

PENNSYLVANIA ACTIONABLE INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN #70

TARGETED ACTIONABLE MONITORING CENTER

9 APRIL 2010

The Institute of Terrorism Research and Response (ITRR) produces this document specifically for the Pennsylvania Office of Homeland Security in support of public and private sector, critical infrastructure protection initiatives and strategies. The ITRR, a commercial research and analysis organization, uses open-source, human, and closed-source intelligence resources to derive products. ITRR used only native-tongue researchers (English, Hebrew, French, Arabic, and Spanish) in the collection, interpretation, translation, analysis and production of this product. The analysis is performed by former law enforcement officials, counter-terrorism experts, and military intelligence personnel. Consider in context with other known information.

STRATEGIC ANALYSIS

1. Targeting Law Enforcement Officers in North America

ITRR analysts have noted a growing trend of aspirational and active targeting of law enforcement agencies and personnel in North America. The adversarial actors include both criminal and ideological terrorist elements, with motivational influences ranging from jihadist communications to Mexican organized crime.

Recently, the Department of Homeland Security sent out a security alert regarding the targeting of law enforcement officers and their families in the El Paso area of Texas by the Mexico-linked Barrio Azteca gang. The gang is apparently intending to murder uniformed officers in retaliation for successful anti-gang sweeps carried out in search of the murderers of three people from El Paso in a recent attack on American diplomats in Mexico.

As noted in PAIB no. 29, a massive bombing of the Hemet/San Jacinto Valley Gang Task Force headquarters was narrowly averted in Riverside County, California, on 31 December 2009. According to police, a natural gas line was diverted into the building with the intention of causing an explosion that would have leveled the building and killed everyone inside.

The same police personnel were again targeted when a ballistic device attached to a security fence around the headquarters was triggered, a bullet nearly killing an officer who unlocked the fence gate.

Riverside County police report that there have been several booby traps set for police officers in the past four months, including explosive or ballistic devices attached to vehicles, around the

targeted police station and elsewhere. One such attack involved the attaching of an IED to an unmarked police vehicle when the officers briefly stepped into a convenience store.

Police spokesmen quoted in the media said that gang members have been observed carrying out what appears to be pre-operational surveillance of police routines. A local gang involved in the drug trade, identity theft and physical violence is suspected of being behind the attacks.

At the time of the attempted gas line bombing of the police task force HQ, ITRR analysts observed that jihadist cells were most assuredly taking note of the feasibility of such a tactic for their own attacks on public facilities (especially police stations). Subsequently, as noted in PAIB no. 47, intercepted jihadist communications included guidance suggesting running a targeted building's gas line back into the building via the sewage system.

Similarly, in PAIB no. 19, in December 2009, ITRR researchers identified communications among Arabic speaking jihadists discussing targeting law enforcement facilities in the United States. Jihadists encouraged one another with phrases such as: "Break into police stations in that heretic country [the USA] and shoot everyone there"; "Snipers can be placed in the highest rooms [of the overtaken police station] and shoot all the infidels." As inspiration for his idea, one jihadist cited the multiple homicides of police officers in the state of Washington on 29 November 2009.

As is known, jihadist and other terrorist elements often share ideas, inspirations and guidance - sometimes directly, sometimes indirectly. Of note in that regard in connection with ITRR's current strategic analysis is a November 2009 alert issued to Pakistani security forces in Islamabad. At the time, they were warned to expect an attack on the regional police headquarters by terrorists dressed in police uniforms.

Clearly, terrorist or criminal elements intending to perpetrate attacks within North American law enforcement facilities are likely to attempt to obtain authentic police uniforms. Terrorists may use such uniforms to attempt to gain access to targeted facilities to initiate an armed attack, as well as to make first response as difficult and confusing as possible.

Individual police uniforms are periodically stolen in North America, in various circumstances. However, in one of the largest such incidents, thousands of police uniforms were stolen from a British recycling facility in April of last year. It is believed that the uniforms were sold to criminals and, possibly, terrorists. Many of the stolen uniforms are undoubtedly still in circulation in the UK.

ITRR analysts suggest that the lessons for North American law enforcement from the foregoing incidents are clear: heighten situational awareness in the field; maintain vigilance even in the office; monitor the issuing and disposal of uniforms and equipment; maintain good communication for accountability; and be especially aware of adversarial pre-operational surveillance and probing.

SECTOR-SPECIFIC THREATS, INDICATORS AND/OR WARNINGS

Sectors: COMMERCIAL FACILITIES

2. Multiple High-Profile Pro-Israel Events in April and May

ITRR analysts have noted increased chatter among jihadists, anarchists and radical anti-war elements discussing hostile attacks on Jewish and Israeli assets worldwide since late last year (cited in several past editions of the PAIB).

