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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.

Davis announces the state's Indiana Alert Network (IAN)



Lt. Governor Kathy Davis today announced the state's participation in the Homeland Security Information Network's Infrastructure pilot program. Indiana is the only pilot program site initiating its network at the statewide level. "The state of Indiana requested participation in the pilot program, which serves as a model for information sharing among various public and private agencies," said Lieutenant Governor Kathy Davis, Chair of the Indiana Counter-Terrorism and Security Council (C-TASC). "This program will enhance the Indiana's homeland security efforts, and give us direct access to

information across the state." The program is an information sharing, notification and alert system designed to cross agencies, sectors and disciplines. Indiana is the only pilot program site initiating its network at the statewide level. The state will launch a website dedicated to IAN on July 1.

Full story: <http://www.in.gov/serv/presscal?PF=lgov&Clist=33&Elist=81342>

Ashcroft warns of an unspecified terror threat



Attorney General John Ashcroft reiterated Tuesday his warning that terrorists intend to attack the United States and that the upcoming Fourth of July holiday and political conventions should be considered prime targets. "We are a nation at war," Ashcroft said. "There are times when 9/11 may seem like a distant memory, but it is not. AlQaida wants to hit us and hit us hard." Ashcroft said the nation is entering a "season of symbolic events" that might become terrorist targets. While not wanting the public to be fearful and not enjoy the upcoming holiday, he urged people to be vigilant.

Full story: <http://www.theledger.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20040630/NEWS/406300350/1004>

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 !

Officials warn of nuclear terrorism threat

International Atomic Energy Agency chief Mohammed al Baradei warned this week that the threat of a terrorist attack involving a nuclear weapon is real and that preventing one is "a race against time." He told a Washington, D.C. conference of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace that there was a real possibility that uranium or plutonium could fall into the wrong hands. It is for this reason that so many governments are concerned about the possibility that a terrorist group might obtain nuclear materials through collaboration with a rogue state. Officials are also concerned about nuclear materials that are thought to be unaccounted for or possibly available on the black market, particularly in states of the former Soviet Union.

COMMENT:

More possible still is that terrorist groups could produce a radiological device, or "dirty bomb," using easily obtainable radioactive materials and a conventional explosive. While it would be difficult (though many fear not impossible) for terrorists to obtain the type of plutonium or uranium needed for a nuclear bomb, the materials needed for a dirty bomb are more readily found in small devices containing radioactive material such as those used by hospitals for cancer treatments, as well as low-grade waste from power plants, devices used in food irradiation and sensors that are used for oil exploration. However, many experts suggest that a group such as Al-Qaeda would not favor a dirty bomb, as such weapons would not cause enough death and destruction. Indeed, the detained U.S. Al-Qaeda operative Jose Padilla allegedly wanted to detonate a dirty bomb in the U.S. but was instructed by Al-Qaeda instead to plan on using a natural gas explosion to blow up two apartment buildings. Aside from the limited amount of destruction that could be caused by a dirty bomb, certain terrorist groups may recognize the greater terror impact that such a device would have in the form of public panic and financial devastation. If the blast spread radiation over a wide area, it is likely that the death rate would not be high; however, the fear of ill effects from radiation exposure, such as a greater risk for cancer, would cause panic among the people in the area. In addition, the local government may choose to destroy the affected property due to an inability to adequately decontaminate it. Thus, such a device would cause significant financial and psychological harm despite being much less destructive than a powerful nuclear weapon.

Terrorist suspects arrested

Moroccan police June 23 arrested Lahcen Midaoui during a raid in the Ben Ahmed province. Midaoui is suspected of being a member of the Beni Mellal cell that carried out the May 16, 2003 bombings in Casablanca. The arrests follows a shootout between police and other cell members in the southern city of Beni Mellal earlier in the week and the June 22 arrest of suspected terrorist Mohamed Ait Bensaid in Khouribga.

COMMENT:

Morocco is continuing its aggressive counter-terrorism campaign, arresting suspected Islamic militants throughout the country. Despite this aggressive campaign to eradicate terrorism and the arrest of thousands of Islamic militants over the past year, Islamic militants remain capable of staging attacks in the country.

McGuinty urges bi-national border zone, says Ontario won't be terrorist base



Ontario won't be "exploited" as a staging area for terrorist attacks on the United States, Premier Dalton McGuinty said Wednesday as he proposed a "bi-national" zone to help speed trade across the Canada-U.S. border. In a speech delivered to the Canadian American Business Council, McGuinty assured his U.S. audience that Canada's most populous province is committed to the concept of homeland security. "I give you my word that Ontario will be a worthy ally in the war on terrorism," McGuinty said in his prepared remarks. "We will not allow ourselves to be used as a base for future terrorism operations against the United States. We will not be exploited. We will be vigilant."

