COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS
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PREVENT - PROTECT - RESPOND - RECOVER

PENNSYLVANIA INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN NO. 115

23 JULY 2010

The Pennsylvania Office of Homeland Security produces this informational/intelligence bulletin specifically for all potentially-affected stakeholders of Pennsylvania-based Critical Infrastructures, Key Resources and Significant Special Events. Pursuant to the USA PATRIOT Act of 2001, Homeland Security Act of 2002, Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 and 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." Consider the information contained herein in context with other known information, indicators, threats and warnings.

CONTINUING STRATEGIC ANALYSIS

1. *Increased Tempo of Jihadist Chatter Focusing on US Homeland*

New jihadist communications indicates intent to conduct terrorist operations in the US in the near term; these appear to fit the pattern of increased tempo of such rhetoric currently focusing on the American homeland.

Describing Muslim "rage" at US State Department insults against "a sister of ours," and "threats and mocking" of the international jihad, an unidentified jihadist addresses Americans directly in an Arabic communication. The jihadist expresses the intent to return to major [terrorist] operations within a major American city.

The jihadist states, "We attacked you once in Detroit ... and we attacked you again ... in New York." Of the next attack, he asks, "Will it be in Chicago? Will it be in Los Angeles? Will it be in Boston?" However, in a subsequent communication the same writer declares, "We attacked you twice in New York, but it didn't hurt you. The third time will be a major blow."

ITRR analysts note that, in the same communication, the jihadist calls for lone-wolf or small cell actions by stating, "Sons of the Islamic nation: don't wait for the leaders, but take the initiative and start to work ..."

As noted above, the latest communications came in quick succession after other threats against CONUS. These include:

- A "Message from an Islamic Soldier to America and its Citizens Around the World" (PIB No. 113) - a jihadist warning in English that "there are a lot of

Muslim men who are very interested by fighting you ... but if you think that your new sonographic devices in your airports preclude us from reaching our targets, i tell you that you have not understood the lesson well." He further added, "i d'ont advice you to believe that your aircraft carriers or ships are safe in sea and your planes are safe in air or they are far from the fire of our fighters and their ambushes ..."

The "next shock," the communication warned, is "coming soon. God willing, we will attack you from where you don't expect. God willing, we will attack you in the sea, land and air." It concluded, "In the near future, God willing, in a new chapter in the battle with you. God willing, the next attacks will make you forget shock of 11/9."

- In the same jihadist forum, Arabic communications were exchanged theorizing about the impact a "dirty bomb" would have were it detonated on Wall Street.

- **AL-QA'IDA IN THE ARABIAN PENINSULA** (**AQAP**) just released its first official magazine in English and a text excerpt from the magazine by its American rising star, Anwar Al-Awlaki. In the magazine and the sermon, Awlaki makes it abundantly clear that Islam demands attacks on America and Americans at the current time (PIB No. 106)

Analyst's Note: There is significance in the fact that the communications focusing on striking the American homeland have been issued in quick succession, and that they have come from both *Al-Qa'ida* key players and unidentified (but apparently active) jihadists.

As mentioned in several previous editions of the PIB, maritime ports and airports, rail and light rail, as well as large public venues in Pennsylvania remain desirable targets for jihadist attacks along the lines detailed in recent adversarial communications. Readers should review and consider past advisories that increasing international traffic at Philadelphia International Airport, along with its central location, significantly raises its profile as a target for jihadist agents. As the second-most, well-traveled airport in Pennsylvania, and as a US military transit point with facilities for military personnel and their families, Pittsburgh International Airport would also be a high-profile target for such terrorists.

The continuing jihadist search for methods to foil technology-based security measures should focus attention on the need to heighten awareness of behavioral and situational clues indicating hostile intent. Personnel responsible for security in Pennsylvania mass transportation or other public venues should note the possibility of explosive devices concealed as otherwise innocuous items. This can include everything from cardboard boxes posted for delivery, sports paraphernalia, prosthetic limbs or more familiar and effective means.

SECTOR-SPECIFIC THREATS, INDICATORS AND/OR WARNINGS

Sector: Dams and Energy

2. *Targeting: Hydroelectric Plants*

On Wednesday, 21 July 2010, a cell of up to five terrorists (assumed to be jihadists) attacked a hydroelectric facility in the Russian Caucasus region. The attackers killed two guards, briefly took control of the station by confining the employees and then destroyed three plant generators using at least four separate explosive devices.

The facility had to be shut down, but the dam itself was not breached. It is unknown at this time if the attackers' intention was to cause major flooding by cracking the dam or merely to destroy the hydroelectric plant.