The most recent example from jihadist circles is in a new communication intercepted by ITRR researchers this week. In it, an Islamist spotlights Jewish and American assets for attack. While specifically discussing Egypt, the communication adds to the general tempo of threats against Jewish and Israeli assets worldwide.

*******ANALYSIS*******

T/I/W Rating: MODERATE

The worldwide risk facing Jewish and Israeli interests comes from organized jihadist cells, as well as from lone-wolf attackers and far-left extremist groups (as cited in PAIB nos. 23 and 29, among others). In Pennsylvania, any adversarial actions will likely focus on the Israeli consulate in Philadelphia. Other potential targets in the Pennsylvania region include high-profile Jewish institutions, synagogues and communal events, or, as previously noted in PAIB no. 50, pro-Israel gatherings.

April and May 2010 will see Pennsylvania hosting several such high-profile public events. The largest of these include:

* 11 April 2010: There will be a large Holocaust memorial gathering at the Monument to the Six Million Jewish Martyrs at the intersection of 16th St. and Benjamin Franklin Parkway, in Philadelphia.

* Also in Philadelphia, the annual Israel Independence Day celebration regularly attracts thousands of supporters, as well as protesters. This year, the event is on 23 May 2010 at Penn's Landing on the Delaware River Waterfront.

Smaller Israel Independence Day events in Pennsylvania, which may draw the attention of local lone-wolf attackers or anti-Israel activists, include:

* 20 April 2010, at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Pittsburgh, at 5738 Forbes Ave. in Pittsburgh.

* 19 April 2010, at the Wilson Farm Park, 500 Lee Rd. in Wayne.

* 25 April 2010, a Jewish Theater Festival at Bristol Riverside Theatre, 120 Radcliffe Street in Bristol.

Less well-publicized, but still public, Israel-related events are to be hosted by area synagogues as well, including:

* On 18 April 2010 at: Congregation Tiferet Bet Israel (1920 Skippack Pike) in Blue Bell; and Beth Sholom Congregation (8231 Old York Road) in Elkins Park. The latter event takes on slightly elevated significance as it is sponsored by the Consulate General of Israel, as well as the local Jewish community.

* On 19 April 2010 at: Congregations of Shaare Shamayim (9768 Verree Road) in Philadelphia; Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel (8339 Old York Road) in Elkins Park; and Congregation Mikveh Israel (44 North Fourth Street) in Philadelphia.

* On 21 April 2010 at the Har Zion Temple (1500 Hagys Ford Road) in Penn Valley.

Sectors: GOVERNMENT FACILITIES

3. Thailand's State of Emergency

In the wake of ongoing civil unrest in the country, initially cited as posing severe risk in PAIB no. 58, the Government of Thailand has declared a state of emergency in Bangkok. Currently, the military has been deployed to enforce public order, with government officials authorized to suspend certain civil liberties and ban public gatherings.

The anti-regime protesters, known as "red shirts", began by holding regional rallies and ultimately converging on the capital. They even managed to briefly storm Thailand's parliament building using a truck to breach perimeter security. Fearful legislators escaped or were rescued by helicopter.

In March 2010, in reaction to the anti-government protests, several foreign governments issued travel warnings regarding Bangkok. Even a Thai government spokesperson said at the time that tourists should not visit areas near the anti-government rallying points.

***** **ANALYSIS** *****

T//W Rating: SEVERE

In March, special regulations were invoked, including enhanced security measures and emergency travel alternatives at mass transit terminals and airports across the country. However, Red Shirt protests continued and even intensified. This is likely to continue for the near term, according to ITRR analysts.

Students from Pennsylvania schools (Clarion University, East Stroudsburg, Indiana University, Mansfield University, and Westminster College) taking part in International Student Exchange Programs (ISEP) in Thailand, as well as University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine exchange students at Thailand's Chulalongkorn University, should be made aware of the heightened risk levels in Bangkok and its environs. Avoidance of political gatherings or any large public rallies is called for at this time. Specifically threatened are Thai government buildings and military facilities.

Sectors: COMMERCIAL FACILITIES; ENERGY; GOVERNMENT FACILITIES

4. 'Pittsburgh Freedom School' and the 'Actionvention': Confirmed Events

As first noted in PAIB no. 56, ITRR is continuing to identify planning and logistics surrounding events being billed as an "Actionvention" and the "Pittsburgh Freedom School" (PFS), organized by the far-left, anti-authoritarian Students for a Democratic Society (SDS).

