PENNSYLVANIA INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN NO. 118

30 JULY 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.

SECTOR-SPECIFIC THREATS, INDICATORS AND/OR WARNINGS

Sector: GOVERNMENT FACILITIES

1. ***Update: Greater Intensification in Jihadist Threats to France***

Jihadist communications threatening French interests are steeply increasing in frequency and intensity due to a number of events:

- Newly-intercepted communications re: recent French legislation banning the full-face veil in public spaces (PIB Nos. 114, 115 and 117)
- Al-Qaeda's Ayman Al-Zawahiri condemnation of the pending ban
- Recent French participation with Mauritania in a counterterrorism raid that killed six Al-Qaeda members
- The subsequent French declaration of "war" on **AL-QAEDA OF THE ISLAMIC MAGHREB** (**AQIM**) after a French hostage, Michel Germaneau, was murdered.

In a fresh communication, which is itself apparently adapted from a 2008 call for *jihad* against France, jihadists are encouraged "to attack Paris." The writer explains "the importance of the strategy and the benefits of striking Paris, the capital of France." He then names the most significant and symbolic assets and tourist sites in Paris, noting that the city "is an important symbolic capital, which includes these museums and centers on the one hand, and the strength of air transportation on the other hand. It is also the capital of major European businesses which depend on it."

The communication calls on the *jihad* fighters to "struggle and destroy the economy" and to "make the deals collapse" and "break [French President Nicolas] Sarkozy." Other "benefits" from attacking Paris cited in the communication included:

- "Make the people of France turn against Sarkozy and lower his popularity."
- "To teach the surrounding European countries a lesson, and in particular Germany and everyone who participated in the war against Muslim countries."
- "Create situations of panic in the European capitals, in anticipation of similar strikes in the event of their continued participation in the war against Islam."
- "Create social discontent of the political class, and loss of the historical and currently important symbols of Paris."
- "Explaining that Muslim conditions and discrimination in France are one of the causes of the raids ..."

In a separate communication, a brief message targets Sarkozy and the French people:

> "We say to Sarkozy and his group: You got yourself into a dead-end. You said and promised that the killing of the hostage won't go unpunished. And we say that the blood of our martyrs because of your betrayal won't go unpunished. And to the French people we say: you have chosen your government that fights Islam; wait for the results of that. It won't be long before we will light the fire beneath your feet and your homes."

In reaction to the counterterrorism raid by Mauritania (which, as noted, included French support), jihadists have begun issuing communications threatening that nation as well. According to one of these communications, an **AQIM** leader warned Mauritania five months ago "not to have alliance with the enemies in order to fight the jihad fighters. ...That statement was a message of peace to those countries. ... The action of the Mauritanian army is a response to the message from the jihad fighters; they preferred to keep on serving the French ..."

(Echoing several previous alerts on the matter, subsequent official American and Australian advisories warned of attempts to kidnap and kill Westerners in Niger, northern Mali, Mauritania and Algeria.)

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

Analysts' Note: Expect jihadist response(s) to the Mauritanian and French operations, as well as to multiple factors related to France (cited most recently in PIB No. 117).

The current period - while the issue of the veil ban is under public debate and, assuming the law will be passed in the near term thereafter - would be the most likely time to see such an increase in violent agitation. As already noted in May 2010 (PAIB No. 91), analysts have intercepted **AQIM** communications naming France, Spain and Mauritania as urgent current targets for attack.

An increase in the risk of lone-wolf or self-starting cells targeting both French cities and French assets worldwide can be expected. In addition, France's majority-Muslim neighborhoods may see increasing unrest that draws its inspiration from the veil ban and from recent events in Africa.

Potential Impact to Pennsylvania Assets

Students and researchers from Pennsylvania-based educational facilities taking part in exchange programs in France (e.g., University of Pennsylvania, the University of Pittsburgh, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Clarion University of Pennsylvania, East Stroudsburg University, Mansfield University and Westminster College) should be made aware of the increased risk factors at the current time. In this regard, the French government has produced a list of 750 "no-go zones" (officially known as *Zones Urbaines Sensibles* (Sensitive Urban Zones) considered to be high-risk (see http://sig.ville.gouv.fr/Atlas/ZUS, in French).