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

On 2 December 2009, in a statement claiming responsibility for the 27 November 2009 double bombing of the Nevsky Express in Russia, the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC)[1] reiterated its adherence to the worldwide jihadist strategy of focusing on the enemy's infrastructure assets, insofar as such attacks are feasible. In August 2009, Chechen jihadists of **MUWAHIDUN AL-RUSI** ("The Russian Monotheists") claimed to have sabotaged a major hydroelectric plant; the targeting focus is clear.

Hence, the new attack on the Caucasus hydroelectric plant is thus far assumed to be part of the lengthy, on-going jihad being waged by Muslim separatists in the Caucasus region.

More broadly, there is extensive intelligence, training, experience and knowledge sharing current underway among terrorists worldwide. Therefore, jihadists and separatist insurgents elsewhere are likely analyzing the execution, outcome and results of the attack on the Caucasus hydroelectric plant for lessons they can apply on their own local front.

If the tactic and targeting displayed in the aforementioned Caucasus attack is deemed effective among jihadist strategic analysts, such attacks are likely to be repeated. Although there are no credible indicators of attacks against US dams or energy sector facilities, Al-Qa'ida's intent and capability to destroy critical infrastructure remain omnipresent. Security personnel and law enforcement agencies responsible for Pennsylvania's hydroelectric facilities should be advised of the potential for increased jihadist interest in plant and dam vulnerabilities.

[1] http://www.iec.ch

Among the highest profile relevant facilities in Pennsylvania are the following:

- York Haven Hydro Station on the Susquehanna River, in the jurisdiction of Dauphin, Lancaster and York counties
- Holtwood Hydroelectric Plant, also on the Susquehanna River, in the jurisdiction of Lancaster and York counties
- Safe Harbor Hydroelectric Station on the Susquehanna River, and also in the jurisdiction of Lancaster and York counties
- Kinzua Dam on the Allegheny River in Allegheny National Forest, in Warren County
- Muddy Run Pumped Storage Facility in Lancaster County
- Seneca Pumped Storage Generating Station in Warren County

Sectors: Commercial Facilities and Energy

3. *Chevron Execs in RAN Sites*

The **RAINFOREST ACTION NETWORK** (**RAN**) is encouraging supporters to "adopt" a Chevron corporation board member to target for action that "forces Chevron to clean up their toxic legacy in Ecuador," in the language of a new RAN communication.[2]

RAN claims Chevron has "used every dirty public relations and legal trick in the book to avoid cleaning up its mess in the Amazon rainforest." The organization goes on to call for "transforming Chevron from the inside!" What that means is "[c]onvincing just one Chevron adoptee to do the right thing ..."

The methods suggested to achieve the foregoing - presented alongside a detailed list of the Chevron board members, their corporate addresses and contact information - include: writing letters, sending "photos of families impacted by oil pollution in the rainforest, visiting the Chevron board members at their offices, turning up at their speaking engagements, putting up posters of them around their home town, etc. RAN implores: "unleash your creativity to ensure your board member listens and forces Chevron to clean up their toxic legacy in Ecuador."

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

The methods RAN explicitly suggests in the above communications to petition Chevron corporate board members do not represent an explicit call to illegality or "direct action." However, the call to "unleash your creativity" is broad enough to

[2] http://ran.org

encompass any of the activities RAN and its allies have been known for in the recent and distant past.

Previous facilities targeted by RAN have been the scene of illegal actions including trespassing, lock-downs and vandalism. In one episode, RAN members held a sit-in at the Washington, DC, offices of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on 8 July 2010 (PIB No. 110).

Furthermore, RAN has been a frequent collaborator with **CLIMATE GROUND ZERO**.[3] On 14 July 2010, Climate Ground Zero and **MOUNTAIN JUSTICE** activists locked themselves to mining equipment on Coal River Mountain, West Virginia, to protest mountaintop removal mining.[4]

In a January 2010 communication, RAN noted that an environmentalist training event was being conducted by Climate Ground Zero and added, "[M]ore actions are expected throughout 2010. It's going to be a kick ass year."

Analyst's Note: None of the Chevron board members listed in RAN communications live or have offices in Pennsylvania. While there are a host of Chevron and Chevron-affiliated gas stations in Pennsylvania, it does not appear at this time that RAN is formally targeting such assets. Analysts will continue to monitor environmentalist, militant communications for indications of targeting.

Sectors: Commercial Facilities and Government Facilities

4. ***Rallies 'to Defend Lancaster County's Civil Rights'***

The Committee to Defend Civil Rights in Lancaster, a coalition of civil action groups, is planning two "Unity Rallies" for 24 July and 29 July 2010. Both events, called to oppose "the elimination of the County's Human Relations Commission," are to be held in Binns Park in Lancaster County.

After the 29 July gathering in Binns Park, protesters "will march in unity to the public hearing on the elimination of Lancaster County's Human Relations Commission."

Speakers at the events include local politicians, church leaders, NAACP branch representatives and a member of the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission.

