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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.

Libya reportedly finds terrorist camp near Chad



Libyan forces discovered a desert training camp for an Algerian-based terrorist organization with links to al Qaeda. The camp reportedly belonged to the Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat, known by its French initials GSPC, and was found along Libya's southern border with Chad, according to the respected French paper *Le Journal du Dimanche*. European antiterrorism officials apparently leaked the story to the French paper after the training camp was discovered in the mountainous region, not far from where GSPC leader Amari Saifi is thought to be held by Chadian rebels. The Algerian newspaper *Liberte* reported on 5 July that Libya had arrested 11 GSPC members connected to the training base. *Le Journal du Dimanche* indicated

that the terrorists in the training camp were recruiting new members from countries outside Algeria and buying arms and vehicles with ransom money paid by the German government to release European hostages in 2003. The article does not provide definitive proof that German ransom money is helping to fund these reported activities, but it is plausible. The Algerian paper *Liberte* warned on 5 July, "The terrorists from GSPC are in the process of refining a fighting strategy that would reportedly allow them to extend their tentacles to Black Africa."

ANALYSIS:

GSPC, North Africa's largest, best-organized, and wealthiest terrorist organization, has a noticeable presence in North Africa, thanks to the ties that were established with al Qaeda's networks. The French article also suggests that the GSPC "is clearly preparing attacks in Africa, on European or American targets...be they economic, diplomatic, or tourist sites." Such warnings may be overstated, but the terrorist group's penetration outside Algeria bears careful monitoring and raises concerns that GSPC and other Islamic terrorist groups could turn the Sahara region into a training and operating base similar to Afghanistan.

Related Reporting:

Terror in the Sahara

<http://frontpagemag.com/Articles/ReadArticle.asp?ID=13674>

Salafist Group for Call and Combat (GSPC)

<http://www.cdi.org/terrorism/gspc.cfm>

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 !

Al-Qaida linked group threatens to drag U.S. into a third battlefield in Yemen

A statement on a Web site known for carrying Islamic extremist comment has threatened to turn Yemen into a "third swamp" for U.S. forces now fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan. Passages from the same statement, which surfaced in full Tuesday on the Web, were carried Friday by the Asharq al-Awsat newspaper, which said it had received it from the Abu Hafs al-Masri Brigade. "Our goals in the next phase: expanding the circle of conflict by spreading operations all around the world. (We will) drag America into a third swamp - after Iraq and Afghanistan - and let it be Yemen, God willing," the 10-page statement said.

Full story: <http://ap.tbo.com/ap/breaking/MGB5JEF3CWD.html>

Plan launched to fight crime

Authorities in Panama July 6 launched a plan to combat crime called operation "Mano Dura" and have already arrested 684 people. Eight of the suspects are foreign; mostly illegal immigrants who will be deported back to their countries of origin.

COMMENT:

Authorities also accepted July 7 that there are links between Panamanian street gangs and criminal groups in other Central American countries and Colombia. The operation "Mano Dura" is similar to the plan implemented by El Salvador and Honduras in recent months to combat street gangs. President Mireya Moscoso also hopes establish similar anti-gang laws in Panama. This type of law has been especially effective in Honduras. The law gives the police and the courts the ability to be more aggressive in their fight against street gangs. The police in Honduras can now arrest people for having particular tattoos or using gang-related sign language. (See previous reporting in recent issues of ATAC Newsletters, MS13, Mara Salvatrucha)

On recruitment and training of Palestinian suicide bombers



Al-Majd TV, a UAE religious channel, hosted Hamas spokesman in Gaza, Sami Abu Zuhri, and Faraj Shalhoub, an expert on Palestinian affairs to discuss the recruitment and training of Palestinian suicide bombers.

Following are excerpts from the debate:

Moderator: How are the martyrdom bombers selected? How are they recruited and prepared mentally, and morally?

Faraj Shalhoub: I want to talk about recruiting, before I talk about the selection. The level of faith among a wide sector of the young believers instills in them the concept of Jihad, true Jihad in defense of the message, the homeland, the people, and the nation. They are committed even before they reach the fighting stage. They are committed to their cause and draw their belief in it from the mosque.

Full story: <http://memritv.org/Transcript.asp?P1=117>

Convention cities alert to threats

Convinced that terrorists are determined to disrupt the presidential election by attacking the United States, the government is mounting a massive homeland security effort as the run-up to the two presidential nominating conventions begins. Unprecedented security arrangements have been made for the conventions in Boston and New York, where authorities believe al-Qaida might see an opportunity 2 election. But the to disrupt and perhaps alter the outcome of the Nov. planning extends to "symbolic events" such as Labor Day weekend, when large crowds will gather, and to Election Day. "These events will bring to bear more protective measures than any in history, and while many of these measures can be seen, others like weapons of mass destruction detection equipment won't be seen," Homeland Security Department spokesman Brian Roehrkasse said of precautions for the conventions.

