PENNSYLVANIA INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN NO. 130

27 AUGUST 2010

The Pennsylvania Office of Homeland Security produces this informational/intelligence bulletin specifically for all potentially-affected stakeholders – whether public or private sector, federal or Commonwealth of Pennsylvania-based Critical Infrastructures, Key Resources and Significant Special Events. Consider the information & intelligence contained herein in context with other known information, indicators, threats and warnings.

Successful intelligence analysis and sharing programs are not the result of top-down processes but rather the collective efforts of all stakeholders concerned. The Pennsylvania Office of Homeland Security urges all recipients – whether public or private sector - to provide information that might assist in the process to paintel@itrrintel.org.

POTENTIALLY-IMPACTED AREAS & SECTORS

Area
Cranberry Township (Butler County) Devon (Chester County) Erie Philadelphia Pittsburgh Plymouth Meeting (Montgomery County) Upper St. Clair Township (Allegheny County) Williamsport (Lycoming County)
Sector
Commercial Facilities Emergency Services Energy Government Facilities[1] Postal and Shipping

[1] Educational Facilities Sub-Sector: Security directors, students and faculty of all Pennsylvania-based colleges and universities participating in educational exchange programs abroad need to remain cognizant of emerging, country-specific threats, indicators and warnings.

Pursuant to the USA PATRIOT Act of 2001, Homeland Security Act of 2002, Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 and the National Infrastructure Protection Plan of 2009, critical infrastructure is defined as "systems and assets, whether physical or virtual, so vital to the United States that the incapacity or destruction of such systems and assets would have a debilitating impact on security, national economic security, national public health or safety, or any combination of those matters." Pennsylvania applies the same logic and intent to define Commonwealth, county & municipality critical infrastructures and key resources.

CONTINUING, STRATEGIC ANALYSIS

1. ***Mysterious Al-Qa'ida Media Blitz***

Analysts are monitoring the recently increased tempo of released recordings and communications from ***AL-QA'IDA***, from both its top leadership and regional branch leaders, as well as jihadist groups with some links (and definite affinity) to *Al-Qa'ida*.

Examples of this phenomenon over the last month include:

- A new recording issued by ***AL-QA'IDA IN THE LANDS OF THE ISLAMIC MAGHREB*** (**AQIM**) entitled, "You are Destined to do Battle."[2]

- An audio message to the Turkish people from *Al-Qa'ida* chieftain Ayman Al-Zawahiri earlier this month calling for a unified global *jihad*, while emphasizing that the last great Islamic empire was under Turkish rule.

- A video release entitled, "The Sharp-Edged Sword for Those who Curse the Prophet," which includes a collection of clips of global jihadist leaders issuing threats over the honor of the prophet of Islam, Muhammad. All of the clips are relatively old and some of the speakers are no longer even alive.

- A recording from the leader of ***AL-QA'IDA IN THE ARABIAN PENINSULA*** (**AQAP**) entitled, "Together for Ejecting the Saud Family."[3]

- An audio recording by Abu Musab Abd Al-Wadud, leader of AQIM, entitled "We Will Be Victorious or We Will Die."

- The ***TURKESTAN ISLAMIC PARTY*** (**TIP**), a jihadist organization dedicated to establishing an Islamic regime in China's ethnically Uighur Xinjiang province, issued a recording entitled, "Al-Madrassa" (Arabic, school/educational institution). This followed on an earlier document in Arabic, released in July 2010, calling on Muslims to continue the *jihad* against China "until martyrdom or victory."

- A video released by the ***ISLAMIC MOVEMENT OF UZBEKISTAN*** (**IMU**) focusing on new recruits from Germany who arrived at IMU camps in the Afghan-Pakistani border area.[4]

Analyst's Comment: In the past there has indeed been a pattern of Al-Qa'ida issuing recordings from multiple branches and leaders - one after another. Generally, however, these recordings had a single, unifying theme. That does not appear to be the case this time.

