

PENNSYLVANIA ACTIONABLE INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN #52

TARGETED ACTIONABLE MONITORING CENTER

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STRATEGIC ANALYSIS

1. The Value of Intercept Intelligence and the Ft. Jackson Food Poisoning Story

Media reports last week indicated that five Arabic-speaking foreign-language specialists who were being trained by the US military are being investigated, in an inquiry continuing since December 2009, for evidence of plans to poison American soldiers at Ft. Jackson, North Carolina.

The details of the alleged plan included injecting poison into the food delivered to soldiers at the base.

The above suspicions are unconfirmed at this time, but they do dovetail with jihadist communications from January 2010. In those intelligence-sharing items, ITRR analysts noted, among other items, jihadists encouraged:

- * infiltration of Western military forces "to recruit soldiers from those forces and use them to carry out lethal military attacks against the Americans who train them"; and
- * infiltration of "companies that provide food to the enemy military and to poison the food with lethal toxins or to put explosives in the shipments."

An earlier ITRR report, from 3 August 2009 ("Somalia: Food Poisoning as a Tactic"), noted that the Somali Al-Qaeda-affiliated Shabab Al-Mujahideen were believed to have poisoned Ugandan and Burundian troops taking part in a peacekeeping mission in Somalia. Earlier that same month, Shabab in fact claimed that its agents had poisoned the Burundian forces.

ITRR analysts believe that hostile elements - from jihadists to ethnic separatists to anti-globalist Anarchists - are seeking ways to do serious damage to major infrastructure remotely and without immediate risk to the perpetrators.

For example, commuter and freight rail service was seriously disrupted on 21 August 2003 when a virus disabled the computer systems at the freight rail headquarters in Jacksonville, Florida. In October 2006, the **control system at a water plant in Pennsylvania** was reportedly accessed through an employee's laptop via the Internet.

In one recent incident in India, disgruntled employees were suspected of being behind a case of radioactive poisoning in a nuclear power plant. In another case, a former employee of an Australian sewer control plant was convicted of accessing the plant's SCADA system through his laptop in order to release 264,000 gallons of sewage into national waterways. While these cases implicated employees with personal motivations, ITRR notes that both jihadists and other terror groups have repeatedly recruited or intimidated infrastructure insiders to assist in their plans.

The above events and communications should encourage a greater awareness of force supply lines, as well as indicating the **vulnerability of civilian food and water supplies to sabotage**. Due to the sharing of information and motivational cross-pollination among terrorists, security personnel should increase awareness of the protocols for protection of water and food supplies in all regions under jihadist threat worldwide.

In that regard, ITRR noted in PAIB no. 14 the publication of a "Manual of Mayhem" put together by SEGI, a Basque terror organization allied with the ETA. In that document, the terror outfit provided guidance and encouragement for poisoning reservoirs, sabotaging trains and slipping incendiary mixtures into ballot envelopes during elections. SEGI called poisoning water supplies a "very significant" attack.

At the time, ITRR analysts observed that terrorists of various, even opposite, motivations learn from one another directly or indirectly. Thus, just as an Anarchist explosives and toxins handbook recently appeared on jihadist forums, it is expected that the Basque terror manual is similarly making the rounds outside the circle of ETA sympathizers and into the hands of Anarchists, right-wing militias and White supremacists.

In addition, the above US investigation is yet another confirmation that targeting and tactical guidance details discussed in jihadist communications often become a physical reality in real-world plots or attacks. ITRR analysts have noted this phenomenon more and more frequently in the past year. Other recent examples of this include the intercepted discussion of maritime jihad focusing on the use of floating "barrel bombs" and their subsequent deployment off the

Mediterranean coast, the targeting and subsequent attempted bombing of the Sha'ar HaShamayim Synagogue in Cairo (see "Egypt and the Risk to Jewish, Western Assets" in PAIB no. 50), as well as the intercepted exchanges concerning how to smuggle explosives on board an airplane and the subsequent smuggled IED that passed security at international airports on Christmas Day 2009.

