Institute of Terrorism Research AND Response

Actionable Intelligence Briefing

4 November – 5 November 2009

PA-03

TARGETED ACTIONABLE MONITORING CENTER

WEDNESDAY BRIEFING

TAM-C THREAT INTERCEPTS

ONGOING RESEARCH

SECTOR-SPECIFIC THREATS

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TAM-C THREAT INTERCEPTS

Somali Terrorist Organization targets Americans

On 3 November 2009 African Desk researchers of the Targeted Actionable Monitoring Center (TAM-C) identified threatening communications from the Somali Young Mujahideen (al-Shabaab al-Mujahideen). In this communication, the Somali Young Mujahideen threaten to export their conflict out of Somalia.

Using the false justification that "Jews began to demolish parts of the Al-Aqsa Mosque", the spokesman for the Somali Young Mujahideen has threatened to send its members to the Palestinian Authority-controlled area to "free Palestine and liberate Al-Aqsa from Zionist occupation."

Additionally, the Somali Young Mujahideen spokesman requested that Muslims attack Israeli and American embassies and everywhere and "kill any person holding a passport of America and Israel."

TAM-C analysts note that the threat of killing Americans 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 the "lost boys", there is an increased potential of a Somali Young Mujahideen-influenced terror attack on American soil.

TAM-C analysts believe that, while the additional threat within Israel is minimal at this time, the threat to Israeli and American interests outside of Israel is increased.

The threat to Israeli facilities in the USA (i.e. Israeli Consulate, 1880 John F Kennedy Blvd, Philadelphia) is increased at this time.

********ACTION********

Security personnel with responsibility for Israeli or Israeli-identified assets should be increasing attempts to identify adversarial pre-operational activity.

The Alert above will expire on 27 November 2009 if no additional information is identified.

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ONGOING RESEARCH

SECTOR SPECIFIC THREATS:

TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS

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ONGOING RESEARCH

Post-G20 Activity

On 2 November 2009, TAM-C analysts released an alert about the upcoming court appearance of Elliot Madison. Madison is the anarchist arrested for using Twitter to expose law enforcement positions during the G20 protests in Pittsburgh.

TAM-C analysts identified the possibility of protests or violent acts related to this case. Such retaliation could come in physical form by targeting the courthouse itself, or in ideological form as a rallying cry to incite sympathetic protestors against the justice system (or as anarchists have been calling it of late, “the secret police state”).

As of 3 November 2009, charges have been dropped against Elliot Madison. TAM-C researchers have determined that anarchists are now gearing up for the scheduled 23 November publication of the “18-page, secret” affidavit.

TAM-C analysts believe that the release of the affidavit will serve the anarchist movement both as a recruiting tool and as a catalyst for further protest. TAM-C analysts will continue to monitor this developing situation for any specific threats against Pennsylvania.

SECTOR-SPECIFIC THREATS

Transportation Systems: *Threat to Aviation*

Arab language researchers of the Targeted Actionable Monitoring Center (TAM-C) have identified jihadist communications suggesting the return to the use of aircraft in suicide attacks.

Noting the successes of past suicide attacks using aircraft, the jihadist communications suggest the use of civilian aircraft to attack military targets in zones of conflict (Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan).

TAM-C analysts note that, while international carriers maintain a locked structurally strengthened cabin door, private aircraft do not. Additionally, corporate and certain regional aircraft are exempt from such regulations.

TAM-C analysts note that, while the identified communications suggested the targeting of military bases in zones of conflict, the tactic can be used by a jihadist anywhere.

SECTOR SPECIFIC THREATS:

TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS

GOVERNMENT FACILITIES AND SCHOOLS

TAM-C analysts note that the search for weapons is not sufficient to prevent such a threat. The history of lone-wolf suicide jihadists has included such simple mechanisms as the grabbing of a steering wheel and driving a bus off a cliff.

TAM-C analysts have seen a recent increase in adversary communications and tactics that involve targeting of mass transit and aviation. Additionally, in the recent past, seemingly innocent weapons, such as tractors and vehicles, have been used in suicide attacks.

********ACTION********

TAM-C analysts recommend the enhanced use of behavioral profiling, as well as additional actions that would decrease penetration opportunities and collusion attempts at facilities that provide take-off and landing privileges to aircraft vulnerable to forced takeover.

Security managers should be providing guidance to their personnel that, if the observations of fellow passengers provide a suspicion of intent, their personnel will not face discipline for refusing to board the flight.

The Alert above will expire on 27 November 2009 if no additional information is identified.

Government Facilities and Schools: *Saudi University Tied to PSU Targeted by Key AQAP Leader*

A newly inaugurated university in Saudi Arabia, the King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST) has earned the wrath of a senior figure in al-Qaeda of the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP).

The new threat, issued in a recording by Ibrahim al-Rubaish identified by TAM-C analysts, denigrates the university for being co-ed and for giving primacy to science over Islamic studies. Al-Rubaish sees the new institution as a symbol of the policies of the Saudi regime's leaders - whom he refers to as "infidels" - which will end in the elimination of Islam if left unchecked.

