

## PENNSYLVANIA ACTIONABLE INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN #49

### TARGETED ACTIONABLE MONITORING CENTER

19 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.*

### STRATEGIC ANALYSIS

#### 1. Alert Vendors to Terror Threat in Public Areas

A recently foiled bombing in India has provided support for a simple counterterrorist measure that should be noted and adopted in all major public venues, especially mass transit stations.

On 11 February 2010, just a few days before a concealed bomb left in a foreign bakery in Pune killed 10 people, an alert vendor at a Howrah train station prevented a similar bombing that would likely have killed and injured many commuters. Investigators say the effect of the IED would have been more deadly than the bomb that was later detonated in the Pune attack.

According to open source reports, the bomb was put into place as a passenger train was pulling into the station, with hundreds of commuters disembarking. A vendor who regularly works in the station spotted a youth he described as "nervous" leave a large travel bag near a tea stall and run away. The vendor even called out to the youth, who "seemed to be in a tearing hurry to get out of the area," before informing officers of the Government Railway Police.

GRP officers cordoned off and evacuated the area before the bomb squad was called in, including a K9 unit. The bomb was removed and detonated in a controlled explosion.

The suspicious bag was laden with explosives, packed with rusty nuts, bolts and nails, and was attached to a jerrycan of several liters of kerosene. The flammable liquid was intended to increase the explosion's impact, as well as act as a massive flame-thrower.

ITRR analysts noted in 2008 that India's railway police force announced it would be increasing terrorism awareness among train station vendors, boot-polish boys, canteen workers, porters, stall owners, auto-rickshaw drivers and parking attendants. They were alerted to pay attention to "unattended objects or suspicious persons inside the railway station," according to a police official quoted at the time. Just three months earlier than the police announcement, a street child ("ragpicker" in local jargon) and a vendor alerted police to two bombs in New Delhi.

The Indian effort to sensitize the station vendors to potential terror threats should be praised and emulated, according to ITRR analysts. The effectiveness of this approach, fortunately for Howrah commuters, was proven last week; although it was hardly the first time lives were spared thanks to alert vendors in crowded public venues. This phenomenon has repeated itself several times in Israel, India and other high-intensity terrorist target regions over the years.

It is critical that both security personnel and civilians be made sensitive to behaviors indicating pre-operational surveillance by adversarial elements, as well as related probing and active terrorist actions. Specifically, heightened awareness among all types of vendors and others regularly located at mass transit assets, such as Philadelphia and Pittsburgh travel hubs, can be an indispensable counterterrorist force multiplier.

## SECTOR-SPECIFIC THREATS, INDICATORS AND/OR WARNINGS

**Sectors:** TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS AND GOVERNMENT FACILITIES

### **2. AQAP Reveals New Intelligence on Past and Future Attacks**

A new publication by *Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula* (AQAP), called *Sada Al-Mulahem*, has revealed new information regarding the Christmas Day bombing attack on a passenger plane in the air over Denver, as well as threatening more to come.

#### *New Threats*

The jihadist communication, released this week, begins with a promise of "large-scale operations in the West, in general, and in the United States in particular."

AQAP claims that both Christmas Day bomber Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab and Ft. Hood shooter Nidal Malik Hassan, who murdered 13 soldiers, were recruited for existing, discreet terrorist operations planned in advance. The implication being, according to ITRR analysts, that future terrorist attacks are already planned and just awaiting the properly recruited agent.

#### *Technology*

AQAP boasted that Abdulmutallab used a device and explosives combination, as well as a smuggling method, that took their experts four years to develop. According to the details in *Sada Al-Mulahem*, the Christmas Day bomb was composed of PETN and a detonator that weighs just four grams, "although only one gram is enough for the blast," AQAP says.

In addition, the jihadist communication points to weaknesses in Western airport security technology and human intelligence measures.

#### *Motivation*

The AQAP communication details why Abdulmutallab's point of departure for jihad was the Netherlands. It was in response to the Dutch "aggression against Islam and the Koran."

Explaining why Abdulmutallab attempted to detonate his concealed bomb over a city in the US, "when the public is in their homes", AQAP says it was in order to emulate "what USA aircraft do to the innocent Muslims in their houses in Iraq, Afghanistan and Palestine."

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

**T/I/W Rating: MODERATE**

The new AQAP communication reinforces the emphasis jihadists are still placing on defeating airport and airline security measures. Having invested greatly in the techniques and technology, ITRR analysts do not foresee Al-Qaeda abandoning efforts to strike those assets any time soon. As noted in PAIB no. 42, increasing international traffic at Philadelphia International Airport, along with its central location, significantly raises its profile as a target for jihadist agents seeking to detonate an IED aboard an airliner in American airspace. As the second most well-traveled airport in Pennsylvania, and as a US military transit point with facilities for military personnel and their families, Pittsburgh International Airport would also be a high-profile target for such terrorists.

Regarding the Netherlands specifically, the risk of such lone-wolf or organized jihad attack is pronounced. ITRR researchers noted (see PAIB nos. 26 and 30) recent adversary

communications from November and early December that have encouraged lone-wolf terrorism against CONUS and European countries including the Netherlands, Germany, France, Denmark and Switzerland. **Pennsylvanian students and researchers**, as well as business travelers and tourists, in Europe should be aware of the heightened risk levels in the named states.

**Sectors:** ENERGY AND COMMERCIAL FACILITIES

**3. Protesters Shut Down Coal Mining Operations**

Three protesters managed to "occupy" the central offices of Massey Energy subsidiary Marfork Coal Company in West Virginia on 18 February 2010. Their objective was purportedly to "present a citizen's arrest warrant" for the company president and corporate CEO.

