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Anti-Terrorism Advisory Council

NEWSLETTER



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Open Source News reporting Summary: This collection of open source information is offered for informational purposes only. It is not, and should not be, construed as official evaluated intelligence.

Virtual Jihad

Radical Islamic Web sites are encouraging their supporters to wage holy war online. Their exhortations underscore U.S. vulnerability to cyberterror. In recent months, an odd message has popped up on some radical Islamic Web sites. Readers are encouraged to use their computers to advance the cause of jihad. One preferred method touted on these sites: launch a cyberattack by jamming the Web sites and e-mail addresses of the "Zionist enemy." "Almost every [Islamic extremist] Web site has a section on how to do jihad over the Internet," "If you can't do jihad physically, do it on the Internet."

Full story: <http://msnbc.msn.com/id/6940849/site/newsweek/>

Police find arsenal of lethal weapons



A simple eviction for non-payment of rent led police to an arsenal of weapons and ammunition, as well as police badges from forces across the United States, in a Rexdale apartment. Police found seven guns, including a high-powered rifle with a sniper scope, more than a thousand rounds of ammunition, including armour-piercing and hollow-point bullets, a set of handcuffs and numerous large knives on Wednesday morning during a search of a penthouse apartment on Islington Ave. Also in the apartment, police said, were badges from various police and security forces in the U.S., including California, Virginia and Florida state troopers, the Pensacola, Fla. police, and Georgia State Police. There was a sergeant's badge from the Los Angeles Police Department as well as badges from security officers in Arkansas, North and South Carolina, Alabama and New Mexico. **Also found were several badges from American volunteer fire departments in Indiana and North and South Carolina.**

Full story:

http://www.thestar.com/NASApp/cs/ContentServer?pagename=thestar/Layout/Article_Type1&c=Article&cid=1108075812470&call_pageid=970599119419

It's not so much *what folks don't know* that's the problem.
It's that *they know too much... that ain't so ...* that's the problem !

Local gang with ties to Al Qaeda?

Mara Salvatrucha 13 has purported ties Al Qaeda. The thirteen is part of its fear factor. Investigators saying gang members try to commit much of their signature violence on the 13th of the month. They usually mark their territory with blue spray paint. But local officers and federal agents say the gang goes far beyond graffiti. They are bold, brash, and very dangerous. Beatings are used as rituals to see if the kid getting pummeled is tough enough to be a member of Mara Salvatrucha. They traffic drugs, guns, illegal aliens and they protect their industry with the power of violence. The crime scenes they leave behind are said to be worst than most.

Full story: <http://www.wpri.com/Global/story.asp?S=2918813>

(If you are using a 'high speed' Internet connection, please see the video component of this story at the above URL. Viewing the video with a 'dial-up' connection may be problematic.)

Nearly 2,800 murders in 2004

Authorities reported Feb 11 that 2,754 people were murdered in El Salvador in 2004. Apparently, more than 90 percent of the victims were male and more than 70 percent were ages 18 - 39. Authorities also reported that homicide rates in 2005 are on the rise when compared to 2004; in January of 2005, 285 people were murdered, while 190 were slain in 2004.

COMMENT:

Murder rates, about 46 homicides per 100 thousand in 2004, continue to rise despite the security forces' implementation of a reformed anti-gang initiative known as the "Super Heavy Hand" plan. El Salvador's approximately 17,000 gang - or *mara* - members are involved in most of the local drug distribution and are responsible for committing most petty and violent crimes. President Antonio Saca has promised to make the fight against street gangs and violence a number one priority during his administration.

ETA threatens to attack year-round

On Feb. 11, the Basque separatist group ETA sent warning letters to several embassies in Spain threatening a year-round campaign of attacks. The ETA generally issues warnings to tour operators or embassies of planned attacks during the summer season. The warning follows a car bombing in northern Madrid Feb. 9 at the Parque Ferial Juan Carlos 1 (IFEMA) in which 42 people were injured. Prior to the bombing, ETA had issued a warning call to a Basque newspaper Gara only 30 minutes before the bomb detonated. One day later, ETA claimed responsibility for the attack.