Al-Rubaish goes on to say that the only way to stop the Saudi royals in their pursuit of "the Western way, the way of the infidels" is jihad. He calls on Muslims in the Saudi security forces to quit their posts, as they are serving to strengthen the regime.

The new university currently has students from 50 different nation-states which makes KAUST a high-quality target for AQAP and other jihadists in the region. The facility is located in the Hijaz region, in Thuwal on the Red Sea coast, and boasts high-end recreation facilities.

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The statement by al-Rubaish singling out King Abdullah University takes on greater urgency in light of the fact that it was the same al-Rubaish who issued a statement suggesting the justification for an attack on Saudi Prince al-Nayef prior to the body-cavity suicide-bombing attack on the royal.

This history gives extra authenticity to current warning and indicates a need for increased situational awareness among students, foreign faculty and security personnel affiliated with the university and in proximity to it.

TAM-C analysts have identified that one of KAUST's main "Global Research Partners" is Penn State University (PSU).

This long-term partnership requires PSU students and scholars alike to invest a certain amount of time on the Saudi campus, participating in programs such as symposiums and study-abroad courses.

********ACTION********

TAM-C analysts advise anyone travelling to KAUST or anywhere in Saudi Arabia to remain vigilant in light of the increasing threat potential for a jihadi attack against Westerners in the Arabian Peninsula.

TAM-C analysts will continue to monitor threats against KAUST as well as academic travel between Pennsylvania and Saudi Arabia.

The Alert above will expire on 7 December 2009 if no additional information is identified.

Commercial Facilities*: Synagogue Shooting Reinforces Lone-Wolf Threat*

A shooting of two men on 29 October 2009 in the parking garage of a North Hollywood, California, synagogue emphasized the ongoing lone-wolf threat to assets identified as Jewish centers.

The fall-out of the incident included increased security at all Los Angeles-area Jewish synagogues and schools over the weekend.

The shooter appears to have been waiting for the victims, who had pulled into the parking garage for early morning prayers.

Although the investigation continues, it appears that the crime was an anti-Semitic attack.

As TAM-C has noted since late last year, "lone-wolf" terrorist attacks on Jewish

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SECTOR-SPECIFIC THREATS:

COMMERCIAL FACILITIES

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

assets and individuals are a growing phenomenon worldwide. Such attacks have included everything from vandalism to shootings to car bombs.

********ACTION********

Law enforcement and security personnel responsible for Israeli or Jewish assets, or in proximity to such assets, should increase situational awareness, with a particular emphasis on identifying pre-operational surveillance.

TAM-C analysts reiterate previous guidance that facilities located near Israeli or Jewish offices should be prepared for collateral damage from the potential of "direct actions" against the Israeli targets, ranging from vandalism to the use of explosive devices.

TAM-C analysts recommend that law enforcement visit such assets in their respective response jurisdictions to understand the facility layout and structure.

Commercial Facilities and Agriculture and Food: *Animal-Rights Extremists target Carlisle, PA-based Company*

TAM-C analysts have identified explicit threats made in October 2009 against Land O'Lakes personnel and their families by an animal-rights activist referred to as "Judith."

Judith issued the following communication that was embraced by fellow activists:

"I will pray and chant all fucking night long that someone will grab these horrible fucks and put a knife slowly, very slowly through their heart and lungs and then pull their eyes out of their sockets and shove them down their fucking throats and then start in on their families and do the same…We must rid Mother Earth of your kind…"

"The Dam is getting ready to break, the water is flowing as if it's angry. Many people are getting to the point where they just can't take the cruelty anymore, enough is enough. We all have our breaking points and when we do break, emotions that we have somehow kept in check are released like a dam breaking. No going back, I have no intention of having this end before I have a chance of getting started. The world can do without people with no souls, and anyone that hurts or kills a sentient being must pay for it with his life."

As recently as 23 October 2009, PETA protested outside a Syracuse, NY, grocery store which receives supplies of meat and dairy products by Land O' Lakes. Protesters dressed as cows, poured fake milk into the street and are currently waging a public-relations campaign against the Land O'Lakes company.

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TAM-C analysts will monitor the radical campaign against Land O' Lakes to detect additional threats against the company's personnel or assets. TAM-C analysts will continue to monitor whether threats targeting the company's personnel, their families, and/or facilities reach operational status.

No Actionable Intelligence Available for Dissemination at this Time for the following sectors:

SECTOR-SPECIFIC THREATS:

COMMERCIAL FACILITIES

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

Banking and Finance
Chemical
Communications
Critical Manufacturing
Dams
Defense Industrial Base
Emergency Services
Energy
Healthcare and Public Health
Information Technology
National Monuments and Icons
Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste
Postal and Shipping
Water

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For additional information, please contact the TAM-C of the Institute of Terrorism Research and Response at: +1.215.922.1080 or info@terrorresponse.org

Working with organizations that refuse to surrender their domestic or international operations to terrorism

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Threat and Hazard Monitoring (THM) A custom service meeting the needs for each client. With the assistance of our international analysts, this service identifies specific threats, hazards, vulnerabilities, and assets our team of native language speakers researchers and ground resources, are to monitor and forward on to the client.

For additional information regarding the Center's services or specialized customized research and analysis programs, feel free to contact us at: tamc@terrorresponse.org

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