Full story: <http://cnews.canoe.ca/CNEWS/World/2004/06/16/502054-cp.html>

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Bomb making materials found in Agawam apartment



A one mile area of Agawam was been evacuated for much of the day while Hazmat teams remove suspicious materials from an apartment complex. There were solids, liquids and powders in unidentified containers throughout the apartment. " Jars and bottles of suspicious chemicals and explosives and bomb-making components. The ATF says they're not sure exactly what they have on their hands but they're not taking any chances. "In this day and age you just can't take any chances. We've called in everyone we know. We're calling out the troops," says Jim McNally, Alcohol Tobacco & Firearms.

Full story: <http://www.wtnh.com/Global/story.asp?S=1964682&nav=3YeXO9TH>

Three men arrested over foiled bomb attacks in Philippine capital

Philippine security forces have arrested three men during a raid on a house where they seized explosives allegedly used in making powerful bombs planted in the capital since the weekend, an official said on Wednesday. Defence Secretary Eduardo Ermita said police and anti-terrorism agents swooped down on the house owned by a former police officer in Cainta town in Rizal province, just outside Manila, on Tuesday following a tip. He said security forces seized 75 kilograms of ammonium nitrate, C4 plastic explosives, a large volume of detonating cord, blasting caps, cans of gasoline, various firearms, other bomb-making paraphernalia and political documents.

Full story:

http://www.khaleejtimes.com/DisplayArticle.asp?xfile=data/world/2004/June/world_June444.xml§ion=theworld

Mall security is getting tighter

Cameras, increased patrols typical of boosted safety measures

shopping mall personnel are mum on details, but quietly, security measures continue to be upgraded at local sites in the wake of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks and recently uncovered plot that allegedly targeted a shopping mall in Ohio. From additional security cameras to beefed up patrolling and concrete barriers in front of public spaces, shopping malls have added a number of safety measures. Security experts said malls have taken mostly behind the scenes steps to make sure they're ready for any potential threat. The possibility of terrorist acts remains a real threat for shopping malls. With open spaces, easy entrance and a lack of shopper screenings, malls are very vulnerable. Recently a Somali citizen living in Ohio has been charged by federal prosecutors with planning to bomb a Columbus, Ohio shopping center.

Full story: <http://www.sanmateocountytimes.com/Stories/0,1413,87~11271~2232087,00.html>

Europol takes bigger anti-terror role

Shocked into action by the Madrid train attacks, European leaders have turned to a relatively unknown police agency, Europol, in their search for new tools against terrorism. The European criminal intelligence organization is adding 20 anti-terrorism specialists and is already closely involved in 15 international anti-terror investigations, Europol director Juergen Storbeck said in an interview with The Associated Press. The 5-year-old agency also is thinking of introducing a U.S.-style color-coded alert system to issue warnings about potential terrorist attacks, Storbeck said Wednesday. Last week, officials from 25 countries meeting at Europol headquarters in this Dutch city discussed adopting "a common definition of threats" that could be used to communicate among EU members in the face of a threat, Storbeck said.

Full story:

http://seattlepi.nwsource.com/national/apeurope_story.asp?category=1103&slug=Europol%20Terrorism

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Misleading people easy with cell phone

Cell phones are usually used to help people keep track of each other and stay in easy contact. But they are also starting to take on quite a different function -- helping users hide their whereabouts, create alibis and generally excuse their bad behavior. There is nothing new about making excuses or telling fibs. But the lure of alibi networks, their members say, lies partly with the anonymity of the Internet, which lets people find collaborators who disappear as quickly as they appeared. Engaging a freelance deceiver is also less risky than dragging a friend into a ruse. Cell-phone-based alibi clubs, which have sprung up in the United States, Europe and Asia, allow people to send out mass text messages to thousands of potential collaborators asking for help. When a willing helper responds, the sender and the helper craft a lie, and the helper then calls the victim with the excuse -- not unlike having a friend forge a doctor's note for a teacher in the pre-digital age

Full story: <http://www.dailynews.com/Stories/0.1413.200~20954~2235813.00.html>

Understanding Turbans: (<http://www.indoindians.com/lifestyle/turbans.htm>) Don't link the head-wear to terrorism

America is not a country where the majority of people wrap their skulls in cloth before heading out of the house. Perhaps that explains the confusion over turbans. In many regions of the globe, swaddling the head in fabric is simply a natural response to the scorching heat and dust. Scholars believe it was an ancient people living under a merciless sun who invented the turban. But in the wake of recent terrorist attacks, the turban, originally a practical idea for protection, has become a symbol many Americans associate with terrorists.