The SDS has confirmed 17-18 April 2010 for the PFS events, which will include training, learning and "direct action" focused on "organizing and building powerful movements for social and environmental justice." Organizations involved include Earth First!, anti-war groups, Mountain Justice, the Peace and Justice Center, and others.

ITRR analysts have identified several confirmed events on the PFS agenda that may include or generate specific security risks.

*******ANALYSIS*******

T/I/W Rating: MODERATE

Aside from various ideological meetings and authentic historical study sessions - which may add general inspirational fuel to the SDS agenda, but which do not in and of themselves pose any risk - ITRR analysts note that there will be three events that will directly involve or incite potential breaches of security or vandalism.

* On 17 April 2010, SDS activists and supporters are planning to hold a protest against unmanned Predator drone aircraft at Carnegie Mellon University's Software Engineering Institute. In 2007, members of the Pittsburgh Organising Group blockaded the National Robotics Engineering Center at Carnegie Mellon for similar protests. Fourteen activists were arrested and the robotics lab was shut down for a day. SDS activists will apparently be initially gathering at the Thomas Merton Center (5125 Penn Avenue).

* Also on 17 April, the SDS is scheduling what they have called "Nonviolent Direct Action Training" at Schenley Plaza. The event will include opportunities to "learn and practice how to prepare and execute civil disobedience". Among the skills to be "learned and practiced" are creating blockades, executing lock-downs and property occupations, organizing street marches, as well as "dealing with police".

* The program's last day, 18 April 2010, includes a study session entitled "Hydraulic Fracturing for Natural Gas and How to Beat It". ITRR analysts point out that this is a reference to the Marcellus Shale gas drilling project, which was specifically targeted in a communication from the Ruckus Working Group, an anarchist organization, late last year (see PAIB no. 2, November 2009).

ITRR analysts believe there is a significant risk that the "Actionvention" will draw confrontation-oriented radical elements. In light of the potential for disorder and disruptions implied in the term "Actionvention" (possibly referring to direct actions at the convention or referring to direct action training), which may draw more confrontational elements to the event, ITRR analysts recommend heightened situational awareness in Pittsburgh on the above dates. ITRR researchers are continuing to monitor relevant planning communications.

In addition, ITRR analysts believe the training and "practice" offered to environmental and anarchist radicals at the Pittsburgh events will manifest itself in subsequent radical protests and

events elsewhere in Pennsylvania. (See herein below for possible events of this nature surrounding "Earth Day" 2010.)

Sectors: ENERGY; GOVERNMENT FACILITIES

5. Multiple, Simultaneous PA 'Earth Day' Protests and a March into NJ

The Green Party of Pennsylvania, Citizens for Clean Water and NoDrill NEPA are organizing simultaneous protests outside several regional branch offices of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The events are slated for 22 April 2010, the fortieth annual "Earth Day", which is seen by many as the start of the environmentalist movement.

In addition, another high-profile Earth Day event in Pennsylvania will be the 2010 Earth Day Rally. The rally is slated to take place in Philadelphia's Independence Mall, to be followed by a march across the Ben Franklin Bridge, into Camden, New Jersey.

Green Party protests will call for "an immediate moratorium on all horizontal hydrofracturing in the Commonwealth, including in our state forests and on floodplains, an immediate freeze on all new Marcellus Shale drilling permits throughout Pennsylvania, the immediate suspension of the Delaware and Susquehanna River Basin Commissions authority to approve drilling-related water withdrawals anywhere in their respective watersheds, and, if necessary, the immediate resignation of DEP Secretary John Hanger."

The Green Party specifically reiterated that "drilling for natural gas in the Marcellus Shale formation - utilizing horizontal hydrofracturing - is a serious and growing threat to our Commonwealth's precious clean waters and majestic state forests."

***** **ANALYSIS** *****

T/I/W Rating: LOW-to-MODERATE

ITRR researchers note that the Green Party and collaborating activists singled out PA DEP regional offices in Norristown, Wilkes-Barre, Pittsburgh, Williamsport, Meadville and Harrisburg. The Harrisburg protest is likely to be the central event, as it is the location of the DEP head office.

As noted in PAIB no. 68, Earth Day has traditionally not been a forum for aggressive eco-terror or eco-vandalism activity. However, ITRR analysts believe there is an additional risk of radical protest behavior this year due to recent indicators of significance, including:

1. The "Actionvention" and "Pittsburgh Freedom School" (PFS) events (see '**Pittsburgh Freedom School**' and the '**Actionvention**': **Confirmed Events**, herein above) are aimed at radicalizing supporters of an environmentalist agenda. Specifically, as noted above, the PFS event includes a session on projects such as the Marcellus Shale gas drilling project in the wider context of "civil disobedience" training.

