



Federal Bureau
of Investigation



Homeland
Security

JOINT INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

(U//FOUO) Early 2010 Al-Qa'ida Interest in Targeting Trains on 11 September 2011

5 May 2011

(U) Scope

(U//FOUO) This Joint Intelligence Bulletin is intended to provide information related to a potential threat from al-Qa'ida to the United States. This product is intended to support the activities of FBI and DHS and to assist federal, state, and local government counterterrorism and law enforcement officials in effectively deterring, preventing, preempting, or responding to terrorist attacks against the United States. This information may not be provided to the press or the public without further authorization.

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(U//FOUO) Al-Qa'ida Interest in 2010 to Attack U.S. Rail Sector

(U//FOUO) As of February 2010, al-Qa'ida was allegedly contemplating conducting an operation against trains at an unspecified location in the United States on the tenth anniversary of 11 September 2001. As one option, al-Qa'ida was looking at the possibility of tipping a train by tampering with the rails so that the train would fall off the track at either a valley or a bridge. Al-Qa'ida noted that an attack from tilting the train would only succeed one time because the tilting would be spotted. Al-Qa'ida also noted that newer train cars each have their own braking system, and that movement in a specific direction would derail it, but would not cause it to fall off the track.

(U//FOUO) While it is clear that there was some level of planning for this type of operation in February 2010, we have no recent information to indicate an active ongoing plot to target transportation and no information on possible locations or specific targets.

(U) Reporting of Suspicious Activity

(U//FOUO) Federal, state and local government and law enforcement should remain vigilant of the following indicators and suspicious activities that could be indicative of a plot to attack the U.S. rail system:

- (U//FOUO) Clips or spikes missing from track sections.
- (U//FOUO) Railroad materials such as ties or heavy equipment, or debris such as concrete blocks, tree limbs, or trunks placed on tracks.
- (U//FOUO) Packages or baggage left on or near tracks.
- (U//FOUO) Trespassing, especially if frequent, on railroad or mass transit property.
- (U//FOUO) Theft or suspicious absence of railroad maintenance tools, identification badges, or communications equipment.
- (U//FOUO) Persons lacking appropriate background or qualifications who attempt to gain employment with a rail or mass transit system.

(U) Outlook

(U//FOUO) FBI and DHS will continue to monitor intelligence reporting indications of the advancement of terrorist plots or indications of new threats to the Homeland. Additionally, we continue to operate under the premise that terrorists not yet identified by the Intelligence Community and law enforcement may be operating in the United States and could advance and execute attacks without warning.

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(U) Reporting Notice

(U) DHS and FBI encourage recipients of this document to report information concerning suspicious or criminal activity to the local FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force and the State and Major Urban Area Fusion Center. The FBI's 24/7 Strategic Information and Operations Center can be reached by telephone number 202-323-3300 or by e-mail at SIOC@ic.fbi.gov. The DHS National Operations Center (NOC) can be reached by telephone at 202-282-9685 or by email at NOC.Fusion@dhs.gov. FBI regional phone numbers can be found online at <http://www.fbi.gov/contact/fo/fo.htm> and Fusion Center information may be obtained at <http://www.dhs.gov/files/contact-fusion-centers>. For information affecting the private sector and critical infrastructure, contact the National Infrastructure Coordinating Center (NICC), a sub-element of the NOC. The NICC can be reached by telephone at 202-282-9201 or by email at NICC@dhs.gov. When available, each report submitted should include the date, time, location, type of activity, number of people and type of equipment used for the activity, the name of the submitting company or organization, and a designated point of contact.

(U) Administrative Note: Law Enforcement Response

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