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[2] http://www.nctc.gov/site/groups/aqim.html
[3] http://www.nctc.gov/site/groups/aqap.html
[4] http://www.cdi.org/terrorism/imu.cfm

Questions therefore remain regarding this potentially significant development:

1. Why now? This question is especially relevant regarding the aforementioned re-release of a series of old clips of Al-Qa'ida leaders, some of whom are already deceased.

2. Is the plain content of the respective recordings significant?

3. Is there an attempt in these recordings to hint at or provide explicit guidance for active cells or lone-wolf terrorists?

4. Might the series of recordings be a coincidence and more indicative of an ongoing devolution of centralized control in Al-Qa'ida?

In the opinion of analysts, there are no clear-cut answers to these formidable questions based on current trends, patterns and indications; monitoring unofficial and informal jihadist communications for indications of further targeting, tactical and strategic risk indicators will continue.

SECTOR-SPECIFIC THREATS, INDICATORS AND/OR WARNINGS

Commercial Facilities
Energy
Postal and Shipping

2. ***Jihadists Discuss: What's Next for the US?***
In an ongoing series of communications initiated in March 2010, jihadists have been exchanging ideas regarding the next target of attack, with a special focus on American assets.

In a recent communication, a jihadist lists what he sees as the next appropriate targets for attack:

1. "The US military bases in the Persian Gulf."
2. "An attack similar to 9/11 inside the USA."
3. "The oil wells inside the USA."
4. "Maritime vessels at sea, such as warships, submarines."

In a new response to the above list of targets, a jihadist states: "If you want my opinion, I tell you that the next attack is to take place at sea. I'm not saying this just to cause fear, I am saying this because it is the truth and it is soon, with Allah's help."

Analysts note that a previous communication from the aforementioned individual, dealing with the terrorist targeting of pipelines, has proven accurate.

In a separate communication earlier this month, Anwar Al-Awlaki - the American-born jihadist cleric and recruiter for AQAP - threatened a continuing war against the US, its troops and its allies in Yemen. In response to an increase in such threats, the US State Department issued an advisory on 24 August 2010 suspending all non-essential travel for diplomatic staff outside the capital city of Yemen, Sana'a.

******** ANALYSIS ****** T/I/W Rating: MODERATE**

Maritime

Analysts reiterate that jihadist cells have strong incentives to continue waging a deadly form of *Jihad Al-Bahr* (jihad at sea) as soon as operationally possible. In that effort, jihadist forces apparently carried out an attack on a Japanese tanker on 28 July 2010. Similarly, on 28 May 2010, Algerian security forces disrupted a terror cell intending to target vessels off the Algeria coast.

Previous jihadist, maritime, targeting guidance communications have focused on American naval vessels, commercial shipping vessels, as well as on smuggling explosives onto a Western-flagged or US-bound ship. As previously noted (PAIB No. 27), a bomber transiting from overseas would likely detonate his device only once the vessel entered the waters of the target country.

Regarding the jihadist maritime threat outside the Middle East, analysts note that the Delaware River tri-state port complex (Philadelphia, PA; Camden, Gloucester City and Salem, NJ; and Wilmington, DE) is the fifth largest of its kind and the second largest oil port in the US, handling about 85% of the East Coast's oil imports. These factors raise the probability as high-profile targets for jihadists intent on conducting such a maritime attack as discussed above. Other Pennsylvania ports with exploitable vulnerabilities include Erie and Pittsburgh.

Communications discussing attacks within the Middle East focused on the use of improvised, anti-ship mines (barrel bombs), the use of mortars, rocket-propelled grenades (RPG) and remotely controlled boats laden with explosives. Tactics also included the use of RPG in conjunction with other forms of attack. Analysts note that anti-ship mines have previously been used in the Mediterranean Sea near the coast of Israel.

Petrochemical Assets

Also cited in the above-mentioned list of potential targets were oil wells within CONUS. Energy assets as preferred high-profile targets of terrorists is not a new phenomenon, but the specific mention of American (as opposed to Middle Eastern) oil wells in such a practical ongoing jihadist discussion is unusual and potentially significant.

