

PENNSYLVANIA INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN No. 133

3 September 2010

The Pennsylvania Office of Homeland Security produces this informational/intelligence bulletin specifically for all potentially-affected stakeholders – whether public or private sector, federal or Commonwealth of Pennsylvania-based Critical Infrastructures, Key Resources and Significant Special Events. Consider the information & intelligence contained herein in context with other known information, indicators, threats and warnings.

Successful intelligence analysis and sharing programs are not the result of top-down processes but rather the collective efforts of all stakeholders concerned. The Pennsylvania Office of Homeland Security urges all recipients – whether public or private sector - to provide information that might assist in the process to paintel@itrrintel.org.

POTENTIALLY-IMPACTED MUNICIPALITIES & SECTORS

Municipality
Damascus Township (Wayne County) Philadelphia Pittsburgh State College (Centre County) Upper St. Clair Township (Allegheny County) Williamsport (Lycoming County)
Sector
Banking and Finance Chemical Industries Commercial Facilities Emergency Services Energy Government Facilities ¹ Transportation Systems

¹ Educational Facilities Sub-Sector: Security directors, students and faculty of all Pennsylvania-based colleges and universities participating in educational exchange programs abroad need to remain cognizant of emerging, country-specific threats, indicators and warnings.

Pursuant to the USA PATRIOT Act of 2001, Homeland Security Act of 2002, Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 and the National Infrastructure Protection Plan of 2009, critical infrastructure is defined as “systems and assets, whether physical or virtual, so vital to the United States that the incapacity or destruction of such systems and assets would have a debilitating impact on security, national economic security, national public health or safety, or any combination of those matters.” Pennsylvania applies the same logic and intent to define Commonwealth, county & municipality critical infrastructures and key resources.

CONTINUING STRATEGIC ANALYSIS

1. **The Dutch Detainees: A Test Run?**

Two men with Yemeni passports were detained at Amsterdam's Schiphol International Airport on Monday (30 August 2010) on suspicion of possible involvement in terrorism; they are currently in Dutch custody. The pair, arriving from Chicago aboard a United Airlines flight, were apparently on their way to Yemen, by way of the Netherlands and Jordan.

Suspensions were raised among airport security personnel due to the odd contents of the suspects' luggage. In addition, one of the men made a sudden change in flight plans, which meant that he and some of his luggage went in two different directions.

Among the items that raised concerns among security personnel were:

- thousands of dollars in cash
- large knives and a box cutter
- several cell phones taped together
- a cell phone taped to a Pepto-Bismol bottle
- watches taped together
- several loose cell phones
- several bottles of liquid
- one of the men underwent additional screening in Alabama due to what security personnel called "bulky clothing"

None of the items were deemed dangerous or illegal in and of themselves.

Despite the suspicions raised and what appeared to be mock explosive devices, the two men were allowed to board their flight to Amsterdam. They arranged to be seated next to one another on the flight out of Chicago, despite arriving from different cities of origin within the US and making last-minute changes to their itinerary.

While the two men are not known to have been previously involved in terrorist activities, three indicators quickly emerged as suspicious: mock devices, the last minute separation from their luggage and the Yemen destination. These are strong indicators that the event was an effort to probe US aviation security systems/protocols.

Analysts offer the following observations regarding the above events (assuming the suspects were indeed involved in adversarial probing and reconnaissance):

- The suspects are originally from Yemen.

- The suspects were on their way to that hotbed of jihadist activity when they were detained.

It is reasonable to assume that the suspects have been, or were intending to be, in contact with representatives of the Yemen-based **AL-QA'IDA IN THE ARABIAN PENINSULA (AQAP)**. AQAP, especially through its US-born religious cleric Anwar Al-Awlaki, has been focusing on training and inciting for attacks against Americans within CONUS. Recent incidents involving Awlaki or AQAP acolytes include the Ft. Hood shooting, the failed Christmas Day bombing and the failed Times Square bombing.