Sponsoring organizations behind the rallies include:

- American Civil Liberties Union
- Congregation Shaarei Shomayim
- Equality PA
- Crispus Attucks Community Center
- Governor's Advisory Commission on Latino Affairs

[3] http://climategroundzero.net
[4] http://mountainjustice.org

- Lancaster Coalition for Peace and Justice
- Lancaster County Council of Churches
- Lancaster City Human Relations Commission Board
- Lancaster City Human Relations Commission
- Lancaster County Coalition for Religious and Social Justice
- Lancaster County Democratic Committee
- Lancaster County Democratic Women's Association
- Lancaster Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Organizing Committee
- SEIU Healthcare Pennsylvania
- Spanish American Civic Association
- Theatre For Transformation
- Vision of Hope MCC
- YWCA of Lancaster

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

Due to the platform ideologies of the sponsoring groups and the contemplated protests, analysts do not anticipate unruly or illegal behavior; however, the possibility that these groups will attract counter/anti groups is always present. Law enforcement responsibilities at the events will generally be limited to crowd control and traffic direction (possibly at the 29 July event).

Analysts are unaware whether the necessary police permits have been obtained by the sponsoring groups.

Sector: Government Facilities

5. *Update: France Veil Ban Elicits Jihadist Response*

Newly intercepted jihadist communications indicate a vehement reaction to the recent vote by the French lower house of parliament to ban the full-face veil in all public venues (PIB No. 114). The proposed ban will still need to pass the French Senate in September 2010, but it is already apparently going to face a legal challenge claiming that it violates existing European Union laws.

In the relevant communication, the jihadist commentator says: "All that is left is to wait for Senate approval of the law. This means that few things are going to happen: they are going to attack our women; they'll need to remove their veils or pay a fine - a fine for their devotion to maintaining their dignity."

Impatient to wait for the outcome of the vote or the possible court challenge, the jihadist continues: "Do we wait until that will happen and put our heads in the sand, and wait until an international organization will object to that law instead of us? Do we allow those sisters to feel there isn't a nation behind them? Do we allow the infidels to play with our feelings and symbols and, by doing so, prove to them that we are a weak nation?"

Rejecting any other path, the communication declares, "Jihad is the way to preserve the religion and the dignity and security of our sisters. We need to declare war - a war in which everything is allowed as a response to the war they declared on us. From now on, we need to organize for war as much as we can."

To this end, the jihadist explains, "The jihad fighters should get together ... as individuals or groups, in the open or in secret. We need to promote strong operations in France. From now on, all French women and men are a target since the law has passed. We need operations against them that they have yet to imagine as a response for passing that law." At the same time, the objective of attacking now is so that "they don't dare pass the law in its final phase and execute it."

In addition, the jihadist adds, "the French should feel that the war is coming to France and it will strike all the national symbols, and that what has happened to the Americans isn't so far from them. This war will reach all their interests everywhere ... the moment that the dignity of one of our sisters will be ruined. Then, the stream of blood won't stop flowing."

The war will start in earnest, he writes, "as soon as they will attack the first Muslim woman (will take off her *hijab*) ..." Until then, "we should start to kidnap French people - men and women - just as a response to the decision on the law; and every *hijab* removed from one of our sisters will mean the taking of another French soul. ... [As] soon as the law will be implemented, all their interests around the world will become our target - in Yemen, Somalia, Iraq, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Algeria, Africa and Palestine. Who is more suitable for carrying out these attacks than my African brothers? Since [French] interests are spread there and the targets there are easier to attack."

In addition, the communication warns jihadists everywhere to be conservative with their bluster, "Every threat that won't be executed will show how weak we are ..."

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

These new jihadist communications confirm indications of a current heightened level of risk in France and abroad.

"In addition to the veil ban, analysts also cited violent unrest, including weapons fire, in predominately Muslim areas in recent days. (Correction: In PIB No. 114, the rioters in a separate area of the identified areas of unrest, Saint-Aignan, were members of the Roma [Gypsy] community, and not as published.)"

Analysts' Note: European veil bans have regularly led to jihadist communications calling for attacks on the nations passing said laws. Local jihadist preachers and international jihadist communications often incite Muslim youth to act against the nearest "infidel" targets guilty of "denigrating" Islam.

The current period - while the issue of the veil ban is under public debate and, assuming the law is 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 (PIB No. 91) **AL-QA'IDA IN THE ISLAMIC MAGHREB** (**AQIM**) communications have named France, Spain and Mauritania as urgent current targets for attack.

Depending on the level of attention the ban is given in the Western media, as well as by senior jihadist leaders, analysts foresee a possible increase in the risk of lone-wolf or self-starting cells targeting both French cities and French assets worldwide. In addition, unrest in France's majority-Muslim neighborhoods may see increasing unrest that draws its inspiration from the veil ban and from recent clashes with police.