In Pennsylvania, high-visibility French assets that may draw the attention of jihadist adversaries include the offices of France's Consulate General in Center City Philadelphia, the *Alliance Française de Philadelphie* and the Alliance Française de Pittsburgh, which meets in the University of Pittsburgh's Cathedral of Learning.

Sectors: Commercial Facilities and Government Facilities

2. *'A Warning to the Americans'*

An individual identifying himself as "Abu Suleiman Al-Nasser" has sent a "warning to the Americans" by way of jihadist communication channels stating:

> "We heard that one of your churches is organizing a gathering in order to burn the Qur'an in memory of 9/11," Al-Nasser writes. "If you will do that, wait for a war unlike that you have seen before. Your blood will flow like a river. We will not rest until we kill dozens of you for each word in the book of Allah that you will damage."

The event to which the subject refers is the Dove World Outreach Center's "International Burn A Koran Day," which is scheduled to take place on 11 September 2010. The Dove World Outreach Center is located in Gainesville, Florida.[1]

[1] http://www.doveworld.org/

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

This threat, dated 29 July 2010, would not present a significant risk indicator alone; however, it comes during a period of increasing jihadist communications indicating the intent to conduct terror operations within the US (PIB Nos. 106, 113, 115 and 116 for specific examples and further analysis). As a result, the current threat triggered by planned events in Gainesville, Florida, may serve as an additional indicator during this period of heightened jihadist focus on targets throughout the US.

The communication is consistent with recent jihadist calls for lone-wolf or small cell actions within the CONUS. Unlike other recent jihadist communications, however, this communication provides a strong, specific religious motive to those individuals who would engage in terror activity.

The planned Qur'an burning, now publicized in international jihadist forums, is also likely to cause a reaction against American interests in predominantly Muslim countries. In 2005, over 15 people died during worldwide rioting and attacks following published rumors that American interrogators had flushed a Qur'an down a toilet in Guantanamo Bay.

Analysts and researchers will continue to monitor for indicators of risk to Pennsylvania assets - including protests, vandalism or terrorism - related to the above event.

Sector: GOVERNMENT FACILITIES

3. ***Protest Against Solitary Confinement***

The Human Rights Coalition (HRC) is planning to hold a protest against solitary confinement in Pennsylvania prisons on 2 August 2010. The gathering is slated to take place at the Yeadon Borough Hall (Delaware County) during a Pennsylvania House Judiciary Committee hearing on solitary confinement.[2]

Under the slogan "Solitary Confinement is Torture!" HRC protesters are calling for the Judiciary Committee to investigate solitary confinement conditions in Pennsylvania:

> "This is an opportunity for all of us who know that solitary confinement is torture to make our voices heard!" the call to action says. "It's vital that we show up & let the members of the Judiciary Committee and the press know that they must take immediate action to bring an end to this barbaric and inhumane practice."

HRC supporters are called to "show up early & testify with us!"

[2] http://www.hrc.org/

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

Analysts' Note: There is currently no indication of planned or expected unruly or illegal behavior. Law enforcement responsibilities at the event will likely be limited to crowd control and building access control; however, this may also include preventing determined protesters from disrupting the formal hearing at Yeadon Borough Hall.

It is unknown whether HRC has filed for the necessary police permits for this protest.

Sectors: COMMERCIAL FACILITIES; ENERGY; GOVERNMENT FACILITIES

4. *Update: Natural Gas Drilling Events That May Draw Unruly Crowds*

In continuation of research (PIB Nos. 107 and 113) regarding flashpoints for confrontations over natural gas drilling in Pennsylvania (including those in the Marcellus Shale formation), the following upcoming meetings have been singled out by anti-drilling activists:

- 2 August 2010: South Branch Tunkhannock Creek Watershed meeting, at Keystone College in La Plume, at 19:00. (Lackawanna County)
- 2 August 2010: Fell Township Supervisors Meeting, specific location has not yet been identified by the anti-drilling activists (Lackawanna County)
- 3 August 2010: Tunkhannock Commissioners meeting, at the town court house, at 9:00. (Wyoming County)
- 12 August 2010: EPA Meeting in Binghamton, New York
- 11 September 2010: Pennsylvania Forestry Association meeting to discuss initiatives/activities in the Marcellus Shale formation. Location unidentified, but indications are Mechanicsburg. (Cumberland County)

