

COUNTERTERRORISM WEEKLY

FOR AMERICA'S PROTECTORS

23-29 MARCH 2016



(U) This section provides a comprehensive look at a terrorist group(s) or leader(s), and/or CT tools and literature.

SPOTLIGHT 3

(U) Tracing the Supply of Components Used in ISIL IEDs

(U) This section consists of in-depth counterterrorism press articles including context and background information.

ON POINT 5

(U) Assessments are written by seasoned NCTC Directorate of Intelligence analysts.

(U) Comments are written by NCTC Joint Counterterrorism Assessment Team, composed of law enforcement and first responders.

- 1 **NEW YORK:** (U) Man Pleads Guilty Over Killing of US Embassy Official
- 2 **MISSISSIPPI:** (U) Woman Pleads Guilty to Terrorism Charge
- 3 **EUROPE:** (U) Authorities Detain Suspects in Connection to Brussels, Other Attacks
- 4 **UNITED KINGDOM:** (U) Extremist Convicted in Drive-By Murder Plot
- 5 **BELGIUM:** (U) Paris Attack Suspect Requests Extradition to France
- 6 **BELGIUM:** (U) Prosecutors Charge Three With Terrorism Offenses, Release One
- 7 **BELGIUM:** (U) EU Counterterror Chief Warns of Cyber Threat to Infrastructure
- 8 **FRANCE:** (U) Advanced Attack Plot Foiled
- 9 **ITALY:** (U) Algerian Tied to Forgery in Paris and Brussels Attacks Arrested
- 10 **FINLAND:** (U) Court Acquits Four in Finland's First Terror Case
- 11 **TURKEY:** (U) Court Orders Arrest of Istanbul Bombing Suspect
- 12 **MIDDLE EAST:** (U) US Military Strike Kills ISIL Finance Minister
- 13 **PAKISTAN:** (U) Taliban Faction Claims Park Bombing
- 14 **IVORY COAST:** (U) Fifteen Arrested, Leader of Attack Sought
- 15 **SOMALIA:** (U) Al-Shabaab Overruns African Union Base
- 16 **INDONESIA:** (U) Over 1,000 Citizens Affiliated With ISIL
- 17 **BANGLADESH:** (U) ISIL Claims Killing Christian was a "Lesson"

(U) This section informs readers on methods terrorists are utilizing overseas which could be employed domestically.

TRENDS, TACTICS, & PROCEDURES 10

- (U) US Counterterrorism Adviser Comments on Anti-ISIL Campaign, Support to Europe, Threat to US
- (U) Euro 2016 to Go Ahead With Fan Zones
- (U) Parisians Attend First Aid Training in Case of New Attacks
- (U) ISIL Militant Detonates Explosive Belt in Iraq Park
- (U) ISIL Suicide Bombers Kill 26 in Yemen
- (U) Researchers, Scholars in Indonesia Develop Theological Strategies Against ISIL

(U) This section includes press articles with concise summaries for rapid consumption.

PARTING SHOTS 13

(U//FOUO) Counterterrorism Weekly is an UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY compilation of open source publicly available press and relevant commentary on issues related to terrorism and counterterrorism over the past seven days. It is produced every Wednesday, excluding holidays. Counterterrorism Weekly is produced by the National Counterterrorism Center and contains situational awareness items detailing ongoing terrorism-related developments that may be of interest to Federal, State, Local and Tribal Law Enforcement, security, military personnel, and first responders. Information contained in the Counterterrorism Weekly is subject to change as a situation further develops. The inclusion of a report in Counterterrorism Weekly is not confirmation of its credibility or accuracy of the information contained therein nor does it imply NCTC's official view or endorsement. Comments and requests for information pertaining to articles featured in Counterterrorism Weekly may be directed to nctcpao@nctc.gov.

(U) This product may contain US Persons information deemed necessary for the intended recipient to understand or assess the information provided. This information has been highlighted in the document with the label ^{USPER}, pursuant to E.O. 12333 which affords protections for US persons.

(U) The material contained in this weekly publication may be subject to copyright. Further reproduction or dissemination by any means is subject to original copyright restrictions and is generally prohibited without the copyright holder's permission. This weekly publication is intended to assist readers in their official capacities, and is not intended to be a replacement for commercial services.

COUNTERTERRORISM

FOR AMERICA'S PROTECTORS

WEEKLY

23-29 MARCH 2016

EXECUTIVES' VIEW

HIGHLIGHTS



- 1 MISSISSIPPI:** (U) On 29 March, a Mississippi woman pleaded guilty to conspiring to provide material support to a terrorist organization, months after she and her fiancé attempted travel to join ISIL. [\[pg. 5\]](#)
- 2 EUROPE:** (U) As of 25 March, Belgian police arrested seven people and Germany arrested two while investigating the 22 March bombings in Brussels. [\[pg. 5\]](#)
- 3 BELGIUM:** (U) On 24 March, the lawyer for Salah Abdeslam—a main suspect in the November 2015 Paris attacks—announced Abdeslam wants to be extradited to France. [\[pg. 5\]](#)
- 4 BELGIUM:** (U) On 26 March, Belgian prosecutors charged three men with terrorist offenses. One suspect was later released due to a lack of evidence [\[pg. 6\]](#)
- 5 FRANCE:** (U) On 24 March, authorities arrested Reda Kriket, 34, after determining he was in the “advanced stages” of a plot to attack the country. [\[pg. 6\]](#)
- 6 ITALY:** (U) On 27 March, an Algerian man was arrested in connection with a counterfeiting ring which allegedly provided forged documents used in both the Paris and Brussels terrorist attacks. [\[pg. 6\]](#)
- 7 IVORY COAST:** (U) As of 22 March, Ivorian authorities arrested 15 people in connection with the Grand Bassam beach resort attack. Kounta Dallah was named the suspected leader of the attack. [\[pg. 8\]](#)
- 8 MIDDLE EAST:** (U) On 25 March, the US Secretary of Defense announced the US military killed several key ISIL terrorists including senior ISIL leader and finance minister Haji Iman. [\[pg. 7\]](#)
- 9 SYRIA:** (U) On 25 March, ^{USPER} Lisa Monaco gave an interview about the Brussels attacks, recent targeted killing of a senior ISIL figure, and the strategy for defeating ISIL. [\[pg. 10\]](#)
- 10 PAKISTAN:** (U) On 27 March, a suicide bomber detonated an explosive at a park in Lahore, killing at least 72 and wounding at least 340. [\[pg. 7\]](#)

SPOTLIGHT SUMMARY

(U) TRACING THE SUPPLY OF COMPONENTS USED IN ISIL IEDS

(U) Since July 2014, the EU mandated the Conflict Armament Research (CAR)—an independent organization—to investigate the supply of weapons into armed conflicts. CAR worked in concert with Iraqi and Syrian military forces to document materiel recovered in military action against ISIL forces; document the components recovered during major battles around the Iraqi towns of al Rabia, Kirkuk, Mosul, and Tikrit, and the Syrian town of Kobane; and detail the global supply chain.

