



Washington Regional Threat and Analysis Center

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Fire Watch

Fire and Emergency Medical Service Intelligence Briefing

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The following is an analytical prospective of recent events:

Should we raise the concern for the next terrorist attack in the United States?

During the last few years, we have watched many terrorist attacks occur overseas. These included attacks against transit systems, hotels, markets, night clubs, police stations, government offices, and the list goes on. I have always wondered why we have not seen these types of attacks here. Now we are seeing more plots that have originated within the United States, with the intended target here at home. Many have predicted that this would be the trend, from homegrown radicalized terrorists.

If you have been following the news, the terrorist plots in country have begun to be more frequent. The last few plots in this listing have occurred back-to-back. The following list is not all inclusive, however, it points out some of the more publicized plots:

- The JFK International Airport Plot
- The Fort Dix plot
- The Little Rock Army/Navy recruiting station shooting
- North Carolina Jihad Cell with plans to attack Quantico Marine Base
- The plot to attack Jewish centers in the Bronx, NY and shoot down a military plane in Newburgh, NY
- The Queens, NY/Denver, Colorado (Zazi) case with yet undetermined targets of bombings
- The plot to blow up a Dallas, Tx. office tower
- The plot to blow up Federal building in Springfield, Il.

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The odds are against us stopping them all. Eventually, a plot or two will go undetected, and the plot will carry forward to the attack phase.

Not all of the details of these plots have been made public. There is local (NCR) concern surrounding some of them. If you want more background on any of the above events (and many others), you can find excellent overviews at: <http://www.nefafoundation.org/>. You can also get more in-depth information by reading published court documents, many of which can be found at the above site.

So why has the time come for more concern?

- The holiday season approaches, which will provide a target rich environment
- There has been an increase of “credible” suspicious activity
- Terrorist leaders have called upon their followers to attack airports and trains in the west using homemade explosives

So what are the concerns?

- The trend has been for less sophisticated attacks, utilizing small arms (readily available) and IEDs (easily constructed)
- The manufacture of homemade explosives with everyday items that can be purchased locally
- Terrorists continue to use tactics that have proved successful in the past, and the smaller attacks have worked
- Multiple point attacks (more than one site simultaneously)
- Wave attacks (primary attack followed by a secondary attack at the same site).
- More radicalized persons are being discovered in country
- The NCR has always been considered a prime terrorist target

What can we do?

- **Be more observant**
 - **Get details, such as pictures, video or auto tags numbers when possible**
- **Report any concern or suspicious activity**
 - **No concern or suspicious activity is too small to report**
- **Take all precautions as detailed in current SOGs when responding to incidents**
 - **Consider your own safety first!**

In addition to your agency reporting requirements:

Watch for and report all suspicious activity to:

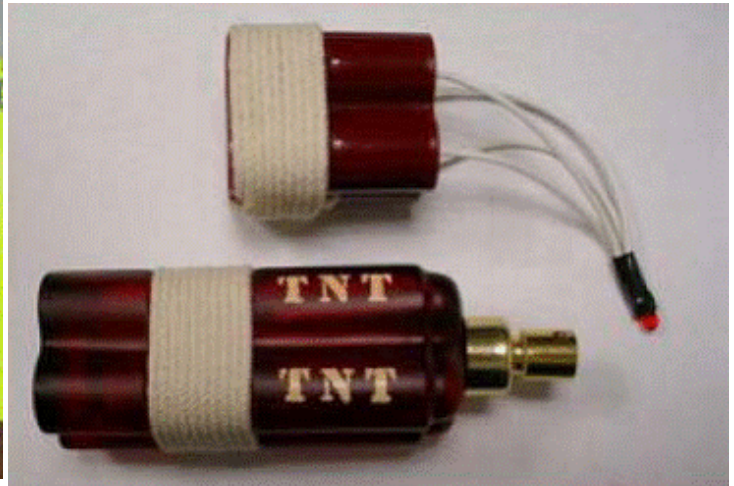
WRTAC at 202-481-3007 (Day) / 1-877-YOU-WATCH (Night & Weekend)

Suspicious Activity Reporting: SAR@dc.gov

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COLOGNE MIMICKING EXPLOSIVES



Several companies currently package men's cologne or women's perfume in bottles mimicking actual threat items. Like inert ordnance, these packages may look like actual weapons or IED's and may be detected by security screeners. The first is Arsenal and the second is TNT Explosif. It comes packaged in a wooden box with a sliding lid and lying on a bed of wood shavings. "Arsenal" may also be printed in blue or dark red. The Manufacturers information is found on the base of the bottle. For additional information refer to the following link: <http://www.thefind.com/beauty/browse-arsenal-cologne>

Analyst comment: Presented for situational awareness.