The following public events have also been cited by anti-drilling activists as appropriate venues for providing information or protesting:

- 11 August 2010: The Gas Drilling Awareness Coalition (GDAC) will be holding an informational meeting at the First United Methodist Church in Dallas, at 19:00. (Luzerne County)[3]
- 12 August 2010: Musikfest in Bethlehem. (Lehigh and Northampton Counties)

[3] http://gasdrillingawarenesscoalition.wordpress.com/

- 14 August 2010: Christy Mathewson Day Parade in Factoryville at 10:00. (Wyoming County)

- 14 August 2010: Cabot Community Picnic at the Montrose High School, from 10:00 to 14:00. **Note**: The Gas Drilling Awareness Coalition has released a special communication harshly ridiculing and criticizing this event. (Susquehanna County)

- 21 August 2010: Gas Stock 2010, an environmentalist rally focused on the Marcellus Shale drilling, at the Luzerne County Fairgrounds in Dallas; scheduled from 11:00-19:00. (Luzerne County)[4]

- 28 August 2010: An environmentalist rally in Chenango Valley State Park, near Binghamton in New York.

Also of note in this regard is the upcoming screening of the anti-drilling movie *Gasland* on 5 August 2010 in Pittsburgh (AIR Studio, 518 Foreland St.).

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

Analyst's Note: Expect most of the aforementioned events and meetings to draw peaceful and legal protests; however, exceptions are very possible depending on the size and type of the crowd. For example, a 14 July 2010 hearing of the Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) in Trenton was disrupted by over 600 environmentalist activists (PIB No. 113). The activists, drawn from across the Eastern Seaboard, oppose natural gas drilling currently under discussion in the Delaware River Basin. They had heated confrontations with members and supporters of the Northern Wayne Property Owners Alliance (NWPOA) - who are in favor of preserving the right to sell their properties in the Delaware River Basin to energy companies - when the groups met outside the building where the DRBC hearing took place.

The escalating conflict over natural gas drilling in Pennsylvania may define local fault lines and potentially increase area environmentalist activity or eco-terrorism. GDAC communications have cited Northeastern Pennsylvania counties, specifically Wyoming, Lackawanna and Luzerne, as being in real "need of our help" and as facing a "drastic situation."

For its part, the **NORTH EAST ANARCHIST NETWORK** (**NEAN**) recently focused on the Marcellus Shale natural gas industry in its targeting and motivational communications.[5] Furthermore, recent **EARTH FIRST!** networking communications have also focused on the Marcellus Shale natural gas industry as a high priority target in the New York-Pennsylvania region. Researchers point out that the areas of significant drilling activity in Pennsylvania have also been the scene of eco-terrorist vandalism to drilling equipment.

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[4] http://dothemountain.wordpress.com/2010/07/24/gas-stock-2010/
[5] http://www.neanarchist.net/

Local officials and law enforcement agencies should remain aware of the potential for large, sometimes hostile confrontations between landowners, anti-drilling environmentalist militants and gas drilling company employees (e.g., the above-mentioned Cabot Community Picnic in Susquehanna County). Such confrontations may be triggered by further high-profile public meetings on the issue or by regional gas industry activities.

Communities with small police departments are advised to review contingency plans in the event that such meetings or confrontations escalate significantly. It is unknown at this time whether the necessary police permits have been obtained by any of the protesting groups.