The three protesters said they intended to remain in the Marfork Coal offices until the company ends mine blasting operations at the Bee Tree Surface Mine.

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

**T/I/W Rating: MODERATE**

Anti-coal mining activists and related organizations have recently been increasing training and actions targeting the coal industry and related facilities. Recent training sessions in West Virginia and Virginia have focused on "skills and knowledge" regarding tactics for: "direct action" (which can include vandalism, obstruction of public and private venues, arson, threats of violence, assault, etc.); handling the media; legal support; action planning; and "other skills relevant for ... future actions."

ITRR analysts note that the West Virginia "occupation," along with the recent "direct action" training seminars, are likely to inspire similar "actions" targeting coal company operations in **Pennsylvania (such as in the Marcellus Shale area)**. Energy firms in the state should be made aware of the impending targeting of their facilities and should establish liaison with local law enforcement. (For a related bulletin item, see "RAN Targeting JP Morgan for Financing Coal Mining" herein.)

**Sectors:** ENERGY, BANKING AND FINANCE, COMMERCIAL FACILITIES

**4. Eco-Activists Targeting JP Morgan for Financing Coal Mining**

The radical Rainforest Action Network (RAN) has decided to target JP Morgan Chase over its alleged financing of mountaintop removal coal mining.

On 18 February 2010, RAN and supporters initiated a one-day campaign called "Put Chase On The Run" through social media outlets Twitter, Facebook, Flickr, YouTube, blogs and email. The objective of the campaign is to spread the word of JP Morgan Chase's activities and to inundate the financial institution with protest messages in all media outlets.

RAN calls to "end [mountaintop removal] in 2010!"

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

**T/I/W Rating: MODERATE**

In PAIB no. 32, ITRR analysts identified several specific assets and industries that may be targets for eco-activist "direct action" in Pennsylvania, including branches of financial institutions such as JP Morgan Chase, Citi Bank, Goldman Sachs and Bank of America. Other companies identified at the time as targets of ecological activists were coal companies involved in open pit or "mountain top removal" coal operations, power companies that burn this coal, and the offices of Duke Energy.

ITRR analysts note that previous RAN targets have been the scene of illegal actions including trespassing, lock-downs and vandalism. In a recent call for direct action targeting Chevron Oil (see PAIB no. 40), RAN reminded supporters that "RAN and its members have transformed the policies of some of America's most powerful corporations, from Home Depot to Citigroup to Goldman Sachs."

### **Sector: GOVERNMENT FACILITIES**

#### **5. Citizen Review Board Meeting to Attract Activist Crowd**

A coalition of activist groups and concerned unaffiliated citizens are expected to attend a 23 February 2010 meeting of the **Pittsburgh Citizen Police Review Board in the City-County Building** (scheduled for 18:00).

The call for mass public attendance at the meeting comes as part of a letter-writing and public pressure campaign aimed at "supporting the civil rights of CAPA High School student Jordan Miles, who was beaten by three City of Pittsburgh policemen." The upcoming Citizen Police Review Board meeting is slated to vote on either a public hearing for the officers concerned or for their extended suspension.

The coalition of groups encouraging public involvement on this issue include the Black Political Empowerment Project (B-PEP), Coalition Against Violence (CAV), Black and White Reunion, Regional Equity Monitoring Project (REMP), and CAPA High School Students in Support of Jordan Miles.

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

**T/I/W Rating: LOW**

ITRR has not identified any threats to take actions outside of legal channels; however, there is obvious anger in the community over the above alleged police brutality incident. Security personnel should be aware of the potential for unexpected overflow crowds, as well as communal tensions that may come to the fore, at the Tuesday meeting in Pittsburgh.

Other offices mentioned in the activist discussions of the Jordan Miles campaign - although not currently targeted for physical protests - include those of Pittsburgh Mayor Luke Ravenstahl, Police Chief Nate Harper, and Allegheny County District Attorney Stephen A. Zappala, Jr.

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

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

THREAT / INDICATOR / WARNING RATING	DESCRIPTION
<b>LOW (Level 4)</b>	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.
<b>MODERATE (Level 3)</b>	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.
<b>SEVERE (Level 2)</b>	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.
<b>CRITICAL (Level 1)</b>	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](mailto:info@terrorresponse.org)

***Working with organizations that refuse to surrender their  
domestic or international operations to terrorism***

Ensure that you always receive the latest information from The Institute of Terrorism Research and Response. Add the e-mail address, "tamc@terrorresponse.org" to your personal address book.

This Intelligence report includes information from open and closed intelligence sources. Not all information is able to be verified; however, the TAM-C is actively evaluating the reporting to establish its accuracy and to determine if it represents a possible link to terrorism. If recipients have any additional or clarifying information, please contact the Targeted Actionable Monitoring Center (TAM-C) at +1.215.922.1080.

Actionable Intelligence Weekly Briefing® A general overview of actionable intelligence (upcoming events) used by directors of security and law enforcement managers to pre-plan their future operations. The Briefing is dispatched on Monday of each week by 1100 GMT to enable early planning of the upcoming weeks.

Threat and Hazard Monitoring (THM) A custom service meeting the needs for each client. With the assistance of our international analysts, this service identifies specific threats, hazards, vulnerabilities, and assets our team of native language speakers researchers and ground resources, are to monitor and forward on to the client.

For additional information regarding the Center's services or specialized customized research and analysis programs, feel free to contact us at: [tamc@terrorresponse.org](mailto:tamc@terrorresponse.org)