

PENNSYLVANIA ACTIONABLE INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN #47

TARGETED ACTIONABLE MONITORING CENTER

15 FEBRUARY 2010

The Institute of Terrorism Research and Response (ITRR) produces this document specifically for the Pennsylvania Office of Homeland Security in support of public and private sector, critical infrastructure protection initiatives and strategies. The ITRR, a commercial research and analysis organization, uses open-source, human, and closed-source intelligence resources to derive products. ITRR used only native-tongue researchers (English, Hebrew, French, Arabic, and Spanish) in the collection, interpretation, translation, analysis and production of this product. The analysis is performed by former law enforcement officials, counter-terrorism experts, and military intelligence personnel. Consider in context with other known information.

ACTIONABLE DATE REMINDERS

- **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. Remaining significant dates include: 18 February, for Gari Allen.
- **1-28 February 2010:** Black History Month in the United States. ITRR analysts believe there is a potential for protests or more violent reactions from white supremacist groups during this period. (See PAIB no. 39)
- **16 February 2010:** Anti-casino activists from the Philadelphia area are to gather at the Arch Street United Methodist Church (corner of Broad St. and Arch St.) and march to the Criminal Justice Center on Filbert Street, to protest the arrest and trial of fourteen people who blocked a casino construction site on the Delaware River last fall. (PAIB no. 46)
- **16 February 2010:** The fifth anniversary of the Kyoto Protocols; potential flashpoint for environmental activists.

- **17 February 2010:** The first anniversary of the troop increase in Afghanistan ordered by President Obama, coinciding with a NATO/OECD summit in Paris. Potential flashpoint for anti-military activists.
- **17 February 2010:** Progressive Democrats of America will be holding a Brown Bag Lunch Vigil over "the escalation of the Afghanistan war, the continued presence in Iraq, and the military expansions" at the offices of Rep. Joe Sestak in Media, Pennsylvania. There will be a similar vigil at the Bethlehem and/or East Greenville offices of Rep. Charlie Dent. Vigils will be held on every third Wednesday of the month to protest the US wars in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Pakistan at Congressman Dent's office.
- **24-28 February 2010:** Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus comes to the Wachovia Center (3601 S. Broad St., Philadelphia, PA 19148). This large circus has been a frequent target of animal rights protesters.
- **15-18 March 2010:** Pennsylvania-based climate activists may take up the call issued regarding the Salt Lake City trial of eco-activist Tim DeChristopher for local actions and protests. The target date is currently mid-March, but organizing and training related to protest "civil disobedience" or "direct action" may precede that time. (PAIB no. 46)

SECTOR-SPECIFIC THREATS, INDICATORS AND/OR WARNINGS

Sectors: TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS

1. Tactical Guidance for Jihadist Attacks in the West: Mass Transit

ITRR analysts have intercepted a new series of communications discussing intelligence and offering guidance for terrorist attacks in Western countries (with extrapolations for other jihadist targets). One such discussion focuses on mass transit.

* A jihadist suggests targeting trains traveling in remote areas, because these are "easier to derail... using a small amount of explosives, [a blast] which will cause the engine to derail, pulling after it the rest of the train cars. ...Such a blow is particularly lethal if the train tracks pass by a slope."

* Tactically, the jihadist communications note that explosives may not be needed: "One may also weld a piece of metal to the train tracks, which will result in the train being derailed."

* A related communication notes that "old trains" are easier to attack, because one "can cut the railroad or damage it so it will deviate from the track." On the other hand, the tactical guidance continues, "if we are talking about new trains like the one in France, Japan and the United States, there the railroads are connected to the control and monitor center with high sensitivity that can detect any movement or problem in the railroad." The solution, he says, is to "put a powerful device that can be detonated by a remote control on the railroad and to detonate it just before the train arrives, so even if the automatic brakes will work there won't be enough time for a full stop."

