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**Anti-Terrorism Advisory Council  
NEWSLETTER**



Volume 02, Issue 04

Date: 02.23.05

*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.*

## Digital Underground

### *Exposing the 'Darknet': Are Al Qaeda terrorists using your personal computer?*

Al Qaeda online, because Internet technology favors the fugitive criminal and the migrant threat, and because terrorists know how to turn the new digital divide to their advantage. In this evasive game they have at their disposal a most unusual accomplice: unwitting Americans with personal computers and Internet connections. It emerged last year that Fortress ITX, a Clifton, New Jersey, Internet company, inadvertently hosted an Arabic-language website that urged attacks on America and Israel and supplied instructional pamphlets on kidnapping and urban guerrilla warfare. The emergence of this "virtual terrorism" should not be surprising, nor should the fact that Fortress ITX was unaware of it. Despite their wish to turn back the clock on various advances of the modern era, the followers of Osama bin Laden have proved surprisingly capable with the tools of the Internet. What's more unsettling is that American computer users may assist in this growth phase for Al Qaeda. The appeal of the Internet for those engaged in any sort of crime is twofold. First, it's possible to conduct business in near complete anonymity provided you can divert pursuers by routing your activity through neutral networks and computers to cover your tracks. And second, most people running those networks and using those PCs are so completely naive about this technology that for the sophisticated criminal, hijacking the hardware is child's play. Terrorists have become experts at identifying unguarded server space from which to upload material. Jihad videos were recently discovered on the servers of George Washington University and the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department. Some of the more sophisticated terrorist sites migrate from one server to another, often several times a day, in order to evade the authorities. "Reverse proxy servers" allow a user to cloak his identity behind a "front" computer, by transmitting material through that computer onto the Internet while making it appear that the front computer is in fact the server.

Full story: <http://www.villagevoice.com/news/0507.essay.61085.2.html>

*Related reporting for reference*

**The Darknet and the Future of Content Distribution**

<http://msl1.mit.edu/ESD10/docs/darknet5.pdf>

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 !

## Terrorists' use of Internet spreads

Cyberfraud, ranging from credit card theft to money laundering, is the latest wrinkle in terrorists' use of the Internet. It's "the new cash cow" for terrorists to finance operations. In dozens of incidents the past few months, groups linked to terrorism have stolen credit card numbers over the Internet, laundered money and hijacked Web sites. The recent surge in activity has given counterterrorism specialists, already concerned with threats to physical structures, another worry. Like their colleagues in the FBI, Secret Service, the Treasury Department and elsewhere, they must bone up on Internet technology to match wits with the criminals.

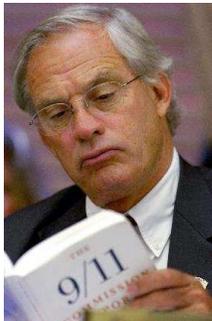
Full story: [http://www.usatoday.com/money/industries/technology/2005-02-20-cyber-terror-usat\\_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/money/industries/technology/2005-02-20-cyber-terror-usat_x.htm)

## Breaking the Al-Qaeda code

Charleston, the South Carolina hometown of Rhett Butler in *Gone with the Wind*, seems an unlikely place to be on the front line of the global war on terror. Yet on the third floor of a glass office building overlooking the Cooper river is a locked room that is straight out of a futuristic thriller. Inside, a series of control panels with flashing lights and whirring hard drives comprise the master computer of the world's largest free-standing database of intelligence on Islamic terrorism. It could hold the key to dismantling Al-Qaeda. "It's the best database on Islamic terrorism in the world," said a senior counter-terrorism official at the FBI. The database is the pivotal tool in what those involved say will be the biggest class action in history: a \$1 trillion lawsuit on behalf of the families of 1,431 of the people killed on 9/11 and 1,325 of the injured.

Full story: <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,2089-1481721,00.html>

## Goss fears WMD attack in U.S. 'a matter of time'



Senior U.S. intelligence leaders told Congress yesterday that "it may only be a matter of time" before terrorists try to use weapons of mass destruction against the United States. "It may be only a matter of time before al Qaeda or another group attempts to use chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear weapons," Mr. Goss (pictured) told the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence. FBI Director Robert S. Mueller III testified that he is "very concerned" about the lack of data on a network of al Qaeda "sleeper" cells in the United States. "Finding them is a top priority for the FBI, but it is also one of the most difficult challenges," he said. "Because of al Qaeda's directed efforts this year to infiltrate covert operatives into the U.S., I am also very concerned with the growing body of sensitive reporting that continues to show al Qaeda's clear intention to obtain and ultimately use some form of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear or high-energy explosives material in its attacks against America," Mr. Mueller added.

Full story: <http://www.washtimes.com/national/20050216-111354-2798r.htm>

*(See Featured Internet Site for more information and reference)*

## Al-Queda calls for new crusade against the West

*False propaganda and disinformation may be their main weapons of mass destruction!*



Al-Queda revealed their planned "Jihad" against the west. Ayman al-Zawahiri, (pictured) the second highest-ranking member of al Qaeda, warned the West that death and economic collapse would be part of its defeat in its "new crusade" against the Islamic world. What really is their strategy? According to some, they may be targeting the information propaganda to cause more financial drain and pain for the West

Full story: <http://www.indiadaily.com/editorial/1669.asp>

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*Related reporting for reference*

## **Propaganda**

The goal of propaganda is either to garner support or disapproval of a certain position, rather than to simply present the position. The primary target of propaganda is people's opinions rather than their knowledge. Therefore, the information conveyed is often presented in an emotionally loaded way and with other means of affecting the opinions of people.