- The deployment of probing cells indicates a relatively well-organized operation. At the very least, it is indicative of planning, pre-operational testing and reconnaissance. This raises the possibility that a third party was assigned the task of objective, distance surveillance of security reactions and protocols.
- In addition to probing for reactions to suspicious luggage contents, the two men also apparently attempted to determine if they could successfully get aboard one flight while their bags were checked on another. This may be indicative of intent to test the efforts necessary to manipulate existing security protocols to their advantage or to cause a measure of confusion.
- It is of particular interest that jihadists continue to see attacks on civilian aviation as dramatic, effective and powerful tools in their arsenal. This corresponds to ongoing jihadist communications throughout the last several years.
- Jihadist tactics, techniques and procedures continue to focus on the use of explosives. This, too, is consistent with on-going jihadist communications throughout the last several years. Most recently, but not for the first time, jihadist communications have included very detailed information regarding the creation, use and deployment of explosives.

2. Children as Active Jihadists

Researchers have observed jihadist communications sharing information supposedly publicized in unidentified, open-source newspapers regarding the training of small children for attacks on Western forces in Afghanistan.

According to the communication, citing newspaper sources, **AL-QA'IDA** has been training children as young as 5 years old to carry out suicide bombings and to plant roadside improvised, explosive devices (IED). The training, said to include hundreds of children, is alleged to take place in secret camps in North Waziristan, Pakistan. In some cases, the training camps are disguised as regular schools.

The communication claims that the primary source of child recruits is from among Muslim Chinese refugees from the majority-Muslim, ethnically-Uighur Xinjiang

region. These Uighur have settled in Pakistan, Afghanistan and Kazakhstan. The training itself is purported to be given by a jihadist movement from the Xinjiang region (also known as East Turkestan).

Analysts note that while the likelihood of such an attack using small children is not high, the option should not be dismissed. Although there have not been many terrorist attacks perpetrated by children, they have occurred. For example, on 23 April 2002, in Israel, three children (ages 12, 13 and 14) from the Palestinian Authority in Gaza attempted to infiltrate a Jewish town in order to perpetrate a suicidal shooting attack. Terrorists in the **KURDISH WORKERS PARTY (PKK)** have also been known to train young children as gunmen. In 2008 the US military released footage of an Iraqi insurgency training video in which children no more than 12 years old wielded machine guns and practiced taking hostages. That same year, two 15-year-old Iraqi boys killed themselves in suicide bombings.

In other cases, children were used as cover for terrorist activity or even as unsuspecting "mules" for explosives. In March 2004, for example, Israeli soldiers discovered an IED in the bag of a 12-year-old boy at a checkpoint near Nablus. In a particularly heartless incident in 2007, jihadists from the Iraqi branch of *Al-Qa'ida* detonated a vehicle-borne IED (VBIED) with two children in the back seat after using them as cover to get through a US checkpoint in Baghdad and fleeing the vehicle.

Most recently, suspected terrorist Zachary Adam Chesser^{USPER} attempted to board a flight from New York to Uganda on 10 July 2010 with the intention of joining the Somali jihadists of **HARAKAT AL-SHABAAB AL-MUJAHIDEEN** (Movement of Warrior Youth). He admitted that he brought his son along in an attempt to deflect suspicion among security personnel regarding his ultimate goal.

Analysts note that these types of incidents using small children may be internally excused by certain groups that feel themselves "forced to the wall," with limited options. Other groups regularly incite and promote child martyrdom for their (generally jihadist) cause.

Whatever the motivation, analysts believe it is important that security personnel maintain general awareness of the above-mentioned tactic. While it is unlikely that children will be used in suicide bombings in the West, the globalization and cross-pollinating of terrorist tactics & techniques means that this concept cannot be ruled out entirely. Furthermore, children may well be used by terrorists in the West as plausible cover for pre-operational surveillance, smuggling, or for pre-positioning weapons or explosives.

SECTOR-SPECIFIC THREATS, INDICATORS AND/OR WARNINGS

Commercial Facilities *Government Facilities*

3. 'Days of Action to Free the Cuban Five'

The radical, anti-capitalist **ANSWER COALITION** is sponsoring a series of protests on behalf of five Cuban agents captured in Florida in 1998 and sentenced to lengthy prison terms in 2001.² The five men claimed in their defense that they were monitoring the actions of Miami-based, anti-Cuban, terrorist groups, in order to prevent attacks on their home country.

