



ACC Threat Information Fusion Cell



Homeland Defense Information Summary - 14 November, 2009

Headquarters Air Combat Command
Langley AFB, VA. 23665

General Awareness/Safety Information

(U//FOUO//LES) 2009 Homeland Terrorist Plots & Attacks: A Transportation Perspective

Source: Transportation Security Administration

ACC TIFC BLUF: The below product was produced by the Transportation Security Administration and serves as an excellent overview of recent Homeland terrorism plots. Although billed as a “transportation perspective”, this product and its summary of events covers tactics, techniques & procedures (TTPs) and threats that are relevant to all force protection disciplines.



Transportation
Security
Administration

2009 Homeland Terrorist Plots & Attacks:

A Transportation Perspective

Introduction

A recent increase in reported terrorist plots in the Homeland underscores the threat of domestic extremism, which is an ongoing concern for the transportation security community. Since January 2009, nine terrorist-inspired plots and attacks in the United States – some targeting transportation – have been uncovered and stopped. The information in this product, which is based upon open source information, could serve to assist operational components in a review of their security posture.

Plan to Launch Attack with Automatic Weapons

Plot Disrupted: October

Location: Massachusetts

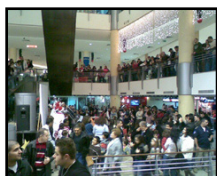
Charge/Status: Conspiracy To Provide Materiel Support To Terrorists And Resources For Use In Carrying Out A Conspiracy To Kill, Kidnap, Maim, Or Injure Persons Or Damage Property In A Foreign Country and Extraterritorial Homicide Of A U.S. National/Arrested by federal authorities, investigation continues.

USPERs Involved: Yes

Target: Shopping Mall

TTPs Resembled: November 2008 Mumbai financial district attacks

A Massachusetts man and his co-conspirators discussed their desire to participate in violent jihad against U.S. interests and radicalize others by distributing jihadi videos. The man and his co-conspirators discussed launching an attack at a U.S. shopping mall. Discussions included the coordination and weapons needed, and how to attack emergency responders. The plan was abandoned when they could not obtain the appropriate weapons. The man and two associates had traveled to the Middle East in 2002 and 2004 seeking to participate in terrorist training. (Source: U.S. Department of Justice, 21 October)



Shopping Mall

Attempt to Detonate a VBIED Outside Iconic Building

After Passing on Airport Site

Plot Disrupted: September

Location: Dallas and Ft. Worth, Texas

Charge/Status: Attempting To Use A Weapon Of Mass Destruction, VBIED/Pleaded not guilty, in federal custody, investigation continues

USPERs Involved: No

Target: Fountain Place, Dallas

TTPs Resembled: 1993 World Trade Center Bombing

Federal authorities in Texas charged a Jordanian citizen, who had met with undercover U.S. agents and discussed the possibility of conducting jihad against “the enemies of Islam.” As part of pre-operational planning, the accused man surveyed the Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport, but passed on it as a target due to what he describes as “enhanced security”. He eventually chose the Fountain Place office tower because it is one of Dallas’ most recognized buildings. The FBI arrested the man after he attempted to detonate a fake vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBIED) that he had parked in the Fountain Palace’s garage. (Source: FBI Release, 24 September & April 16; Dallas Morning News, 26 September)



Dallas Building

Man Potentially Involved in Explosives

Manufacturing

Plot Disrupted: September

Location: Colorado; New York

Charge/Status: Conspiracy To Use A Weapon Of Mass Destruction, explosives/Arrested by federal authorities

USPERs Involved: Yes

Target: Possibly NY mass transit, hotels and stadiums

TTPs Resembled: London 2005 mass transit bombings

A 24-year-old Colorado man was indicted in New York for corresponding with a senior al-Qa’ida leader, and preparing for a potential attack against U.S. interests. The accused resided in Pakistan from August 2008 to January 2009, where he received “detailed bomb-making instructions.” The USPER is alleged to have “purchased unusually large quantities of hydrogen peroxide and acetone products” —two ingredients that can be used in the manufacture of homemade explosives. Although the court documents do not reveal targets, the media reports that counterterrorism officials warned the New York mass transit system, hotels, and stadiums of an extensive plot to detonate backpack bombs. (Source: MSNBC; 18 September 2009; NY Daily News; 14 October, 2009; U.S. Department of Justice, 24 September, 2009; CBS News, 21 September)



