



# ACC Threat Information Fusion Cell



## Homeland Defense Information Summary - 17 November, 2009

Headquarters Air Combat Command  
Langley AFB, VA. 23665

### General Awareness/Safety Information

#### (U//FOUO//LES) Officer Awareness: False Pepsi Can

Source: Newport News Virginia Police Department Intelligence Bulletin, 6 Nov 09

- (U//FOUO//LES) On Thursday, November 5, 2009, a Newport News Police Department Officer was on patrol in the area of Christian Street in North Precinct when a previously identified subject was observed walking. During consensual contact with the subject, he was patted down for weapons, as the subject placed his hands in his bulky coat pockets while speaking with officers. The odor of marijuana was also detected about the subject's person, as well as his backpack. A search revealed a digital scale with suspected cocaine residue, and a fake Diet Pepsi can with a false top, and a hidden compartment which contained two knotted plastic shopping bag pieces with rock cocaine inside each. Marijuana was also located on his person in a cut slit about a zipper on his person. The subject had .38 special ammunition and a cellular phone on his person as well.



#### (U//OS) Separatists blow up fuel train in India's northeast

Source: Media Analysis and Watch Center USSTRATCOM Foreign Media Analysis Program SOS International Ltd

(U//FOUO) ACC TIFC BLUF: This story is open source and the investigation is just getting started, however it's important to note the tactic possibly employed here. By choosing to destroy the *rail line* versus directly attacking the train itself, the attacker was afforded significantly more flexibility in their planning cycle and a greater chance for success. Since it's all but impossible to secure the entire length of a railroad right-of-way, the attacker was likely able to choose an attack location where interdiction by friendly forces was all but impossible. It's also worth noting that there have been multiple incidents in the U.S. where homemade explosives have been discovered on or near railroad tracks. Although there is almost certainly no link between the event in India and discovery of explosives adjacent to rail lines in the U.S., the effectiveness of the tactic may have just been validated in India.

- (U//OS) GUWAHATI, November 17, 2009 (AFP) - Suspected separatists blew up a fuel-laden train in India's restive northeast, causing a giant inferno that took 12 hours to control, police said Tuesday. A police spokesperson said the train of 48 wagons travelling from the Numaligarh Refinery caught fire late Monday in the state of Assam about 270 kilometers (167 miles) from state capital Guwahati. "It was initially thought the fire broke out after the train jumped rails. But now we believe it was due to a **powerful explosion on the rail track** as we managed to recover wires and other materials used in triggering blasts from the site," a senior Assam police official said, requesting not to be named. The official said the outlawed United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA) was the main suspect in the explosion which occurred near Changpool in Golaghat district. The fire, which could be seen from five kilometers (three miles) away with flames estimated at 100 meters high, was brought under control mid-morning on Tuesday about 12 hours after the blast, police said. Locals in the area said they heard a giant explosion and saw the train go up in flames. A.K. Bhattacharrya, a marketing manager at the refinery, told AFP that "the damage is extensive" from the blast and 20 wagons carrying diesel and petrol were lost in the fire. The area is a stronghold of both the ULFA and Adivasi tribal militants. India's northeast is a large and remote area

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comprising seven states of which Assam is the biggest. More than 10,000 people have lost their lives to an insurgency in the past two decades. More than two dozen rebel groups in the oil-rich northeast are fighting for secession.

## Suspicious Activity/Tests of Security

### (U//FOUO//LES) Documenting a Flight from Baltimore to Buffalo

Source: Maryland Coordination and Analysis Center, Daily Intelligence Summary, 16 Nov 09; Guardian Record ID: 135599 BA

**(U//FOUO) ACC TIFC BLUF:** Although the Transit Authority Police assessment of the situation may be completely accurate, it's worth noting the mapping out of a route and/or timing of specific events represent key indicators of a "dry run".

- (U//FOUO//LES) On 14 November 2009 at 11:25 a.m., the MCAC Watch received information from an identified complainant who stated that she observed an identified subject documenting a flight from Baltimore to Buffalo. The complainant stated that the subject used a watch with a stopwatch function to note the plane's pre-flight time and take off time. The subject took notes and photographed landmarks during the flight. Upon landing in Buffalo, the complainant notified the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) who notified the Buffalo Niagara Transit Authority Police. The complainant stated that the police appeared to have glossed over the matter, as they advised her that the subject was someone who documents airline service quality, which she did not believe was accurate given the subject's actions.

### (U//FOUO//LES) Videotaping Aircraft Landings in Heavy Rainfall – BWI

Source: Maryland Coordination and Analysis Center, Daily Intelligence Summary, 16 Nov 09; Guardian Record ID: 135692 BA

**(U//FOUO) ACC TIFC BLUF:** Aircraft spotting or plan spotting is a popular hobby all over the world; however, videoing large commercial aircraft in a heavy rain storm makes this particular situation a bit suspicious.

- (U//FOUO//LES) On 16 November 2009 at 3:30 p.m., the MCAC Watch received information from an identified complainant who stated that he observed a male subject videotaping aircraft landings. The complainant stated that three (3), possibly Middle Eastern subjects, were in an identified vehicle with Maryland registration at the observation lot near the BWI airport. The driver of the vehicle got out of the car, in heavy rain, and videotaped all of the large aircraft landings. The subject only videotaped the 737-type and larger aircraft for approximately 15 to 20 minutes.



### (U//FOUO//LES) Fire fighters receive suspicious e-mail from England

Source: JRIC Daily Report, 16 Nov 09

**(U//FOUO) ACC TIFC BLUF:** Eliciting information is defined as, "Demonstrating unusual interest in facilities, buildings, or infrastructure beyond mere casual or professional (e.g., engineers) interest such that a reasonable person would consider the activity suspicious". While it's certainly possible a hobbyist would be interested in the type of information requested below, the operational security concerns should this type of information find its way into the wrong hands is significant.

- (U//FOUO//LES) On 12 NOV, Rancho Cucamonga Fire officials received an e-mail from an individual claiming to be from England requesting information about local fire resources and capabilities. The person claims to be "a fire brigade enthusiast" who recently developed a keen interest in US fire departments. He explained that he was currently mapping all fire equipment resources for the greater Los Angeles area and expressed a specific interest in all available main pieces of apparatus at each individual station, such as engines, trucks, hazmat, foam, rescue, brush, and water tenders.

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