Institute of Terrorism Research AND Response

Actionable Intelligence Briefing

9 November – 10 November 2009

PAIB-05

TARGETED ACTIONABLE MONITORING CENTER

MONDAY BRIEFING

ACTIONABLE DATE REMINDERS

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- **9 November 2009:** "The Yes Men Fix the World" screens in Pittsburgh, increased risk for attacks against banks and financial centers. (reported in 2 Nov 2009 PAIB)
- **12 November 2009**: Mumia-Abu Jamal supporters planning to protest Seth Williams, the newly-elected Philadelphia DA, for supporting the death penalty against the convicted cop-killer (reported 2 Nov 2009 PAIB)
- **14 November 2009:** Tea Party Activists March on Harrisburg for “lower taxes” and “fiscal responsibility” (reported in 6 Nov 2009 PAIB)
- **21-22 November 2009**: "Appleseed" Marksmanship Training/Boot Camp in Manheim, Lancaster County (reported in 6 Nov 2009 PAIB)
- **22 November 2009:** 'End the Fed' nationwide protests including "Constitutional Revolution" Tea Party against Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia (reported in 6 Nov 2009 PAIB)
- **23 November 2009**: Anarchists expecting Elliott Madison's (the G20-Twittering Anarchist) affidavit to be publicized. TAM-C analysts have identified recent communications associated with this case: "let's keep the pressure on until the grand jury is dissolved and the scum who raided [Madison's] house are ruing the days they were born." (reported in 2 Nov 2009 PAIB)
- **27-29 November 2009**: Animal-rights activists protest "Fur Free Friday", local commercial sites prone to vandalism (reported in 6 Nov 2009 PAIB)
- **4-6 December 2009**: "Ruckus Group" holding anti-pipeline training in Ithaca, NY. Among their targets; PA companies drilling in the Marcellus Shale (reported in 2 Nov 2009 PAIB)

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UPDATE:

FORT HOOD SHOOTING

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UPDATE

Ft. Hood Shooting

As expected, the killing of American military personnel has been met with messages of support and admiration, which may well inspire copy-cat attacks elsewhere.

Jihadists call the attack "a praiseworthy act of jihad..... [The] jihadist act is being spoken about as the way of Allah. ...He committed an exalted act, and it was enough that he wounded Americans, and what happened was the will of God."

Another communication explicitly links the shooter's actions with jihadist online communications. Saying that the media reports indicate Nidal Hasan "was a visitor to jihadist websites, and even shouted verses from the Koran at the time of the attack," the jihadist commentator adds: "G-d protect jihadist communication."

Islamist communications in the Western world were similarly supportive of the Ft. Hood attacker.

"Allah has humiliated the stupid US kuffar in their own base, by the hands of one of their puppets...." as it was expressed on an Australian Muslim online forum.

"...Perhaps he decided that he wasn't going to fight his fellow Muslims and would rather be martyred fighting the real enemy, or perhaps he was a long term sleeper," speculates the same Islamist forum member.

Another English-language forum posting merely states, "ooh some good news for the day..." in reaction to the Ft. Hood attack.

Several forum members expressed their support for that sentiment, some with bitter sarcasm: "Boo hoo... people who were going to fight your brothers and sisters in Iraq/Afghanistan got attacked... sad story."

A posting calling for prayers for the American victims of the attack garnered this response:

"Who would pray for those who were ready to enter Muslim lands to murder Muslims? Is this what you pray for hyder? For those who come to murder the Muslims? If you have any prayers left over, see if you can manage to spare one for the Muslims they murder daily...."

In the United States, specifically vulnerable are military recruiting stations, National Guard Armories and Reserve Centers, which have no armed guards, making them attractive targets. Military posts and bases, such as Ft. Hood, are considered "hard targets", but remain among terrorists high-priority targets. As noted,

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SECTOR-SPECIFIC THREATS:

GOVERNMENT FACILITIES

ENERGY

COMMERCIAL FACILITIES

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recent terrorist attacks in Pakistan have singled out military and law enforcement.

While this Ft. Hood shooter was an actual US Army officer, the attack reinforces the clear, although momentary, advantage attackers obtain by appearing dressed in domestic security forces' uniforms. This was evident most recently in attacks in Pakistan, but has been a tactic adopted by terrorists in many instances.

Also of note is that the use of authentic uniforms can allow attackers the needed access to carry out undisturbed pre-operational surveillance in some cases.

