

PENNSYLVANIA ACTIONABLE INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN #29

TARGETED ACTIONABLE MONITORING CENTER

4 JANUARY 2010

ACTIONABLE DATE REMINDERS

- **4-25 January:** Aggressive environmentalists will be attending what they are calling a Winter Action Camp in Rock Creek, West Virginia to learn the skills of "direct action". (Reported in 14 Dec 2009 PAIB)
- **11 January:** Anti-war protesters will converge on the US embassy in London, UK. Similar protests in Washington DC; possibly elsewhere as well.
- **11 January:** Marks the eighth anniversary of the start of Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, being used to house detainees in the "war on terror." Vigils and protests expected in Washington DC through **22 January 2010**.
- **1-18 February 2010:** Animal rights activists worldwide will be noting "Remembrance for Animal Activists." At this time, there are no programs planned. Instead, organizers are seeking decentralized protests.

SECTOR-SPECIFIC THREATS, INDICATORS AND/OR WARNINGS

Sectors: COMMERCIAL FACILITIES; TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS; GOVERNMENT FACILITIES

1. Lone-Wolf Jihad Continues - Denmark, Houston, Philadelphia

A man affiliated with the Shabab Al-Mujahideen of Somalia attempted to kill Danish cartoonist Kurt Westergaard in Denmark on Saturday, 2 January 2010. Westergaard was one of the cartoonists whose work sparked mass rioting among Muslims worldwide in 2005. The attacker, who broke into the cartoonist's house and was in possession of a knife and a hatchet, was shot and arrested by police.

Reacting to the reports, a Shabab spokesman praised the attack on the "devil who abused our prophet Mohammad." The group called "upon all Muslims around world to target people like [Westergaard]."

In the United States, there were two recent incidents that indicate a connection with jihadist ideology, although to what extent the suspects involved were personally committed to action remains to be determined.

1. On 30 December 2009, police responding to an attempted break-in at a southwest Houston apartment discovered an unarmed AT-4 shoulder-mounted, ultra-light rocket launcher. Along with the rocket launcher, police found jihadist writings. No charges will be filed regarding the launcher or the literature, "unless they contain some type of threat," according to officials. Local media reported that Houston police found that the man suspected of owning the launcher and jihadist literature had no terrorist ties.

2. Also on 30 December 2009, Philadelphia police responding to a loitering call discovered a firebomb, anti-Israeli literature and an Arabic dictionary inside a Center City parking garage. The suspected individual who placed these items, who fled the scene, reportedly left behind his laptop and identification as well.

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

Threat Level: MODERATE

While the attack in Denmark was clearly a failed jihadist episode - probably lone-wolf, but potentially Al-Qaeda-directed - the Houston and Philadelphia incidents are less clear in their nature. Nonetheless, the Houston event reinforces the need for security personnel and building managers in the vicinity of major airports and landmarks to maintain awareness of suspicious renters or activity on their properties.

In the case of the Philadelphia incident, police were in fact responding to a call from a civilian who spotted the suspect along with the incendiary device and other material. The garage where the incendiary device was found, it will be noted, is near the local office of the Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement offices, and the Israeli Consulate.

Sectors: GOVERNMENT FACILITIES

2. Powerful Bombing Tactic: Target Was Police Task Force HQ

A massive bombing of the Hemet/San Jacinto Valley Gang Task Force HQ was attempted in California on 31 December 2009. According to police, a natural gas line was diverted into the building through the roof with the intention of causing an explosion that would have leveled the building and killed everyone inside. The explosion was averted when two officers from the Riverside County-based task force evacuated the building after smelling a strong odor.

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

Threat Level: MODERATE

The investigation of the attempted bombing continues, and it remains to be determined how the gas line was insinuated into a secure facility such as a police HQ. However, ITRR analysts note that jihadist communications cited in PAIB no. 19 (11 December 2009) advised attacks targeting police stations and law enforcement in CONUS. Whether the specific incident above was jihad, domestic terror or gang related, terrorist tacticians of all varieties are most assuredly taking note of the feasibility of such a plan, and the response to the event, for their own attacks on public facilities.

Sectors: GOVERNMENT FACILITIES

3. India: Terrorists Deny Sabotage, But Launch Armed Assault

A Maoist Communist terror group in India, having denied sabotaging a passenger rail line, launched an armed attack on government offices and blocked public roads.

On Saturday, 2 January 2010, identified Communist terrorists launched an attack involving 50 people on two public buildings in Orissa. The buildings were targeted with gunfire and explosives, but nobody was injured.

On 30 December 2009, suspected Maoist saboteurs cut the connectors between two tracks and tried to bend the rails a short while before the New Delhi-Puri Purushottam Express was to cross the affected 400-meter stretch. However, rail employees spotted the vandals and halted the train before it could reach the area. Elsewhere, stone chips that had been placed on the rails, and fishplates and ballasts of railway tracks at Bhalkunia close to Midnapore town were removed. One day later, the Communist terrorists thought to be responsible denied involvement.