*****ANALYSIS*****

T/I/W Rating: MODERATE

The sharing of intelligence includes jihadists observing and learning from unrelated attacks or from accidents. The suggestion to target out-of-the-way train tracks may be the result of observation of the effectiveness of such attacks in the Indian regional separatist and Communist insurgencies. In addition, the Middle Eastern jihadists have learned from the successfully deadly bombing attack and derailling of the Nevsky Express in Russia in November 2009, perpetrated by their ideological allies in the Islamic Emirate of the Caucasus.

Many terrorists see attacks on the national rail system as a way to disrupt the economic life of targeted societies and to cause large-scale destruction. As previously observed by ITRR analysts, attacks targeting energy or other key commodity supply lines served by rail can be effective for that dual purpose, while also being relatively easy to perpetrate.

Sectors: WATER

2. Tactical Guidance for Jihadist Attacks in the West: Bio-Terror

ITRR analysts have intercepted a new series of communications discussing intelligence and offering guidance for terrorist attacks in Western countries (with extrapolations for other jihadist targets). One such discussion focuses on biological weapons.

* A jihadist says that "we don't have them... but you can offer the *mujahideen* that have the knowledge to poison the water canals, or to infiltrate areas where filtering and cleaning operations take place to introduce [the poison] there."

* "You can also dig a hole near the main pipe and puncture it and to put the poison in there." To perpetrate this sort of attack, the tactical advice given is "to damage the pipe so the forces that will handle the situation will need to stop the water flow for a few hours. Then it will be the right time to put in the poison, since after a few hours... the public will be thirsty, something that will be to our benefit."

***** ANALYSIS *****

T/I/W Rating: MODERATE

Among other incidents that may have contributed to the jihadist tactical guidance communications, disgruntled Indian employees were suspected of being behind a case of radioactive poisoning in a nuclear power plant and in another case, a former employee of an Australian sewer control plant was convicted of trying to release 264,000 gallons of sewage into national waterways. While these cases implicated employees with personal motivations, the ITRR notes that both jihadists and other terror groups have repeatedly recruited or intimidated infrastructure insiders to assist in their plans.

Water infrastructure assets are known targets for jihadist poisoning attacks. ITRR analysts note that, while not the most efficient means of introducing poison into a water supply, the tactics could prove effective. The sharing of tactical information for such an attack expands the circle of potential water main saboteurs to include lone-wolf jihadists, as well as more organized cells. Heightened awareness of pre-operational surveillance of water lines or access points may expose plans to attempt the sort of attack detailed in the recent jihadist communications.

Sectors: WATER; HEALTHCARE AND PUBLIC HEALTH; COMMERCIAL FACILITIES;
GOVERNMENT FACILITIES

3. Tactical Guidance for Jihadist Attacks in the West: Sewage Systems

ITRR analysts have intercepted a new series of communications discussing intelligence and offering guidance for terrorist attacks in Western countries (with extrapolations for other jihadist targets). One such discussion focuses on sewage systems in Europe and the United States, as these are "underground and include wide tunnels."

* Tactical options for attack cited by the jihadists include: making the sewage tunnels collapse, perhaps with explosives; or introducing "toxic materials that can kill many people."

* To target a specific building, the jihadists explain, one can "connect the gas pipe of the house to the sewage system." The idea here is apparently to facilitate an explosion by introducing gas into a building through the crossed pipes. After connecting the oven's gas line to the sewage pipe from the bathroom, the jihadist guidance suggests, "push the pipe to the bathroom hole and then seal the bathroom and open the gas tap. Since the gas network isn't with tanks but it's a national network like water, the amount of gas that will spread inside the underground tunnels can cause a lot of damage." Detonation, the communication continues, can be caused by "sparks... that you can activate from a mobile phone."

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

T/I/W Rating: MODERATE

As noted in PAIB no. 29, a massive bombing of the Hemet/San Jacinto Valley Gang Task Force HQ was narrowly averted in California on 31 December 2009. According to police, a natural gas line was diverted into the building with the intention of causing an explosion that would have leveled the building and killed everyone inside. At the time, ITRR analysts observed that jihadist cells were most assuredly taking note of the feasibility of such a tactic for their own attacks on public facilities (especially police facilities).