In addition to fully trained and armed terrorists, military installations remain targets of anti-military groups and individuals. In such cases, the threat primarily involves limited property damage and sabotage, but has been known to escalate into fire-bombings and the like.

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

Tactically, security personnel should be aware of the potential for terrorists to emulate security forces in dress or using stolen first response vehicles during pre-operational surveillance and in the course of an actual attack. Counter-measures include assuring coordinated authentic police activity, as well as varying security routines, passwords, physical indicators, etc. on a regular basis.

SECTOR-SPECIFIC THREATS

Government Facilities/Energy/Commercial Facilities: *Jihadi Communications Indicating an Attack in the Near-Term*

Targeted Actionable Monitoring Center (TAM-C) Arab language researchers have identified internal high level jihadist communications indicating a major terror strike in the near term. Indications included in the communications:

- "...Al-Qaeda leadership in Yemen said that Osama Bin Laden Ordered to perform the biggest strike against America since September 11th, that will change the political and economical status in the world."
- "...about 6 months ago Bin Laden sent a message to all Al-Qaeda cells in the world and forbade them from having any kind of negotiations with the [Western] political institutions."
- "...the Al-Qaeda leadership in Yemen began planning attacks in Yemen, like the attack on the American embassy in Sanaa last September."

SECTOR-SPECIFIC THREATS:

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A different well placed communicator continues:

- "...Al-Qaeda has succeeded in acquiring dangerous, nuclear or highly destructive weapons, and it also has people who are able to severely damage the Western weapons or Western nuclear facilities inside the Western countries themselves."

- "...is there a Western person who works in important facilities and cooperates with Al-Qaeda in some way? Are there Muslims in Europe or America who hide their identity? Is there anyone in the American or European intelligence bodies who converted to Islam or holds a grudge against American foreign policy?"

- "...there are many people in the West who cooperate with Al-Qaeda for many reasons, and some of them have important official positions."

- "...Germany is considered the country where the largest numbers of American soldiers are based... How many American military bases are there in Europe? Especially in Germany? How many bases of American nuclear weapons are there in Germany?"

- "...Osama Bin Laden spoke about the "wedding" between America and Europe. He mentioned soap, tents and lining sardines. Think about what all this means: Yes – an extraordinary explosion, big, huge, covering a vast area, after which the bodies are lined like sardines, tents are pitched for the casualties that are rubbed with powders of soap and milk..."

In light of the intercepts above, analysts from the Targeted Actionable Monitoring Center (TAM-C) believe:

Al-Qaeda is planning an attack against American targets in Europe and/or America in the near-term.

Although recent jihadi communications have targeted specific nations such as Spain, Germany, and Yemen for various historical or strategic reasons, Al-Qaeda is intent on attacking America anywhere in the world. This includes within America itself, using infiltration, double-agents, and subterfuge.

While TAM-C analysts have found no specific targeting of sites in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, analysts note that military bases, energy resources, and key commercial-economic facilities within the United States are being targeted at this time.

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SECTOR-SPECIFIC THREATS:

GOVERNMENT FACILITIES

Government Facilities: *Protest and March on the Israeli Consulate*

On Friday, 20 November 2009, between 4-6PM, pro-Palestinian groups will demonstrate against the Israeli Consulate at 1880 JFK Blvd, Philadelphia, PA, 19103.

The groups include the Temple University branch of 'Students for Justice in Palestine', 'End Oppression Now', and the Philadelphia branch of the 'IAC' (International Action Center).

The last group mentioned, the IAC, was one of the strongest supporters behind the G20 "resistance" in Pittsburgh, and has suggested that the Fort Dix 5 were "entrapped by FBI informants, judged guilty by unfounded and sensational headlines, and convicted simply because of their backgrounds."

The organizers are planning to make this "Protest and March" a regular event, falling on the third Friday of every month.

Government Facilities: *Protesting the President's War Decision*

Anarchist groups are preparing to hold demonstrations in reaction to President Obama's decision on sending additional troops to Afghanistan. The groups have said, "We need to demonstrate the popular opposition to the war in Afghanistan in as many towns and with as large a number of protestors as possible when this happens."

The Targeted Actionable Monitoring Center (TAM-C) has identified planning in Connecticut for demonstrations at federal office buildings. The Anarchists' plans are to conduct protests the day after the President makes his announcement.