(CONFLICT ARMAMENT RESEARCH)

SPOTLIGHT

(U) Tracing the Supply of Components Used in ISIL IEDs

(U) IEDs have become one of the key weapons of modern asymmetric warfare, endangering and delaying ground operations and threatening the safe return of displaced populations. The supply chains for IEDs differ from those of traditional military weapons, as IED components typically are commercial in nature, are not subject to government export licenses, and transfer of IED components is typically less scrutinized than the transfer of conventional weapons.

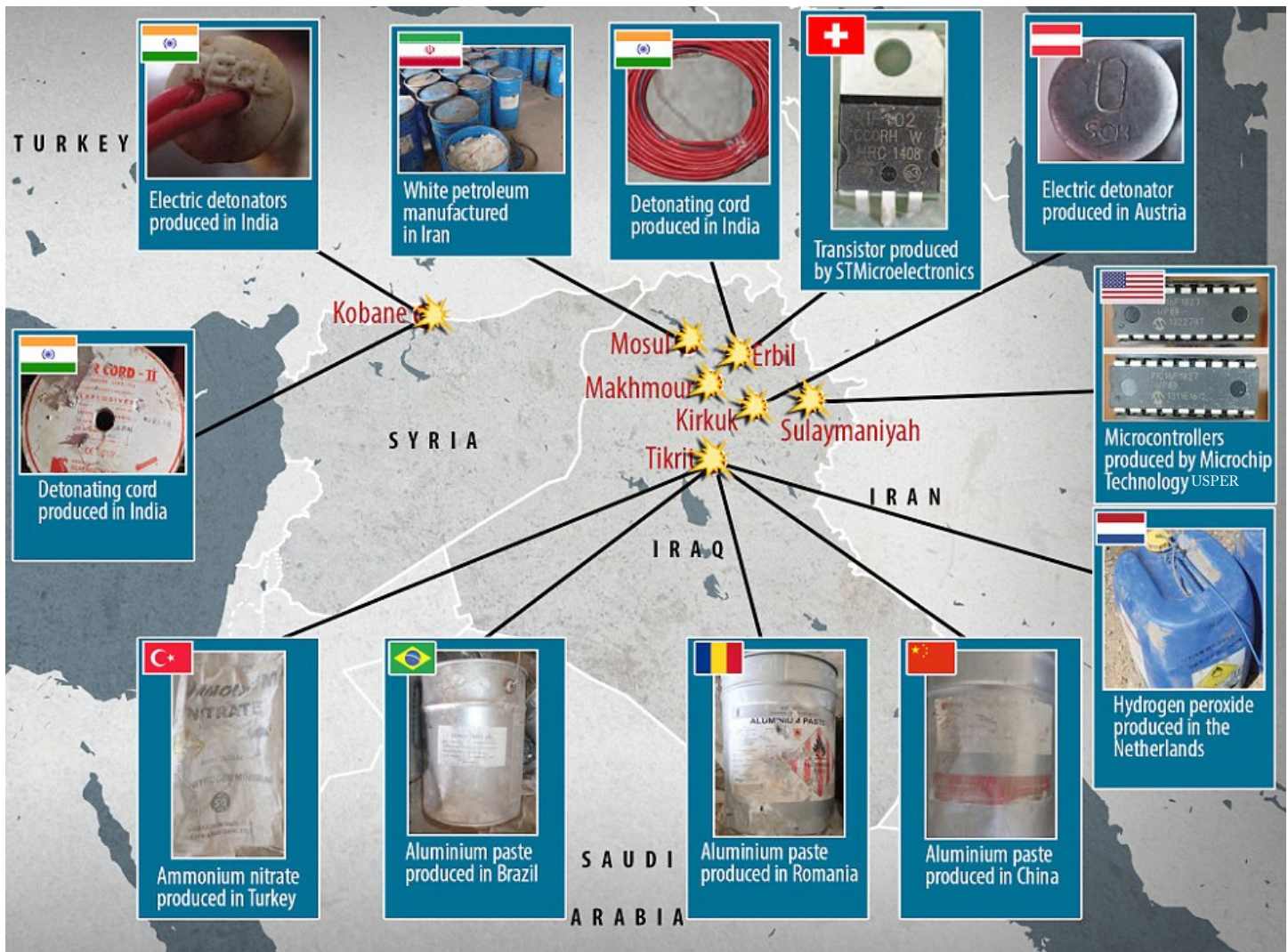
(U) Since July 2014, the EU mandated the Conflict Armament Research (CAR)—an independent organization—to investigate the supply of weapons into armed conflicts. CAR worked in concert with Iraqi and Syrian military forces to document materiel recovered in military action against ISIL forces; document the components recovered during major battles around the Iraqi towns of al Rabia, Kirkuk, Mosul, Tikrit, and the Syrian town of Kobane; and detail the global supply chain.