If the above isn't enough, how would you like to find this laying around?

Dynamite Fire Starters



Well, this isn't actual dynamite, but it will blast up a blaze every time! It just looks very real to give your guests a thrill.

- The sticks are made of paraffin and sawdust for a long, hot burn
- 20 sticks come in a 16 x 10 x 6 1/2" h. cedar wood box with realistic "dynamite crate" look

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Al Qaeda calls for home-made bomb attacks in West

The leader of al Qaeda's wing in the Arabian Peninsula called on militants to attack airports and trains in the West and said they could easily make bombs from household materials, the group's Internet magazine said. The Islamist group has been trying to secure small victories to maintain its feared image after its leaders' threats to carry out large-scale attacks on Western targets have been discounted as words without deeds, analysts say. "You do not need to exert great effort or spend a lot of money to make 10 grams of explosives, more or less. Do not spend a long time searching for materials as they already exist in your mother's kitchen," Wahayshi wrote in the article, posted on an Islamist website. "Make them (bombs) in the shape of a bomb you hurl, or detonate through a timer or a remote detonator or a martyrdom-seeker belt or any electrical appliance." Calling on militants to assassinate al Qaeda's enemies, Wahayshi stated that "It is a duty that a Muslim mujahid be busy planning to reap the heads of infidels."

<http://feeds.reuters.com/~r/reuters/worldNews/~3/cJZSdVyLBmY/idUSTRE5A126520091102>

Analyst comment: This is not the first terrorist organization that has called on members to perform attacks in the west. However, the simple methods suggested here would make it possible for any militant lone wolf or group to carry out an attack.

Calif. man gets prison for aiming laser at planes

A Southern California man who aimed a laser beam at two airliners as they approached an airport has been sentenced to 2 1/2 years in federal prison for disrupting the flights. The U.S. Attorney's Office in Los Angeles says Dana Christian Welch of Orange, who was sentenced Monday, was the first person in the nation to be convicted at trial of interfering with pilots by aiming lasers at their planes. Authorities say the 37-year-old aimed a handheld laser at two Boeing jets as the passenger planes were about to land at John Wayne Airport on the night of May 21, 2008. The laser beam struck one pilot in the eye, causing "flash blindness," and interfered with pilots' ability to land the other plane.

Analyst comment: There are numerous laser events reported by TSA monthly. These events are taken seriously, and investigated by law enforcement. In some cases, pilots have relayed GPS coordinates to law enforcement. It is surprising that this is the first conviction in a lasering case.

Sony recalls computer AC adapters due to shock hazard

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in cooperation with Sony Electronics Inc. of San Diego, California announced a voluntary recall of about 69,000 Sony VAIO computer AC adapters. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed. Insulation inside the AC adapter can fail over time, posing an electrical shock hazard to consumers. Sony has received four reports of adapters short circuiting. No incidents occurred in the United States. No injuries have been reported. The recalled AC adapter model is the Sony VGP-AC19V17. Consumers should turn off their computer, unplug it and stop using the recalled AC adapters immediately and contact Sony to arrange for a free replacement of the affected AC adapter.

Source: <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/prerel/prhtml10/10027.html>

Analyst comment: Posted for your awareness

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Western New York hiker finds body in car full of possibly toxic chemicals
Authorities in western New York are investigating the death of a man whose body was found inside a car that contained buckets of possibly toxic chemicals. The Ontario County Sheriff's Office says a hiker found the body Monday afternoon in a car parked at a park in East Bloomfield, 20 miles southeast of Rochester. A sign taped to the car warned that the vehicle shouldn't be opened because of toxic gas. Nearby homes were evacuated as a hazardous materials team was called in to remove two 5-gallon buckets filled with an unidentified liquid that were found in the back seat.

http://www.syracuse.com/news/index.ssf/2009/11/western_new_york_hiker_finds_b.html

Analyst comment: This appears to be a suicide as detailed in previous editions of Fire Watch. Popular as a suicide method in Japan, events have occurred in California, Georgia and Idaho, and involved "Detergent Suicide", a mixture which produced Hydrogen Sulfide gas. The liquids and gas produced in this NY case have not been identified. At an event of the nature, respect the warning signs, and insure proper PPE is utilized. Upon encountering an unconscious person in an automobile where no warnings have been posted, a visual inspection would be appropriate, and PPE donned as conditions indicate. The pictures below are from the Idaho event.



