PENNSYLVANIA ACTIONABLE INTELLIGENCE BRIEFING #12

TARGETED ACTIONABLE MONITORING CENTER

25 NOVEMBER 2009

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ONGOING RESEARCH

The Targeted Actionable Monitoring Center (TAM-C) is continuing to monitor a cross section of planning and activity ranging from Anarchist disorders – to aggressive anti-war activists that potentially affect the critical infrastructure of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The national range of activity is broad, much of it consisting of legal protests that merely provide crowd control issues for law enforcement.
Other, not-so-legal activity includes pre-planned disorders such as those that may occur during the **30 November 2009** ten year anniversary "celebration" of the Seattle WTO Anarchist Riots.

As cited in the ***PENNSYLVANIA ACTIONABLE INTELLIGENCE BRIEFING #8***, dated 16 November 2009:

> A "Global Day of Action for Climate Justice" has been declared for Monday, 30 November 2009.
>
> Anarchist groups are planning aggressive acts of direct action throughout the United States and the rest of the world. Additional days of aggressive direct action are scheduled throughout the COP15.
>
> TAM-C analysts recommend enhanced security measures for electric utilities, coal mining corporations, and banks that provide financing to those industries. The higher level of security should remain in affect prior to 30 November 2009 and through the period of the 2009 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen.

While there is significant potential for environmental activists to conduct "direct actions" on 30 November 2009 in advance of the COP15, as of 25 November 2009, no planned disorders in honor the Seattle riots have been identified in Pennsylvania.

Sector: ENERGY

Aggressive Tactics by Eco Activists

On the morning of 22 November 2009 two environmental activists locked themselves onto machinery at the Coal River Mountain's Bee Tree mine. They intended to stay locked down until they were forcibly removed by law enforcement personnel. Two others joined their protest by holding a banner with the message "Save Coal River Mountain" near the scene.

While this activity successfully slowed work at the mine, a professional-level public relations cadre provided well-written copy to the press.

********ANALYSIS********

The tactics used are not original to these West Virginia activists. The training that has enabled them to take control of the mining operation and use it for their propaganda purposes was taught during last summer's training camps that were held throughout West Virginia.

The "lock downs" with simultaneous public relations campaigns are billed as non-violent activism ("These nonviolent protestors have taken this action to bring attention..."). Sophisticated variations of these tactics will be taught at the Ruckus Society training scheduled for 4-6 December 2009 in mid-state New York. The December training is aimed at using these tactics to call attention to the planned drilling in the Marcellus Shale area (reported in 2 Nov 2009 PAIB).

Pennsylvania law enforcement personnel should be preparing to deal with such criminal activity within the near future.

Sectors: COMMERCIAL FACILITIES, DEFENSE INDUSTRIAL BASE, GOVERNMENT FACILITIES

Black Friday Protest Targeting Franklin Mills

On November 27 2009, Philadelphia-area anti-war groups are planning a "major protest" against the Army Experience Center that is housed in the Franklin Mills Mall, 1455 Franklin Mills Circle, Philadelphia, PA 19154.

Organizers will start with a "vigil" at the corner of Knights and Woodhaven Roads at 12PM.

Then, activists plan to divide into small groups and split up into different sections of the mall, confronting store owners and mall management with their demands to shut down the Army Experience Center. They plan on distributing flyers and pledges.

The organizers behind this Black Friday event: the Brandywine Peace Community, the BuxMont Coalition for Peace Action and the Regional Coalition for Peace Action.

Organizers have called on demonstrators to act peacefully and in accordance with the law. They have explicitly stated that they do not want displays of civil disobedience, nor do they want anyone engaging in activities that results in arrests.

********ANALYSIS********

TAM-C analysts recognize that this event's organizers are the same groups behind the regular "vigil" outside Franklin Mills Mall every third Saturday of every month [see ***Protesting Lockheed***, PAIB06: 11 November 2009]. However, this particular Black Friday event is unique, it is a "special vigil."

This event marks the beginning of a new "Don't-Shop-The-Mall-Campaign", a strategically-timed boycott on Franklin Mills if mall management does not adhere to activist demands to close the Army Experience Center.

TAM-C analysts acknowledge the organizers' explicit instructions to abide by the law; however, it's worth noting that the 12 September 2009 protests against the same site were marked by disorderly conduct and several arrests.

