

## **PENNSYLVANIA ACTIONABLE INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN #21**

### **TARGETED ACTIONABLE MONITORING CENTER**

**16 DECEMBER 2009**

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### **ONGOING RESEARCH**

#### ***Jihadists Take Credit***

Targeted Actionable Monitoring Center analysts provided guidance in PAIB nos. 18 and 20 (9 and 14 December 2009) on the stepped up threat of terror attacks in Egypt. In PAIB no. 20, TAM-C 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.

While local authorities claimed the incident was criminal in nature, TAM-C analysts noted that the attack may well be a joint effort of criminals and jihadist terror cells to carry out a kidnapping. This week, TAM-C researchers identified jihadist communications in which a terror group claimed to have been behind the operation, which they admitted was a failure. TAM-C analysts reiterate the need for Pennsylvania residents to exercise caution in Egypt, particularly students of the American University in Cairo or volunteers with Western NGOs.

#### ***Going to 'Action Camp'***

TAM-C 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.

#### ***Swiss Assets Still Targets***

TAM-C analysts reiterate the warning issued repeatedly since 30 November 2009, most recently in PAIB no. 18 (9 December 2009), regarding the jihadist threat to Swiss assets worldwide. Potential targets of adversarial pre-operational probing or surveillance in the Pennsylvania region include: the Swiss consulate for the Philadelphia area, located in bordering Hockessin, Delaware; Credit Suisse offices in West Conshohocken and Plymouth Meeting; UBS offices in Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Bethel Park, Conshohocken, Erie, Newtown and Plains. Iconic institutions such as the Nestle Corporation are at increased risk world-wide, as well.

#### ***Ongoing CONUS 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) - TAM-C analysts continue to monitor the ongoing jihadist discussion for further details and specific threats. TAM-C analysts again reiterate the warning that the targeting advice recommends attacks with simple weapons obtained in the USA. The current holiday season in CONUS provides a vast number of targeting opportunities, from sporting events to synagogue and church holiday events to New Year's Eve parties.

## **SECTOR-SPECIFIC THREATS**

Sectors: GOVERNMENT FACILITIES

### ***Eco-Radicals Target Danish Assets for Protest***

In several issues of the PA Actionable Intelligence Bulletin, TAM-C analysts have provided insight into the plans of the aggressive environmental groups and Anarchists who had planned to demonstrate at and about the United Nations climate change talks in Copenhagen (COP15). The environmentalists and Anarchists believe that the climate talks were doomed to failure, and they were doing their best to guarantee exactly that.

These groups have fulfilled their goals by rioting in Copenhagen, and conducting aggressive protests in the United Kingdom and United States. However, the climate change protesters did not anticipate how aggressive the Danish police would be in their law enforcement and proactive police work; and the climate change protesters are very upset.

Climate protesters are requesting that affinity groups around the world protest at Danish embassies.

#### **\*\*\*\*\*ANALYSIS\*\*\*\*\***

Although Denmark does not have an embassy in Pennsylvania, it has consular representatives in both Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. TAM-C analysts note that, thanks to the recent G20 meeting in Pittsburgh, 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.

Sectors: GOVERNMENT FACILITIES; ENERGY

### ***More Inspiration From COP15***

The United Nations climate change talks in Copenhagen (COP15) have inspired "direct action" ecological activist groups worldwide. A recent communication identified by TAM-C analysts praises and encourages "autonomous pixie action in response to Copenhagen" ("pixies" refers to unidentified cells of saboteurs acting on behalf of such causes). The communication, shared in Anarchist forums, cites vandalism by an "autonomous group" which sabotaged machinery for three days at the Mainhill coal mining facility in Scotland earlier this month.

Calling the actions "valid responses to corporations like Scottish Coal," the eco-radicals say they "take matters into our own hands." Recipients of the communications are encouraged to "send your own message to Copenhagen!"