While attacks on domestic American oil facilities are not highly likely as a direct result of the above incitement, the possibility of such an attempt by a lone-wolf or an organized cell cannot be discounted.

In a jihadist communication cited in PIB No. 99, researchers noted detailed intelligence suggesting attacks on reservoirs of hydrogen sulfide (H_2S) (located alongside petroleum facilities.[5] The widespread dissemination of such guidance and incitement is an indication of the risk confronting oil and gas facilities throughout the world. *Al-Qa'ida* has frequently cited oil as the "lifeblood" of the West, without regard to where the oil is produced.

Furthermore, analysts reiterate that any serious disruption of Middle Eastern oil extraction and export would have the potential to disrupt oil supplies in the northeastern US as well. The immediate and long-term impact of such a disruption on Pennsylvania's trade and energy sectors remains to be determined.

Government Facilities

3. ***Protest to Free the Fort Dix Five***

On 31 August 2010. the Philadelphia branch of the International Action Center (IAC), Free the Fort Dix 5 Support Committee and Project SALAM (Support and Legal Advocacy for Muslims) are planning to hold a rally advocating the release of five Muslims arrested in 2007 for plotting an attack on soldiers at Ft. Dix, New Jersey.[6] The gathering is slated to take place at 6th and Market St. (the courthouse) in Philadelphia.

According to the organizers, "This rally is to bring attention to the terrible injustice done to these five innocent men, and hope that the Appeals Court will realize that there is no evidence at all that these men are terrorists." The convicted would-be terrorists are appealing their convictions this month.

******** ANALYSIS ****** T/I/W Rating: LOW-to-MODERATE**

Analyst's Comment: Recent communications among anarchists, anti-capitalists, Black and Hispanic radicals and environmentalist extremists have promoted solidarity with several convicted or suspected jihadist terrorists.

Law enforcement personnel will be called upon to carry out crowd and access control at the courthouse, as well as monitoring and isolating individuals intent on perpetrating more militant protest actions. Illegal or violent "direct action" may be initiated by radical anti-authoritarian elements in attendance.

It is unknown whether the groups have obtained the necessary police permits for the above rally.

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[5] http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/tfacts114.html
[6] http://www.iacenter.org/

4. ***Anti-Drilling Activists to Protest at the PA Governor's Event***
Researchers have identified communications from anti-gas-drilling activists regarding a speech by Governor Ed Rendell (D-PA) in Tioga County today (27 August 2010). The Governor will be speaking at the Tioga County Courthouse in Wellsboro.

Specifically, a 25 August 2010 communication from an anti-drilling activist stated:

> "Everyone really needs to be there with signs and bull horns tables flyers, information and your photos. Get some Chants ready. Make them see and hear a big crowd out front and in the hall."

Environmentalists observed that county commissioners and representatives of conservation and environmental organizations will also be in attendance. Also noted in activist communications was that all attendees will have to pass through a metal detector.

******** ANALYSIS ****** T/I/W Rating: LOW**

This event carries the potential for environmentally-motivated protests, outbursts or disruptions. Other upcoming events cited as targets for attendance or protest in recent anti-drilling communications include:

- **27 August 2010:** a Marcellus Shale Formation Drilling Panel Discussion in the Oakland section of Pittsburgh (G23 Parran Hall, 130 DeSoto St.)

- **1 September 2010:** Senator Jay Costa is to discuss his position on Marcellus Shale Formation drilling issues at the Lincoln Place Presbyterian Church in Lincoln Place, Pittsburgh.

- **2 September 2010:** The 2010 Pittsburgh Energy Forum will be held at Duquesne University's Power Center. Congressman Mike Doyle, Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection John Hanger, Congressman Tim Murphy, and others will be in attendance.

- **2 September 2010:** A hearing on a proposed Marcellus Shale Formation gas drilling ordinance in Cranberry Township (Butler County)

- **10-11 September 2010:** The following meeting has been singled out for attendance by anti-drilling activists: Pennsylvania Forestry Association meeting to discuss the Marcellus Shale Formation drilling operations. The meeting is part of the annual Association meeting, set to take place at the Genetti Hotel in Williamsport (Lycoming County).

