried out on a suspicious object found inside the postbox which was later described as being a viable device capable of causing death or serious injury. The device was made safe and taken away for forensic examination."

The largely Protestant village is just a few miles from an Army barracks at Ballykinler. Local elected representatives said there is not a public postbox on the Dundrum Road.

DUP MLA for the area Jim Wells said: "These things can kill. Maybe the intention was to intimidate or threaten but these types of devices are hugely dangerous. If they go off they can cause death or serious injury. I would appeal to anyone who knows anything to go to the police."

SDLP MP for South Down Margaret Ritchie said: "This sort of activity has to stop. All the activity of this week has to stop. We need paramilitaries to go away and get off the people's backs and leave them alone to concentrate on what is a really difficult economic situation."



PACOM

39. [Security, North Korea] North Korea 'Begins Installation Of Rocket On Launch Pad'

Monday, December 3 2012

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/asia/northkorea/9718182/North-Korea-begins-installation-of-rocket-on-launch-pad.html>

North Korea announced on Saturday that it would carry out its second long-range rocket launch this year between December 10 and 22.

The United States and its key Asian allies South Korea and Japan have condemned the launch as a disguised ballistic missile test that violates UN resolutions triggered by Pyongyang's two nuclear tests in 2006 and 2009.

The first stage has been placed in position at the North's Sohae satellite launch station, a South Korean government source told Yonhap news agency.

Russia urged North Korea not to go ahead with the launch, saying it would violate restrictions imposed by the U.N. Security Council.

"We urgently appeal to the government (of North Korea) to reconsider the decision to launch a rocket," the Russian Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

Japan cancelled scheduled diplomatic talks with North Korea and has reportedly issued orders to shoot down the missile if it strays into Japanese territory.

North Korea insists it is a purely "peaceful, scientific" mission aimed at placing a polar-orbiting earth observation satellite in orbit.

In a notification to neighbouring countries, Pyongyang said the launch timing would be between 7:00am and midday (2200 GMT and 0300 GMT) on any day in the given window, Yonhap quoted a foreign ministry official as saying.

According to the notice, the first stage would fall into the Yellow Sea off the Korean peninsula's west coast and the second would come down in the sea some 190 kilometres (120 miles) east of the Philippines.

South Korea's chief nuclear envoy Lim Sung-Nam was to meet with ambassadors from China, Russia and Japan in Seoul on Monday to discuss the planned launch, a foreign ministry official said.

China, the North's closest ally, has expressed "concern" at the launch plan, with the foreign ministry urging "relevant parties (to) act in a way that is more conducive to the stability of the Korean peninsula". Lim also plans to visit the United States on Tuesday for talks with his US counterpart, Glyn Davies.

"Lim's trip will focus on how to respond to the North's rocket launch," the official told AFP.

The North's last rocket launch, in April, ended in failure with the carrier flying for just over two minutes before breaking up and falling into the Yellow Sea.





PACOM

40. [Security, India] Arms And Ammunition Recovered

Monday, December 3 2012

<http://manipur-mail.com/arms-and-ammunition-recovered/>

Huge cache of arms and ammunitions including six landmines were recovered by security forces from a village in Imphal East district.

Police on Sunday said, a combined team of Imphal East district police commandos and 28 Assam Rifles during their counter insurgency operation recovered the arms and ammunitions.

The arms and ammunitions were found concealed in polythene bags. They include six land mines, wo China make carbines with magazines, two hand grenades with detonators, four radio sets, 85 rounds of 7.62 ammunition, 24 rounds of AK rifle ammunition, nine rounds of 9 mm ammunition, five rounds of M-16 ammunition, a magazine of M-16 rifle, one electronic detonator and two China make detonators.

The arms and ammunition were recovered on Saturday at around 3 pm. The combined force launched the operation following a tip-off that some armed militants were taking shelter in the village with an intention to carry out anti-social activities, the police officer said.

“To which group the cache belong to was yet to be established even though we suspect it belong to a valley based militant group,” the police said, adding that a case has been registered and investigation is underway.





PACOM

41. [Trend, Vietnam] Four Children Killed Playing With Bomb In Vietnam

Monday, December 3 2012

<http://www.laht.com/article.asp?ArticleId=653734&CategoryId=12395>

At least four children died when the bomb from the Vietnam War they were playing with blew up, police said Monday.

The accident occurred Sunday in a village in Vinh Long province as the kids began fooling around with the device in a field of bamboo, The Vung Liem District Police Department said.

The explosion instantly killed a 4-year-old girl and two boys, ages 6 and 1, while another 6-year-old died in hospital, to which another two children, ages 5 and 12, and two adults were admitted with severe burns.