COMMENT:

The warning letters, coupled with the Feb. 9 bombing, appear to signal a renewed determination by ETA to increase its campaign of violence in 2005. Although there have been no reports of a specific terrorist threat, the diplomatic missions of Canada, Germany, Italy, New Zealand and the U.S. in Spain confirmed receipt of the ETA letters.

Targets may include:

- Spain's tourism industry;
- Elected representatives and candidates for the Popular Party (PP), the Socialist Party (PSOE) the Union del Pueblo Navarro (UPN) and the Unidad Alavesa (UA), and the headquarters and public events of these parties;
- Multinational interests in Spain;
- Spanish national economic interests;

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- The Spanish media.

Shootout in streets of Matamoros



Agents from the Federal Agency of Investigation (AFI) chased two vehicles through the streets of downtown Matamoros, Tamaulipas state Feb. 9, ending in a shootout with suspected drug traffickers. At 2215 local time, agents observed a group of armed men in the vehicles and pursued them to Ocho and Guerrero streets in city-center where shots were exchanged; one agent was wounded. The suspects fled after leaving one of the vehicles behind.

COMMENT:

Elements of the AFI have been deployed in strategic cities on the Mexico-U.S. border specifically to combat drug trafficking. The incident lends justification to recent warnings from the U.S. State Department for travelers to remain on alert for violence in the border states. Matamoros is just over the border from Brownsville, Texas.

Two suspected counterfeiters arrested in Mexico City



Two men, believed to be from West Africa, were arrested in Mexico City Feb. 9 with USD 1 million in primarily counterfeit 100 dollar bills. The two were stopped by police after a citizen complaint about the pair arguing. The two had packets of 100 dollar bills taped to their bodies and were carrying a bag full of black dollar-size paper. The two men were carrying South African passports but the South African Ambassador said it is likely the documents are fake and that the men are from West Africa.

COMMENT:

The two men are suspected of involvement in a "black money scam." The scam originated in Nigeria. (Scam information: www.newyorkfed.org/banking/frauds_scams.html#link3d). The bag contained instructions on how to remove the black from the bills. Of note and concern was a statement by the Ambassador regarding the embassy being aware of "a growing pattern of abuse" involving counterfeit or fraudulently obtained South African passports. (See 'Sample Scam' at above URL)

Suffolk resident released on bail after black market formula inquiry

A Suffolk man was released on bail bond Monday following his arrest on federal charges of buying black market baby formula and transporting it across state lines. Federal terrorism agents have been investigating cases nationwide in which proceeds from the sales of formula have been funneled to terrorist organizations, according to the FBI. **The Wake County, N.C., Sheriff's Department and the Wilson, N.C., Police Department** began the investigation after noticing a surge in shoplifted infant formula, such as Enfamil and Simulac.

Full story: <http://home.hamptonroads.com/stories/story.cfm?story=82145&ran=237485>

Security cameras to keep an eye on entire lakefront

Surveillance cameras capable of spotting suspicious or unusual activity will be installed from one end of Lake Shore Drive to the other -- and all along Chicago's lakefront -- under a new "Homeland Security grid" unveiled Thursday. One day after a \$53 million settlement with RCN Cable gave City Hall the fiber-optic network it needs to install anti-bioterrorism sensors, a top mayoral aide disclosed plans for an integrated

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network that will serve multiple purposes, including traffic control and public safety.

Full story: <http://www.suntimes.com/output/news/cst-nws-cameras11.html>

Anti-terrorism law covers real estate

Imagine that you operate a terrorist organization that has come into significant sums of surplus capital. Your organization, which happens to be particularly far-thinking, requires a place to park this money for five to 10 years, perhaps to weather the hostile geopolitical atmosphere without risking their forfeiture to enemy governments or rival terrorist associations. The solution is simple. You contract with a private citizen or entity for the purchase of a multimillion-dollar commercial property. You have put your capital in a remarkably nonobvious and underscrutinized variety of asset. In exchange, you have traded only short-term illiquidity and the risk of a potential bust in the market for real estate. Moreover, you have availed your organization of several prospects for upside. You have the potential to benefit from appreciation and, in the event of tenancy, even positive cash flow. Furthermore, should your organization have need of a paramilitary training facility on foreign soil, it need not look far.

