

PENNSYLVANIA ACTIONABLE INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN #27

TARGETED ACTIONABLE MONITORING CENTER

30 DECEMBER 2009

ONGOING RESEARCH

1. *Ongoing Holiday Season Threat*

Following the detailed intelligence and concrete guidance shared in jihadist communications regarding effective attacks in the United States - as first revealed in PAIB no. 19 (11 December 2009) - ITRR analysts continue to monitor the ongoing jihadist discussion for further details and specific threats. Similar threats have been identified regarding the UK and elsewhere (see below, "Nightclubs Singled Out as Accessible Soft Target").

2. *Anti-Israel Protests Expected on Gaza War Anniversary*

The first anniversary of Israel's Operation Cast Lead counterterror incursions into Gaza will be from 27 December 2009 through 18 January 2010. To mark the occasion, international pro-Palestinian groups are set to hold "Gaza Freedom Marches" in North America, Europe and Israel through the end of December (first discussed in PAIB no. 23, 21 December 2009).

3. *Going to 'Action Camp'*

ITRR analysts are continuing to monitor events surrounding the upcoming "direct action" training camp for environmentalists, as noted in PAIB no. 20 (14 December 2009). The camp, scheduled for 4-25 January 2010, will focus on disrupting the coal industry. Skills and lessons learned in "actions" targeting coal operations will likely be applied in Pennsylvania, as well.

4. *Animal Rights Activists' Pre-operational Surveillance*

As reported in PAIB no. 24 (23 December 2009) ITRR researchers identified an intelligence product produced by animal rights activists specifically targeting fur producers and suppliers of product to fur farms. Titled *The Blue Print: Fur Farm Intelligence Project*, the document was provided to aggressive animal rights activists with the intent to target fur trade assets.

SECTOR-SPECIFIC THREATS, INDICATORS AND/OR WARNINGS

Sectors: POSTAL AND SHIPPING, TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS AND ENERGY

5. *The Christmas Day Attack: What's Next*

On 29 December 2009 ITRR analysts intercepted follow-on communications regarding continuing threats by Al-Qaeda-affiliated terrorists and lone-wolf operatives. ITRR analysts believe maritime assets are currently under significant threat of jihadist attack. The threat to air travel remains high, as well.

The aforementioned jihadist discussion declares: "It is not over because the plane did not explode." The immediate fall-out the AQAP wanted to see from the Christmas Day attack, according to the communications, was "to ignite the Arab soldiers guarding US embassies, their military bases, and intelligence centers - to show them the way of Nidal Hassan to aim their weapons at the American Crusaders...." According to the jihadist encouraging attacks in the Middle East, "One action against every embassy in Arab lands will cause, after a short period of time, no one to remain and everyone will flee these compounds."

The jihadist goes on to announce that guidance regarding attacks from and on the sea will be forthcoming. This echoes previous jihadist discussions regarding maritime TTPs.

*****ANALYSIS***** Threat Level: SEVERE

In bulletins and alerts in October and November 2009, ITRR analysts identified internal jihadist communications with specific intelligence-oriented details regarding TTPs for operations such as the Christmas Day attack. As noted in PAIB no. 26 (28 December 2009), the explosives and tactics used on Christmas Day were foreshadowed very closely in communications cited in PAIB no. 10 (20 November 2009).

Current ITRR analysis indicates:

Maritime

Future attacks may involve explosives smuggled onto a Western-flagged or US-bound ship. A bomber transiting from overseas would likely detonate his device only once the vessel entered the waters of the target country.

The Delaware River tri-state port complex (Philadelphia, PA; Camden, Gloucester City and Salem, NJ; and Wilmington, DE) is the fifth largest of its kind and the second largest oil port in the US, handling about 85% of the East Coast's oil imports. These factors make it a high-profile target for jihadists intent on carrying out the maritime attack script discussed above. Other vulnerable ports include those of Erie and Pittsburgh.

Disrupting energy supplies to the US and its allies has repeatedly been cited by Al-Qaeda as a major strategic goal, making the Delaware ports especially attractive targets. AQAP and affiliated groups will also likely target oil pipelines and energy shipping lanes within the Arabian Peninsula or in the Gulf of Aden. Such attacks, if successful, may possibly disrupt energy supplies to the Pennsylvania and elsewhere.

Regarding the smuggling or transfer of explosives to target countries, jihadist communications recommended the use of ships, due to the lower level of security surrounding sea travel.

Air Traffic

Future attacks may involve a tactic used recently by AQAP in Yemen: explosives inside the bomber's body cavity. 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 such a device aboard an airliner in American airspace.

Additional Threats

- * There remains a high likelihood of additional attacks attempted by lone-wolf copy-cat terrorists beyond the current holiday period.
- * Of particular concern are terrorist communications discussing the possibility of future attacks targeting other mass transit assets or hubs. Vulnerable Pennsylvania assets include those of Amtrak, SEPTA, PAT, etc.