Viet Cong communists operated in the area during their wars, first against France and later against the United States, and were the target of intense bombing by U.S. aircraft.

About 42,000 people have died since the war ended in 1975 from lost bombs, a third of them scrap dealers looking for bombs to deactivate in order to sell the metal.

Some 15 million tons of bombs were dropped during the war, of which around 10 percent never exploded, Renew, an organization dedicated to deactivating explosives, said.





PACOM

42. [Attack, Nepal] Bomb Goes Off In Banepa, None Hurt

Monday, December 3 2012

<http://thehimalayantimes.com/fullNews.php?headline=Bomb+goes+off+in+Banepa%26sbquo%3B+none+hurt&NewsID=356474>

A pipe bomb went off near the Nepal Telecom Office in Banepa, Kavre, today morning, police said. According to an eye-witness, a group of four youth had planted the bomb wrapped in the bag on a heap of garbage near the telecom office and left before strewing some pamphlets at the site. "They had kept the bomb and just 15 minutes later it went bang," they said. Police had found pamphlets reading various slogans and the name of Bishwobhumi Sena Bishal Nepal emblazoned on them from the site. The pamphlets have demanded that the government take action against the corrupt, murderers, traitors of the nation. A police team has been deployed to track down the persons involved in the explosion.



PACOM

43. [Security, Bangladesh] Five Bombs Recovered In Jhenidah District

Tuesday, December 4 2012

http://www.satp.org/satporgtp/detailed_news.asp?date=12/4/2012&id=8#8

Police recovered five bombs from beside a canal at Dakhalpara village in Harinakundu sub-district of Jhenidah District on December 3, reports Daily Star. Abul Khayer, officer in-charge of Harinakundu Police Station said, acting on secret information, a team of police raided the area and recovered the bombs in a bag and three sharp billhooks in the morning.



NORTHCOM

44. [Attack, United States] Device Explodes At Ariz. Social Security Office

Friday, November 30 2012

<http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2012/11/30/explosion-casa-grande-social-security-office/1737707/>

Authorities have a man in custody Friday after the bombing of a government office building in downtown Casa Grande, sources close to the case say.

The bomb rocked the Social Security Administration office at 501 N. Marshall Street when it detonated behind the building at about 8 a.m., rattling nerves, shaking buildings and setting off car alarms in the area.

The FBI is leading a team of investigators that includes the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and local law enforcement.

Officials from the U.S. Attorney's Office in Phoenix and the FBI field office would not comment, but The Arizona Republic and 12 News learned that a man has been in custody since about 9 a.m.

The office building, which normally has 14 workers, was closed, according to Social Security Administration officials. However, the fireball charred and blackened a back entrance to the building.

No one was killed or was reported injured. The amount of damage has not been released.

FBI spokesman Manuel Johnson said he could not confirm or deny an arrest was made. He would not say if the agency was working any investigative leads.

"This thing is fluid," Johnson said. "There are (other) agencies involved at this point and it would be really premature for me to start speculating."

John Lopez, a spokesman for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona, would not comment and referred questions to the FBI.

Patricia Raymond, a spokeswoman at the Social Security Administration's regional office in San Francisco, said the building was closed at the time because it was before business hours.

Emily Bradford, a server at the Big House Cafe next door to the Social Security building, said the bomb "shook our whole building" and set off car alarms in the neighborhood.

"Everyone fled from the restaurant to see what what was going on," she said.

Bradford said the backdoor was on fire and flames shot above the building.

Erin Bush, manager of the a nearby Three G's Flowers and Candle Store flower shop, said the explosion terrified her.

"I about fell out of my freaking chair," she said. "I'm still shaking from it."



Bush said she walked outside and saw billowing smoke from the building and firefighters from a nearby station running in the direction of the explosion. A police station is also nearby.

"I have never in my life heard a boom like that," she said. "It literally shook the windows."

Richard Rose, a supervisor at a nearby Dairy Queen, said the boom was louder than anything he's heard in action films in a movie theater.

"It was way louder than a car accident," he said trying to describe the boom.

Rose said he saw officers from the nearby police station running toward the Social Security office.

Ed Mouradian was at the scene after the blast. His wife, Faith, is an employee in the building and said he got a call from one of his wife's co-workers about the explosion.

"She was crying and extremely upset," Mouradian said. "I am concerned for all the employees' well-beings. It's a small office that's very tight-knit."

Rosa Flores said she was driving through the area when she saw the smoke.

"The building was all smoked up, black," she said. It must have blown up and all black smoke moved over the wall."

"You would never think something like this would happen," she added. "But you never know what is going through somebody's mind."