Full report:

[http://www.answers.com/main/ntquery.jsessionid=b7npfc9fcurge?method=4&dsid=2222&dekey=Propaganda&gwp=8&curtab=2222\\_1&sbid=lc04b](http://www.answers.com/main/ntquery.jsessionid=b7npfc9fcurge?method=4&dsid=2222&dekey=Propaganda&gwp=8&curtab=2222_1&sbid=lc04b)

## **At least 15 foiled terrorist attacks in Europe since 9/11**

Since 11 September 2001, at least 15 major terrorist attacks have been prevented in Europe, according to a Norwegian research institute. The 15 thwarted attacks were so-called 'mass casualty attacks' designed to take a great number of lives for maximum impact.

Full story: <http://www2.rnw.nl/rnw/en/currentaffairs/region/westerneurope/ter050218>

*(See Related Articles at the above URL and follow the links to more)*

## **Philippines; State of emergency mulled**

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is reportedly considering the imposition of a state of emergency in Makati City, Davao City, and General Santos City, where bombs exploded on Valentine's Day. A Philippine Senator proposed the measure to allow the President to assume control of police powers and restrict civil liberties, but there is considerable opposition to the move. Macapagal-Arroyo would have to convene the National Security Council (NSC) before issuing the decree. Plainclothes intelligence agents, police, and soldiers have received orders to monitor transportation centers, markets, and other public places in Central Mindanao and Metro Manila. Intelligence sources have claimed that terrorists might be plotting attacks on Metro Manila markets. Soldiers and police are manning checkpoints, riding buses, and patrolling vital installations, including oil depots, embassies, airports, seaports, and other high-profile venues in the national capital region.



*Related reporting*

**Fresh fighting breaks out in Philippines**

<http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/B146248.htm>

**Civilians flee Philippine clashes**

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/4273879.stm>

**City hoists double red alert status**

<http://www.sunstar.com.ph/static/zam/2005/02/17/news/city.hoists.double.red.alert.status.html>

*Background*

**Who are the Abu Sayyaf?**

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/asia-pacific/719623.stm>

**COMMENT:**

The Valentine's Day attacks have also revived interest in anti-terrorism legislation that had been shelved since 2001. The proposed law would allow judges to sentence convicted terrorists to death or life in prison and impose sentences of up to 20 years for those convicted of aiding terrorists. The anti-terrorism bill would broadly expand the ability of authorities to conduct electronic surveillance on suspected terrorists. Officials would also like to resurrect a proposed national identification card program, similar to a system already in place in Singapore. There are also discussions about introducing a requirement for prepaid cellular phone card users to register with authorities, which would presumably allow intelligence agents to monitor the activities of suspected terrorists. Left-leaning organizations and politicians strongly oppose the measures as violations of privacy. The speedy passage of new anti-terrorism legislation or the declaration of a state of emergency in the aforementioned cities could prompt large protests led by left-wing groups.

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## Algerian man charged with lying about Al-Qaida bomb plot

Federal prosecutors have charged an Algerian man with making up an al-Qaida bomb plot in an effort to avoid being deported. Ahmed Allali, who was charged Wednesday, falsely claimed he knew members of the terrorist group and that he knew of a cell planning to detonate bombs in five major U.S. cities in early 2005. Allali, who was ordered deported after entering the United States with a fraudulent passport in 1998, made up the story after his November arrest in Indianapolis on a deportation warrant,

Full story: <http://ap.tbo.com/ap/breaking/MGBEPRSXB5E.html>

## Mexicans join the Mara Salvatrucha



Of the over 300 *Mara Salvatrucha* gang members arrested along the southern border of Mexico during the past two years, nearly 70% were Mexican nationals. **The *Mara 13* and *Mara 18* gangs have become a security and migration problem for Chiapas.** Only 12% of gang members arrested were from El Salvador, the original home of the *Mara Salvatrucha*. Other members come from Guatemala, Nicaragua, and Honduras.

Translated 20 February 2005 from:

<http://www.diario.com.mx/nota.asp?notaid=2ab2acba12514a4c086fed1ea78f9aa9>

## Lt. Governor announces flyovers as part of historic new statewide mapping project



Planes begin flying today (02/18/05) across Indiana skies taking pictures as part of a statewide project designed to create a detailed digital map to assist agencies at all levels of government. Lt. Governor Becky Skillman announced this morning that the flyovers, beginning in southern Indiana, are part of the state's geographic information systems (GIS) project. The 2005 Statewide Color Orthophotography Project will create a map of Indiana using high quality digital pictures to be taken from seven planes that will fly across the state every day for two months, weather permitting. More than 50,000 pictures will be collected and put into a cutting edge computer mapping system. Once the foundation is laid, information from locations of critical infrastructure, to crime statistics, to boundaries of economic development

zones can be layered on top of the base map. "Our goal is to continuously seek ways to achieve the highest level of preparedness in terms of homeland security," said Earl Morgan, Director of CTASC. "The information garnered from this project will enable us to reach that goal in new ways, in addition to benefiting numerous other endeavors outside of homeland security."

*For more information on the Statewide Color Orthophotography Project see*

<http://www.in.gov/ingisi/ortho/>

*Also see side panel and fact sheet links at the above URL*

## Featured Internet Site



<http://www.anl.gov/index.html>

*(See 'Hot Topics' link at the above URL for this and other relevant information)*

### Export control helps prevent WMD proliferation

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