Students and researchers from Pennsylvania taking part in exchange programs in France (such as from the 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 informed 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 sensible (*"Sensitive Urban Zones"), considered to be high-risk (see http://sig.ville.gouv.fr/Atlas/ZUS, in French).

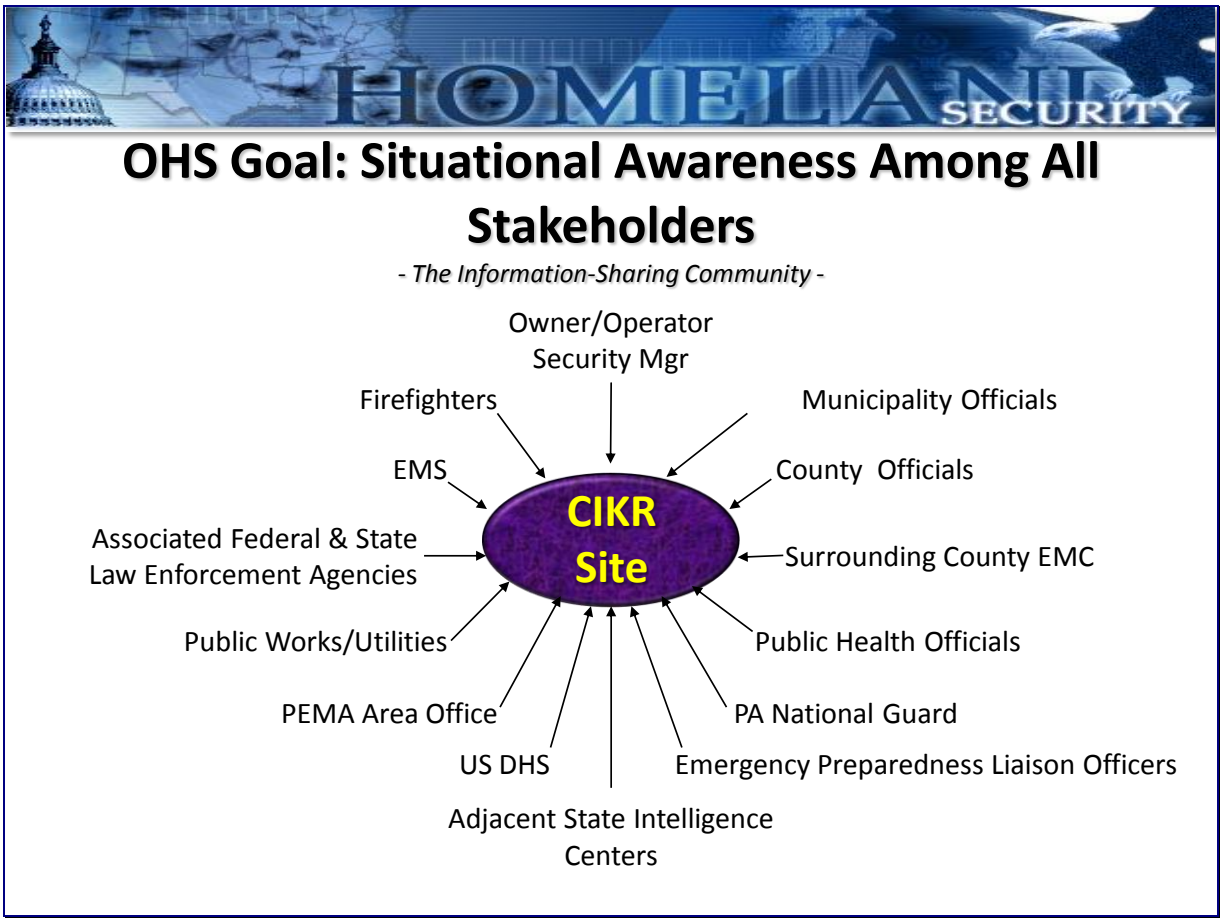
In Pennsylvania, high-visibility French assets that may draw the attention of jihadist adversaries include the offices of France's Consulate General in Center City Philadelphia and the *Alliance Française de Pittsburgh*, which meets in the University of Pittsburgh's Cathedral of Learning.

No emerging indicators, threats and/or warnings at this time for the following sectors:

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD
BANKING AND FINANCE
CHEMICAL
COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE
COMMUNICATIONS
CRITICAL MANUFACTURING
DEFENSE INDUSTRIAL BASE
EMERGENCY SERVICES
GOVERNMENT FACILITIES[5]
HEALTHCARE & PUBLIC HEALTH

[5] 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.

HOTELS AND LODGING
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
NATIONAL MONUMENTS & ICONS
NUCLEAR REACTORS, MATERIALS & WASTE
POSTAL & SHIPPING
PRIVATE SECTOR SECURITY
SOCIAL SERVICES
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.

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