- (U) From July 2014 to February 2016, CAR teams in Iraq and Syria examined more than 700 components used by ISIL forces to manufacture IEDs, identified their provenance, and traced their chains of custody. There was no evidence to suggest any direct transfer of goods to ISIL forces by the countries and companies mentioned. CAR identified cases where producers lawfully traded components with regional trade and distribution companies, which, in turn sold them to smaller commercial entities. Individuals and groups affiliated with ISIL then acquired the IED components.
- (U) CAR found 51 companies from 20 countries around the world manufactured dual use materials which found their way into terrorist IEDs. Lawfully-traded commodities used by ISIL as IED components, such as aluminum paste and urea, are intended for domestic or agricultural use and are not subject to rigorous export controls, including export licensing. Their supply within the region is largely unregulated and weakly monitored. Other components—detonators and detonating cord—are subject to export licensing, but are also used in commercial activities like mining and licensing alone has proved insufficient to prevent acquisition by ISIL. The CAR report also addresses civilian use components—mobile telephones and telecommunications cable—but solely within the context of understanding the acquisition networks.
- (U) CAR's report noted how quickly ISIL forces are able to acquire IED components. The speed with which ISIL obtained these components—in as little as one month following their lawful supply to commercial entities—highlights the deficiency of appropriate monitoring by national governments and companies. The report also noted possible indications of a lack of awareness of civilian-market components used by terrorists and highlights chemical precursors and components ISIL consistently used in the construction of IEDs.
- (U) ISIL acquisition networks use lawful commerce in countries bordering their territory. Proximity is a major reason goods traded by Iraqi and Turkish companies appear throughout the supply chains of the IED components. At the same time, many small-scale commercial enterprises appear to have sold, wittingly or unwittingly, components to parties linked to, or employed by, ISIL. **(DAILY MAIL, CONFLICT ARMAMENT RESEARCH)**

NCTC Assessment: (U//FOUO) The CAR report provides an excellent overview of precursors used by ISIL in IED construction, as well as the supply chain for explosives used in Syria and Iraq. It is unclear how ISIL obtained some of these precursors, though many of them may have come from legitimate businesses within the region. Limiting ISIL access to these precursors is unlikely because of their dual-use nature, and each precursor is typically available from many different countries or sources. When precursors are limited, ISIL has the ability to switch between different types of explosives. NCTC has observed the use of urea nitrate in explosive production when ammonium nitrate is unavailable. **(NCTC)**

NCTC Comment: (U) First responders may unwittingly encounter clandestine efforts to produce homemade explosives (HMEs) or IEDs when responding to calls for service. This research report names precursor ingredients—many of which have legitimate commercial uses—commonly used by terrorists to build HMEs and IEDs. Recognizing these explosive ingredients is a critical component of first responder safety and offers the potential to discover and disrupt an attack plot. JCAT notes precursor chemicals, rudimentary devices, and components may be dangerous and should be treated accordingly until rendered safe by subject matter experts. **(JCAT PERSPECTIVE)**

SPOTLIGHT *continued*



(U) Map of Legal Trade in Components Parts. (DAILY MAIL)

(U) CAR's investigations mapped the legal trade in IED component parts across the region, where companies lawfully traded components with regional trade and distribution companies. These companies then sold them to smaller businesses which, in turn, potentially unwittingly, sold them to ISIL. The components were then smuggled across the border to Syria and Iraq. (DAILY MAIL)

ON POINT

1 NEW YORK: (U) Man Pleads Guilty Over Killing of US Embassy Official

(U) On 24 March, Malian national Alhassane Ould Mohamed, 46, appeared before a federal court in Brooklyn, NY, and plead guilty to charges he conspired to kill ^{Deceased} ^{USPER} William Bultemeier in 2013, while Bultemeier served as a defense attaché system operations coordinator working at the US Embassy in Niger.

- (U) Mohamed was indicted in 2013 for murdering Bultemeier and trying to kill a Marine Corps staff sergeant after the two left a restaurant in Niamey on 23 December 2000. Mohamed and a co-conspirator shot both men, then stole the US embassy vehicle they were driving.
- (U) Mohamed was linked to various violent extremist groups, including AQIM. (DOJ, REUTERS)

2 MISSISSIPPI: (U) Woman Pleads Guilty to Terrorism Charge

(U) On 29 March, ^{USPER} Jaelyn Young, 20, pleaded guilty in the District Court for the Northern District of Mississippi to conspiring to provide material support to a terrorist organization after Young and her fiancé attempted to travel to Syria to join ISIL. Young faces up to 20 years in prison, \$250,000 in fines, and lifetime probation.

- (U) On 11 March, Young's fiancé, ^{USPER} Muhammad Dakhalla, pleaded guilty to a similar charge and awaits sentencing. The pair planned to claim they were going on their honeymoon, while instead traveling to Syria. The couple was arrested 8 August 2015 prior to boarding a flight from Columbus, with tickets for Istanbul, Turkey. Authorities say they contacted undercover federal agents online in 2015 seeking advice on traveling to Syria. (DOJ, AP)

3 EUROPE: (U) Authorities Detain Suspects in Connection to Brussels, Other Attacks

(U) As of 25 March, Belgian police arrested seven people and, Germany arrested two while investigating the 22 March suicide bombings in Brussels.

- (U) The Belgian federal prosecutor's office said six people were detained during searches in the Brussels neighborhoods of Schaerbeek, Jette, and central Brussels. A seventh man was reportedly detained in the Forest Borough. Separately, the Government of Belgium lowered its security alert level from four, the highest level, to three, stating the threat of an attack was less imminent.
- (U) German authorities reportedly detained two people over suspicious activity which they engaged in immediately preceding the Brussels attacks. (REUTERS)

4 UNITED KINGDOM: (U) Extremist Convicted in Drive-By Murder Plot

(U) On 23 March, UK person Suhaib Majeed, 21, was convicted of conspiracy to murder and of preparing terrorist acts.

- (U) The mastermind of the attack, UK person Tarik Hassane, 22, pleaded guilty to charges in February. The men planned to open fire on military or police personnel, then escape on a moped. They scouted possible sites—including a police station and an army barracks—and acquired a weapon.
- (U) Police Commander Dean Haydon said the plot was concerning because it involved an ISIL-inspired drive-by shooting rather than a martyrdom operation. (WASHINGTON POST)

5 BELGIUM: (U) Paris Attack Suspect Requests Extradition to France

(U) On 24 March, the lawyer for Salah Abdeslam—a main suspect in the November 2015 Paris attacks—announced Abdeslam wants to be extradited to France.

- (U) Abdeslam's lawyer, Sven Mary, previously stated Abdeslam intended to resist extradition to France, but later changed his mind. Mary explained his client understood “the case here is just a small piece,” and he wanted to “explain himself in France.”
- (U) Mary further stated Abdeslam did not have prior knowledge of the Brussels airport and metro bombings. (NY TIMES)

ON POINT continued

6 **BELGIUM:** (U) Prosecutors Charge Three With Terrorism Offenses, Release One

(U) On 26 March, Belgian prosecutors charged three men with terrorist offenses, including a suspect who reportedly appeared on security footage with two suicide bombers at the Brussels airport shortly before they detonated their bombs.

