

PENNSYLVANIA ACTIONABLE INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN #76

TARGETED ACTIONABLE MONITORING CENTER

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STRATEGIC ANALYSIS

1. **Jihadists Share Strategic Guidance for Covert Attacks on the US & Israel**

Focusing on "the enemy of our time," in reference to the USA and Israel, newly intercepted jihadist communications provide strategic guidance for covert training and attacks from within the adversaries' territory.

Perhaps taking a cue from the *Jamaat Al-Fuqra* compounds in various parts of the US, the new jihadist communications include the following suggestion:

"Establish military camps inside woods that aren't reachable by anyone, especially in the USA, because it is very easy to get weapons there. Then, after much training, it is possible to strike the US within."

A second recommendation in recent strategically-oriented jihadist communications was to establish a terrorist unit in Israel comprised of Israeli Arabs. The reasoning for this composition of such a unit, according to a communication discussing the matter, is that such cell members would know Hebrew very well and would become "expert at carrying out operations against Israel."

According to the analysis offered by the jihadist writer, attacks from within would cause Israelis to feel that their own leaders "are weakening the country" and that they face an "existential

threat." When the jihadist group perpetrates its attacks," the communication continues, "the right-wing extremists will probably ... carry out more violent actions."

Regarding both the US and Israel, the jihadist communications explain that the strategic goal is "to create disorder and to occupy the enemy with his own problems, so that we can organize against him." However, the jihadists believe that the foregoing strategy is "more applicable" to the US, because "... many any other groups will go out to the streets or act secretly to bring down the government, as there are many people who are angry with the government."

ITRR analysts note that subsequent communications focused some attention on the recently-exposed **Hutaree Christian militia**, whose members trained in the woods and apparently intended to launch a war on the federal government and law enforcement. Jihadists were fascinated and encouraged by the Hutaree militia's apparent desire to kill fellow Americans.

In any event, the strategic directions suggested in the above-mentioned communications are essentially forms of warfare already adopted by extremist cells worldwide – whether actual guerilla units or covert actions by individuals. Furthermore, Islamist "military" training camps have existed in the US for over a decade and enjoy the same freedoms as other civilians to use weapons and train for "self-protection."

As noted above, the **Muslims of the Americas** (MOA) organization, the North American branch of *Jamaat Al-Fuqra*, have such camps in wooded regions near several small towns nationwide. The MOA has allegedly been constructing a facility in **Sherman**, Pennsylvania, and may possibly have representatives in **Philadelphia** as well. Vigilant civilians and law enforcement agencies have been monitoring the activities of MOA closely of late, but still cannot cover all of their branches.

ITRR analysts suggest that there is every reason to believe that jihadist cells are already acting on strategic guidance similar to that mentioned herein. Law enforcement will have to depend on an informed citizenry, close inter-agency coordination or regional intelligence centers to identify such potential terror cells operating in the US to gain and maintain situational awareness.

SECTOR-SPECIFIC THREATS, INDICATORS AND/OR WARNINGS

SECTORS: COMMERCIAL FACILITIES; ENERGY

2. *New Marcellus Projects May Draw Eco-Activist Attention*

In a well-publicized press release this week, the Dominion companies, one of America's largest producers and transporters of energy, announced a new project to process and transport "the growing volumes of high-Btu (wet) Marcellus natural gas production in Marshall and Wetzel counties, West Virginia, and surrounding counties in West Virginia, Pennsylvania and Ohio." This will involve "new processing and fractionation facilities in north-central West Virginia" and

"authorization to convert an existing transmission line in Ohio and West Virginia (TL-404) into a wet gas service line."

Dominion said that progress on the project currently depends on sufficient market interest in the scaled-up processing and supply. To that end, "Dominion will meet with interested parties to discuss the types of service, location, quantity, contract terms and dates by which service is desired."

The Dominion announcement followed on the heels of a similar press release from MarkWest Energy, in which the midstream company said it would be expanding its processing and fractionation capacity in the Marcellus Shale in West Virginia (Marshall County) and Pennsylvania (**Washington County**). The MarkWest announcement does not identify which energy production companies they will be serving with their expanded facilities.

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

ITRR analysts note that the **Marcellus Shale area** of West Virginia and Pennsylvania has been an ongoing focus of attention for environmentalists and certain anti-authoritarian groups. For example, the "Actionvention" and "Pittsburgh Freedom School" (PFS) held earlier this month by the far-left, anti-authoritarian **Students for a Democratic Society** (SDS) included a study session referencing the Marcellus Shale gas drilling project (see PAIB No. 70). Similarly, the **Ruckus Working Group**, an anarchist organization, held a three-day "direct action" training seminar in December 2009 that specifically targeted the drilling activities in the Marcellus Shale area. At such events, training has focused on tactics that can include (see PAIB No. 20): vandalism, obstruction of public and private venues, arson, threats of violence, assault, etc.

Considering these events, ITRR analysts believe that anti-drilling, anarchist and environmentalist activists will likely use the recent Dominion and MarkWest announcements to re-focus attention on the **Marcellus Shale area**. In addition to actions directly targeting these companies, protests or other adversarial actions may be aimed at dissuading potential partners of Dominion from collaborating in their planned expansion.

SECTOR: GOVERNMENT FACILITIES

3. Update: Jihadists Renew Threats to Russia Through 2014

A new jihadist communication intercepted by ITRR researchers includes explicit warnings to the Russian people that they will be targeted "in the hearts of your cities" by jihad fighters of the **Islamic Emirate of the Caucasus** (IEC). The communication states that the Muslims of the Caucasus see no distinction between civilians and soldiers of Russia, as the latter are products of, and supported by, the former.

