

PENNSYLVANIA ACTIONABLE INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN #81

TARGETED ACTIONABLE MONITORING CENTER

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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.

ONGOING RESEARCH

1. Times Square Failed Bombing: Exploring Pakistan Links

In light of the reported arrest of Connecticut resident Faisal Shahzad, a naturalized American originally from Pakistan, and the Pakistani Taliban leader's recording from April saying he is taking the battle to CONUS, ITRR analysts are researching potential links to Pakistan-linked Islamist groups active in the United States. As previously noted, ITRR researchers intercepted jihadist communications providing strategic guidance for establishing military training camps in isolated forests in CONUS, with the tactical objective of launching attacks from within America, preferably perpetrated by American citizens.

In the context of ongoing research, ITRR analysts note that Muslims of the Americas (MOA) - the North American branch of Jama'at Al-Fuqra led by Pakistani jihadist Ali Al-Gilani - have 30 such camps in wooded regions near several small towns nationwide. In Pennsylvania, MOA has apparently established a facility in Saylorsburg, has been constructing a facility in Sherman, and may also have representatives in Philadelphia. (PAIB nos. 24, 76 and 80)

2. Anarchists Training for G8/G20: May Remains the 'Month of Anarchy'

Starting the process towards a successful demonstration against governments, capitalist economies, borders requiring travel documents and climate change, Canadian anarchists are focusing their attention on Toronto and the G8 and G20 meetings slated for June. Similarly, the Northeast Anarchist Network (NEAN) is stepping up its activities (legal and illegal) in the northeastern United States through May 2010 (billed as a "Month of Anarchy"). Representatives of some anarchist groups will be meeting in Toronto on 15 May 2010 to build strategies for planned disruptions of the multinational meetings. The level of anarchist logistical, strategic and

tactical planning indicates that businesses and other organizations intending to be in Toronto during the G8/G20 talks should prepare for unanticipated modifications to their plans. ITRR researchers are currently monitoring the anarchist networks for targeting indicators in Pennsylvania. (PAIB nos. 50, 59 and 73)

3. Environmental Militants Drift Further Into Eco-Terror

Three members of Il Silvestre ("The Woodland"), an Italian anarchist eco-terrorist organization, were arrested on 15 April 2010 on suspicion of planning to bomb a new IBM nanotechnology research facility under construction outside Zurich, Switzerland. It is unclear at this time if the IBM attack was part of a larger terror campaign; however, it is an indication confirming the latest environmentalist slide toward violence as identified by ITRR in January 2010. Eco-extremist, anti-coal mining and anti-capitalist communications of 2010 include explicit calls for everything from more aggressive civil disobedience through sabotage and even murder. The combination of ecological militants and anarchists will apparently continue to prove very volatile, since, like their environmentalist militant allies, anarchist rhetoric has also seen a shift toward support for extremist action in the past year.

ITRR analysts have identified several specific assets and industries that may be targets for eco-activist "direct action", or worse, in Pennsylvania, including branches of financial institutions such as JP Morgan Chase, Citi Bank, Goldman Sachs and Bank of America. Other companies identified as targets of ecological activists were coal companies involved in open pit or "mountain top removal" coal operations, power companies that burn this coal, the Environmental Protection Agency, the offices of Duke Energy and Pennsylvania State University's Nanofabrication Laboratory. (PAIB nos. 32, 33, 43, 50, 61, 68, 75 and 78)

4. Lebanese Al-Qaeda Affiliate Threatens 'Revenge'

A new communication from the Lebanon- and Syria-based Abdullah Azzam Brigades of Al-Qaeda promises "revenge" for the deaths of Iraqi Al-Qaeda leaders Abu Omar Al-Baghdadi and Abu Ayyub Al-Masri (AKA Abu Hamza Al-Muhajir) last month. The Abdullah Azzam Brigades have the immediate operational capability to conduct attacks in Lebanon, northern Israel, Syria and Jordan.

The risk to Western assets in the Middle East is generally increased at this time, especially for NGOs in Lebanon, Syria and Jordan. Pennsylvanian students, tourists and business travelers should be made aware of the heightened level of risk in the named venues. Pennsylvania students, researchers and faculty at the many overseas programs in Israel (such as those of Temple University, Drexel University, University of Pennsylvania, and various Jewish and Christian religious seminaries), as well as business travelers in the country, should be advised of the apparent increase in jihadist targeting of the country at this time. Adhere to guidance provided by local security forces and increase awareness of cross-border tension on Israel's northern front. (PAIB no. 80)

5. Irish Republican Terror Resurgent

There has been a notable increase in terrorist actions by Irish republican factions since late last year, with republican dissident terror groups such as the Real IRA (RIRA) or Continuity IRA (CIRA) intensely attempting to revive sectarian violence. Recent attacks and attempted attacks have included VBIEDs targeting law enforcement and military assets in Northern Ireland. General situational awareness is called for among students and faculty associated with overseas programs in Northern Ireland, such as those of Millersville University and the Pennsylvania College of Technology. (PAIB nos. 52 and 71)

6. Militarized Anti-Government Movements Seeing Increased Activity

ITRR researchers are monitoring anti-government militia organizations, especially the Rogue Nation Eternal Militia (RNEM), also linked with anarchist libertarian elements. RNEM and others have been promoting armed, dispersed and "leaderless resistance" against what they define as the "New World Order". Their targets include FEMA, the United Nations, banks, as well as the police, the military and other federal agencies. The RNEM group appears to have a Pennsylvania chapter. (PAIB nos. 63, 65, 68 and 73)

7. Jihadists Targeting World Cup 2010 and Other Sports Venues

Recent jihadist communications include very serious risk indicators regarding the FIFA 2010 World Cup (soccer), to be held in South Africa between 11 June and 11 July 2010, including the implication that Al-Qaeda has the capability to deploy some sort of "dirty bomb" using radioactive material. Jihadist communications have also provided motivation to target the countries involved in the World Cup.