Full story: <http://www.bizjournals.com/eastbay/stories/2005/02/07/focus4.html>

Former NBA star's Mosque donated money to alleged terrorist fronts

A mosque established and funded by basketball star Hakeem Olajuwon gave more than \$80,000 to charities the government later determined to be fronts for the terror groups al-Qaida and Hamas, A Treasury Department spokeswoman, Molly Millerwise, declined to discuss Olajuwon's contributions but said, "In many cases donors are being unwittingly misled by the charities." The Olajuwon-founded Islamic Da'Wah Center gave more than \$60,000 in 2000 and \$20,000 in 2002 to the Islamic African Relief Agency. The government shut down the relief agency in October, saying it gave money and other support to Osama bin Laden and al-Qaida.

Full story: <http://www.ktvu.com/sports/4181041/detail.html>

Now appearing on Islamic websites



It is interesting to conduct research and investigation to determine exactly what is being taught to Muslim students in Islamic schools – including some inside the United States. A popular, 156-page, well-cited book finding favor on the Internet, in Mosques and classrooms is *“The Virtues of Jihad”* written by Mohammed Masood Azhar, an “Islamic cleric and scholar.” Azhar was imprisoned in India but managed to escape last year after some inside help. Aside from being a popular author, teacher and religious cleric, he is also reportedly close to Osama bin Laden and complicit in a number of terrorist events. Although Azhar is currently unavailable for the speaker’s circuit, his book is doing the talking in his place.

The document can be seen in .pdf format at the following web site
<http://www.islamistwatch.org/texts/azhar/Virtues of Jihad.pdf>

U.S. uses drones to probe Iran for arms



The Bush administration has been flying surveillance drones over Iran for nearly a year to seek evidence of nuclear weapons programs and detect weaknesses in air defenses, according to three U.S. officials with detailed knowledge of the secret effort. The small, pilot less planes, (*pictured is the RQ-4 Global Hawk*) penetrating Iranian airspace from U.S. military facilities in Iraq, use radar, video,

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still photography and air filters designed to pick up traces of nuclear activity to gather information that is not accessible by satellites, the officials said. The aerial espionage is standard in military preparations for an eventual air attack and is also employed as a tool for intimidation. The drones are among several tools being used to gather information on Iran's nuclear programs and its military capabilities, U.S. officials said. The United States believes Iran is using its nuclear energy program to conceal an effort to manufacture nuclear weapons, but no one has found definitive evidence to substantiate that.

Full story: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A19820-2005Feb12.html>
(See *Featured Internet Site for more UAV information*)

COMMENT:

Officials interviewed for the *Washington Post* article claim that the UAV flights are part of an ongoing U.S. campaign to prove that Iran's nuclear program is designed to develop nuclear weapons and not civilian nuclear technology as claimed by Tehran. The U.S. needs proof of illegal Iranian activity to convince the E.U. and the International Atomic Energy Agency Board of Directors that Iran's nuclear case merits imposing economic sanctions. In addition, the flights are essential to helping the U.S. intelligence community redevelop its National Intelligence Estimate of Iran - a key to any future diplomatic or military action against Tehran's nuclear and military assets. Meanwhile, Iranian officials continue to believe that the U.S. will not dare attack Iran: Asefi declared that "U.S. officials know well Iran's capabilities" and "we don't take (U.S.) threats seriously." That said, the Iranian military continues to prepare for a possible attack and on Feb. 11, Iran began production on a new torpedo that can be fired from warships, submarines and helicopters. While a U.S.-led military attack on Iran is not in the cards at this time, failure to solve the nuclear issue could lead to a confrontation in a matter of years.

