

PENNSYLVANIA ACTIONABLE INTELLIGENCE BRIEFING #15

TARGETED ACTIONABLE MONITORING CENTER

2 DECEMBER 2009

ONGOING RESEARCH

Waiting for the Other Shoe to Drop: Swiss Assets Likely Targets

Targeted Actionable Monitoring Center (TAM-C) analysts are continuing to monitor for expected fallout from a Swiss referendum concluded 29 November 2009 which banned further construction of mosque minarets. TAM-C analysis presented in *PAIB* no. 14 (30 November 2009) suggested that jihadists will almost certainly exploit the recent vote as fodder for inspiring attacks on Swiss interests.

In addition to the likely heightened threat of terrorism within Switzerland, including lone-wolf attacks, Swiss assets in the United States and elsewhere may now be under increased adversarial surveillance. Potential targets 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.

Eco-Terror 'Direct Action'

Domestic terrorism analysts of the TAM-C have identified the period from now until the end of the United Nations Climate Change Conference (18 December 2009) as a period of intense activity by environmental activists. The expected activity will occur in Europe, the Pacific Rim, and North America.

TAM-C analysts believe that targets for 'direct action' in Pennsylvania include:

- any corporation that extracts, refines, or uses carbon based energy sources;
- financial institutions that provide the required funding for these operations (including JP Morgan, Citi Bank, and Bank of America);
- petrochemical companies involved in the extraction of gas and oil from the Tar Sands of Canada (including Shell);
- coal companies involved in open pit or "mountain top removal" coal operations, and the power companies that burn this coal; and

- government offices charged with protecting the environment, including the Department of Environmental Protection and the Environmental Protection Administration.

TAM-C analysts note that expected actions will take place either at softer targets or at public locations most likely to make a clear "statement". Expected destructive tactics may range from arson to vandalism. Expected protests will range from "street theater" and blockades to sit-in-type occupations.

Sectors: TRANSPORTATION, EMERGENCY SERVICES

Novel Targeting in Secondary Railway Bombing

A deadly 27 November 2009 train bombing in Russia - which killed nearly 30 people, destroyed train tracks and overturned several luxury cars of the Nevsky Express - was followed by another bombing in the same area of track one day later.

Unlike most instances of secondary device detonation, the Nevsky Express bombers were apparently not primarily targeting first responders, military or law enforcement personnel. Instead, the second bomb seems to have been intended to kill Russian political VIPs who came to inspect the damage the following day.

The VIP targeted with the second IED apparently escaped injury thanks to an "umbrella" - jammers that disrupt local communications, including remote detonation devices. However, communications from sources affiliated with the Caucasus regional jihadist movement claimed that an official was injured in the second bombing.

The initial IED used a standard UZRGM fuse with a 3-4 second delay, designed for use with fragmentation grenades. According to Russian investigators, the triggering mechanism was activated when the train snagged a cord placed across the tracks, which was attached to the ring detonator. Plastic explosives, TNT and ammonium nitrate were reportedly used in the IEDs deployed against the Nevsky Express.

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

The time delay of the chosen detonation device in the initial attack on the Nevsky Express meant that the bomb exploded after the engine - which tripped the fuse - passed by and the passenger cars were alongside the hidden IED. The intention, according to TAM-C analysts, appears to have been to maximize civilian casualties. The timing of the explosion using a ring detonator required consistent pre-operational surveillance of the traffic, topography and speeds along the targeted route.

Normally, a secondary device is set off within minutes of first responders arriving on the scene in order to: a) maximize casualties; b) spread fear and panic, even among emergency services; and c) prevent discovery of the secondary device before it can be detonated. In the Nevsky Express bombing, assuming the delay in detonating the IED was intentional, the terrorists displayed great patience, as well as skills in field intelligence gathering (knowing who would be at the site and when) and IED concealment (the device was not detected in the wake of the first bombing).

Sectors: NUCLEAR REACTORS, MATERIALS, AND WASTE; WATER

Nuclear Plant's Drinking Water Deliberately Poisoned

Drinking water at a nuclear power plant in Karnataka, India, was deliberately contaminated with tritium on Saturday, 28 November 2009, harming over 50 employees. Both police and power plant officials suspect insider involvement, because of the multiple layers of security protecting the plant from outside infiltration.

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

While some Indian politicians are already blaming "disgruntled scientists" for the radioactive poisoning incident, TAM-C analysts believe that hostile ideologically motivated elements - from jihadists to eco-terrorists - are observing and learning from the incident and the reaction to it for their own strategic planning purposes. Jihadist communications have discussed attacking Western power stations in the past, but no specific intelligence points to Pennsylvania targets at this time.

Sector: GOVERNMENT FACILITIES

Anti-War Protests - Today

In the wake of President Obama's speech regarding a troop surge in Afghanistan, anti-war protesters are holding protest rallies today (2 December 2009).

In Pittsburgh, a "Suppress the Surge" event is slated for Schenley Plaza at 9:00 AM. A second protest in the same venue is scheduled for 6:00 PM.

In Philadelphia, an ANSWER protest is slated for City Hall from 4:30 to 6:00 PM.

In Morrisville, a candlelight vigil is to take place on the Pennsylvania side of the "Trenton Makes" Bridge from 5:00 to 6:00 PM.

In addition, the Princeton, New Jersey-based Coalition for Peace Action will hold a series of protests in Palmer Square from 4:30 to 5:30 PM, as well as in Atlantic City and in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania.