Students, faculty and researchers attending South African educational institutions through the University of Pennsylvania's African Studies Center (the Fulbright-Hays Intensive Intermediate-Advanced Zulu Group Project Abroad in KwaZulu-Natal), Pennsylvania State University (the Alliance for Education, Science, Engineering and Development in Africa, in conjunction with the University of Cape Town), and others, should be made aware of the specific risks associated with attending World Cup games this year.

More broadly, recent jihadist communications have focused on tactics and strategies for attacks on sports events, using sports paraphernalia or infiltration of sports stadiums. The explicit reference to sports venues dovetailed with previous jihadist tactical communications regarding the use of Western-born terrorists wearing inconspicuous, appropriate clothing. This intelligence takes on added urgency due to ongoing high-profile professional and collegiate sporting events in Pennsylvania. (PAIB nos. 42, 47, 56 and 72)

SECTOR-SPECIFIC THREATS, INDICATORS AND/OR WARNINGS

Sectors: GOVERNMENT FACILITIES; TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS

8. Jihad DIY: How to Blow up an Airplane

New jihadist communications intercepted by ITRR researchers offer "an explanation of how you can blow up a plane". The TTP (Tactics, Techniques and Procedures) discussed includes methods of bypassing airport security in order to bring an explosive device onto an aircraft.

A key communication focuses on tactics that would be most applicable to flights originating in non-US and non-European airports; specifically, "a plane that goes from Islamic states to the infidel countries."

Among other guidance, the jihadist explains that the best material for the stated purpose is plastic explosives, "enough to make at least two holes in the bottom of the plane - in the baggage area." The explosives, he continues, should be concealed "inside a laptop, radio or any other electric device" and detonated by remote control or using a timer.

Another jihadist contributing to the exchange of ideas suggests using a shirt or coat dipped in acetone with peroxide. He says that a spark igniting such a soaked piece of clothing would be enough to take out an airplane.

The preferred detonation would be just before landing, according to the intercepted communications.

The jihadists also offer guidance on a deceptive ruse to leave the airport after checking in the booby-trapped luggage. The communication providing the most detailed information suggests that it is easy to bypass airport security while leaving, which the jihadist explicitly says consists of two checkpoints.

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

T//W Rating: MODERATE

The above-mentioned communications are a part of an ongoing discussion monitored by ITRR researchers in which jihadists identify vulnerabilities of passenger airliners and airports, as well as share TTP guidance for attacking commercial jets while in flight. The objective of such an attack, periodically reiterated in Islamist communications, is to disrupt Western economies using terrorism in the air.

ITRR analysts note that the tactics discussed in the above-mentioned communications suggest a familiarity with airport security procedures and weaknesses, both generally and in Arab countries specifically. Furthermore, the method and travel guidance above fit the pattern of a previous attempt to destroy a plane in flight (December 2009).

ITRR analysts add that the aforementioned tactics, appropriately adapted, could also be used by terrorists targeting commercial ships in a maritime attack.

Increasing international traffic at Philadelphia International Airport, along with its central location, significantly raises its profile as a target for jihadist agents seeking to detonate a bomb aboard

an airliner in American airspace. As the second most well-traveled airport in Pennsylvania, and as a US military transit point with facilities for military personnel and their families, Pittsburgh International Airport would also be a high-profile target for such terrorists.

Sectors: GOVERNMENT FACILITIES; COMMERCIAL FACILITIES; TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS

9. Protesting the New Arizona Immigration Law

A new Arizona law, taking effect late July or early August, will require police to question people about their immigration status if they suspect someone is in the country illegally. The legislation has sparked vehement opposition from anti-border anarchists, immigrants' rights organizations and Hispanic public action groups.

One reaction to the new law, suggested by far-left activists, is a nationwide boycott of the Arizona Diamondbacks baseball team, among "all things Arizona". Militant opponents of the immigration law call for protests against the "racist" "echoes of apartheid" and a full boycott of every game in which the Diamondbacks take part.

In addition, the political heavy-hitter Rev. Al Sharpton and Lillian Rodriguez Lopez, head of the Hispanic Federation in New York City, said last week that they are prepared to march in Arizona against the new legislation. Unidentified "activists", they added, are willing to commit acts of "civil disobedience" to fight it.

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

T/I/W Rating: MODERATE

ITRR analysts believe the building opposition to the Arizona immigration law is significant enough, and widespread enough, to warrant heightened situational awareness among security personnel and law enforcement. Opponents of the law in Pennsylvania may target visiting Arizona VIPs, delegations or Arizona-related events in the coming weeks and months.

Regarding the plan to boycott Diamondback baseball games, certain immigrant rights activists are sharing the team's game calendar and calling local opponents to the new Arizona law in every away game to protest the event. As the Diamondbacks play in the National League, they will be playing in Philadelphia in late July and in Pittsburgh in September 2010. Security personnel responsible for the coming baseball games, stadium perimeters and all Arizona-related events must maintain awareness of plans for such protest activity, with an emphasis on crowd control and containment of militant agitation.

No actionable intelligence at this time for the following sectors:

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

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.

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