- **13 September 2010:** A hearing on Marcellus Shale Formation drilling operations will convene in the Pittsburgh City Council chambers (414 Grant St.)

- **4 October 2010:** A hearing on a proposed amendment to the township zoning ordinance to regulate oil and gas drilling operations in Upper St. Clair Township (Allegheny County).

Communities with small police departments are advised to prepare contingency plans in the event that such meetings or confrontations escalate significantly. It is unknown whether protesting groups have obtained the necessary police permits.

Commercial Facilities

5. ***Animal Activists of Philadelphia: Upcoming Protests***

Several events in the Philadelphia area in this month and next have drawn the attention of an animal rights group known as Animal ACTivists of Philly.[7] The most recent of these was the Cole Bros. Circus at the Devon Horse Show and Country Fair in Devon (Chester County) on 25 August 2010, where activists tried to "raise awareness" of animal exploitation.

Upcoming events identified by Animal ACTivists of Philly include:

- **29 August 2010**: A "demonstration and outreach" at the Philadelphia Zoo, where the animal rights advocates will "peacefully provide facts to them to plant a seed that may sprout in the future to a more compassionate lifestyle where animals are treated with respect, not as display objects."

- **17-19 September 2010**: A protest against the Lulu Shrine Rodeo in Plymouth Meeting (Montgomery County). For these events, declared as "peaceful demonstrations," the activists are also seeking someone to videotape one of the rodeo shows. "This is the worst of the worst," the activist material declares.

******** ANALYSIS ****** T/I/W Rating: LOW**

Animal ACTivists of Philly is dedicated to pro-animal activism, requiring every member to participate in a animal rights event within 60 days of joining. "No lurkers or "yak'tivists allowed!" as they put it. However, the group is also emphatically dedicated to peaceful, non-confrontational protest: "All of our events are peaceful, friendly, and legal. Our goal is to educate, not intimidate." In the case of the protests against the rodeo, for example, the call-to-action even limited the protests to a fixed one and a half hours in length.

Analysts believe law enforcement personnel will be called upon primarily to carry out duties of crowd control at the above-mentioned events. Although, there does not seem to be sufficient numbers of activists planning to attend the events to justify significant crowd control measures. analysts believe that there is only a

[7] http://www.meetup.com/Animal-Activists-of-Philly/

slight chance of some verbal confrontation between zoo or rodeo patrons and the Animal ACTivists of Philly.

It is unknown whether protesting groups have obtained the necessary police permits for the above rally.

Banking and Finance
Emergency Services
Government Facilities

6. ***Militia Members Fear an Imminent Ban on Ammunition***

New American militia communications have cited with alarm a proposal now before the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that would, according to militia members, "ban all traditional ammunition under the Toxic Substance Control Act of 1976, a law in which Congress expressly exempted ammunition."

One of the militia communications raising the issue claimed that if the petition, submitted by anti-hunting Center for Biological Diversity (CBD), is passed, then "the result will be a total ban on all ammunition containing lead-core components, including hunting and target-shooting rounds."[8]
Militia members noted that the "EPA must decide to accept or reject this petition by November 1, 2010, the day before the midterm elections. Today, the EPA has opened to public comment the CBD petition. The comment period ends on October 31, 2010." The communications on the potential ban include a link to the relevant governmental website, a sample letter to send to one's Congressmen and the official mailing address of Lisa P. Jackson, Administrator of the EPA.

******** ANALYSIS ****** T/I/W Rating: LOW-to-MODERATE**

Analyst's Comment: Despite the alarm sounded among militia members over the proposed ammunition ban, thus far the response is focusing on legal and political redress. However, recent communications from extremist militia fora indicate a growing restlessness and self-reinforcing feeling of impending confrontation with the federal government. These have been increasing in frequency and severity in the past several months, with new communications opening the floor for a discussion of what the actual "tipping point" might be that justifies armed Americans attacking their government.