The new jihadist communications may be the natural development of the lessons learned regarding the above bombing tactic. Heightened awareness of pre-operational surveillance of sewage and gas lines or access points may expose plans to attempt the sort of attack detailed in the recent jihadist communications.

Sectors: NATIONAL MONUMENTS AND ICONS

4. Tactical Guidance for Jihadist Attacks in the West: Arson

ITRR analysts have intercepted a new series of communications discussing intelligence and offering guidance for terrorist attacks in Western countries (with extrapolations for other jihadist targets). One such discussion focuses on setting widely destructive forest fires.

* "What do you think of burning forests in the United States?" a jihadist asks. He answers his own question: "It would be one of the simplest sabotage actions to carry out. And its damaging effect on the American economy would be huge, especially if the media will publish the fact that it is the work of the *mujahideen*."

* Tactical guidance offered for the "jihad of fire" includes: "There should be a number of spots to the fires and they should be distant from each other. In this way, the effort to extinguish them will be spread over large areas, a fact which will make it harder for the [fire brigade] forces to succeed in their mission."

* Additionally, it is noted that the arsonist need not be in the vicinity: "And one may set fire [to the forest] from a distance in the same way a charge may be set off, only this time instead of explosives one must use fuel."

* Pre-operational intelligence guidance offered includes: "The jihadist must merely make a reconnaissance patrol to view the grounds, which will make it easier for him to choose the optimal area and time; for example, one of the hot summer nights."

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

T/I/W Rating: MODERATE

ITRR analysts note that the tactic of using forest fires as a weapon against the US and Europe has been raised before, referred to as "Global Fire". Also, forest fires have previously been employed as a tactic by terror organizations within Israel.

ITRR analysts note that the pre-operational surveillance of a potential target area may be conducted as part of a routine hike in rural Pennsylvania. However, identification of such pre-operational surveillance is critical to disrupting planned terror operations using forest fires as a weapon.

Sectors: COMMERCIAL FACILITIES

5. Tactical Guidance for Jihadist Attacks in the West: Sports Venues

ITRR analysts have intercepted a new series of communications discussing intelligence and offering guidance for terrorist attacks in Western countries (with extrapolations for other jihadist targets). One such discussion focuses on striking sports stadiums and related venues.

* Referring to the most popular Middle Eastern sport (although certainly not limited to this sport), the communications note a series of benefits for the jihad to hit a soccer game: "many dead people", "big loss for the advertisement companies", "people won't come to the stadiums", "[sports] clubs will be closed", "big loss for the satellite broadcast companies managed by the Zionists", and "continuing loss for many groups that finance the war on Islam."

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

T/I/W Rating: MODERATE

The explicit reference to sports venues dovetails with previous jihadist tactical communications (noted in PAIB no. 42) regarding the use of explosives-rigged sports equipment in the hands of Western-born terrorists wearing inconspicuous clothing.

Overall, ITRR analysts emphasize that the continuing jihadist creativity in foiling technology-based security measures should sharply focus attention on the need to heighten awareness of behavioral and situational clues indicating hostile intent. Tactically, personnel responsible for air traffic venues, sports events and other public areas should note the possibility of an explosive device concealed as any innocuous item, such as sports paraphernalia or within an animal (see "Animal Delivery Systems" herein).

Upcoming high-profile Pennsylvania sporting events include such those such as Philadelphia 76ers and Pittsburgh Penguin games. In addition, high-profile collegiate athletic venues may be targeted by organized cells or lone-wolf attackers (e.g., the October 2005, a University of Oklahoma student who blew himself up - possibly prematurely - outside the college's stadium).