#### **\*\*\*\*\*ANALYSIS\*\*\*\*\***

The continuing praise and encouragement, as well as practical training (see "Ongoing Research", above), for successful "direct actions" is likely to inspire copycat actions among

"autonomous groups" globally, including in Pennsylvania. The period surrounding COP15 is most volatile, but related actions at coal facilities are likely to continue well into 2010.

## Sectors: COMMERCIAL FACILITIES

### ***Chanukah Flashpoints***

As noted in "Actionable Date Reminders" in recent PA Actionable Intelligence Bulletins, the public celebration of the Jewish holiday of Chanukah may inspire hostile actions by adversarial elements. Such actions have indeed been noted globally, with masked neo-Nazis disrupting a public menorah (Chanukah candelabra) lighting ceremony in Connecticut, unknown vandals in Long Island, New York destroying one menorah and throwing a second in a pond, and Christian Orthodox fundamentalists in the Republic of Moldova (Europe) dismantling a menorah in a public square and replacing it with a cross while making anti-Semitic speeches.

### **\*\*\*\*\* ANALYSIS \*\*\*\*\***

Large public candle lighting events - including some of those targeted by the adversarial groups - are sponsored by the Chabad-Lubavitch organization. The group sets up large menorahs in every major city in the world where the organization has a presence. Chabad Centers throughout Pennsylvania include: Allentown, Bethlehem, Bryn Mawr, Clarks Summit, Devon, Doylestown, Fort Washington, Harrisburg, Lancaster, Media, Merion Station, Monroeville, Newtown, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Reading, Rydal, Scranton, State College, Stroudsburg, Wilkes-Barre, Wynnewood, Yardley, and York.

Coming public menorah lightings in Pennsylvania include:

- \* 16 Dec. - Fox Chapel Plaza, Fox Chapel
- \* 17 Dec. - Bais Menachem, Wilkes Barre
- \* 17 Dec. - Rittenhouse Square, Philadelphia
- \* 17 Dec. - Genuardi's, Wynnewood
- \* 17 Dec. - Berkshire Mall, Reading

## Sectors: COMMERCIAL FACILITIES; TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS

### ***Update: Jihadists Reply to Question on Sarin Gas***

Arabic language researchers of the Targeted Actionable Monitoring Center (TAM-C) have identified communications providing guidance on the production and dispersing of sarin gas. The discussion is in continuation to a jihadist communication previously intercepted by TAM-C analysts (PAIB no. 18) seeking information on weapons-grade sarin gas and white phosphorus.

The sarin gas "expert" begins with an explanation about the production, including the proper proportion mixing of the different elements. He also gives advice on how to transport it safely before using it as a weapon: split it into "two different materials and activate them in the desired place."

The training also deals with dispersion methods, both through the use of explosives and the use of insecticide-type spray devices. Targets include the ventilation systems of buildings or any

given installation: "...depending on the effectiveness of the spraying device and the density of the building, an amount of 280 gram can kill between hundreds to thousands of people."

Other options for releasing the gas for the maximum casualties mentioned wrapping an explosive device with a sarin gas mixture that will be spread by the blast. Using the wind as a release and spread tool was also briefly discussed.

Potential targets mentioned were train and bus stations, aviation and government buildings.

\*\*\*\*\***ANALYSIS**\*\*\*\*\*

The use of biological and chemical warfare was brought up on the forum as a way to take part in jihad without being a *shaheed* (martyr), and without getting caught. The example of the post 9/11 anthrax letters in the United States was mentioned as a lesson in how not to get caught. The main suspect from the American anthrax attacks from 2001 was only identified in mid-2008.

TAM-C notes that the jihadists have analyzed the 1995 Sarin gas attack on the Tokyo subway, indicating that the targeting of mass transit is still a priority for terrorist targeting. Additionally, ongoing adversarial discussions focus on vulnerable ventilation systems in large public buildings.

Further to the above communication intercept, TAM-C analysts are researching the possibility that a detonation used to spread sarin might destroy a large portion of the toxic gas, possibly rendering it less lethal.

**No actionable intelligence at this time for the following sectors:**

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

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**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](mailto:info@terrorresponse.org)**

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