Militia communications have named several possible "tipping points" or "thresholds of abuse," such as: declaration of martial law, non-citizens given the ability to vote, a central banking system's "regionalization" of the USA, police confiscating citizens' weapons or a border war with Mexicans.

Any future anti-gun legislation could inflame much of the militia community, sending the less stable-minded over their own personal "tipping point." For some

[8] http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/

militia members, the enactment of a regulation banning currently legal ammunition will be seen as proof that the government is, in fact, incrementally taking away gun rights. Recent communications among militia members indicate a new level of preparation for what many seem to see as an imminent confrontation (For example, "I am ... stocking up on everything I can get my hands on as fast as I can now. Guns, ammo, gear, food and water.")

In Pennsylvania, there are both ideologically moderate militias and virulently anti-government militias. The latter may include the **91ST WARRIOR MILITIA** and the **BROOKVILLE TIGER MILITIA**, which had members jailed in 2008 for illegal sale of explosives. Others include the **SONS OF LIBERTY MILITIA**, the broad-based Pennsylvania Citizens Militia[9] and the Pennsylvania Constitutional Militia,[10] as well as regional members of the **ROGUE NATION ETERNAL MILITIA** (**RNEM**) movement.[11] (*For more on the RNEM specifically and the trend towards apocalyptic thinking among militias generally, see PIB Nos. 73 and 121.*)

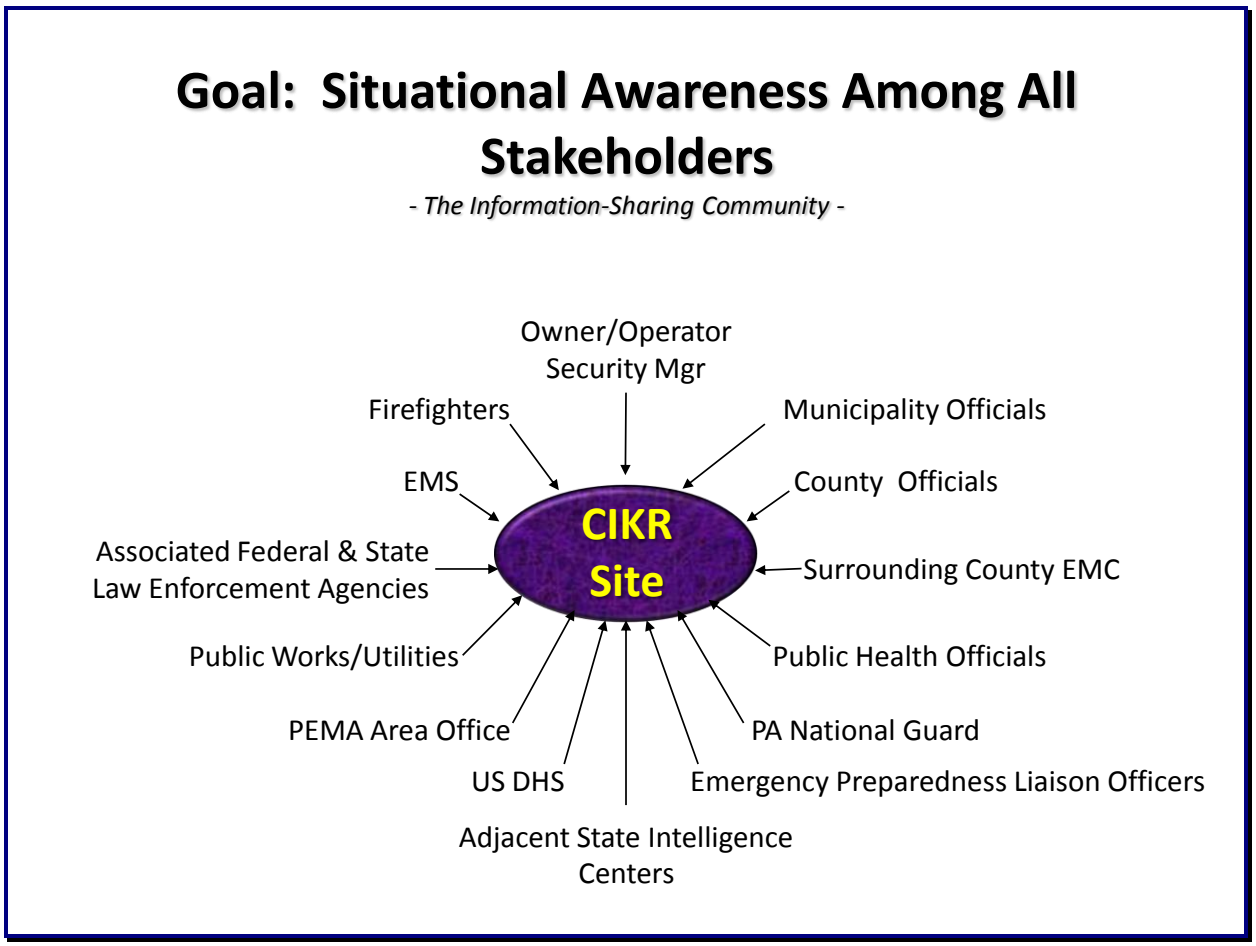
RNEM and others have been promoting armed, dispersed and "leaderless resistance" against what they define as the "New World Order." Such a "resistance" is, by its nature, prone to such independent actions based on narrowly defined "tipping points." Targets for militia extremists include FEMA, the United Nations, banks, as well as the police, the military and other federal agencies.