Improved cell phone coverage for Washington underground railway

Sprint Nextel has announced the availability of mobile phone coverage within the Washington DC underground railway network. The coverage is available in 20 of the network's 47 underground stations. Sprint expects to offer service in the Metro's remaining underground stations by the autumn of 2010. Service should be available in 50 percent of the Metro system's tunnels by the fall of 2011, with complete coverage expected to be established in all the tunnels by the fall of 2012. Verizon Wireless, Sprint Nextel, AT&T and T-Mobile are jointly building the new wireless network that is currently being installed. The firms also will build a second wireless network, which Metro will own, operate and maintain for Metro's own public safety and operational communications. Sprint has traditionally offered coverage on the Metro, but only via a roaming agreement with an older Verizon network. Stations with this expanded service include: Ballston, Bethesda, Columbia Heights, Crystal City, Dupont Circle, Farragut North, Farragut West, Federal Triangle SW, Foggy Bottom-GWU, Friendship Heights, Gallery Place-Chinatown, Judiciary Square, L'Enfant

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Plaza, McPherson Square, Metro Center, Pentagon, Pentagon City, Rosslyn, Smithsonian and Union Station. Source: <http://www.cellular-news.com/story/40109.php>

Analyst comment: This system could prove useful in emergency operations in instances where portable radios have difficulty.

Explosive/Incendiary Device:



A Bomb Squad responded to a suspicious package located in a grocery store in Illinois. Upon arrival Bomb Squad Personnel inspected the package (Brown Paper Panera Bread Bag) and found it to contain the following: A clear jar 3/4 filled with a flammable liquid taped to a wooden box frame on bottom. In the wooden frame was a cell phone with taped on metal contacts and wires attached to a 9V Battery. Wires were attached to the jar's lid with modified light bulb/powder ignition source. It is believed that any movement of this package would have caused it to

explode. If any similar or other type of suspicious package is located do not attempt to move the package. Evacuate and contact the Bomb Squad.

Analyst comment: This device looks similar to home-made hydrogen generators being utilized in some vehicles around the country. The hydrogen generators have generated some suspicious device calls. If you see a device of this nature under the hood of a car, it might be difficult to distinguish between the two. The hydrogen generator is pictured below.



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Suspicious Injury at Hospital Leads to Discovery of Bomb-making Materials

A Southern California man recently walked into a local hospital claiming to have blown off four fingers in an accidental gun discharge, but hospital personnel, who were suspicious of the explanation, decided to notify law enforcement. On questioning, the man admitted that the injury was the result of an explosion caused by mixing volatile chemicals. When police searched his home, a marijuana growing operation and a bomb-making lab were discovered. The explosive substances were similar to acetone triperoxide (TATP), which was used in the 2005 London bombings, and was one of the substances associated with the recent N.Y.C. terror raids.

Analyst comment: This is an excellent example why suspicious activity reporting must come from the streets, including Fire, EMS and hospitals. Be on the lookout for unexplained injuries, chemical burns, etc. which may be signs of illicit drug or explosive labs.

Purpose

This document is designed for members of the Fire and Emergency Medical Services in the District of Columbia, the National Capital Region and the United States. The purpose of this document is to provide information for decision makers that will assist in eliminating or reducing the element of strategic surprise in our operations. This is an all hazards endeavor; the information provided will cover a focused set of topics including:

- Terrorism Trends and Targeting
- Situational Awareness
- Safety
- Special Events

This report will not be able to identify the next terrorist attack or target; specific information related to eminent attacks will more than likely be disseminated by your local law enforcement agency.

The use of intelligence in the fire service is not new; our unfamiliarity with the term is because we have never identified our pre-planning and status reporting activities as intelligence. The same skills we use in size up and pre-incident planning have parallels in intelligence analysis. For example, in the fire service there is an axiom, “where there is smoke there is fire.” In World War II, one of the lessons handed down from the intelligence analysts is that for strategic warning purposes the first assumption is there are no coincidences. Using this comparison, analyzing the information into intelligence is akin to following the smoke to the fire.

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A conversion of information to fire service related intelligence was missing from our community prior to 9/11. Very few of us understood the developing threat that faced our nation and as a result the Fire Service paid dearly. We cannot allow that to happen again. To assist in this effort please provide feedback and comments so that this weekly report can be improved and raise our level of awareness. Direct questions and comments to john.donnelly@dc.gov or 202-345-6850, or mike.sellitto@dc.gov or 202-481-3059

Watch for and report all suspicious activity to:

**WRTAC at 202-481-3007 (Day) / 1-877-YOU-WATCH (Night & Weekend)
Suspicious Activity Reporting: SAR@dc.gov**

Crime Tip line:
1-888-919-CRIME (2746) or text to 50411

**For any event requiring immediate response, call
911**

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