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

Threat Level: SEVERE

Recent attacks reinforce the nature of the ongoing threat within India from Communist terrorists and local insurgents. As noted by ITRR analysts in October 2009, a sharp uptick in Communist (AKA Marxist or Naxalite) militia attacks had begun, with no end in sight.

ITRR analysts have named the Indian states most vulnerable to Communist or separatist attacks, including: Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Orissa, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh and Jharkhand. The Naxalite terrorists' modus operandi for attacks is to deploy large numbers of fighters - and sometimes, civilian protesters - to overwhelm immediate resistance and hinder rescue efforts.

Researchers and faculty at New Delhi's University of Pennsylvania Institute for the Advanced Study of India (UPIASI), as well as business travelers and tourists from Pennsylvania, should be made aware of the heightened threat level in the aforementioned regions. Of particular note is that some stretches of railway track in those areas are seen to be under control of Naxalite terror organizations, with the cells building strength specifically in areas surrounding railway tracks and stations. Travel in such areas should be avoided.

Sectors: DEFENSE INDUSTRIAL BASES; GOVERNMENT FACILITIES

4. Follow-up to Request for Intel on US Navy Assets

Jihadist response to the detailed requests for intelligence cited in PAIB no. 28 (1 January 2010) has been active and enthusiastic thus far. Certain responses include specific tactical guidance, as well. Such as:

- * The points at which the sea vessels would be most vulnerable: while traversing straits, canals or sea lanes close to land. "That is the ideal point to strike," one communication says.
- * Using underwater unmanned or manned devices loaded with explosives. The jihadist suggesting this tactic recommends using non-metallic material for the underwater craft.
- * The use of MaxSea product software for marine navigation.
- * To turn to the Somali jihadist groups, who would make use of the Somali pirates' expertise in attacking ships.

In November 2009, ITRR cited jihadist communications requesting guidance on naval vessels such as battleships and aircraft carriers: "how they are built, especially their weak-points"; and "how to disrupt their radar systems and how radar works." The person making the request claimed: "All we need is this information and we will have a new weapon, which will give all Muslims reason to celebrate."

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

Threat Level: SEVERE

As ITRR analysts have emphasized previously, there is a clear intent by jihadist elements to begin waging a deadly form of *Jihad Al-Bahr* ("jihad at sea") as soon as operationally possible.

ITRR analysts further believe that terror attacks in coordination with Somali pirates against international shipping will occur in the near term. International maritime assets that might have been seized for their ransom value may be disposed of in an act of terror. In particular, Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula and affiliated groups will likely target energy shipping lanes within the Gulf of Aden. Such attacks, if successful, may possibly disrupt energy supplies to Pennsylvania and elsewhere.

Analysts state that the important principle for the terrorists is exercising their ability to harm the United States and the West (similar to the attempted Christmas Day attack on the Detroit-bound

NWA flight). Attacks will therefore be launched even if they are not likely to be completely successful.

For the time being, as noted in PAIB no. 28, ITRR analysts do not believe that the Naval Inactive Ship Maintenance Facility (NISMF) in Philadelphia is a significant target for jihadist attack. However, in PAIB no. 27 (30 December 2009), ITRR named the Delaware River tri-state port complex as a high-profile target for jihadists intent on carrying out certain maritime attack scripts. Other vulnerable ports include those of Erie and Pittsburgh.

Sectors: GOVERNMENT FACILITIES; COMMERCIAL FACILITIES

5. AQ Seeking to Target Infantry Soldiers' Families, Too

Similar to the threat identified by ITRR analysts and cited above ("Follow-up to Request for Intel on US Navy Assets"), Al-Qaeda is seeking to terrorize soldiers of the British armed forces in Afghanistan by targeting their families at home.

According to local police reports, AQ has issued threats to soldiers' families in the UK when it was made public that the soldiers were involved in Afghanistan operations. Police provided protection for the families in question.

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

Threat Level: SEVERE

The Al-Qaeda desire to attack the families of soldiers fighting in Afghanistan and Iraq is not limited to British servicemen. As noted in the case of American sailors, Pennsylvania-area families of soldiers who are serving or have served in the Middle East should be alerted to the possibility of unidentified callers seeking private information, suspicious informational "fishing" requests, or covert surveillance. Online operational security, focusing on the vulnerabilities of social media, should also be emphasized.

SECTORS: DEFENSE INDUSTRIAL BASE

6. Philadelphia Protest at Lockheed Martin

18 January 2010: ITRR analysts expect stronger than usual protests at the Lockheed Martin plant in King of Prussia on this anniversary of Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday. The **Brandywine Peace Community** is soliciting people to become involved in "civil disobedience."

Sectors: GOVERNMENT FACILITIES

7. Protest in Philadelphia

On the first business day after American fatalities in Afghanistan reach 1,000, peace groups will hold a protest rally at the Philadelphia City Hall. ITRR researchers are monitoring the plans as the sad day approaches. As of this 4 January 2010, the number is approximately 960 fatalities.

No actionable intelligence at this time for the following sectors:

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD
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

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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