From 9-13 September 2010, the ANSWER Coalition, along with the National Committee to Free the Five and other affinity groups, are taking part in what they have called "International Days of Action to Free the Cuban Five."³ Rallies, leaf-letting and petitioning on behalf of the convicted Cuban agents will take place in Washington, DC; San Francisco; Los Angeles; Boston; Albuquerque; Chicago; **Philadelphia** and other cities. Other countries with supporters planning activities on behalf of the "Cuban Five" include Argentina, Peru, Namibia, Canada and Italy.

The Philadelphia event is slated for 13 September 2010 at 15th and Market St., across from City Hall. Activists will be handing out leaflets and collecting signatures on a petition to free the imprisoned Cuban agents. The event is sponsored by the local branch of the ANSWER Coalition.

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

Analysts note that there have been recent communications among anarchists, anti-capitalists, environmentalist extremists and Black and Hispanic radicals promoting mutual solidarity on behalf of imprisoned suspected terrorists of various ideologies. As with imprisoned domestic terrorists and activists, they are referred to as "political prisoners."

At the Cuban Five event in Philadelphia, analysts believe law enforcement personnel will be primarily called upon to carry out duties of crowd control and maintaining unimpeded public access to the nearby SEPTA station. Due to the radical nature of the ANSWER Coalition, however, there remains a small possibility that individuals will attempt more disruptive protest actions. Researchers cannot confirm whether the demonstrators have obtained the necessary police permits for the above events.

²<https://secure2.convio.net/pep/site/SPageServer?JServSessionIdr004=ly0h2w6dq4.app213b&pagename=launchhomepage>

³ <http://www.freethethefive.org/>

Chemical Energy

4. More Upcoming Events Cited by Anti-Natural Gas Drilling Activists

Anti-natural gas drilling activists have cited several upcoming events in shared communications, presumably for purposes of planning protest actions of some kind. Among the latest events discussed are:

- A public hearing on gas drilling in Pennsylvania on **8 September 2010** at the Georgetown Centre in **Pittsburgh**. The event is described among anti-drilling activists as a leg of "Gov. Rendell's 'Severance Tax' tour." Activists noted that attendance at the hearing required advance registration. As noted in PIB No. 132, certain anti-natural gas drilling activists believe that a new tax on drillers, without a moratorium on new projects, was merely a way for the state to benefit from what they see as highly destructive exploitation.
- Coincidentally or not, an event that is part of Penn Future's "Keep the Promise Tour" throughout Pennsylvania is also slated to take place on **8 September 2010** in **Pittsburgh**'s Georgetown Centre.⁴ Penn Future is using a series of town hall meetings to call on the Pennsylvania General Assembly to support "a substantial severance tax on deep, natural gas drillers in the Marcellus Shale Formation." According to Penn Future, "drilling companies are spending enormous amounts of money to stop the severance tax."
- A lobbying and press event at the Main Capitol Building in **Harrisburg** is being organized by anti-natural gas drilling activists at this time. The target date is **14 September 2010**. The activists intend to publicize their opposition to proposed "Forced Pooling and Zoning Exemptions" in the regulations governing the natural gas drilling industry in Pennsylvania. The regulations are expected to go into effect on 1 October 2010.
- As part of a series of Environmental Protection Agency hearings in various cities regarding coal ash regulations, EPA representatives will be meeting on **21 September 2010** at the Omni Hotel in **Pittsburgh**. Issues surrounding the regulation of coal ash produced by coal-fired power plants have been equated by environmentalists with the issues surrounding gas drilling.

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

Analysts note that the specific targeting of Governor Rendell among anti-natural gas drilling activists, as noted in PIB No. 132, indicates an increased risk of protest activities at the public hearing at the Georgetown Centre on 8 September. In addition, the "coincidental" gathering by supporters of Governor Rendell's declared policy of taxation may result in minor confrontation with the more absolutist anti-drilling activists.

