

PENNSYLVANIA ACTIONABLE INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN #25

TARGETED ACTIONABLE MONITORING CENTER

25 DECEMBER 2009

STRATEGIC ANALYSIS

Certainty of Increasing Attacks on Egypt

In PAIB no. 23 (21 December 2009) ITRR analysts expressed the view that there will be international jihadist or Gaza-based attacks on Egyptian military forces, as well as possible targeting of civilians, due to the construction of a steel barricade separating Gaza from Egyptian Sinai. According to the ITRR analysis at the time, attacks were likely to escalate from gunfire (as occurred earlier when terrorists opened fire on Egyptian construction crews) into rocket attacks, possibly followed by large-scale attacks on Sinai resorts and other civilian targets.

In the interim, ITRR analysts note, jihadist forums and the general Arabic media have been focusing greater attention on the Egyptian project, which is presented as helping Israel to isolate and besiege Gaza. Gaza and Egyptian jihadists claim that the wall is being built in collusion with Israel and the US. Therefore, as stated by ITRR analysts in PAIB no. 23, terrorists will likely seek to strike Israeli and American assets in the region, as well.

On 23 December 2009, ITRR researchers identified communications calling on the "lions of Iraq" and Palestinian Authority jihadists "to stand up alongside your brothers in Gaza." Specifically, the communications discuss the tactic of abduction: "Kidnap Zionist soldiers or American soldiers in Iraq, and release them only on condition that the closure be lifted from Gaza."

ITRR analysts believe that there is currently an increased threat of kidnap-type terror operations in areas of Israel and Egypt in close proximity to Gaza and the Palestinian Authority areas, as well as in Iraq. In PAIB no. 20 (16 December 2009), ITRR reported an attack on a car carrying three members of a Western NGO and their driver, in which gunmen attempted to "control" the car, failed, and then opened fire on the vehicle. ITRR researchers subsequently identified jihadist communications in which a terror group claimed to have been behind the operation, which they admitted was a failure.

ITRR reiterates its alert regarding potential for terror activity in Egypt - especially against high-visibility government offices, tourist sites and in the Sinai. Pennsylvania students attending the American University in Cairo, Egypt (BEG) should be advised of the current increased danger of terrorist activity. Also vulnerable as targets for abduction or attack are those who travel in vehicles with markings indicating Western companies or organizations.

The potential for terror activity in Egypt, especially in the Sinai, remains high. The danger is particularly significant because many Westerners spend the December holiday season at resorts in the Sinai.

Threat Level: SEVERE (as of 21 December 2009) for ***Egypt and Gaza***.

Threat Level: MODERATE for areas of ***Israel*** adjacent to Hamas-influenced regions (Gaza).

Note: As an active combat zone, ***Iraq*** is outside the scope of this threat level assessment.

SECTOR-SPECIFIC THREATS

Sectors: GOVERNMENT FACILITIES; HEALTHCARE AND PUBLIC HEALTH

Anti-Abortion Extremist Wants to 'Hear About the Use of Force'

Reading, Pennsylvania-based anti-abortion extremist John Dunkle has advocated, and justified as legitimate, the use of force to prevent abortions. In a 21 December 2009 communication, he requests that anyone who has "been forceful" in the past in the fight against abortion contact him. He also seeks a response "from those who disagree with me."

His request for feedback is phrased: "Because I believe we should use every legitimate means, including force, in our attempt to protect those being tortured to death, I want to hear from people who've been forceful."

His website includes a list called "Prisoners for Christ" that includes contact information for 15 people jailed for attacks or attempted attacks on abortion facilities or doctors. Included are terrorists such as Scott Roeder, convicted of the murder of Dr. George Tiller at the entrance to the doctor's family church.

The request follows an offer to purchase a subscription to a monthly publication he intends to distribute called *Abortion is Murder*. The publication, he says, is "a weak, pathetic response to baby murder...." He will send it to anyone requesting a copy, "If the gestapo hasn't jailed you for defending the innocent realistically...."

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

Threat Level: LOW

Dunkle's publication is listed as available through PO Box 7424, Reading, PA. Contact information appears on his website as: cellphone - (484) 706-4375; "machine" - (610) 396-0332; email - johndunk@ptd.net; Website: skype1.blogspot.com.

Such extremist rhetoric is not new for Dunkle and other communications from within the anti-abortion extremist movements. However, the request for direct contact with "people who've been forceful", followed by a list of terrorists that includes murderers, indicates a potentially new level of communications to initiate further terrorist actions of unknown severity.

Sectors: TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS; EMERGENCY SERVICES

Simple Laser Devices as 'Anti-Aircraft' Weapons

ITRR researchers intercepted jihadist communications discussing in detail the use of laser devices to "destroy aircraft, missiles and products of the enemy."

Specifically, the guidance says: "I advise, based on the information that I have, to use a 1500-watt laser pointer, which blinds the pilot and makes him lose control, and he can't locate where the enemy is. The *mujahideen* ('jihadists') can use it from a long distance and the enemy can't find them. The device is very easy to use, with just the push of a button, and it's very easy to smuggle through tunnels. It will be very helpful for the Muslims everywhere, because the next wars will be with electronics, electromagnetic waves and disruption."

The jihadist claims that his advice is based on conversations with "experts in this field." The device he advocates, he says, is based on "fiber technology, with good capacity that doesn't exceed 100 kilowatts, and it constitutes a real threat to the American aircraft of the F-22 type."

The intercepted communications go on to include specs of several types of laser devices, including those produced by Femtotechnic Engineering Ltd. of Turkey and by Continuum Inc. of Santa Clara, California. Also included are extensive readings on future military applications of advanced laser systems.

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

Threat Level: MODERATE

ITRR points out that the primary threat of the laser devices is their use in blinding cabin crews when an aircraft is taking off or landing. Such a use requires the aircraft to be at a low enough altitude for a laser to be seen in the cockpit. In June of this year, for example, a Pennsylvania man was charged with aiming a high-powered laser at a police helicopter cockpit during landing. The pilot, temporarily blinded, handed controls to his co-pilot.

There have been many reports of pointer-style lasers targeting landing aircraft at commercial airports throughout the United States. Most of these incidents involved commercially available green lasers and were most likely the actions of irresponsible aircraft enthusiasts or thrill-seekers. However, ITRR analysts point out that current devices under discussion by jihadists are much stronger than those used previously, and can pose a real threat to aircraft, law enforcement or field combatants.

No actionable intelligence at this time for the following sectors:

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD
DEFENSE INDUSTRIAL BASES
ENERGY
NATIONAL MONUMENTS AND ICONS
BANKING AND FINANCE
WATER
CHEMICAL
COMMERCIAL FACILITIES
CRITICAL MANUFACTURING
DAMS
NUCLEAR REACTORS, MATERIALS, AND WASTE
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
COMMUNICATIONS
POSTAL AND SHIPPING

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-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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domestic or international operations to terrorism***

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