- (U) The first two men, Aboubakar A. and Rabah N., were charged with terrorist activities and membership in a terrorist group. Rabah N. was wanted in connection with an earlier related raid in France which authorities said foiled an attack plot.
- (U) The third man was identified as Faycal Cheffou. Prosecutors said Faycal was charged with involvement in a terrorist group, terrorist murder, and attempted terrorist murder; however, on 28 March Faycal was released due to lack of evidence. **(REUTERS, AFP, NBC, CBC)**

7 **BELGIUM:** (U) EU Counterterrorism Chief Warns of Cyber Threat to Infrastructure

(U) On 26 March, EU counterterrorism chief Gilles de Kerchove stated Belgium's major infrastructure, including nuclear plants, could soon come under cyberattack.

- (U) Such an attack could be conducted by terrorists hacking into online computer systems which control facilities such as nuclear power plants, dams, air traffic control centers, or railroad switching stations. "I would not be surprised if there was an attempt in the next five years to use the Internet to commit an attack," de Kerchove said.
- (U) In 2015, investigators discovered surveillance footage of a Belgian nuclear plant official in the apartment of a suspect connected to both the Paris and Brussels attacks. On 24 March, a guard at a Belgian nuclear power station was shot; however, the investigating prosecutor's office ruled out any militant link and denied claims that the man's security pass had been stolen. **(REUTERS, AFP)**

NCTC Assessment: (U//FOUO) Terrorist groups currently lack the capabilities required to impact hardened critical facilities like nuclear plants. According to a CNBC article, attacks against major US infrastructure occur daily, but these attacks tend to fail. **(NCTC, CNBC)**

8 **FRANCE:** (U) Advanced Attack Plot Foiled

(U) On 24 March, authorities arrested Reda Kriket, 34, after determining he was in the "advanced stages" of a plot to attack the country.

- (U) Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve stated "the individual questioned, a French national, is suspected of high-level involvement in this plan. He was part of a terrorist network that planned to strike France."
- (U) Following the arrest, authorities raided an apartment reportedly rented by Kriket and recovered explosives and materials to make more, according to Argenteuil Mayor Georges Mothron.
- (U) In July 2015, Kriket was sentenced in absentia to 10 years in prison in Belgium for recruiting extremists to fight in Syria. Abdelhamid Abaaoud, the alleged leader of the November 2015 Paris attacks, was also convicted in that decision. **(REUTERS, CNN, AP)**

NCTC Assessment: (U//FOUO) NCTC remains concerned with the threat posed by ISIL's plotting in Europe and assesses the group remains intent on conducting attacks in Europe. The multiple arrests during the past week have demonstrated ISIL's continued access to a network of facilitators throughout Europe, which it may tap into for further attacks. **(NCTC, AUJOURD'HUI, AFP, TAGESSCHAU)**

9 **ITALY:** (U) Algerian Tied to Forgery in Paris and Brussels Attacks Arrested

(U) On 26 March, an Algerian man identified as Djamel Eddine Ouali was arrested in connection with a counterfeiting ring which allegedly provided forged documents used in both the November 2015 Paris and March Brussels terrorist attacks.

- (U) The forgery ring produced false documents used by three men: Mohamed Belkaid, who was killed in a 15 March police raid in Brussels; Salah Abdeslam, who was captured in Brussels on March 18; and Najim Laachraoui, one of two suicide attackers who struck the Brussels airport.

ON POINT continued

- (U) Ouali was arrested after he applied for a residency permit at an Italian immigration office; police checks revealed he was wanted by the Belgian Government. (NY TIMES)

NCTC Comment: (U) Fraudulent documentation can permit illicit travel, mask identities, and otherwise interfere with authorities' efforts to screen for and identify terrorists. Illicit actors may use false documents—whether legitimately generated or forged—to assume an identity to bypass security measures or access restricted locations. First responders should be aware of types of identification documents commonly used as “breeder” documents and be familiar with ways to recognize and report illicit document use. (JCAT PERSPECTIVE)

10 FINLAND: (U) Court Acquits Four in Finland's First Terror Case

(U) On 23 March, an appeals court overturned a lower court's verdict in Finland's first terror case, acquitting four people accused of funding terror.

- (U) The four defendants of Somali background were accused of sending money to support al-Shabaab in Somalia and Kenya. One was also charged with recruitment and preparation for a terrorism-related crime. The court noted at the time of the accused's actions, financially supporting a terror group was not yet criminalized in Finland and little evidence was presented to substantiate the other charges.
- (U) The appeals court found only one of the defendants knew the money in question was going to support al-Shabaab; the other three believed it was for charity. (YLE)

11 TURKEY: (U) Court Orders Arrest of Istanbul Bombing Suspect

(U) On 24 March, a Turkish court ordered the arrest of a suspect linked to an ISIL suicide bombing which killed five people in Istanbul.

- (U) The suspect, who allegedly contacted the bomber, was detained in Gaziantep and transferred to Istanbul, where a court ordered he be remanded to custody.

- (U) The 19 March suicide attack killed three Israeli tourists and an Iranian on Istiklal Street, a popular shopping and dining area. (REUTERS)

12 MIDDLE EAST: (U) US Military Strike Kills ISIL Finance Minister

(U) On 25 March, Secretary of Defense ^{USPER}Ash Carter announced the US military killed several key ISIL terrorists the previous week, including senior ISIL leader and finance minister Abd ar-Rahman Mustafa al-Qaduli, a.k.a. Haji Iman, who also led certain external affairs and plots.