At this time, TAM-C analysts have not been able to identify protests planned for the state of Pennsylvania. However, TAM-C analysts expect such protests where local Anarchist groups, Green Parties, and other "grass roots" organizations hold sufficient membership to organize a rapid response to the Obama decision.

Government Facilities: *EPA Protests*

TAM-C analysts have identified plans for the environmental activist group, '**Mountain Justice',** to hold Christmas-themed protests outside Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) buildings throughout the nation. This includes the Philadelphia branch at 841 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA, 19107

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Protestors plan to dress as Santa Clause and protest by singing rhetoric-laden "Christmas Carols" and offering "coal-filled stockings" to EPA officials to symbolize the activists' stance against the practice of Mountain-Top Removal coal mining, a destructive practice that EPA is guilty of sanctioning, activists claim.

Government Facilities/Schools*: Potential for Protests against UPENN*

The Targeted Actionable Monitoring Center (TAM-C) has identified a report in a Philadelphia-based Anarchist publication suggesting that scientists and researchers at the University of Pennsylvania are guilty of collusion with the US government in developing robotic weapons and/or military equipment.

Though there are no concrete plans yet to protest this new development, TAM-C analysts note that over the course of the last three years, a similar robotics program at Carnegie Mellon University (CMU) was targeted by the Pittsburgh-based anarchist society, **'POG' (Pittsburgh Organizing Group)**.

Among its many antics, POG activists picketed in front of the home of John Bares, the Director of the National Robotics Engineering Center. One student supporting POG warned that such research, "makes the school a legitimate military target."

POG activists also marched through the "Department of Defense-funded halls" of CMU. Outside the school, activists set up a metal tripod structure from which an individual attached himself, becoming a barricade against law-enforcement. POG also used bike locks and "Chinese dragons" to attach themselves to property and each other in order to "secure space" and obstruct the streets. At one protest alone, about a dozen activists were arrested.

TAM-C analysts will continue to monitor whether the Philadelphia-based anarchists plan to take a cue from their Pittsburgh comrades and demonstrate against the University of Pennsylvania or its robotics program, especially in light of the upcoming December conference of "Northeast Anarchists" in Philadelphia.

Commercial Facilities*: Global Protest against Scientology*

The anti-Scientology group, **'Anonymous'**, a group known for harnessing a combination of hacker-skills and darkly-humorous street theatre in protesting the Church of Scientology, has declared 14 November a day of "Global Protest."

TAM-C analysts are currently monitoring the formation of local protests (termed by insiders as "raids" or "flash-raids").

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SECTOR-SPECIFIC THREATS:

COMMERCIAL FACILITIES

STRATEGIC ANALYSIS

The Targeted Actionable Monitoring Center (TAM-C) has identified communications in which a small cell of Philadelphia-based activists plan to join the "Global Protest" on 14 November by protesting the Church of Scientology of Pennsylvania located at 1315 Race Street, Philadelphia, PA, 19107.

One activist posted the comment, "Philadelphia, we are here" to encourage local sympathizers in joining future protests.

Meanwhile, in Pittsburgh, activists have targeted a storefront at 19106 E Carson Street, Pittsburgh, PA, 15203 for potential protests, although they dismiss it as merely a local "feeder" center where new converts are re-directed to "Churches" in the proper sense, such as the one in Philadelphia.

TAM-C analysts have confirmed that 'Anonymous' "cells" (their own term) located across the US, Europe, and elsewhere, are gearing up for protests of varying sizes and degrees of intensity outside their local Churches of Scientology.

'Anonymous' protestors have been known to conduct denial-of-service attacks against the target' communications devices, as well as holding street-protests dressed in masks reminiscent of those worn in the movie "V for Vendetta", a film exploring the line between freedom-fighter and terrorist. The film also depicts the mask-wearing, mischief-causing hero in a scene where he brutally kills a (fictional) church leader.

In the past two years, 'Anonymous' has protested in both Pittsburgh and Philadelphia. Judging by prior demonstrations and the nature of their communications, TAM-C analysts do not believe these protests will draw many numbers nor pose a great danger to either the Church of Scientology or surrounding property.

TAM-C researchers note however that on 26 October 2008, an individual "anon" (as they call themselves) was arrested during a California protest for trespassing and battery against a security guard. The TAM-C will continue to monitor the group's plans to organize in the State.

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