Sector: EMERGENCY SERVICES, GOVERNMENT FACILITIES

Continuing Pressure on Somali Militants to Act

Africa Desk researchers of the Targeted Actionable Monitoring Center (TAM-C) have identified recent internal Somali jihadist communications identifying the need to conduct terror activity. While the preferred target was Kenya, the stated reasons for the targeting are:

1) Kenya's relationship to the US
2) The fact that Kenya was assisting the US in the fight against Somalia's revolutionary jihadist group, al-Shabaab.

In the intercepted communications, Kenya was referred to as the "secular and Christian regime" that is on the side of the United States in the war against Muslims. Additionally, the communications prove that there is a tight intelligence cooperation between Kenya and the US -- the fact that "the main CIA base in Africa is in Kenya." This, they claim is the reason "that Osama (bin Laden) launched a bombing attack on the American embassy in Kenya."

********ANALYSIS********

As discussed in PAIB06 – 11 November 2009, the new leadership of Somalia's wing of Al-Qaeda must soon establish and assert his authority.

While the designated target in the above intercepted communications is Kenya, the jihadist communications linked the targeting to Kenya's relationship with the United States.

TAM-C analysts note that the threat of a terror incident in American is of special concern because of the number of Somali "Lost Boys" from America who have received jihadi indoctrination and military training in Somalia. As a result of the return of some of these "Lost Boys", there is increased potential of a Somali Young Mojahedin-influenced terror attack, including lone-wolf actions, inspired by the cited communications, on American soil.

TAM-C recommends that local authorities in the Commonwealth maintain close relationships with community leaders of immigrant Somali communities in order to ascertain if such recruitment is occurring in those communities.

Sector: EMERGENCY SERVICES

Non-lethal disabling Technology -- In the Wrong Hands

A flashlight, developed for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), uses a range finder to measure the distance to the target's eyes so that it can adjust the energy of the light to a level that won't cause permanent damage. Then it rapidly shoots out pulses of light from an array of ultrabright light emitting diodes (LEDs). The result -- disorientation, vertigo, and nausea. The cost to the taxpayers -- $1 million.

According to researchers at the University of New Hampshire, authorities would use the flashlight, and other light-based technologies, to distract a suspect so they can close in on him or her. "If you disorient or distract somebody and cause them to look away, then they can't focus on their task, which could be aiming a weapon at someone, or looking at a screen with sensitive information, or...." This useful tool in the hands of law enforcement personnel makes sense.

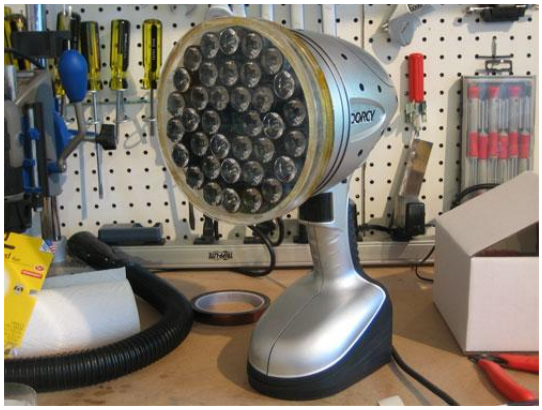
Unfortunately, researchers of the Targeted Actionable Monitoring Center (TAM-C) have identified a homemade nausea inducing flashlight that can be made for $250. The schematics and how-to video are on a website owned by a former MIT engineering student (http://ladyada.net/make/bedazzler/).

In the words of the engineer who built her own non-lethal weapon, "Yes this project does indeed cause: Nausea, dizziness, headache, flashblindness, eye pain and (occasional?) vomiting! So don't use it on your friends or pets." TAM-C analysts ask, who does that leave, the police?

********ANALYSIS********

The non-lethal weapon in the hands of the criminal has been a reality since the introduction of tear gas and OC spray on store shelves.

While this non-lethal weapon may, in time, develop into an effective area denial device, the home made version can be used today as an effective blinding / distracting device. Law enforcement should be made aware of the potential use of such weapons against them and train in tactics to overcome them.



Homemade device

DHS device
(http://www.homelandsecurity.org/snapshots/newsletter/2007-07.htm)

No Actionable Intelligence to Disseminate at this Time for the following Sectors:

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