⁴ <http://www.pennfuture.org/>

More generally, analysts reiterate the observation that there has been a clear escalation in rhetoric among anti-natural gas drilling activists. Recent communications have included a discussion of the advisability of "civil disobedience" and similar direct action to stop the drilling companies, as well as the request for information useful for "the activists." (See PIB Nos. 125, 126 & 127 for more on this issue.)

Other upcoming events in Pennsylvania previously singled out by anti-natural gas drilling activists include:

- **7 September** - "Councilman Shields invites Pittsburghers to stand with him at the **Pittsburgh** City Council chambers to introduce legislation that would ban gas-drilling in Pittsburgh."
- **10-11 September** - a Pennsylvania Forestry Association meeting to discuss drilling operations within the Marcellus Shale Formation. The meeting is part of the annual Association meeting, set to take place at the Genetti Hotel in **Williamsport** (**Lycoming County**).
- **13 September** - a hearing on Marcellus Shale Formation drilling, **Pittsburgh** City Council chambers
- **20 September** - a hearing on a proposed amendment to zoning regulations regarding natural gas drilling, **Damascus Twp** (**Wayne County**)
- **28-30 September** - the Upstream Shale Gas and Environmental Summit is to take place at the Renaissance **Pittsburgh** Hotel⁵
- **4 October** - a hearing on a proposed amendment to the township zoning ordinance to regulate oil and gas drilling operations in **Upper St. Clair Township** (**Allegheny County**)
- **10-12 October** - the 2010 Marcellus Summit is slated to take place in **State College** (**Centre County**).⁶ Anti-natural gas drilling activists are planning to protest at the event.

Emergency Services Government Facilities

5. *Militia Communications: 'We Need A Revolution, Not A Movement'*

As part of the ongoing escalation in anti-federal rhetoric and planning discussions among militia members, a new communication says that peaceful protest movements such as the Tea Party have been "diluted and compromised," and that the time has come for a "revolution."

⁵ <http://www.iqpc.com/Event.aspx?id=329900>

⁶ <http://www.outreach.psu.edu/programs/natural-gas/>

The militia member, identified only as "one angry brother," states openly, "America doesn't need another movement; it needs a genuine revolution." He examines the current political situation in the US in detail, specifically citing the electoral defeat of Arlen Specter in Pennsylvania as a positive indicator. Nonetheless, the "angry brother" continues, the election of "Big-Government globalist neo-con" John McCain in Arizona demonstrates that "many conservatives and 'revolutionaries' still don't get it."

The communication further chastises popular conservative leaders Sarah Palin and Glenn Beck, who "want nothing to do with an old-fashioned, honest-to-God, Patrick Henry-style revolution. In fact, they are doing everything in their power to keep such a revolution from taking place."

According to the "angry brother" militia member, "America is in the throes of socialist and Marxist political upheaval. The curtain could fall at any time. The American people need to wake up to this truism: a 'conservative' movement - even a conservative Tea Party movement - will not save us. The only thing that will save us is an old-fashioned State revolt. ... As long as freedom lovers are content to remain satisfied with the status quo by allowing party politics and media celebrities to dominate their efforts, there will be no stopping this socialist avalanche that is crashing down upon us."

While the communication says that "the Tea Party movement of 2010 (if left free of Big-Government neo-cons) could certainly translate into positive developments this November," it concludes with the declaration that "it is going to take a State revolution to seal the deal. I, for one, am ready."

Reactions to the provocative commentary among militia members were positive and supportive. For example:

- "Nothing is going to change in this country until we take it back. BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY."
- "I TELL THE LIBERALS AND ALL WHO DON'T LIKE AMERICA, WANT SOME, COME GET SOME."

******* ANALYSIS ***** T/I/W Rating: LOW-to-MODERATE**

As noted in several previous PIB, recent communications from extremist militia forums indicate a growing restlessness and self-reinforcing feeling of impending confrontation with the federal government. These have been increasing in frequency and severity in the past several months, with militia communications identified by researchers naming several possible "tipping points" or "thresholds of abuse," such as: declaration of martial law, non-citizens given the right to vote, a central banking system's "regionalization" of the USA, police confiscating citizens' weapons, or a border war with Mexicans.