- (U) “He was a well-known terrorist within ISIL's ranks, dating back to its earliest iteration as al-Qa'ida in Iraq when he worked under Zarqawi as its liaison for operations with Pakistan,” the secretary said.
- (U) Carter went on to state when the fight against ISIL accelerated, the coalition began targeting storage sites where ISIL held its cash and eventually succeeded in targeting the leader who oversees all funding for ISIL operations, hurting ISIL's ability to pay fighters and hire recruits.
- (U) Assistant to the President for Homeland Security and Counterterrorism ^{USPER}Lisa Monaco cited Iman's killing as an example of US and Iraqi forces working together to conduct operations in the heart of ISIL territory and stated the continued targeting of ISIL senior leadership will add momentum to the campaign against the group. (DOD, REUTERS, NPR)

13 PAKISTAN: (U) Taliban Faction Claims Park Bombing

(U) On 27 March, a suicide bomber detonated an explosive at the Gulshan-e-Iqbal Park in Lahore, killing at least 72 and wounding at least 340. The Pakistani Taliban's Jamaat-ur-Ahrar (JuA) faction—which once declared loyalty to ISIL—claimed responsibility for the Easter attack and said it targeted Christians.

ON POINT continued

- (U) On 28 March, Pakistani military spokesman General Asim Bajwa said intelligence agencies, the army, and Rangers arrested “suspected terrorists and facilitators” during five raids conducted in Lahore, Faisalabad, and Multan, and security officials also recovered “huge cache of arms and ammunition.”
- (U) By 29 March, Pakistani authorities stated over 5,000 suspected militants were detained in connection to the attack. Most were subsequently released; however, 216 were referred for further investigation.
- (U) Deputy Inspector General Haider Ashraf said the suicide bomber used at least 15 to 20 kg of explosive material, and a skull fragment recovered by police was sent for forensic analysis.
(GUARDIAN, REUTERS, KARACHI DAWN)



(U) JuA Claim of Responsibility for Attack (TWITTER)

NCTC Assessment: (U//FOUO) JuA's spokesman claimed the suicide bomber deliberately targeted the Christian community and threatened additional attacks. The nature of the soft target is consistent with TTP and its splinter groups' capability to target Pakistani Government and sectarian interests with minimal security, most notably the TTP attack on an army-run school in Peshawar in late 2014.
(NCTC, REUTERS)

14 IVORY COAST: (U) Fifteen Arrested, Leader of Attack Sought

(U) As of 22 March, Ivorian authorities arrested 15 people in connection with the 13 March Grand Bassam beach resort attack.

- (U) On 13 March, gunmen fired on beachgoers before storming several hotels, killing 19. AQIM claimed responsibility for the attack.
- (U) Ivory Coast's state prosecutor named Kounta Dallah as the suspected leader of the attack and added Dallah was being sought by authorities. (REUTERS)

15 SOMALIA: (U) Al-Shabaab Overruns African Union Base

(U) On 24 March, al-Shabaab announced its militants overran an African Union (AU) base in Al Ade. The militants reportedly killed 60 Kenyan troops.

- (U) Al-Shabaab released a statement on its Shahada News website, which said the operation was conducted by its “Saleh al Nabhani Battalion” and began with a suicide bombing followed by an assault team breaching the perimeter of the base. Al-Shabaab also claimed to have taken 30 vehicles and “large quantities of weapons, ammunition, and military gear.” (LONG WAR JOURNAL)

16 INDONESIA: (U) Over 1,000 Citizens Affiliated With ISIL

(U) On 17 March, Head Inspector General Djoko Mukti Haryono said as many as 1,085 Indonesian citizens joined ISIL as core members, support the group, or sympathize with it.

- (U) In 2015, Indonesian anti-terrorism agencies took action against 1,151 people suspected of violent extremism; 840 were eventually prosecuted.
- (U) Haryono stated he hoped all of society could work together to reduce the terrorist threat by strengthening moderate attitudes, improving early detection, and taking other preventative measures. “At a minimum, neighborhood heads need to pay attention to what is going around them, particularly the members of the public who are closed-off to the outside world and do not interact with other parts of society,” he said.
(JAKARTA METRO)

ON POINT continued

17 BANGLADESH: (U) ISIL Claims Killing Christian was a “Lesson”

(U) On 22 March, violent extremists stabbed and killed Hussein Ali Sarkar, 68, in Kurigram, north of Dhaka. ISIL claimed responsibility for the killing on Twitter, reporting a “security detachment” killed the “preacher” as a “lesson to others.”

- (U) Kurigram District Police Chief Tobarak Ullah said three attackers stabbed Sarkar while he was on a morning walk and left the scene, detonating crude bombs to create panic.
- (U) Police said Sarkar converted to Christianity from Islam in 1999 but was not a preacher. Five men were detained for questioning. (REUTERS)

عاجل

قتل مرتد تنصّر ودعا للنصرانية
بعملية أمنية في بنغلاديش

بنغلاديش

١٢ جمادى الآخرة ١٤٢٢

تمكنت مفرزة أمنية من جنود الخلافة بفضل الله تعالى، من قتل المرتد (حسين علي سركار) والذي بدّل دينه وصار داعياً للنصرانية الشريكية في مدينة «كوريغرام» ببنغلاديش، وذلك بذبحه ليكون عبرة لغيره، والله غالب على أمره ولكن أكثر الناس لا يعلمون.

(U) ISIL Claim of Responsibility for the Attack. (TWITTER)

TRENDS, TACTICS, & PROCEDURES

(U) US Counterterrorism Adviser Comments on Anti-ISIL Campaign, Support to Europe, Threat to US

(U) On 25 March, Assistant to the President for Homeland Security and Counterterrorism ^{USPER} Lisa Monaco gave an interview about the terrorist attacks in Belgium, the recent targeted killing of a man described as senior figure in ISIL, and the Obama administration's strategy for defeating the terrorist group.

- (U) In reference to the recent terrorist attacks in Paris and Brussels, Monaco stated US focus was on helping the Belgian Government and other partners pursue perpetrators, bring them to justice, and identify other cells. The US deployed a foreign fighter surge team to enhance information sharing between partners as a part of this effort.
- (U) Responding to a question on whether ISIL networks, such as those operating in Europe, could be present in the US, Monaco described the threat environment in the US as different, citing hardened borders, and expert intelligence, law enforcement, and homeland security officials. Monaco stated it is ISIL's ability to inspire—sometimes online—individuals to violence which is of particular concern, and the US has focused on addressing the issue of ISIL's inspiration on social media. "...Inspiration online and identifying who those individuals are I do think poses a particularly unique challenge and one that we are very focused on. But at the end of the day...those solutions are going to have to come with communities and from communities because we're not going to be able to delete our way out of this problem," Monaco said. (NPR)

(U) Euro 2016 to Go Ahead With Fan Zones

(U) On 27 March, French Prime Minister Manuel Valls said the European Championship soccer tournament will go ahead as planned, despite the November 2015 attacks in Paris and March attacks in Brussels.