SECTOR-SPECIFIC THREATS, INDICATORS AND/OR WARNINGS

Sectors: GOVERNMENT FACILITIES

2. *Jihad Against Israel*

Although hardly new, jihadist communications targeting Israel have seized upon a fresh diplomatic dust-up over national heritage sites in Hebron and Bethlehem. Israel last week announced that the Cave of the Biblical Patriarchs in Hebron and the tomb of the Biblical Rachel in Bethlehem are Jewish national heritage sites, which has reportedly infuriated Islamist and Palestinian Authority officials. There have already been violent demonstrations and clashes between Arab protesters and Israeli security forces in the Jerusalem area.

In a communication from the Gaza-based *Jaish Al-Ummah* (Army of the Nation), dated 25 February 2010 and addressed to "all the sons of the magnificent Islamic nation," Jews are accused of "crimes against ... everything that is Muslim in Palestine." The communication explicitly notes the Israeli government's declaration regarding the aforementioned tombs.

In response, *Jaish Al-Ummah* "calls on all the jihad fighters to step up their operations everywhere they can. We call all the Muslims and jihadist fighters to actually operate to save Al-Aksa mosque, the burial site of Abraham and Rachel's Tomb."

Earlier, the leader of the Islamist Hamas regime in Gaza (which has otherwise clashed with *Jaish Al-Ummah*), *Ismail Haniyeh*, called on the Arabs to start a new "uprising" to protest the Israeli decision.

***** ANALYSIS *****

T/I/W Rating: MODERATE

In addition to the controversy over the Jewish heritage sites in Hebron and Bethlehem, ITRR analysts believe that an additional trigger for violent action may be the handing out of demolition orders in an Arab neighborhood of Jerusalem this past week. City officials, with Israeli Defense Force (IDF) security cover, began distributing the orders on Wednesday.

According to ITRR analysis, in addition to the current motivational factors noted above, the terrorist organizations arrayed against Israel tend to increase their efforts to carry out attacks at this time of year through mid-May.

ITRR recommends that the many Pennsylvanian students, faculty, researchers, tourists and business travelers heighten situational awareness in Israel at this time, especially in the Jerusalem area. Security risks come from violent protests and lone-wolf attacks, as well as organized terror attacks. ITRR recommends adhering carefully to any instructions provided by IDF security elements.

Sectors: COMMERCIAL FACILITIES; GOVERNMENT FACILITIES

3. Al-Qaeda Urging Turks to Join the Jihad, Everywhere

Al-Qaeda is again targeting Turkish Muslim youth for recruitment. Such an effort was specifically noted by ITRR analysts in the middle of last year.

In the most recent recruitment video, released 22 February 2010, a man speaking Turkish calls on Muslims to join the jihad. He advocates suicide bombings, as they are "the best" for causing physical and economic damage to the targeted nations.

The video then purports to show the same man perpetrating a suicide attack at an American military base in Khost, Afghanistan, using a Vehicular-Borne IED (VBIED).

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

T/I/W Rating: MODERATE

In 2009, ITRR analysts noted, an Al-Qaeda recording praised Turkish jihadists in the context of an increasing focus on Germany as a high-profile target. The recruitment of Turkish Muslims to the jihad takes on greater significance for the West in light of the large Turkish expatriate community in Germany, with unlimited access throughout the European Union.

Aside from expendable fighters against the Western militaries on the ground, the presence of Turks among the jihadists in Afghanistan may be intended as training for their eventual deployment as stealth cells within the Turkish population in Germany; this analysis is made in light of the explicit threats issued against German forces in the past by Afghanistan-front jihadist leaders.

In addition, the latest recruitment video also singles out Turkey itself as a member of the NATO coalition fighting against Muslims worldwide; hence, an enemy.