"Thank God that nobody was hurt."



NORTHCOM

45. [Security, United States] LA Town Evacuates As Police Move Six M Pounds Of Explosives Illegally Stored In Warehouses

Monday, December 3 2012

<http://www.startribune.com/nation/181815621.html?refer=y>

Weather could complicate the transfer of roughly 6 million pounds of explosives that state officials say were hazardedly stored at an industrial site in northwestern Louisiana and led to the evacuation of a small town, a state police spokeswoman said Monday.

If lightning is spotted within five miles of the site, authorities will suspend efforts to move the artillery propellant that began on Saturday, Lt. Julie Lewis said.

Light rain fell at midday in the vicinity of the site near the town of Doyline. No lightning was expected Monday, but thunderstorms were forecast for Tuesday.

Officials estimate that more than half of Doyline's 800 residents heeded police advice to evacuate in advance of the cleanup at the Explo Systems Inc. site. Col. Mike Edmondson, commander of Louisiana State Police, said the material is stable and would need an ignition source to explode. The precautions were taken because officials fear that any spark could set off a huge explosion of the material, which they said was stored improperly in a relatively small area.

Edmondson was hesitant to estimate when it would be safe for Doyline residents to return home. He also said state police weren't sure how much damage an explosion of the material could cause, even after consulting with Department of Defense officials.

"Nobody can tell you what 6 million pounds of explosives would do if it went up," Edmondson said in a telephone interview. "And I don't want to find out."

Edmondson said that Explo Systems leases and controls about 400 acres of the 15,000-acre Camp Minden, a former ammunition plant that now is a state-owned industrial site and home to a National Guard training facility. He estimated that the M6 propellant was stored in an area of less than 10 acres.

It was discovered there, stored indoors and outdoors, sometimes in containers that had spilled open, by a trooper following up on an October explosion at the facility.

Explo is now the subject of a criminal investigation, state police said.

The company has not publicly commented on the investigation. Its website says it has been "demilitarizing" and recovering explosives and propellant for 15 years.

Authorities had initially estimated the total of M6 stored at the site at 1 million pounds after the initial investigator saw cardboard boxes on long rows of pallets behind a building. Police found more stacked in sheds and warehouses when crews returned Saturday to begin moving the boxes into bunkers about two miles away on the former munitions site, state police spokesman Capt. Doug Cain said Sunday.



"It wasn't in their storage magazines. They had it hidden on the property, away from the storage magazines where we would expect to find it," Cain said.

Edmonson said "it was stuffed in corners. It was stacked all over."

He said that in two days, crews had moved nearly a million pounds from the tightest-packed buildings into approved containers and onto 27 tractor-trailers to move to storage bunkers. Another 250,000 pounds had been moved a safe distance from the bulk of the material. It won't all have to be moved into bunkers to let people return home — the evacuation could be lifted once the propellant is divided into amounts that won't threaten the town if some ignites, with each area a safe distance from the others, Edmonson said.

Company officials could not be reached Sunday. The owners were believed to be returning Monday from a business trip to South Korea, but a manager has been working with state police from the start, Edmonson said.

A call to a Shreveport attorney who represents the company was not returned Monday.

Doyline was used to film some scenes for the HBO vampire series "True Blood



NORTHCOM

46. [Trend, United States] US Navy Bomb-Sniffing Dolphins Get The Axe, Replaced By Robots

Monday, December 3 2012

<http://www.redorbit.com/news/science/1112740792/robots-replace-bomb-sniffing-dolphins-120312/>

Dolphins are remarkable creatures. Their impeccable eyesight, exceptional sonar abilities and gracefulness underwater not only make them an undersea wonder, it also aids in their ability to hunt and track down prey. Marine biologists are well aware of the intelligence of dolphins and have been studying and training them for years.

These gentle marine mammals have even been used for national security, protecting our borders and the US Navy from intruders and underwater explosives. After September 11, the military branch has been using dolphins in Bahrain and Iraq to search for mines.

“Everyone is familiar with security patrol dogs. You may even know that because of their exceptionally keen sense of smell, dogs like beagles are also used to detect drugs and bombs, or land mines,” reads an explanation of the Marine Mammal Program on the Navy’s Website.

“But just as the dog’s keen sense of smell makes it ideal for detecting land mines, the US Navy has found that the biological sonar of dolphins, called echolocation, makes them uniquely effective at locating sea mines so they can be avoided or removed. Other marine mammals like the California sea lion also have demonstrated the ability to mark and retrieve objects for the Navy in the ocean.”