Authorities: Pakistani urged al-Qaida to get nukes

A wealthy Pakistani businessman who's being held at the Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, prison camp for suspected terrorist ties urged al-Qaida operatives to acquire nuclear weapons for use against U.S. troops and said he knew where to get them, according to American investigators. The allegation, contained in documents filed recently in U.S. District Court in Washington, also identifies Saifullah Paracha, 57, who has an import business in New York, as a participant in a plot to smuggle explosives into the United States and to help al-Qaida hide "large amounts of money." Top American officials have warned that al-Qaida has sought nuclear materials and that a network of Pakistani scientists sold nuclear technology and expertise to Libya, Iran and North Korea.

Full story: <http://www.bradenton.com/mld/bradenton/10869273.htm>

Related reporting for reference

Detained Pakistani to face terrorism charges

<http://www.cnn.com/2003/LAW/08/04/alqaeda.suspect/>

Berezovsky claims Chechen rebels have A-bomb



Chechen rebels could have an atomic bomb, Boris Berezovsky, Russian tycoon currently living in self-imposed exile in Great Britain, told the *Komsomolskaya Pravda* daily on the phone. Russian security officials refused to comment on Berezovsky's statement. Basayev and Maskhadov (*see last week's ATAC Newsletter*) have remained invincible for a decade, Berezovsky said. Moreover, lately they have come into possession of an atomic bomb. "It is a small portable device which had not been used until now for only one reason: because some necessary element was missing," he said citing what he referred to as "credible sources".

Full story: <http://www.mosnews.com/news/2005/02/08/berezobomb.shtml>

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Related reporting for reference

Special Atomic Demolition Munition

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special_Atomic_Demolition_Munition

Related reporting

Russia dismisses Chechen nuclear bomb claim

Russia dismissed as scaremongering a claim by exiled tycoon Boris Berezovsky that Chechen rebels had a nuclear bomb. "Moscow does not believe in the presence of such a nuclear device with the Chechen rebels, nor, correspondingly, in the possibility of using it to carry out a terrorist act," the Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

Full story: <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L08618480.htm>

NATO to expand force strength

A NATO spokesperson confirmed Feb. 10 that the alliance will expand its peacekeeping mission in Afghanistan in the near future. According to NATO sources, the 8,500-member strong International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) will be increased by at least 500 troops. Under the expansion, Italian forces will be supporting a U.S. unit near Herat and Spanish troops will form a new unit near Qalah-I-Nau, in northeastern Herat.

COMMENT:

This is the second such NATO troop expansion within a year. Last June, NATO announced a troop increase from the previous 6,500 personnel. NATO assumed command of ISAF in August 2003 to demonstrate the resolve of European countries, not just the U.S., to reconstruction efforts in Afghanistan. Initially all NATO efforts were restricted to the capital, Kabul, but over time forces have managed to establish control in more outlying provinces that were former militant strongholds. Under current plans, ISAF will eventually cover the entire country. The move is welcomed by the Afghan government, which continues to be plagued by security threats including neo-Taliban forces, gun runners and drug smugglers. Afghanistan is also scheduled to hold its Parliamentary elections sometime this year. The added ISAF security will of great assistance to Afghan forces.

Following death threat against Christian writer, terror site gets run out of Houston

...but moves to Chicago and death threat remains online.

Following extensive media coverage regarding the death threat (<http://haganah.org.il/harchives/003608.html>) against me posted on a radical Islamic bulletin board service (which remains on line), www.ansar.net has now changed its Internet Service Provider. After being suspended, it has moved from the Houston-based Everyone's Internet (www.ev1.net) to the Chicago-based www.hostforweb.com

Full story: <http://www.americandaily.com/article/6812>

Featured Internet Site

NOVA, Spies that fly

With their strange silhouettes and awe-inspiring capabilities, today's UAVs, like this Predator, seem to have flown in from the future. But the Predator and the dozen other operational UAVs in the U.S. military arsenal owe their existence to the past.

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/spiesfly/uavs.html>

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