In light of the foregoing, ITRR analysts recommend an increased situational awareness at and in proximity to German and Turkish assets globally, including attention paid to identify pre-operational surveillance or probing by enemy agents. In Pennsylvania, this includes the law offices of David Murdoch, the Honorary German Consul, on Smithfield Street in Pittsburgh, high-profile German-owned companies and US headquarters of German companies such as Almatris, Bayer Schering and others.

Within Turkey, ITRR recommends that faculty and students attending the Philadelphia-based American Research Institute in Turkey (ARIT) facilities in Ankara and Istanbul, as well as at

other regional institutions, increase situational awareness. Pennsylvanian students and researchers, as well as business travelers and tourists, in Germany - and throughout Europe generally - should be aware of the heightened risk levels at this time.

Sectors: GOVERNMENT FACILITIES

4. Irish Republican Terrorism: Limited, But Deadly Serious

A car bomb was detonated outside a Newry courthouse in Northern Ireland on 22 February 2010. The building suffered serious damage, but no one was injured in the explosion.

The terrorists had sent warnings of the impending attack shortly before the detonation, giving police time to initiate an evacuation of the area, which includes restaurants and pubs. The explosion occurred as the evacuation was underway.

ITRR researchers note that there has been a notable increase in terrorist actions by Irish Republican factions since late last year. A number of police stations have been targeted in shooting attacks, with Irish Republican terrorists even attempting to use a mortar shell to attack a Keady police station on 19 February 2010. In January, a police officer was seriously injured when a booby trap bomb exploded under his car in the Antrim region.

In September 2009, as noted in ITRR reports at the time, cells of armed thugs - purportedly affiliated with republican dissident terror groups such as the Real IRA (RIRA) or Continuity IRA (CIRA) - were intensely attempting to revive sectarian violence in Northern Ireland. The related arrests of several CIRA would-be terrorists in Northern Ireland sparked incited violence at the time, as well as rail sabotage.

One motivation for the most recent attempt to perpetrate large-scale attacks is apparently the Hillsborough Agreement between republican and unionist political factions, signed over two weeks ago. It reportedly halted a deterioration in relations between the sides. ITRR analysts note that violence by members of CIRA, RIRA or their sympathizers has been condemned across the board.

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

T//W Rating: MODERATE

Active cells of RIRA and CIRA remain an ongoing threat in Northern Ireland. The dissident republican groups are primarily targeting law enforcement; however, last year saw targeting of civilian assets such as Orange Halls and GAA (Gaelic soccer) clubs in North Antrim, churches, and Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH) halls.

Sectarian violence has thus far been limited to specific targets and areas of Northern Ireland. However, 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.

Sectors: Commercial Facilities and Government Facilities

5. *Protests to Greet Start of COP15 Rioting Trials*

Seven environmental activists who are charged with organizing violent protests at the Copenhagen Climate Change Summit in 2009 (COP15) are set to face criminal proceedings 16-19 March 2010. Their supporters are calling for protests at the courthouse venue in Denmark, as well as for solidarity protests at Danish embassies around the world. Their demand is that the charges against these seven and other Copenhagen protesters be dropped, and the "criminalization of political movement end now," their words.

The pre-trial protests have been called for 11 March 2010.

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

T/I/W Rating: LOW

As ITRR analysts noted in PAIB no. 21, the environmental extremists were surprised by the vigorous response by Danish police to COP15-related violence and adversarial planning. The post-event protests over the above trials are apparently an additional expression of this frustration, which may encourage sympathetic protests by affinity groups outside Denmark.

Although Denmark does not have an embassy in **Pennsylvania, it has consular representatives in both Philadelphia and Pittsburgh**. ITRR analysts note that the western half of the state has an extremely aggressive and cohesive group of climate change activists.

The Pittsburgh Consulate, headed by Consul Eva M. Robinson, is located at 104 Shanor Heights in Butler; The Philadelphia Consulate, headed by Consul Alfred John Kuffler, is represented by McCracken, Walker & Rhoads, LLP at 123 S. Broad Street.

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	<i>DESCRIPTION</i>
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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