- (U) Speaking on French state television, Valls said the "strongest answer to terrorists, in addition to the deployment of all intelligence and security measures, is life. The terrorists wanted to suppress life"
- (U) Authorities were concerned soccer fan zones—where fans gather and watch matches from outside the arena—would be vulnerable to terrorist attack. In mid-March, French authorities conducted a mock attack response drill in Nîmes designed to simulate a chemical attack in a fan zone.
- (U) Security in fans zones "will be guaranteed with the same measures and methods as in stadiums," ensuring "the party can take place," Valls said. Increased security measures were to include searches for explosives at all fan zones, systematic pat downs, metal detectors, and video surveillance.
- (U) Euro 2016 will occur across France between 10 June and 10 July. (REUTERS, AP)

NCTC Comment: (U) This serves to remind first responders that events which draw large crowds and garner broad media attention are attractive targets for terrorists. Information sharing between federal, state, local, and private sector partners fosters a common understanding of the current threat environment and facilitates the recognition of suspicious activities indicative of terrorist plotting by providing context to activities which otherwise may go unnoticed. The focus of information sharing during a large special event should include not only the immediate area where the event is to occur, but also neighboring jurisdictions. Detailed threat assessments aid in creating a shared operating picture among security stakeholders, effective deployment of onsite resources, and a unified response plan in the event of an attack. (JCAT PERSPECTIVE)

TRENDS, TACTICS, & PROCEDURES continued

(U) Parisians Attend First Aid Training in Case of New Attacks

(U) On 26 March, approximately 3,200 Parisians attended free first-aid training in Paris to be better prepared for possible terror attacks.

- (U) The two-hour sessions were provided by first responders in every district of Paris to teach participants how to react in emergency situations. The measure was approved by the Paris city council in December 2015 following the November 2015 attacks. Paris plans to repeat the event at least once a year. **(AP)**

NCTC Comment: (U) Training the public to assist with counterterrorism awareness acts as a force multiplier. Retail sector “tripwires” for reporting of suspicious purchases of precursor materials and the “See Something, Say Something” campaign for suspicious activity reporting are examples of public-private campaigns that strengthen efforts to disrupt terrorist plots.

- (U) Programs that teach rapid lifesaving actions in response to attacks utilizing IEDs or active shooters are equally important. Mass casualty incidents (MCIs)—commonly defined by first responders in the US as those consisting of 10 or more patients—are among the most difficult types of incidents to manage, especially when they are the result of a terrorist attack. Critical care needs of a large crowd may be highly diverse, as the crowd may include children, the elderly, and physically disabled persons who may require special attention. First responders should anticipate the presence of foreign language speakers and non-native English speakers with limited English proficiency. Incident management of an MCI must be well defined in response plans and preparations and should be exercised regularly across all first responder disciplines, including jurisdictional, private-sector partners, and the public. **(JCAT PERSPECTIVE)**

(U) ISIL Militant Detonates Explosive Belt in Iraq Park

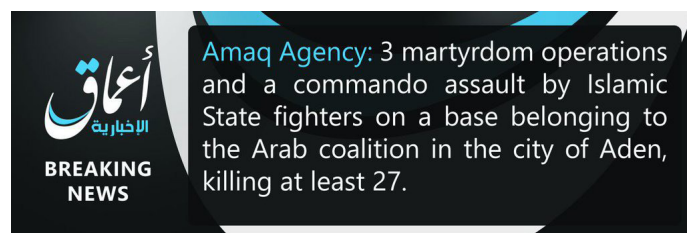
(U) On 25 March, a militant detonated an explosive belt in a park outside Baghdad, killing at least 41 people and wounding at least 71. The bombing occurred in Iskandariya, a mixed Sunni and Shia town 40 kilometers (25 miles) south of Baghdad, at the end of an amateur soccer match. ISIL claimed responsibility for the attack.

- (U) On 26 March, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon offered condolences to the families and friends of those killed, and stated the battle against ISIL must comply with international law, noting continued reports of arbitrary arrests and killings in areas liberated from ISIL. **(REUTERS, AP)**

(U) ISIL Suicide Bombers Kill 26 in Yemen

(U) On 25 March, three suicide bombers attacked security checkpoints in Aden, killing at least 26 people and wounding dozens. ISIL claimed responsibility for the attack, which coincided with the anniversary of the beginning of the civil war in Yemen.

- (U) An ambulance filled with explosives detonated as it arrived at a military checkpoint, killing approximately 14 soldiers and civilians. The other two bombs hit checkpoints on the road to a base used by the Saudi-led military coalition fighting in Yemen. **(REUTERS)**



(U) Amaq News Announcement of ISIL Raid, Claiming 27 Killed **(TWITTER)**

TRENDS, TACTICS, & PROCEDURES continued

(U) Researchers, Scholars in Indonesia Develop Theological Strategies Against ISIL

(U) As of late March, European researchers and Indonesian Kiyais—traditional religious scholars—were collaborating to develop theological arguments to debunk the ideology of radical groups, like ISIL.

- (U) The University of Vienna partnered with Nahdlatul Ulama (NU)—Indonesia’s largest Muslim organization—and the LibforAll Foundation in a research program on terrorism and extremism called VORTEX, which is funded by the Austrian Interior Ministry.
- (U) Researchers said understanding the environment in which violent extremism is conveyed and spread—which is increasingly on social media—is key to addressing radical ideology. Using a network graph, researchers worked to visualize extremist views online, and over a four-month modeled how ISIL-related tweets on Twitter clustered to form “echo chambers,” which reinforced radical ideology. The project also aims to better understand the theology ISIL preaches in its propaganda videos.
- (U) In May, NU will host a gathering of prominent Islamic scholars with the aim of producing a collective strategy to fight ISIL theologically. **(NEWSASIA)**

PARTING SHOTS

1 MINNESOTA: (U) Man Accused of Lying About ISIL Contacts

(U) On 22 March, a Minnesota man was charged in connection with false statements he made regarding contact with ISIL. The US Attorney's office charged ^{USPER} Abdul Raheem Habil Ali-Skelton* with one count of making a false statement to FBI agents. According to the charge, Ali-Skelton told the FBI in July 2015 his last contact with Syrian-based ISIL members was in May or early June 2015. However, prosecutors allege Ali-Skelton knew he communicated with ISIL members as recently as 4 July 2015. (CBS)