New York City

Attempt to Employ a VBIED Against a Federal Building

Plot Disrupted: September

Location: Illinois

Charge/Status: Attempted Murder of Federal Employees and Attempted Use of a Weapon of Mass Destruction in the United States/In custody, investigation continues

USPERs Involved: Yes

Target: Federal building in Springfield, Illinois

TTPs Resembled: Oklahoma City Bombing

Federal authorities arrested an Illinois-based USPER for attempting to detonate a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBIED) outside the federal building in Springfield, Illinois. The man believed the United States is “at war with Islam.” The subject became radicalized in prison. He later expressed a desire to attend an overseas terrorist training camp and join the fight in Afghanistan, Somalia, or other locations. (Source: FBI release, 24 September; Associated Press, 24 September; CBP release, 8 May 2008)



Federal Building

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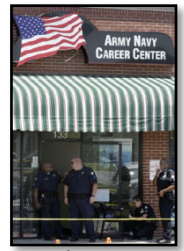
Multiple Arrests of Possible Extremists**Plot Disrupted:** August**Location:** North Carolina; Virginia**Charge/Status:** Providing Materiel Support to Terrorists and Conspiring to Murder, Kidnap, and Injure People Overseas/In federal custody, investigation continues**USPERs Involved:** Yes (6)**Target:** Quantico Marine Corps Base, Virginia**TTPs Resembled:** 2007 Fort Dix, NJ

Federal agents arrested 6 USPERs and 1 foreign national for potential terrorist planning. The group had obtained maps and conducted reconnaissance of the Quantico Marine Corps Base in Virginia. Three members were indicted on separate charges of plotting to conduct a terrorist attack on the base. The suspects trained in the United States for terrorist operations and were allegedly willing to die as martyrs. The group's leader received training in Pakistan and Afghanistan, and had experience fighting in Afghanistan. The leader and two accomplices traveled to Israel in July 2007 to participate in "violent jihad," but, Israel denied them entry, which brought attention to the group. (Source: FBI release, 7 August; AOL News, 29 July)

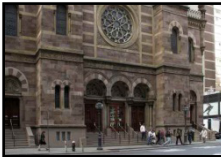
**Quantico****Attack on Military Recruiting Station in Little Rock****Plot Disrupted:** June**Location:** Arkansas**Charge/Status:** Pending, Murder**USPERs Involved:** Yes**Target:** Army-Navy recruiting station, Little Rock, Ark.

A USPER conducted a shooting attack on an Army-Navy recruiting station in Little Rock with a semi-automatic rifle and pistol, among other weapons. One soldier was killed and one wounded.

The USPER became the subject of an investigation after he traveled to Yemen in 2008, was arrested by Yemeni officials for using a false Somali passport, and was deported to the United States in January 2009. When interviewed regarding the shooting event, the arrested man stated he was angry about the killings of Muslims in Iraq and Afghanistan by the U.S. military. (Source: FOXNEWS.com, 2 June; CBP, 30 January; New York Times, 2 June)

**Army/Navy Center****Attempted Bombings and Simultaneous Surface-to-Air Missile Attack****Plot Disrupted:** May**Location:** New York City**Charge/Status:** Conspiracy To Use Weapons Of Mass Destruction In The United States And Conspiracy To Acquire And Use Anti-Aircraft Missiles/Still in custody, investigation continues**USPERs Involved:** Yes (4)**Target:** Jewish Temple and Community Center, NYC & National Guard Base at Stewart Airport, Newburgh, New York

Four men were arrested in New York City for a plot to detonate explosives near multiple targets, including a plan to simultaneously shoot Stinger surface-to-air missiles at military planes. The four men became radicalized while serving in prison, but lacked any formal terrorist training. One of the individuals stated he felt compelled "to do something to America" in retaliation for the war in Afghanistan. (Source: BBC, 21 May; NY Daily News, 21 May)