Full story: <http://www.csupomona.edu/~plin/turbans/turbans.html>

Art professor indicted for illegal medium

An artist who became the target of a federal terrorism investigation was indicted Tuesday on charges he illegally obtained potentially harmful biological materials. Also charged was a university administrator who allegedly helped him obtain the organisms, which colleagues have said he planned to use in an art project. Steven Kurtz, the artist and a University at Buffalo professor, and Robert Ferrell, chairman of the University of Pittsburgh's Human Genetics Department, were charged with wire fraud and mail fraud. The charges accuse Ferrell of using his school account with a biological supply company to order potentially harmful organisms for Kurtz. Both men face 20 years in prison if convicted.

Full story:

http://seattlepi.nwsource.com/national/apus_story.asp?category=1110&slug=Terrorism%20Probe%20Art

Lack of trust impedes information sharing

The solution to information sharing across the federal government and down to the state and local levels is not technology — it's trust, said Larry Castro, homeland security coordinator at the National Security Agency. During a conference on information sharing here, officials discussed the progress and challenges the government faces. With varying theories, most officials agree the bottom line is that agencies need to trust each other with the information. "We must share information, but we must protect our sources and methods," Bill Dawson, special assistant for information sharing at the CIA, said June 28. A culture change is needed within the various intelligence agencies, where, he said, a set of middle managers incorrectly think they own information. "State police don't care how I got the information," Dawson said. "They want the information."

Full story: <http://federaltimes.com/index.php?S=3051494>

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NATO training center opens in Poland

A training center designed to school elite NATO soldiers in anti-terrorist techniques opened in the northwestern Polish city of Bydgoszcz. The Joint Force Training Center will focus on preparing top soldiers for joint missions and will be commanded by Danish General Peter Kuehnel; Polish General Bronislaw Kwiatkowski will serve as his deputy.

COMMENT:

The center marks a major step forward for Poland, which joined NATO in 1998. The project, commanded by a Dane on Polish soil, marks the degree to which formerly-communist Poland has fundamentally assumed its place within an increasingly integrated 21st-century Europe. The cooperative spirit attributed to the center may also go a long way toward alleviating the friction between Poland and some other European countries caused by Poland's ongoing participation in the U.S.-led coalition in Iraq.

Cyber sleuths patrol the Web for signs of terrorism

Fort Lewis Army Spc. Ryan Anderson thought he was communicating with a Muslim extremist on the Internet when he allegedly asked if a "brother fighting on the wrong side could defect." The 26-year-old Washington state National Guardsman didn't know his e-mails instead were secretly collected by Shannen Rossmiller, a small-town Montana city judge and amateur cyber sleuth who draws out would-be terrorists and turns them over to authorities. Anderson was arrested in February and now faces a court-martial on five counts of trying to provide terrorists with information about U.S. troop strength and tactics, along with methods for killing American soldiers. Rossmiller, 34, of Conrad, Mont., is one of an unknown number of citizen cyberspies who, unrestricted by laws prohibiting entrapment, gather information they say authorities don't always catch. She said government agencies at times have little understanding "regarding the extent and depth with which the terrorists and their followers utilize the Internet for their means and methods of communications."

Bob Wright, FBI special agent in Salt Lake City, likened work by 7-Seas and similar groups to neighborhood watch programs.

Full story:

http://seattlepi.nwsource.com/local/aplocal_story.asp?category=6420&slug=WST%20Internet%20Sleuths

Terror probe widens in South Florida

The March indictment of accused terrorist Adham Amin Hassoun of Sunrise on charges including perjury and obstruction of justice is part of "wider ongoing" terror investigations involving "unindicted co-conspirators" who have yet to be publicly identified, the U.S. attorney's office in Miami has disclosed. In interviews with the *Daily Business Review*, including one this week by telephone from his jail cell in West Palm Beach, Hassoun acknowledged knowing two former Broward residents who have alleged terrorist ties -- alleged "dirty bomber" Jose Padilla and Adnan G. El Shukrijuma.

Full story: <http://www.law.com/jsp/article.jsp?id=1088138434813>

Featured Internet Site

The Middle Atlantic-Great Lakes Organized Crime Law Enforcement Network (MAGLOCLEN)

Criminal Information Systems, Analytical Department , Computer Forensics, Information Sharing and Training, Equipment and Technical Support , Confidential Funds , Law Enforcement Coordinators.

<http://www.iir.com/riss/Magloclen/Index.htm>

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