Full story: <http://www.fortwayne.com/mld/fortwayne/news/local/9088529.htm>

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Warning of election threat in U.S

Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge has warned Americans that al Qaeda may try to carry out a large-scale attack to disrupt upcoming elections but offered no details and had no plans to raise the terror threat level. Ridge said the warning was based on intelligence received from credible sources gathered over the past months.

Full story:

<http://www.reuters.co.uk/newsPackageArticle.jhtml?type=worldNews&storyID=544062§ion=news>

Related Reporting:

Officials bolster security, but not threat warning

<http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0704/070804cdam2.htm>

Osama Personally Plotting Attacks To Disrupt Nov. Poll: US

<http://www.indolink.com/displayArticleS.php?id=070804103910>

Police Chief Readies LA Against Possible Terrorism

<http://www.nbc4.tv/news/3507495/detail.html>

Ridge warns of pre-election attack Some question if Bush administration is spreading fear

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/chronicle/archive/2004/07/09/TERROR.TMP>

New terror warnings old hat to cops

<http://www.newsday.com/news/local/newyork/nyc-terr0709.0,2443289.story?coll=ny-nynews-headlines>

Bin waiting: Osama said to be in charge of plans for new U.S. attack

<http://news.bostonherald.com/national/view.bg?articleid=34968>

Wall Street Terrorist Attack Target

http://abclocal.go.com/wabc/news/wabc_071104_target.html

Gas stations raided in alleged crime ring



Dozens are targeted as officials say Turkish organized crime ring hid millions in cash, smuggled in workers. Hundreds of federal agents and police yesterday raided dozens of Long Island gas stations allegedly controlled by a loosely organized network of Turkish organized crime figures, officials said.

The ring concealed tens of millions of dollars in receipts and illegally smuggled workers into the country, the officials said. Among those arrested were five of seven key figures in the ring, which allegedly controlled more than 140 gas stations on Long Island, and more than 50 employees who are suspected of being illegal immigrants. The other two alleged leaders were still being sought and may be in Turkey, officials said.

Full story:

<http://www.newsday.com/news/local/longisland/ny-ligas073883536jul07.0,2559501.story?coll=ny-topstories-headlines>

Moving Targets

Terrorists are everything the Soviet Union was not, and intelligence agencies are struggling to get a bead on them.

In a small room in a super-secure building, a young intelligence analyst surrounded by a bank of computers practices a primitive sort of information sharing. He rolls in an office chair from screen to screen, harvesting top-secret information produced by several of America's finest spying operations. This "wheeled fusion" is the only way the analyst can combine, compare and manipulate information from across the intelligence community. As the threat of terrorism advances and the Cold War recedes further into memory, America's intelligence agencies are struggling to adapt to a world different in every way from the one they had known. Everything has changed: the nature of the threat, the sources of information, the technology they use and the "customers" they serve. So far, the innovations to address those changes, especially in analyzing intelligence, are being pursued gingerly by small groups that are more tolerated than encouraged by senior leadership.

Full story: <http://www.govexec.com/features/0504-01/0504-01s1.htm>

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Terror alert @ EBAY

Surplus emergency vehicles 'could be used as car bombs

Terrorists are buying discarded marked emergency vehicles on the internet to mount an attack on Britain's most sensitive buildings, police fear. Surplus-to-requirements squad cars can be bought on the eBay auction website, according to an internal police alert. And the Mirror found a fully marked paramedic response ambulance complete with flashing lights and siren for sale on the site. Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist branch has expressed serious concern about who could end up buying such vehicles. Under the headline Information Terrorism and with the distinctive eBay logo alongside, the notice said: "Fully marked Surrey police cars and fully liveried West Midlands NHS paramedic solos are appearing on the eBay auction website for sale. Things may not always be as they seem!"

Full story:

http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/allnews/tm_objectid=14412438&method=full&siteid=50143&headline=terror-alert--ebay-name_page.html

Related:

See EBAY ITEM # 3920661075: Warehouse Full of Police/Security Gear Uniforms More NR

"We are selling our Entire Inventory of IL State Police Uniforms and Gear! We have 14 Pallet Size Boxes filled with uniforms, This includes Short/Long Sleeve Uniform Tops, Uniform Pants, Patrol Jackets/Coats, Patrol Hats, Belts, holsters, Belt Pieces, Riot Gear and Much Much More"

<http://cgi.ebay.com/ws/eBayISAPI.dll?ViewItem&category=395&item=3920661075&rd=1>

State Police begin patrols to detect underwater explosives

A 40-foot New Jersey State Police patrol boat cruised the murky waters along a concrete pier at the former Military Ocean Terminal at Bayonne Friday morning, towing a portable sonar device that scanned the waters and wooden pilings beneath them. Two divers in black and orange suits were aboard, ready to submerge and investigate had the sonar picked up anything suspicious. While there has been no specific threat against New Jersey ports since the Sept. 11 terror attacks, troopers in the state police marine unit and the agency's Technical Emergency and Mission Specialist, or TEAMS units, have begun taking a pro-active approach.