Sectors: COMMERCIAL FACILITIES; TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS

6. Tactical Guidance for Jihadist Attacks in the West: Animal Delivery Systems

ITRR analysts have intercepted a new series of communications discussing intelligence and offering guidance for terrorist attacks in Western countries (with extrapolations for other jihadist targets). One such discussion focuses on the use of dogs as explosives delivery systems.

* Calling the animal a "dog martyr", the jihadist suggests surgically implanting powerful but light-weight explosives in a dog's abdominal cavity.

* The target of such a booby-trapped dog would be air travel, according to the intercepted communication. The animal would be shipped by plane. As noted by the jihadist, "this is possible and is being done all the time by tourists and others. After the plane is airborne the explosive charge should be set off, which might take down the aircraft."

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

T/I/W Rating: MODERATE

As for animal bomb "couriers", jihadist attackers have already used pack animals in attacks in the Middle East. The recent suggestion combines and adapts that practice with the somewhat effective internal "body bombs" used in the Arabian Peninsula last year and the use of the undetected explosives used by the Christmas Day bomber in the US.

Overall, ITRR analysts emphasize that the continuing jihadist creativity in foiling technology-based security measures should sharply focus attention on the need to heighten awareness of behavioral and situational clues indicating hostile intent. Tactically, personnel responsible for air traffic venues, sports events and other public areas should note the possibility of an explosive device concealed as any innocuous item, such as sports paraphernalia (see "Sports Venues" herein) or within an animal.

Sectors: GOVERNMENT FACILITIES

7. Jihadists and the Palestinian Authority

A power struggle and competition for support has been developing between jihadists affiliated with the Gaza-based Hamas regime (which is backed by Iran) and those affiliated with the global jihad of Al-Qaeda. In addition, the Fatah-led Palestinian Authority has also been confronting international jihadists within its jurisdiction. Several recent events have brought these struggles to the fore:

* A threat issued by the Army of the Nation in several jihadist communication channels warned the Hamas regime to halt its arrests of non-Hamas jihadists. The communication claims Hamas "tries to defend the borders of the Jewish state.... [Hamas] punishes severely whoever fires rockets. The government is persecuting members of the Salafist jihadists, including killing them and arresting them." The organization claims that its second-in-command is a prisoner in a Gaza hospital, so the Army of the Nation holds Hamas fully responsible for his life.

The non-Hamas jihadists have been accused of blowing up security offices, Christian targets, Internet cafes and other attacks, including the targeting of former President Jimmy Carter's caravan in the region last year. There have allegedly been 12 such attacks in recent weeks alone.

* PA forces in the Fatah-led Palestinian Authority, meanwhile, arrested six jihadists in the West Bank. They were found to be in possession of explosives. The PA said the arrested men were not officially linked with Al-Qaeda, although they share the same ideology.

* Parallel with the above, Israel said that it thwarted an intended suicide bombing planned by Al-Qaeda when its air force targeted a terrorist cell in Gaza last week. Palestinian Authority sources attributed the planned attack to the Palestinian Islamic Jihad group, which appears to be formally unaffiliated with Al-Qaeda.

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

T/I/W Rating: MODERATE-to-SEVERE

Jihadists opposing Hamas and the Palestinian Authority are likely to continue attempts to attack Israel (using rockets, if from Gaza, and other armed terrorist attacks, as well) in an effort to prove their strength and garner local support. Attacks on facilities seen as oppressive or not sufficiently "Islamic" within Gaza can be expected to continue, although there may be a period of reorganization following the series of arrests by Hamas and the PA.

ITRR analysts recommend adhering carefully to any instructions provided by Israeli security forces. Pennsylvania students, researchers, and business and government travelers should be aware of the increased risk of attack at this time in southern Israel, as well as within Gaza and the Palestinian Authority.

In addition, ITRR analysts believe that there is currently an increased (SEVERE) threat of kidnap-type terror operations in areas of Israel and Egypt in close proximity to, and within, Gaza and the Palestinian Authority areas. Especially vulnerable as targets for abduction or attack are those who travel in vehicles with markings indicating Western companies or organizations.