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
- Emergency Services
- Government Facilities[6]
- Information Technology
- National Monuments and Icons
- Postal and Shipping
- Public Health and Healthcare
- Telecommunications
- Transportation Systems
- Water

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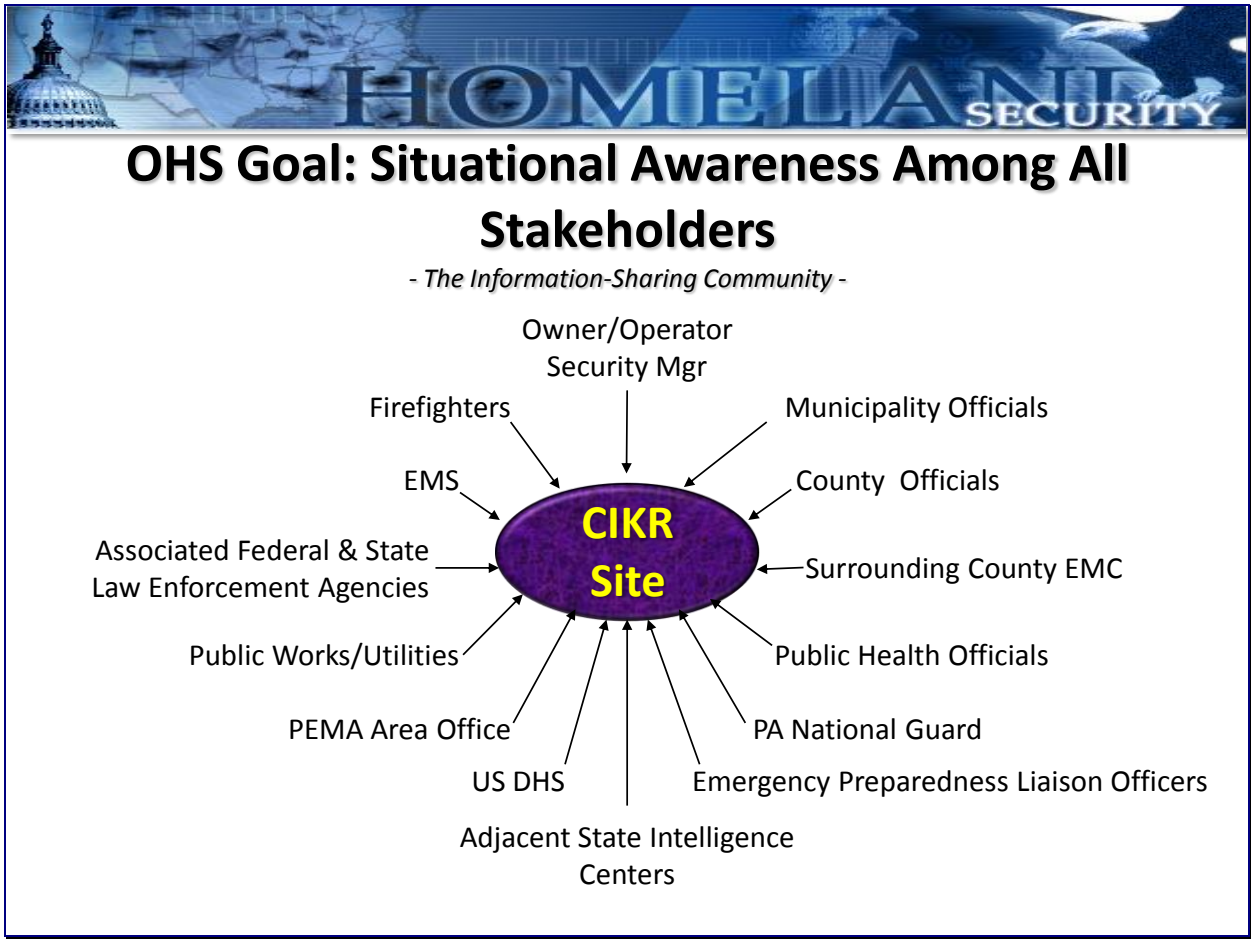
[6] Educational Facilities Sub-Sector: Security directors, students and faculty of all Pennsylvania-based colleges and universities participating in educational exchange programs abroad need to remain cognizant of emerging, country-specific threats, indicators and warnings.


HOMELAND SECURITY
OHS Goal: Situational Awareness Among All Stakeholders
- The Information-Sharing Community -
Owner/Operator Security Mgr
Firefighters
Municipality Officials
EMS
County Officials
CIKR Site
Associated Federal & State Law Enforcement Agencies
Surrounding County EMC
Public Works/Utilities
Public Health Officials
PEMA Area Office
PA National Guard
US DHS
Emergency Preparedness Liaison Officers
Adjacent State Intelligence Centers

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.

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