Full story: <http://www.wnbc.com/news/3511587/detail.html>

D.C. hamstrings border officers

Despite new anti-terrorism demands, DHS freezes payrolls, frees illegals

Despite increased anti-terror demands, immigration inspectors guarding the nation's borders are laboring under an internal budget crisis that has forced freezes on overtime pay and new hiring – as well as the release of hundreds of illegal immigrants from detention centers. The funding crisis, which some lawmakers blame on possible financial mismanagement at the Department of Homeland Security, is expected to last at least through the fall, even as DHS warns that al-Qaida is planning another large-scale attack here before the November elections and has ordered airport inspectors to [increase scrutiny of Pakistanis](#) and other foreign nationals entering the U.S.

Full story: http://www.worldnetdaily.com/news/article.asp?ARTICLE_ID=39380

Americans will recognize CIA successes, Tenet says

"In the end, the American people will weigh and assess our record - where intelligence has done well, and where we have fallen short. And, aware of the difficulties and limitations that we face, they will recognize and honor your service. My only wish is that those whose job it is to help us do better show the same balance and care: in recognizing how far we have come, in recognizing how bold we have been, in recognizing what the full balance sheet says,"

Full story: <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0704/070904gsn1.htm>

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'Groupthink' isn't the CIA's problem

In an unusual foray into psychological diagnostics, the Senate Intelligence Committee concluded Friday that CIA analysts had succumbed to what it called a "groupthink" dynamic. According to the committee's report, the analysts suffered from a "collective presumption" that Iraq had acquired weapons of mass destruction and they blithely ignored any evidence to the contrary. But was that indeed what happened? "Groupthink" — identified in the early 1970s by the late Yale psychologist Irving Janis — refers to a process by which conformity grows out of deliberations in small groups. It can indeed be quite powerful. The way Janis explained it, groupthink operates when individuals work closely together over a sustained period. It isn't merely that members of the group come to think alike but that they come to overvalue the harmonious functioning of the group. In their eagerness to reach consensus, they become inhibited from questioning established assumptions or from raising questions that might disturb their colleagues and friends. A vicious circle begins as the group feels good about itself because it has discovered the truth, and this truth is accepted by each person because it is believed by the others. In this way, a group of intelligent individuals can confidently arrive at conclusions that are wildly removed from reality.

Full story:

<http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/sunday/commentary/la-oe-jervis11jul11.1.851205.story?coll=la-sunday-commentary>

Counterfeit Euro printing operation busted

Secret agents of the Departamento Administrativo de Seguridad (DAS) - working under the direction of Interpol - raided a counterfeit printing house in the Restrepo neighborhood of southern Bogota July 13. The agents seized two persons and a lithograph machine, and found EUR 54,400 and USD 104,700 in fraudulent bills. According to a DAS spokesman, agents also discovered letterhead for the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), the largest guerilla group in the country.

COMMENT:

While the U.S. government recently designated Colombia as the primary location where false U.S. dollars are created, this is the first time that an operation producing counterfeit euros has been discovered in Central or South America.

Featured Internet Site

Most Wanted Lists & Alerts:

FBI Most Wanted Terrorists:	http://www.fbi.gov/mostwant/terrorists/fugitives.htm
FBI Most Wanted (Eight Archives):	http://www.fbi.gov/mostwant.htm
ATF:	http://www.atf.treas.gov/wanted/
Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE):	http://www.bice.immigration.gov/
DEA:	http://www.usdoj.gov/dea/fugitives/fuglist.htm
US Marshals:	http://www.usdoj.gov/marshals/wanted/wanted.html
US Park Police:	http://www.nps.gov/uspp/fwanted.htm
US Postal Service:	http://www.usps.com/postalinspectors/wanted/wantmenu.htm
US Secret Service:	http://www.ustreas.gov/usss/advisories.shtml
US State Dept (Mid Eastern-FTO):	http://www.usembassy-exico.gov/bbf/bfter_or.htm
RCMP:	http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/html/wanted_e.htm
Interpol:	http://www.interpol.int/Public/Wanted/Search/Recent.asp
International Wanted Links:	http://www.interpol.int/Public/Wanted/Fugitives/Links.asp

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