2. As mentioned in PAIB no. 68, a leading ideologue for the radical Earth First! organization has issued a call for more extreme actions, beyond simple civil disobedience, in the service of the environmentalist agenda.

Sectors: GOVERNMENT FACILITIES

6. EU Anarchists, Radical Students to 'Blockade' Madrid, Spain

A summit of European Union education ministers is scheduled to take place on 13 April 2010 in Madrid, Spain. In response, radical anti-capitalist and anarchist students are planning to hold a "counter-summit" from 8-14 April, including a street protest on 12 April and a "blockade" of the city on 13 April. The blockade effort is being promoted by a group called "Bologna Burns".

The activist communications identified by ITRR researchers include calls to form "peaceful blockades to try and prevent and disrupt the meeting." The organizers of the "counter-summit" are asking for participation by students from Spain and abroad.

One anti-capitalist communication concludes with the Spanish slogan: *La lucha es el único camino!* ("Struggle is the only way!")

*******ANALYSIS*******

T/I/W Rating: MODERATE

In the light of increasing anarchist activity worldwide, especially in Greece and elsewhere in Europe, as well as the relative success of a similar March 2010 protest by Bologna Burns, ITRR analysts consider the risk of civil disturbances, vandalism and clashes with law enforcement in Madrid before and during the above EU ministers summit to be moderate.

Pennsylvanian students and faculty participating in foreign study programs in Spain - such as those of the University of Pennsylvania (in Alicante), Clarion University, East Stroudsburg, Indiana University of Pennsylvania (in Valladolid), Mansfield University, and Westminster College - should be made aware of the increased risk in the Madrid in coming days.

No actionable intelligence at this time for the following sectors:

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD
DEFENSE INDUSTRIAL BASES
ENERGY
HEALTHCARE AND PUBLIC HEALTH
NATIONAL MONUMENTS AND ICONS
BANKING AND FINANCE
WATER
CHEMICAL
CRITICAL MANUFACTURING
DAMS
EMERGENCY SERVICES
NUCLEAR REACTORS, MATERIALS, AND WASTE
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
COMMUNICATIONS
POSTAL AND SHIPPING
TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS

Compiled by NR

THREAT / INDICATOR / WARNING RATING	DESCRIPTION
LOW (Level 4)	Available intelligence and recent events indicate that hostile elements currently have little capability or intent to take action against the target. It is assessed that, although it cannot be ruled out, an attack or action is unlikely to be mounted based on current available intelligence.
MODERATE (Level 3)	Available intelligence and recent events indicate that hostile elements have the capability to take action against the target and that such action is within the adversary's current intent. It is assessed that an attack or action is likely to be a priority and might well be mounted.
SEVERE (Level 2)	Available intelligence and recent events indicate that hostile elements have an established capability and current intent to take action against the target and there is some additional information on the nature of the threat. It is assessed that an attack or action on the target is a priority and is likely to be mounted.
CRITICAL (Level 1)	Available intelligence and recent events indicate that hostile elements with an established capability are actively planning to take action against the target within a matter of days (up to two weeks). An attack or action is expected imminently.

END-CLASSIFIED-TAM-C-

For additional information, please contact the TAM-C of the Institute of Terrorism Research and Response at: +1.215.922.1080 or info@itrintel.org

***Working with organizations that refuse to surrender their
domestic or international operations to terrorism***

Ensure that you always receive the latest information from The Institute of Terrorism Research and Response. Add the e-mail address, "info@itrintel.org" to your personal address book.

This Intelligence report includes information from open and closed intelligence sources. Not all information is able to be verified; however, the TAM-C is actively evaluating the reporting to establish its accuracy and to determine if it represents a possible link to terrorism. If recipients have any additional or clarifying information, please contact the Targeted Actionable Monitoring Center (TAM-C) at +1.215.922.1080.

Actionable Intelligence Weekly Briefing® A general overview of actionable intelligence (upcoming events) used by directors of security and law enforcement managers to pre-plan their future operations. The Briefing is dispatched on Monday of each week by 1100 GMT to enable early planning of the upcoming weeks.

Threat and Hazard Monitoring (THM) A custom service meeting the needs for each client. With the assistance of our international analysts, this service identifies specific threats, hazards, vulnerabilities, and assets our team of native language speakers researchers and ground resources, are to monitor and forward on to the client.

For additional information regarding the Center's services or specialized customized research and analysis programs, feel free to contact us at: info@itrintel.org