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

TAM-C analysts note that while many of the actions are likely to be peaceful protests, the involvement of extremist anti-war elements is expected as well. Depending on their ability to attract the necessary numbers, the extremist factions may target public property for acts of vandalism. Other actions may include street blockades and attempts to spread the protest beyond the designated area.

Student Support Rallies for Iranian Dissidents

Iranian dissidents and pro-democracy activists are planning to renew their anti-regime protests on Iran's National Student Day, 7 December 2009.

Iranian expatriate pro-democracy movement activists have called for people around the world to hold rallies in support of the Iranian dissidents on 7 December. In particular, university students have been called upon to hold rallies on their campuses. There has also been a call for human chains in major cities on 6 December 2009.

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

Of note is that the Islamic Republic of Iran is taking the threat of large renewed protests seriously. Reports that security forces have been preemptively arresting students across Iran, as well as smaller protests in Iran in November, may serve as additional impetus for pro-democracy, anti-regime activists worldwide to take part in protest rallies.

As of this briefing, there has been no specific discussion of anti-Iran protests organized by students for Pennsylvania venues. TAM-C is monitoring for additional developments affecting the Pennsylvania region.

Patriot Groups Decry 'Homeland Security Propaganda'

On 1 December 2009 Patriot groups identified a CNN investigative report as being "deeply rooted in Department of Homeland Security propaganda." The Patriot group asserts that CNN ignored "Senate Select Committee Hearings and official FBI documents" when they (CNN) asserted that "the Federal government is not building detention camps around the country and that there is absolutely no proof of these kinds of activities."

Patriot groups such as the "Oath Keepers" have identified FEMA facilities established throughout the United States as detention camps for the purpose of incarcerating American patriots. The Patriots cite as proof of these detention camps the following governmental documents:

- HR 645
- Army Regulation 210-35
- Readiness Exercise 1984
- Presidential Directive 51

Analysts of the Targeted Actionable Monitoring Center (TAM-C) note that Ft. Indiantown Gap has been identified by the Patriots as one of these FEMA camps.

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

TAM-C analysts have not identified a nexus between today's declaration of inaccurate reporting and the potential for a Patriot Movement action at Ft. Indiantown Gap during

the activity occurring from 9-11 December 2009. However, analysts will continue to monitor for such activity.

Sectors: GOVERNMENT FACILITIES, ENERGY

Eco-Activists Move to Building Occupations

In both Canada and the US, environmental groups have staged sit-ins of corporate office atriums, made their protests heard in public areas, and held protests at mining and drilling sites. Now, in Canada they're conducting occupations of federal environmental protection agencies and politicians' offices. Two such occupations have occurred since 23 November 2009.

According to the activists' spokesperson "We've held rallies, phone-ins, flash mobs, we've written and talked to our MP's and nothing has changed. Now we are taking the next step, in the tradition of Gandhi and the Civil Rights Movement to do our part to solve the greatest environmental threat of our time."

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

As environmental groups become eager to establish their credentials and ever hungrier for the focus of the press corps on their particular issues, they are having to rely on increasingly outrageous tactics. The 2008 blockades of corporate driveways, once considered a bold act, is now fairly tame. While analysts are in agreement that such blockades may happen again, they believe a more likely scenario will involve actions such as those occurring in Canada.

Analysts expect state environmental protection offices to be targeted for occupations as protesters "demand" that state policies be changed. If the protest groups believe that they can do so, corporate offices will also be targeted.

Access control is a critical component of security in such situations. In addition, analysts recommend that security personnel be familiar with state trespass and use-of-force laws in advance of such actions.

Sectors: GOVERNMENT FACILITIES; ENERGY; COMMERCIAL FACILITIES

New Tactic: Balloon-Based Flying IEDs

A recent jihadist communication intercepted by TAM-C analysts included a tactical discussion of the use of hot air or helium balloons to deliver explosives to targeted facilities. The balloons, wrote the jihadist commentator, can be used by attackers to physically release bombs on a given target and as flying IEDs that crash into the chosen target. The use of balloons, he believes, will allow attacks to be carried out against assets that are inaccessible to vehicles carrying VBIEDs.

The jihadist communication furthermore explains how to obtain the needed supplies:

1. Through the internet.
2. Produce needed balloons independently (the communication references a short instructional video clip).
3. Theft of the balloons "from tourist companies in the West. There isn't good security at the places where the balloons are being used."

Specific targets named in the jihadist communication include military targets in Pakistan, NATO bases in Afghanistan, Iraqi and Somali government facilities, and oil facilities in Saudia Arabia (especially those used by the West).

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

TAM-C analysts note that terrorists can use balloons to target a practically unlimited bank of targets - oil facilities, tourist sites, crowded events, etc. In addition to bombing, the hot air balloons can also be used as hanging sniper's nests until shot down. However, the balloons would likely be fitted with explosives that detonate upon impact with the ground. This is an inexpensive, wholly unexpected method for perpetrating a relatively large-scale attack.

Jihadist tacticians attempt to learn from incidents reported in the news. In this case, the incident in which a Colorado couple fabricated a story of their son trapped in a helium balloon may have provided intelligence to adversarial observers regarding public and first response reactions to a similar scenario.

No Actionable Intelligence to Disseminate at this Time for the following Sectors:

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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

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