**Jewish Temple****Aspirational IED Attack on NY Transit System****Plot Disrupted:** January**Location:** New York**Charge/Status:** Multiple, including Conspiracy to Murder U.S. Nationals/Pled guilty to federal custody, investigation continues**USPERs Involved:** Yes**Target:** NYC transit system**TTPs Resembled:** Madrid train bombings

A suspected al-Qa'ida operative USPER admitted in federal court that, while in Pakistan, he trained with al-Qa'ida operatives and provided information about the New York transit system from his personal ridership experience. The USPER discussed the operations, communication equipment, and personnel of the Long Island Railroad (LIRR) and New York City transit systems to assist in planning an attack that would involve bombing New York City commuter trains. (Source: Reuters, 23 July; Los Angeles Times, 23 July)

**Long Island Railroad, NYC****USPER with Links to AQ Planning Attacks on Western Europe Targets****Plot Disrupted:** October**Location:** Illinois**Charge/Status:** Conspiracy to Murder and Maim in a Foreign Country and Conspiracy to Provide Materiel Support to Terrorists/In federal custody; investigation continues**USPERs Involved:** Yes (1)**Target:** Various targets in Denmark, including newspaper building, military barracks, and train station

Two men were arrested for their alleged roles in conspiring to attack Western European targets. One of the men, a USPER from Chicago, conducted surveillance of potential targets during two separate trips to Denmark in 2008 and 2009. He reported his overseas surveillance to high-ranking members of al-Qa'ida and Lashkar-e-Taiba. The second man, a Pakistani native and Canadian citizen, helped arrange the USPER's travels overseas. The USPER allegedly possessed videos of the Danish Jyllands-Posten newspaper building, a Danish military barracks, and the interior and exterior of Copenhagen's central train station. The attacks reportedly would be in response to the published cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad in 2005. (Source: Department of Justice release, 27 October; Reuters, 27 October; Chicago Tribune, 27 October)



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TSA - PSTR-81472-2009-11-05

Suspicious Activity/Tests of Security**(U//FOUO//LES) Suspicious Activity at Hancock Field Air National Guard Base, New York***Source: US Army Criminal Investigation Command, TERRSUM 045-09*

ACC TIFC BLUF: Two US persons attempted, multiple times, to enter Hancock Field Air National Guard base by claiming to have business with a college representative on the installation.

- (U//FOUO//LES) According to National Guard Significant Incident Reporting (SIR) released on 10 Nov 09, on 6 Nov 09, two individuals (PERSON1 and PERSON2) approached the Hancock Field Air National Guard base and attempted to

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gain access. PERSON1 and PERSON2 indicated they had an appointment with a local college representative on the base. A check of the college appointment list yielded negative results. The college was also called and they did not confirm an appointment with PERSON1 and PERSON2. Once PERSON1 and PERSON2 departed, one of them called the college and claimed they had an application to drop off. The college representative stated the application process could be conducted on-line. The report indicated PERSON1 and PERSON2 had tried a few months prior to enter the installation using the same type of story (10 Nov 09, National Guard SIR). (U) CID Analyst Comment: This incident, in it of itself, is not overly concerning, but coupled with the fact that PERSON1 and PERSON2 have tried to access the installation in the past, it is suspicious. Luckily, law enforcement practiced the appropriate security measures and PERSON1 and PERSON2 were not granted access to the installation.

(U//FOUO//LES) Suspicious Line of Questioning at Air National Guard Base, Illinois

Source: US Army Criminal Investigation Command, TERRSUM 045-09

ACC TIFC BLUF: Suspicious questioning of security forces occurred on two separate occasions. It's not known if the incidents are related, or if the same person (suspect) was involved each time, however, each event by itself represents suspicious activity and can be categorized as "eliciting information". (Questioning individuals at a level beyond mere curiosity about particular facets of a facility's or building's purpose, operations, security procedures, etc.)