Sectors: COMMERCIAL FACILITIES

8. *Tragic Consequences of Indian Jihadist Threat*

As discussed in previous PAIB editions, jihadist elements have continued their attempts to strike Indian assets, especially in the Jammu and Kashmir regions. The jihadist campaign against India took a deadly turn on Saturday, 13 February 2010, with a blast that tore up a Pune bakery and killed nine people. Many of the victims were foreigners. It was also noted that the targeted bakery was two doors down from the local Jewish Chabad Center, which the Indian Home Minister said has been a target of terrorists for some time.

In addition, the bakery is a popular location for tourists and visitors to the nearby meditation retreat, Osho Ashram. Pakistani-American jihadist David Coleman Headley, believed to have been the LeT operative who carried out the reconnaissance that enabled a ten-man terror group to kill over 160 people in Mumbai in November 2008, is believed to have surveilled the Ashram area and additional civilian locations. Headley and his associate, Tahawwur Rana, were arrested in Chicago by the FBI last month in connection with terror strikes planned in Denmark and in India.

Indian officials said that the improvised explosive device (IED), weighing about 7 kilograms, used an ammonium nitrate fuel oil mix, with RDX as a booster. It was the largest terrorist strike in India since the November 2008 attacks in Mumbai, which killed 173 people; six of the Mumbai Massacre victims were murdered in the local Chabad House.

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

T/I/W Rating: MODERATE

ITRR has identified the location of the recent bombing in Pune as having been previously identified as a potential attack site by Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) pre-operational reconnaissance personnel. About ten days ago, a top operative of Jamaat-ud-Dawah, the front organization of LeT, said that "Delhi, Pune and Kanpur" were all targets.

Although Maharashtra, the state where Pune is located, is vulnerable to ongoing Communist insurgency attacks, ITRR analysts are of the opinion that the nature and target indicate a jihadist attack.

Additional areas believed to have been surveilled by Headley include: the Ananda Hotel and Delhi Holiday Inn in Delhi, the Trident Hotel in Mumbai, and the National Defence College in Delhi. It is believed that Headley also spent time conducting reconnaissance activities in the following locations: Agra, Kochi, and Ahmedabad.

ITRR analysts believe that the very aggressive terror organization, Lashkar-e-Taiba, has not finished with its attacks against civilian targets within India and the Indian sub-continent. Western and tourist sites are at an especially high risk of a terror event at this time. Of note in this regard is the permanent Indian security personnel stationed at the Pune Chabad House, which may have led to the human bomb moving to attack a softer target.

All public gatherings in the Jammu and Kashmir regions should be strictly avoided at this time. 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

advised of the specific potential targets listed above, as well as of the ongoing high risk of jihadist attack on public venues.

Sectors: COMMERCIAL FACILITIES

9. Serial Church Fires in Texas

Police and BATF have released sketches of three individuals they consider "of interest" in a series of at least eight arson attacks on Texas churches perpetrated since 1 January 2010. Two of the individuals have tattoos with flames, one of which is also of an inverted cross.

Most, but not all, attacks were in small towns and they did not seem to target a particular Christian denomination.

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

T/I/W Rating: LOW

The inverted cross symbol tattoo may represent Satanism, although it was originally designed to represent Christianity's St. Peter (who was crucified upside-down), according to the ITRR; however, it may have been misidentified by witnesses or it may have been selected by its bearer without knowledge of its specific context. It may also represent some form of aggressive atheism. In any event, as of this writing, no motive or other identifying information has been released to the public.

ITRR notes, however, that jihadist elements regularly observe and learn lessons from such attacks on potential targets. Police, BATF and fire response patterns are surely being observed for predictability, weak points and general effectiveness. ITRR analysts are monitoring adversarial communications for similar targeting guidance citing Pennsylvania-area religious institutions or icons.

No actionable intelligence at this time for the following sectors:

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

THREAT / INDICATOR / WARNING RATING	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.

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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