Last Friday, the San Diego Union Tribune reported that the Navy will now be replacing these dolphins and giving their jobs to 12-foot torpedo-shaped robots.

Mike Rothe, head of biosciences at the Navy’s Space and Naval Warfare Systems Center Pacific (SPAWAR) in San Diego, told the Tribune that only 24 of the Navy’s 80 mine hunting dolphins will be replaced, starting in 2017.

The Navy also employs 40 sea lions for similar tasks, though Rothe has said these sea lions will still have their jobs in the future.

“About a quarter of (the Navy dolphins) would be affected. But it’s not like they are going to go jobless. We have other assignments,” explained Rothe. “We are certain that there’s going to be fewer mine-hunting dolphins.”

The new torpedo robots will be used to hunt for enemy mines and can be manufactured much more quickly than a dolphin can be trained. As it stands, it takes the Navy’s \$28 million Marine Mammal Program 7 years to fully train a dolphin to look for underwater mines or enemy divers. These robots are also entirely replaceable should a mission go awry.

The replacement robot, known as Kingfish, has been developed by the Space and Naval Warfare Systems in Point Loma. This long, sleek robot is completely unmanned and programmed to go about its mission. It can run for 24 hours underwater, collecting information about the activities going on under the sea, providing the Navy with a picture of what’s happening in these foreign ports.

According to the Tribune, Kingfish is a larger cousin of a previous bot named Swordfish which has already been

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used in a few limited missions. Kingfish has already been shown off to the public in a mine countermeasure exercise which took place in the Persian Gulf this September. Though the Navy plans to have these robots fully implemented by 2017, Rothe has said the total cost of this new program is still undetermined.



NORTHCOM

47. [Security, United States] Bomb Squad Detonates Explosive In Los Banos

Tuesday, December 4 2012

<http://www.mercedsunstar.com/2012/12/04/2685482/bomb-squad-detonates-explosive.html>

The Merced Police Department's bomb squad detonated a homemade explosive in Los Banos over the weekend. Los Banos police responded to the 500 block of Vineyard Drive around 9:36 p.m. Saturday after a report of a fire and an explosion, police said.

Officers found a live improvised explosive in the street and a small fire. The device was not near a vehicle or structure and did not appear to be intended for a specific victim, police said. "At this point, we don't think there was any criminal intent, but it was very dangerous," said Cmdr. Ray Reyna Jr.

The Merced Police Department bomb squad responded, examined the device and detonated it. No injuries were reported during this incident and no suspects are in custody, police said.

"We're hoping someone may come forward with information about this before someone gets seriously hurt," Reyna said.





NORTHCOM

48. [Law Enforcement, United States] Virginia Tech Football Players Arrested After Explosive Device Detonated

Tuesday, December 4 2012

<http://www.roanoke.com/sports/breaking/wb/317507>

Two Virginia Tech football players were arrested after a small explosive device was detonated in Blacksburg on Sunday night, resulting in their suspension from the team.

Walk-ons Joshua Trimble, 20, and Brian Rody, 19, were charged with felony manufacturing and using an explosive device, according to a news release.

Police arrived at the 1600 block of Patrick Henry Drive at 8:30 p.m. Sunday after a report of an explosion near an occupied apartment, Blacksburg police Lt. Steve Taylor said.

No one was injured in the incident, according to the release. Taylor said he could not comment on the type of the device or the reason it was detonated.

Lawyer Jimmy Turk, who is representing both men, said the incident involved a soda bottle and was “simply one of those pranks.”

“It’s just a little soda bottle, and you put aluminum foil in it along with a little toilet bowl cleaner,” Turk said. “It makes a boom and blows up.”

Turk said the two men were playing a prank on one of their female friends. After the bottle blew up, someone else in the apartment complex called the police, he said.

“They both admitted to it and were very cooperative with the police,” Turk said. “They certainly did not understand the seriousness of what they could be charged with.”

Trimble and Rody were released from Montgomery County Jail on Monday morning on \$2,500 secured bonds.

Turk said he hopes to “get a speedy resolution” and avoid felony convictions.

“I’ve met with both of them. They both seem to be very fine young men and very good students,” Turk said. “Neither one of them has been in any kind of trouble before.”

Per University Policy 1035, any student-athlete charged with a felony is suspended indefinitely from athletic participation until the charge is dropped or otherwise resolved. If either player is convicted of a felony, it would result in immediate dismissal from the team. If the case is resolved without a felony conviction, any reinstatement would be up to athletic director Jim Weaver.

Both have preliminary hearings in Montgomery County General District Court in Christiansburg set for Jan. 24 at 2 p.m., making it unlikely either would be available for Virginia Tech’s game against Rutgers in the Russell Athletic Bowl on Dec. 28 in Orlando, Fla.