As noted in PIB No. 126, recent communications among militia members indicate a new level of practical preparation for what many seem to see as an imminent confrontation. For example, one militia member stated, "I am ... stocking up on everything I can get my hands on as fast as I can now. Guns, ammo, gear, food and water."

In Pennsylvania, there are both ideologically moderate militias and virulently anti-government militias. The latter may include the **91ST WARRIOR MILITIA** and the **BROOKVILLE TIGER MILITIA**, which had members jailed in 2008 for illegal sale of explosives. Others include the **SONS OF LIBERTY MILITIA**,⁷ the broad-based Pennsylvania Citizens Militia⁸ and the Pennsylvania Constitutional Militia,⁹ as well as regional members of the **ROGUE NATION ETERNAL MILITIA (RNEM)** movement. (For more on the RNEM specifically and the trend towards apocalyptic thinking among militias generally, see PAIB nos. 73 and 121.)

RNEM and others have been promoting armed, dispersed and "leaderless resistance" against what they define as the "New World Order." Such a "resistance" is, by its nature, prone to such independent actions based on narrowly defined "tipping points." Based on current rhetoric, targets for militia extremists include **FEMA** [and regional branch offices], the United Nations, **banks**, as well as the **police**, the **military** and **other federal agencies**.

Government Facilities

6. *Jihadists Issue a 'Message to Crusader Spain'*

A new jihadist communication intercepted by researchers names several cities in Spain as targets for attack.

Ostensibly addressed to the people of "Crusader Spain," the communication says, "You didn't understand our messages and didn't stop your war against Islam." The jihadist writer cites Spanish participation in NATO, the war in Afghanistan, arrests of Islamists, collaboration with the governments of Morocco and Algeria, as well as the continuing "conquest the lands of Islam" in North Africa. Specifically named are the Spanish autonomous cities of Ceuta and Melilla.¹⁰

Referring the Madrid railway bombings, the communication continues, "On March 11 2004, we taught you a lesson, but you forgot that and we need to remind you. ...You pigs. ... Your days and nights will be like hell, and your lives will become a nightmare."

The jihadist threatens, "We tell the Spanish people: get ready to get what you decided and voted for ... I am sure that Madrid, Barcelona, Malaga and Saragossa will become famous and important in worldwide papers and satellite channels."

⁷ <http://www.freedomsphoenix.com/Letter-to-Editor.htm?EdNo=001&Info=0064318>

⁸ <http://www.1stpa-militia.net/>

⁹ http://www.constitution.org/mil/pa/mil_uspa.htm

¹⁰ <http://countrystudies.us/spain/91.htm>

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

The above communication poses an additional risk indicator following more general declarations noted in May 2010 (PAIB No. 91) by **AL-QA'IDA IN THE LANDS OF THE ISLAMIC MAGHREB (AQIM)** naming France, Spain and Mauritania as urgent current targets for attack. Additional current risk factors include the ban on the full-face Islamic veil in public buildings and indoor markets enacted in several Spanish municipalities (See PIB No. 100).

Analysts see an increase in the risk of lone-wolf, self-starting cells or organized global jihadists targeting Spanish assets worldwide. Attacks would likely focus on high-visibility targets.

Pennsylvania-based students and faculty attending Spanish educational facilities through exchange programs such as the **University of Pennsylvania's** Penn-in-Alicante program, its School of Dental Medicine's program in Madrid, and the **University of Pittsburgh's** summer and business school programs should be made aware of the potential for increased risk of jihadist attack in Spain. Pennsylvanians currently in or contemplating travel to Spain are advised to monitor the local media for further developments and situational awareness regarding the controversial veil ban. Department of State Advisories should be used for updated threats to travelers as well. Consult http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_1024.html for additional travel information to Spain and surrounding countries.