- (U//FOUO//LES) According to GUARDIAN reporting released on 10 Nov 09, SOURCE1 (Air National Guard member) reported he was specifically asked on 4 Nov 09, questions related to the number of persons working the main gate, their opinion is it alright to have one member up there alone, and being asked about tazer training being conducted by Security Forces personnel. SOURCE stated the tazer training was something that wasn't known by many so they felt it was abnormal for the person to know that.
- (U//FOUO//LES) On 7 Nov 09, SOURCE 2 (Air National Guard member) was questioned by an unidentified male employee (PERSON1) of an identified US business, specific questions about the base's security posture. PERSON1 asked if there was always a truck parked behind the gate, do the gates always open early in the morning for people, is this just a drill weekend or are there always that many people there, and are there always that many people at the base all the time or are there more there during the week (10 Nov 09, GUARDIAN 135287_SI).

(U//FOUO//LES) Suspicious Activity at a Washington DC Hotel

Source: Washington Regional Threat and Analysis Center, Suspicious Activity Report

ACC TIFC BLUF: Two separate bomb threats called into a Washington DC hotel, while criminal and dangerous, are not by themselves necessarily suspicious; however, the 29 Oct 09 incident at another DC hotel detailed by a WRTAC analyst in the final paragraph seems to suggest a pattern of suspicious activity consistent with "testing of security".

- (U//FOUO) November 13, 2009. During the course of a four (4) day period personnel at USBUS1 on New Hampshire Avenue, N/W have reported two bomb threats. The threats listed below were entered into the Alert Management System (AMS) Suspicious Activity Reporting (SAR) database.
 - Bomb Threat/Hotel: On 11/9/09 at 2333 hours USPERS1, Director of Security, USBUS1, New Hampshire Avenue, N/W, Washington, D.C. reported an unknown black male caller telephoned in a bomb threat. He stated, "There's a f*#king bomb in your hotel", then he hung up the phone. A sweep of the hotel was completed by hotel security with negative results. The on-scene Officer was USPERS1, badge #XXXX.
 - Bomb Threat/Hotel: On 11/13/09 at 0042 hours the complainant, USPERS3, front desk hotel attendant reported he received a bomb threat at USBUS1, New Hampshire Avenue, N/W, Washington, D.C. The suspect, only identified as a black male, stated, "There's a f*#king bomb in your hotel"! The suspect added the bomb was inside the hotel stairway and that it would detonate in thirty seconds. MPD Officers

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responded to the scene, canvassed all of the stairways with hotel security, and found no hazardous materials or suspicious packages. The on-scene officer was USPERS4, Badge #XXXX.

- WRTAC Analyst Note: Even though there are no current credible threats for USBUS1, on October 29, 2009 two suspicious persons entered and exited USBUS2, 16th Street, N/W, Washington, D.C. without registering. The suspicious couple left a suitcase behind containing shredded newspaper. These events are indicative of "Testing Existing Security Measures". Hotel security personnel and MPD patrol officers should remain extremely aware of their surroundings and investigate or report any suspicious activities.

(U//FOUO//LES) Suspicious Vehicle Parked in Front of Military Recruiting Center, Minnesota

Source: US Army Criminal Investigation Command, TERRSUM 045-09; 10 Nov 08, USAREC SIR 10-304

ACC TIFC BLUF: Suspicious activity, in this case possible surveillance and/or testing or probing of security measures, near military recruitment centers is of particular concern, especially in light of the events at the Little Rock Recruitment Center in June 09. While this particular incident is under investigation and may prove to be innocent, the situational awareness displayed by recruitment center personnel, and their decision to increase force protection measures until the potential threat had passed, is worth mentioning. Situational awareness and slight changes in security posture can go a long way toward discouraging an attack.

- (U//FOUO//LES) According to a US Army Recruiting Command (USAREC) Suspicious Incident Report (SIR) released on 10 Nov 09, on 7 Nov 09, a recruiter at the Duluth Recruiting Station (SOURCE) alerted on a suspicious vehicle that had been parked in front of the station for approximately 30-45 minutes. The vehicle was occupied by 4 Middle Eastern/Indian looking males ranging in ages from 20 -30 years old. SOURCE felt the occupants could have possibly been lost, however, suspected that their actions could also have indicated some sort of attempt at a surveillance operation. The occupants of the station employed additional force protection measures and vigilance until the vehicle left the area, and were then able to capture the vehicle license plate information. Local authorities were contacted and determined the car was a rented vehicle. Investigation continues by the Duluth Police Department.

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