Trimble, a redshirt freshman linebacker from Ashburn, played in 11 games this year, getting most of his work on special teams. He made 13 tackles and recovered a fumble on a muffed punt against Florida State.

Rody, a quarterback also from Ashburn, joined the team in 2011. He redshirted last season and has worked on the scout team this year.

It's the second straight season Virginia Tech has had legal trouble in advance of its bowl game. Kicker Cody Journell was arrested in connection with a home invasion last December and charged with breaking and entering.

He had those charges reduced to misdemeanor trespassing in the spring and rejoined the team over the summer after completing his community service.



NORTHCOM

49. [Attack, United States] Southern Arizona Pipe-Bomb Explosion Injures Man

Thursday, December 6 2012

http://www.azcentral.com/news/articles/20121206southern-arizona-pipe-bomb-explosion-abrk.html?nclick_check=1

One man was injured after an pipe-bomb explosion near Tacna on Tuesday, according to authorities.

Kobey Coulter, 31, of Tacna, was taken by helicopter to a Phoenix hospital for severe wounds to his lower legs, said. Capt. Eben Bratcher, a spokesman for the Yuma County Sheriff's Office.

Deputies found a completed pipe bomb inside of a shipping container along with other materials used to make pipe bombs, Bratcher said. The Yuma County Regional Bomb Squad rendered all of the items safe Wednesday, hesaid.

The container was located in the 37600 Block of E. County 8th St. near Tacna, which is about 45 miles east Yuma on Interstate 8.



SOUTHCOM

50. [Attack, Colombia] Bogota Bombs Injure Four Police Officers

Monday, December 3 2012

<http://colombiareports.com/colombia-news/news/27257-bogota-explosions-injure-4-police-officers.html>

Two bomb explosions at a police station in northwest Bogota Sunday left four police officers injured, one seriously.

The explosions closely followed each other, with the officers injured by the second explosion as they attended the site of the first explosion in a Bogota district police station. One of the officers, a woman, was reported to be in a serious condition.

The explosions took place at about 7:30PM in the basement parking area of the police station. The police suspect the bombs were triggered by mobile phone and that the perpetrators were watching the station in order to target the officers with the second explosion. Damage was also sustained to nearby cars and buildings.

A local official attributed the attack to revenge by drug-trafficking gangs for successfully combatting their activities. Police say that investigations are ongoing and have offered a reward of 30 million pesos to anyone giving information on the perpetrators.



SOUTHCOM

51. [Trend, Colombia] FARC May Be Behind Bogota Police Station Bombing

Monday, December 3 2012

<http://colombiareports.com/colombia-news/news/27262-farc-may-be-behind-bogota-police-bombing-govt.html>

Colombia's defense minister on Monday refused to rule out FARC involvement with bomb attacks on a Bogota police station the evening before.

Colombian newspaper El Espectador reported that the Minister of Defense, Juan Carlos Pinzon, disclosed FARC involvement in the two consecutive bombing on a police station in the Colombian capital has not been ruled out.

"We do not rule out the participation of the FARC in the attack on the police station of Santa Helenita that left four wounded," said the Defense Minister.

The Minister also claimed an investigation continues in to who is responsible for the attack adding that "Sooner or later those responsible for this crime will be found,"

The newspaper also reported Bogota's chief of police, Luis Martinez, claimed that another possible motive for the attacks may have been retaliation by local criminal networks.

He went on to say recent blows to such networks at the hands of the Colombian authorities may have urged the attacks. No finalities have been drawn up and investigations still continue.



SOUTHCOM

52. [Trend, Colombia] Colombia Suffers Most Terrorism In Americas

Tuesday, December 4 2012

<http://colombiareports.com/colombia-news/news/27281-colombia-suffers-most-terrorism-in-americas.html>

Colombia is the country most affected by terrorism in the Americas, the Institute for Economics and Peace announced Tuesday.

The institute has created a Global Terrorism Index that ranks Colombia 13th globally, between DR Congo and Syria, with 80 terror attacks in 2011.

The FARC was responsible for the majority of attacks in Colombia and was the third most active terrorist organization globally over the last decade. However Colombia has also seen a significant fall in terrorism over the same period, followed by a small rise in the last few years.

The Global Terrorism Index was topped in 2011 by Iraq, followed by Afghanistan and Pakistan. Globally there were 7,343 terrorist attacks. North America is the least likely to suffer from a terrorist attack, followed by Western Europe.

The institute applies a strict definition of terrorism and only counts incidents they consider to be 'unambiguously' acts of terrorism.