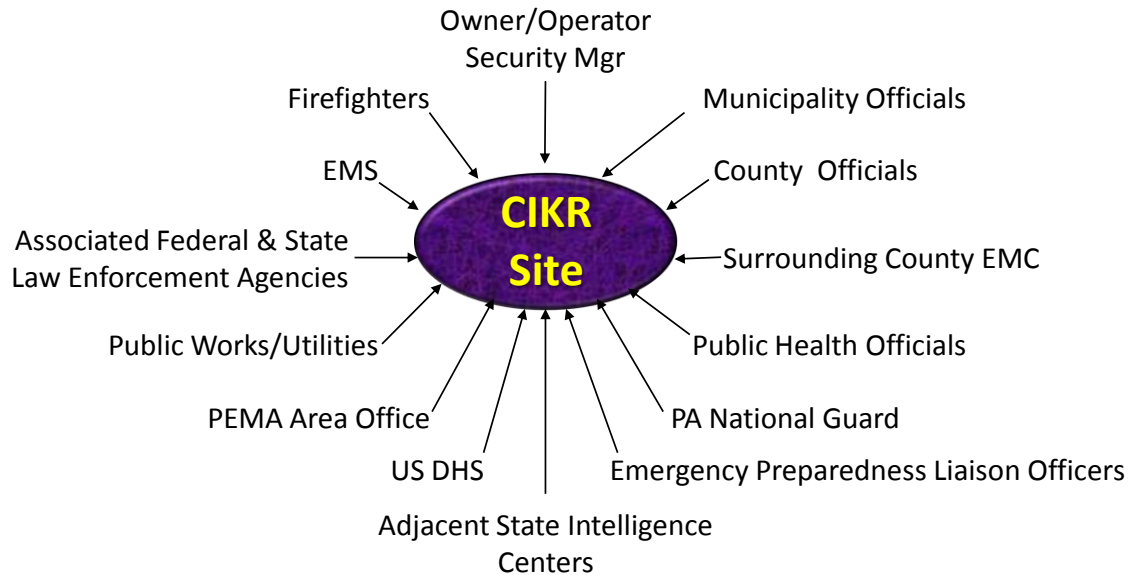
There are no emerging Indicators, Threats and/or Warnings at this time for the following sectors:

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD
COMMERCIAL NUCLEAR REACTORS, MATERIALS & WASTE
CRITICAL MANUFACTURING
DAMS
DEFENSE INDUSTRIAL BASE
GOVERNMENT FACILITIES¹¹
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
NATIONAL MONUMENTS AND ICONS
POSTAL AND SHIPPING
PUBLIC HEALTH AND HEALTHCARE
TELECOMMUNICATIONS
WATER

¹¹ Educational Facilities Sub-Sector: Security directors, students and faculty of all Pennsylvania-based colleges and universities participating in educational exchange programs abroad need to remain cognizant of emerging, country-specific threats, indicators and warnings.

Goal: Situational Awareness Among All Stakeholders

- The Information-Sharing Community -



THREAT / INDICATOR / WARNING RATING	DESCRIPTION
LOW (Level 4)	Available intelligence and recent events indicate that hostile elements currently have little intent or capability to take action against the target. Although it cannot be ruled out, an attack is unlikely based on currently available intelligence.
MODERATE (Level 3)	Available intelligence and recent events indicate that hostile elements currently have the intent and capability to take action against the target. An attack is likely to be a priority and might well be executed.
SEVERE (Level 2)	Available intelligence and recent events indicate that hostile elements currently have the intent and capability to take action against the target. Additional information is also available on the nature of the threat. An attack on the target is a priority and is likely.
CRITICAL (Level 1)	Available intelligence and recent events indicate that hostile elements not only have the intent and capability, but also are actively planning to take action against the target within a matter of days (up to two weeks). An attack or action is imminent.

Source Summary Statement

Institute of Terrorism Research AND Response

The Institute of Terrorism Research and Response (ITRR) produces this document specifically for the Pennsylvania Office of Homeland Security in support of National Priority #3: Implement the National Infrastructure Protection Plan (NIPP) and all public and private sector, critical infrastructure protection-related initiatives and strategies.

The ITRR, a commercial information research and analysis organization, uses open-source, human and closed-source intelligence resources to derive patterns, trends, indicators, assessments and time-sensitive products. The 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.

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