Tactical Analysis

- * AQ is successfully inserting operatives who do not appear suspicious to security officials.
- * Terrorists will continue using lighter materials in smuggled explosive devices.

SECTOR: COMMERCIAL FACILITIES

6. Nightclubs Singled Out as Accessible Soft Target

A jihadist communication intercepted by ITRR on 30 December 2009 discusses a specific intent by a named would-be terrorist to bomb nightclubs and other places frequented by Westerners.

The communication praises the rising instances of Muslims from around the world seeking to join the international jihad. This manifests itself in requests for information and guidance on Islamist forums and the like seeking contacts with jihadist organizations in North Africa and Iraq, the communication says.

According to the jihadist communication, there is a named would-be terrorist from Algeria who previously sought information on preparing a suicide bomb belt using common materials. The Algerian's preferred target, he said, was a nightclub. Currently, the Algerian is supposedly seeking contact with Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) "in the mountains".

The communication concludes by saying: "We conclude that the minute it becomes possible for him, [the Algerian young man] has great potential to carry out an attack if he has the means and materials.

******* ANALYSIS***** Threat Level: MODERATE**

ITRR analysts note that the above reference to nightclubs dovetails with previous PAIB analysis (e.g., PAIB no. 19) indicating high current jihadist motivation to strike public gathering points, specifically celebrations drawing adult party-goers in CONUS (e.g. New Year's events). More generally, the incitement and intelligence sharing in jihadist forums regarding such attacks contributes to lone-wolf terrorist capabilities and motivation, as has been seen in many previous lone-wolf attacks.

The specific above-named Algerian bomber, if authentic, may be deployed to attack in a major city in North Africa (especially in Algeria or Morocco); however, the threat extends to France due

to that country's large North African population. Pennsylvanian students, tourists and business travelers in the named regions should be made aware of the existing threat.

SECTOR: GOVERNMENT FACILITIES

7. *Anti-Police Incitement*

A 57 minute viral video of questionable police conduct is making its way through the Internet. Titled *The Largest Street Gang in America*, the video is a montage of video clips that are edited and packaged to make American law enforcement officers look like thugs. The intent is to create an anti-law enforcement, anti-government atmosphere.

When introducing the video to one segment of his audience, one writer prefaced it with: "How is it that those who were suppose to 'Serve & Protect', as 'Public Servants', turned on those of US who they now consider the 'enemy', and now have become the Roman Guard of a tyrannical, out of control government?"

The video was brought to the attention of ITRR analysts by an anti-government website. An example of a viewer's comment to the video:

"We allow the people in power to abuse and control us, and every time we stand by and say or do nothing when some one (*sic*) is abused and harmed by an agent of the US Government, we are telling then "abuse me too, I won't resist. ...We create a new normal for acceptable police behavior."

***** ANALYSIS***** Threat Level: LOW

Pennsylvania is home to a significant population of people with a belief system that is echoed in the above comments. Recently, "Apple Seed" fire arms training was held in Lancaster County by the Revolutionary War Veterans Association (RWVA) (PAIB no. 4, 6 November 2009).

As stated in the PAIB, ITRR analysts haven't seen direct links between the RWVA and anti-government organizations. However, a quote from "Fred", a member of the RWVA provides an insight into the thought process of at least some of the membership: "Times are critical. We're faced with a (*sic*) out of control police state, an engineered collapse of what's left of America, the end of a way of life that has become slavery. We'll need to survive. We'll need to know how to shoot. The Appleseed Project is designed to instill such knowledge."

Law enforcement officials should be aware of the continuing anti-government and anti-law enforcement communications that may cause an attack against a police officer or other public official for the most minor of reasons.

SECTOR: COMMERCIAL FACILITIES

8. 'Puppy Rescue' Likely to Cross the Line

ITRR Domestic Terror analysts have identified written communications describing distress over the potential euthanasia of dogs from facilities identified by the animal rights activists as "puppy mills."

Animal welfare activists note that legislation in Pennsylvania was passed in 2009 with the intention of reducing the number of dog breeders that over-bred dogs for sale. As of 31 December 2009, breeders who have not obtained the required licensing will be out of business.

The activists believe that "thousands of dogs will be euthanized in PA." Stating that, "the horrible fact is that MOST of these puppy millers do not care what happens to the dogs, and will be euthanizing unless rescuers step up to help," animal rights activists are preparing to take action.

******* ANALYSIS******* Threat Level: MODERATE

Much of the attempts to "rescue" dogs from breeders will include trying to arrange cooperative adoptions between the breeders and people willing to adopt these animals. However, ITRR analysts believe that there is a strong likelihood of some activists attempting to take matters into their own hands by breaking into kennels and stealing dogs.

ITRR analysts recommend that, through 15 January 2010, law enforcement agencies increase pro-active patrols around facilities that are vulnerable to such attempts to illegally seize the property's animals.

No actionable intelligence at this time for the following sectors:

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD
DEFENSE INDUSTRIAL BASES
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

THREAT LEVEL	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 TAMC- Report

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@terrorresponse.org

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