2 CANADA: (U) Ontario Man Arrested, Charged With Weapons Offenses

(U) As of 26 March, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) announced the preventative arrest of Canadian person Kevin Omar Mohamed, 23, and charged him with carrying a concealed weapon and possession of a dangerous weapon. The RCMP released a statement which read, in part, "While there was no indication of any plans for a domestic attack, we must remain committed to preventing individuals from travelling abroad to gain training and expertise that could be used in the planning and implementation of future attacks on Canadian soil." Mohamed's lawyer stated authorities were surveilling his client since 2014 and alleged he was involved with facilitating and encouraging terrorist activity through the use of social media. (CBC)

3 AUSTRALIA: (U) Girl Denied Bail on Terror Charges

(U) On 23 March, an Australian children's court denied an Australian girl, 16, bail pending charges she helped wire money to ISIL. Police arrested the girl, along with Australian person Milad Atai, 20, as the two met in a park where Atai allegedly handed the girl an envelope containing AUS \$5000 intended for ISIL. The girl allegedly agreed to help wire the money. (SKY NEWS)

4 NETHERLANDS: (U) Police Arrest Suspect at France's Request

(U) On 27 March, Dutch anti-terrorism police—acting on a request from French authorities—arrested a man, 32, referred to only as "B", in Rotterdam, on suspicion of preparing an attack in France. Three other people—identified by authorities as Algerian nationals—were detained on related charges. Prosecutors stated the suspect would be extradited to France as quickly as possible, though the suspect plans to fight extradition. (REUTERS, DUTCH NEWS)

5 ITALY: (U) Italian Police Arrest Iraqi Over Terror Links

(U) As of 22 March, Italian authorities arrested an Iraqi national whom French and Belgian authorities identified as having contact with terrorists. The Iraqi national was arrested near Naples, and investigators were working to establish any links the subject may have to terrorism in Italy. (AP)

6 MACEDONIA: (U) Court Jails Six, Five More on Trial

(U) On 25 March, a Macedonian court sentenced six people, including an imam, to up to seven years in prison for fighting alongside violent extremists in Syria and Iraq or recruiting others to fight. The subjects were arrested in August 2015 during a security sweep of four Macedonian towns, during which police searched 21 houses, an Internet café, and a mosque in Skopje. (REUTERS)

7 TURKEY: (U) Ten ISIL Militants Detained Near Syrian Border

(U) On 22 March, Turkish security forces detained 10 ISIL militants near the border with Syria. According to a statement released by the Turkish military, one of the men was wearing an explosive device. The men were attempting to illegally enter Turkey from Syria. (REUTERS)

* (U) The charges listed are currently allegations. As in any criminal case, the defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

PARTING SHOTS continued

8 **TURKEY:** (U) Israel Travel Warning Elevated, Citizens Urged to Leave

(U) On 28 March, Israel issued a travel advisory urging its citizens to leave Turkey “as soon as possible.” The Israeli Prime Minister’s Office stated a recent security assessment prompted the counterterrorism bureau to raise the travel advisory from level 3, which signifies a basic concrete threat, to level 2, a high concrete threat. The threat reportedly existed “throughout Turkey” and specifically targeted Israeli tourists. (HAARETZ)

9 **UNITED ARAB EMIRATES:** (U) Thirty-Eight Found Guilty in Terror Case

(U) On 27 March, the top security court in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) sentenced 38 people to prison for links to a cell accused of plotting terrorist attacks, seeking to overthrow the government, and establishing an Islamic state. The group was also charged with forming committees to recruit young Emiratis and planning to assassinate top government officials. The court sentenced 11 of the defendants to life in prison. Two were tried in absentia. (AP)

10 **UNITED ARAB EMIRATES:** (U) Terror Charges Against Libyan-Americans, Libyan-Canadian Dropped

(U) On 24 March, Emirati state security prosecutors dropped terrorism charges in a case involving two Libyan-Americans and a Libyan-Canadian, instead charging them with the lesser offense of illegally raising funds. Prosecutors initially charged the men—allo of whom were successful businessmen and longtime residents of the UAE—with knowingly financing two Libyan rebel groups affiliated with the Muslim Brotherhood, considered a terrorist organization under UAE law. The men were arrested in August 2014. The defendants face a maximum prison sentence of 15 years. (AP)

11 **LEBANON:** (U) Bomb Kills Solider, Wounds Three

(U) On 24 March, a bomb reportedly targeted a military vehicle in the Atta Valley town of Aarsal, near the border with Syria. A Lebanese solider was killed in the blast, and three were injured. (AP)

12 **IRAQ:** (U) ISIL Claims Baghdad Bombing

(U) On 29 March, ISIL claimed responsibility for a suicide bombing in central Baghdad which police said killed 3 people and wounded 27. The blast occurred near a gathering of workers in Tayaran Square. (REUTERS)

13 **EGYPT:** (U) Egyptian Army Killed 60 Militants in Sinai

(U) On 25 March, an Egyptian Army spokesman announced anti-terrorism forces—supported by fighter jets—conducted an operation against militant hideouts in the northern Sinai. The operation resulted in 60 militants killed and 40 wounded. (AP)

14 **ALGERIA:** (U) Algerian Forces Kill Would-Be Suicide Bomber, Three Militants

(U) On 23 March, Algerian security forces killed a militant wearing an explosive belt before he could detonate it. The militant was located by troops on a night patrol. He reportedly headed toward a police station in the nearby town of Maatkas but was killed before he could detonate his explosive belt. Separately, on 26 March, Algerian security forces killed three militants in the same area during a military ambush following an army sweep of the mountainous region east of Algiers. (REUTERS)

15 **TUNISIA:** (U) Suicide Bombers Reportedly Infiltrated Tunisia From Libya

(U) As of 23 March, Tunisian authorities possessed information indicating Tunisian and foreign militants—including suicide bombers—traveled from Libya into southern Tunisia. The militants—reportedly hiding in the Kairouan governorate—were in possession of explosive belts, weapons, and ammunition, and planned to conduct simultaneous terrorist operations most likely in April. Their intent was to target the governorates of Sousse and the capital Tunis, particularly tourist areas and security and military headquarters. (ASSABAH)