In addition, the communication includes an explicit threat to attack or otherwise disrupt the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, on the Black Sea. "Now Putin decided that the Winter Olympic Games will be in Sochi in 2014, on the bones of our Caucasian brothers who were killed by the

Czar in the 19th Century. You don't have enough land in your country to hold the events? With the help of Allah, we will do whatever we can to ruin this event!"

***** ANALYSIS *****

T//W Rating: MODERATE

ITRR analysts see the above communication as a psychological warfare component of an on-going escalation in jihadist terrorism in the Russian arena since late last year. At this time, ITRR analysts consider the risk of follow-on jihadist terror attacks to be severe. (See PAIB Nos. 16, 30, 40, 48, 65 and 66 for more details on the IEC terror campaign.)

As recommended in past PAIB editions, American students participating in educational exchange programs at Russian educational institutions (e.g., **Bryn Mawr College in Moscow, St. Petersburg and Vladimir**) should be made aware of the current increase in risk of attack throughout Russia. Researchers and linguists pursuing continuing studies through American Councils and similar programs in the Caucasus regions of Russia are particularly vulnerable to attack and abduction by local jihadist elements.

4. Heightened Alert for Jihadist Terrorism in India

Intense jihadist focus continues to be placed on India. From time to time in the past year, various Indian cities and venues have been placed on heightened alert due to intelligence inputs regarding impending or threatened jihadist terrorist attacks.

Most recently, the US State Department has issued its own alert for India, saying that there are "increased indications terrorists are planning attacks in New Delhi." The State Department advisory further notes that "[m]arkets, such as those located in Chandni Chowk, Connaught Place, Greater Kailash, Karol Bagh, Mehrauli and Sarojini Nagar, can be especially attractive targets for terrorist groups."

***** ANALYSIS *****

T//W Rating: SEVERE

As recommended in several past PAIB, 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 ongoing high risk of jihadist attack on public venues generally and at tourist sites or other Western-identified venues. Also singled out this year by jihadist ideologues (see PAIB No. 44 and 66) of the Lashkar-e-Taiba organization was the city of Hyderabad.

In addition, Indian targets outside the subcontinent may be singled out by elements sympathetic to the Indian jihad. There is a limited risk of jihadist lone-wolf targeting of Indian assets in Pennsylvania, such as **Hindu and Sikh temples**, or activities of the **Indian Cultural Association of Pennsylvania** (ICAP).

SECTORS: COMMERCIAL FACILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS

5. *Emerging Tactic: Prosthetic Leg IED*

In an ongoing discussion regarding tactics to strike within America and other Western states, Islamists have raised the possibility of using handicapped jihadists with prosthetic limbs to target large crowds of people.

The guidance offered "to attack America" included "take one of our handicapped that have a prosthetic leg. You can fill the prosthetic leg with explosives and then send the handicapped [person] to a public event of the infidels and detonate the device there. This way we won't harm Muslims, just the infidels."

Of note in this context is the March 2010 incident when a simple metal detector alarm led Heathrow Airport security personnel to swab the artificial leg of a well-known UK celebrity for explosives residue. Airport officials said, "She was swabbed because something set off the alarm in the metal detector archway. Staff could not see inside the leg so it was swabbed instead. This would be the same protocol if a passenger had a cast on a broken arm or leg."

***** ANALYSIS *****

T/I/W Rating: MODERATE

The above suggested tactic appears to be a developmental outgrowth of the "body bombs" discussed by Western intelligence agencies earlier this year (as noted in PAIB No. 42). They suggested that Al-Qaeda jihadists were planning to surgically insert explosives into suicide bombers' bodies, in the buttocks of men and the breasts of women.

According to open source reports, the body bombs were a reaction to the introduction of full-body scanners at international airports. At the time, the US Transportation Security Administration (TSA) publicly stated that prosthetic devices, artificial limbs and surgically replaced body parts will not show up on the body scan imaging machines. However, ITRR analysts discovered that there have been repeated instances of women with prosthetic breasts, as a result of mastectomies, reporting that they were subjected to secondary screenings, wandering, etc., due to the prosthetics showing up on the scanner's screen. While admittedly anecdotal in nature, even these reports indicate that the detection of the prosthetics was heavily dependent on the TSA screener's alertness and skill.

ITRR analysts point out that jihadist discussions of such "body bombs" long preceded the intention to deploy full-body scanners as a security measure. In PAIB No. 27 ("The Christmas Day Attack: What's Next"), ITRR analysts suggested that future jihadist attacks may involve a tactic used in August 2009 by **Al-Qaeda of the Arabian Peninsula** (AQAP) in Yemen to strike Prince Mohammed Bin-Nayef inside the prince's own palace: explosives inserted inside the bomber's body cavity. As noted by ITRR analysts at the time, this tactic received extensive attention in jihadist circles.

Of note was the fact that the explosives inside the terrorist's body cavity failed to kill the target, even in close proximity, due to the impact absorption provided by the perpetrator's own body.

ITRR analysts are of the view that the ongoing discussion of more viable alternatives is due to that lesson learned by **AQAP**.

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 such a device aboard an airliner in American airspace. As the second most 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.

Furthermore, the current pressure on airlines and airports throughout Europe (due to the disruption caused by the massive Icelandic volcanic ash cloud) may have the side-effect of causing increased security lapses that could be exploited by terrorists. In addition, the above jihadist discussion of prosthetic bombs indicates an intention to target any large public gatherings, especially during non-Muslim religious festivals.

No actionable intelligence at this time for the following sectors:

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

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| 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. |

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@itrintel.org

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