There are no emerging Indicators, Threats and/or Warnings at this time for the following sectors:

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD
BANKING AND FINANCE
CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES
COMMERCIAL NUCLEAR REACTORS, MATERIALS & WASTE
CRITICAL MANUFACTURING
DAMS
DEFENSE INDUSTRIAL BASE
GOVERNMENT FACILITIES[12]
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
NATIONAL MONUMENTS AND ICONS
PUBLIC HEALTH AND HEALTHCARE

[9] http://www.1stpa-militia.net/
[10] http://www.constitution.org/mil/pa/mil_uspa.htm
[11] http://wn.com/The_Rogue_Nation_Eternal_Militia
[12] Educational Facilities Sub-Sector: Security directors, students and faculty of all Pennsylvania-based colleges and universities participating in educational exchange programs abroad need to remain cognizant of emerging, country-specific threats, indicators and warnings.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS
TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS
WATER



THREAT / INDICATOR / WARNING RATING	*DESCRIPTION*
LOW (Level 4)	Available intelligence and recent events indicate that hostile elements currently have little intent or capability to take action against the target. Although it cannot be ruled out, an attack is unlikely based on currently available intelligence.
MODERATE (Level 3)	Available intelligence and recent events indicate that hostile elements currently have the intent and capability to take action against the target. An attack is likely to be a priority and might well be executed.
SEVERE (Level 2)	Available intelligence and recent events indicate that hostile elements currently have the intent and capability to take action against the target. Additional information is also available on the nature of the threat. An attack on the target is a priority and is likely.
CRITICAL (Level 1)	Available intelligence and recent events indicate that hostile elements not only have the intent and capability, but also are actively planning to take action against the target within a matter of days (up to two weeks). An attack or action is imminent.

Source Summary Statement

The Institute of Terrorism Research and Response (ITRR) produces this document specifically for the Pennsylvania Office of Homeland Security in support of National Priority #3: Implement the National Infrastructure Protection Plan (NIPP) and all public and private sector, critical infrastructure protection-related initiatives and strategies.

The ITRR, a commercial information research and analysis organization, uses open-source, human and closed-source intelligence resources to derive patterns, trends, indicators, assessments and time-sensitive products. The ITRR used only native-tongue researchers (English, Hebrew, French, Arabic and Spanish) in the collection, interpretation, translation, analysis and production of this product. The analysis is performed by former law enforcement officials, counter-terrorism experts and military intelligence personnel.

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