PARTING SHOTS continued

16 **TUNISIA:** (U) State of Emergency Extended Three Months

(U) On 22 March, Tunisia announced a third extension of the state of emergency first declared following the November 2015 ISIL-linked suicide bombing that killed 12 members of the president's security detail. The move gives the government emergency powers to forbid gatherings. **(AP)**

17 **TUNISIA:** (U) National Guard Raids House, Kills Two Militants

(U) On 19 March, the Tunisian National Guard's Special Unit raided a house in the Maarimat region of Ben Guerdane following a two-hour firefight that resulted in the death of the dwelling's two occupants. Authorities identified the body of violent extremist Ettaieb Mars, who was wanted in connection to previous attacks in Ben Guerdane. The identity of the second militant was not immediately determined. **(HAKAEEK)**

18 **TUNISIA:** (U) Forces Break Up ISIL Recruiting Cell

(U) On 21 March, Tunisian police announced the arrest of 12 members of a cell recruiting fighters for ISIL in Libya. According to the Interior Ministry, the 12 violent extremists facilitated attacks on Ben Guerdane earlier in March. **(REUTERS)**

19 **MOROCCO:** (U) Libyan-Affiliated Cell Dismantled

(U) On 24 March, Moroccan authorities arrested nine people in four regions including Marrakech, a popular tourist destination. The Moroccan Interior Ministry stated the group was in the final stages of preparing "terrorist operations" and planned travel to Libya to gain "combat experience" in ISIL training camps. **(AP)**

20 **NIGERIA:** (U) Army Rescues 800 Boko Haram Hostages

(U) As of 24 March, Nigerian troops freed more than 800 people held by Boko Haram in the Borno state of northeast Nigeria. Following a 22 March raid on Kusumma village, 520 of the hostages were recovered. Another 309 were recovered from 11 other villages. Approximately 25 Boko Haram militants were killed during the raids. **(THE GUARDIAN)**

21 **CAMEROON:** (U) Surrendered Suicide Bomber Not Chibok Schoolgirl

(U) On 25 March, a girl with explosives strapped to her body surrendered to Cameroonian authorities claiming to be one of the Chibok schoolgirls kidnapped by Boko Haram in April 2014, however authorities later stated the claim was false. The girl, approximately 10 years old, was reportedly heavily drugged and suffering from injuries. **(WASHINGTON POST)**

22 **AFGHANISTAN:** (U) Bicycle Bomb in Embassy District Wounds One

(U) On 25 March, a bicycle bomb exploded in the embassy district of Kabul, wounding one. Kabul's Deputy Police Chief Salem Almas confirmed explosives planted on a bicycle caused the blast but could not identify the intended target. **(REUTERS)**

23 **PAKISTAN:** (U) Sindh Police Arrest Three Suspected AQIS Militants

(U) On 22 March, the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) of the Sindh Police announced the arrest of three suspected militants associated with al-Qa'ida in the Indian Subcontinent. The three were identified as Usman Naeem, Umair, and Imamdin, a.k.a. Mavia, according to CTD Additional Inspector General Dr Sanauallah Abbasi. Abbasi stated police also seized two AK-47s and a pistol. According to the CTD, Umair—who studied mechanical engineering—provided technical support for terrorist attacks; Usman supplied weapons to militants in the city; and Imamdin approached youths and attempted to recruit them into violent extremist organizations. **(KARACHI DAWN)**

PARTING SHOTS continued

24 **PAKISTAN:** (U) Mastermind of Suicide Attack on Senior Politician Detained

(U) On 29 March, Pakistani authorities arrested Samiullah, mastermind of a 2007 suicide attack on senior politician Aftab Sherpao in Utmanzai, Pakistan. The attack targeted an Eid prayer and resulted in 67 killed and more than 70 injured. Sherpao survived the attack. **(ISLAMABAD NEWS)**

25 **JAPAN:** (U) Man Attempting to Join ISIL Stopped in Turkey

(U) On 24 March, a Japanese man, 23, identified only as “M.M.,” reportedly returned to Japan after being detained in Turkey for allegedly trying to join ISIL. On 22 March, the man was captured by Turkish authorities in the southern city of Gaziantep. During an interrogation, he reportedly confessed he came to the district to cross the border and join ISIL and stated he decided to join the group after contacting a Syrian person by phone. **(JAPAN TIMES)**

26 **INDONEISA:** (U) Philippines’s Abu Sayyaf Abducts 10 Indonesian Sailors

(U) As of 28 March, 10 Indonesian sailors onboard a tugboat were reportedly kidnapped by Abu Sayyaf militants off the coast of the Philippines. The crew were operating a privately owned Taiwanese tugboat on its way from Jakarta to Manila when it was hijacked near the Malaysian border. **(REUTERS)**

27 **MALAYSIA:** (U) Fifteen Arrested in ISIL Inquiry

(U) As of 24 March, Malaysian authorities arrested 15 people—including a police officer—suspected of links to ISIL and attack planning, according to Police Inspector General Khalid Abu Bakar. Some of the suspects allegedly received orders from a Malaysian recruiter for ISIL in Syria to carry out an attack in Malaysia. The suspects were accused of collecting funds for ISIL, trying to buy chemicals to make bombs, recruiting fighters, and having affiliation with other militant groups in the region. Bakar stated the Brussels attacks made it clear Malaysian authorities must take action “on the slightest information” and “cannot afford to wait and see” if an attack plot materializes. **(REUTERS, NY TIMES)**



NATIONAL COUNTERTERRORISM CENTER (NCTC)

NCTC serves as the primary organization in the US Government for integrating and analyzing all intelligence pertaining to terrorism possessed or acquired by the US Government (except purely domestic terrorism); serves as the central and shared knowledge bank on terrorism information; provides all-source intelligence support to government-wide counterterrorism activities; establishes the information technology (IT) systems and architectures within NCTC and between NCTC and other agencies that enable access to, as well as integration, dissemination, and use of, terrorism information.

NCTC serves as the principal advisor to the Director of National Intelligence (DNI) on intelligence operations and analysis relating to counterterrorism, advising the DNI on how well US intelligence activities, programs, and budget proposals for counterterrorism conform to priorities established by the President.