

Sent: Wed, 01 Jun 2011 19:06:09 -0400
From: robert.bolvin@phoenix.gov
To: robert.bolvin@phoenix.gov
Bcc: ajurgensen@ondcp.eop.gov
Subject: HDB Intel Brief
[060111 PPD HDB Intel.pdf](#)

Enjoy!

Det. Robert Bolvin #6209

Phoenix Police Department
Homeland Defense Bureau
C: 602-763-3772
D: 602-644-5934
F: 602-644-8711

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TLO INTELLIGENCE BRIEF

1 JUNE 2011

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Detective Robert Bolvin #6209 // (602)763-3772 // robert.bolvin@phoenix.gov



LOCAL

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Detective Robert Bolvin #6209 // (602)763-3772 // robert.bolvin@phoenix.gov

PHOENIX

Deer Valley Airport, Gunman Shoots at Airplane



A gunman opened fire on a private airplane parked at the Deer Valley Airport early Sunday morning (5/29/2011), according to Phoenix police. No one was on board and no one was hurt, police said. Two Phoenix police officers were on routine patrol near the Deer Valley Airport when they heard shots fired around 1:30 a.m., police said. The officers spotted a vehicle speeding away, but the driver refused to stop when officers attempted to pull him over, according to witnesses. Shell casings were found at the scene along with a small airplane that was damaged by gunfire. The suspect was arrested at his home a short time later, police said. Investigators said they found two weapons believed to be used during the shooting. Randon Reid, 26, was arrested and charged with aggravated DUI, two outstanding warrants and felony flight. A motive has yet to be determined.



Deer Valley Airport serves to relieve air traffic from Sky Harbor. As such, the Airport is capable of accommodating all segments of civil aviation except commercial passenger service. The Airport offers a complete range of services including fueling, avionics repair, maintenance, parts, flight training, new and used aircraft sales, aircraft rentals, a pilot shop and a restaurant. It has two fixed-based operators and is home to more than 1,277 aircraft.

Source: <http://www.kpho.com>

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PHOENIX

More Than 100 Found in West Phoenix Drop House



Officials with Immigration and Customs Enforcement raided the house in the 9000 block of West Vernon Avenue after receiving tips from neighbors about the cars. Vincent Picard, spokesman for the Phoenix ICE office, said the tip and the raid may have been timed perfectly: Shortly before agents arrived, neighbors reported seeing vehicles enter the garage, meaning smugglers may have just dropped off more immigrants and hadn't yet had time to relocate them. Smugglers have stopped holding large numbers of illegal immigrants inside drop houses, most likely to avoid losing large sums of money if the migrants are caught, Picard said. Based on a "conservative estimate" of \$2,000 in smuggling fees for each immigrant, those apprehended were worth \$216,000, Picard said. The 108 immigration suspects found inside the house exceeded the number found by ICE agents inside the previous four drop houses combined. The drop house on West Vernon Avenue is in a neighborhood of single-family homes. Several neighbors described the neighborhood as quiet. Agents knocked on the door and were given permission to enter, Picard said. Picard said the house had no furniture inside, and ICE agents found the migrants sitting on the floor inside every room of the house.

Picard said none of the migrants tried to resist or flee. The 108 migrants found inside included five teenage juveniles and 14 women. They are from Mexico, El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, Picard said. He said some of the migrants were dehydrated, but none needed medical attention. They were transported to the ICE holding facility in downtown Phoenix to be processed for deportation.

Source: The Arizona Republic



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PHOENIX

Sheriff Joe Arpaio Says 3 Officers Arrested for Drugs, Human Trafficking



Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio said a deputy and two female detention officers at the sheriff's largest jail facility were among 12 people taken into custody and accused of being in a Phoenix-based international drug smuggling ring. One of the detention officers, Marcella Hernandez, told authorities that she is eight-months pregnant with the child of Francisco Arce-Torres, the alleged drug ring's leader who court documents say is also a member of the Mexican Sinaloa cartel.



Deputy Ruben Navarette, Hernandez, and detention officer Sylvia Najera face felony charges. Navarette admitted to passing information about the sheriff's crime-prevention operations to the group, Arpaio said. The deputy also was accused of being part of a separate human trafficking ring that smuggled illegal immigrants from Arizona to California. Detectives searching Navarette's home found two illegal immigrants inside, Arpaio said. Navarette, who was once assigned to sheriff's human smuggling unit and was cross-trained as a federal immigration agent, regularly smuggled loads of illegal immigrants, Arpaio said. Navarette was an active member of the alleged drug smuggling group, helping launder money, transport drugs and even adding security cameras to the ringleaders' home, according to court documents. The operation produced heroin at a ranch in Mexico, and brought it to Phoenix in loads of 5 to 10 pounds each, authorities said. As part of the investigation, officers seized 10 pounds of heroin, nearly \$200,000 in cash, weapons, vehicles and stolen property. Hernandez, 28, was found with \$16,000 cash when she was arrested Tuesday after arriving for work, Arpaio said. She was held on \$2 million cash bond on charges that include transporting drugs and money laundering.

Source: Associated Press

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PHOENIX

5 Teens Arrested in Gang-Related Arson Fires



Five teenagers are being charged with felonies in a series of arson incidents that have terrorized the northwest Valley over the past couple months. Investigators say the teens are part of gangs in the area of 43rd Avenue and Bell Road, and are using arson as a means of retaliation against their rivals. "It is something new to us in the gang world," said Phoenix police Detective Charlie Consolian. "We see shootings and things like that, but usually not arson as the method of operation." Consolian said one of the teens arrested, 19-year-old Robert Patoney was a leading member of one gang. Police say Patoney was responsible for damages to baseball batting cages at Northwest Christian Church. That fire happened in April and school officials tell ABC15 it caused \$20,000 in damage. "We are encouraged that the culprits have been apprehended and we have been praying that these young guys turn their lives around," said Geoffrey Brown with the school. Investigators believe the four others who were arrested are associated with a second gang.



Three of the four in the second gang are going to be charged as adults. They are 17-year-old Anthony Padfield, 17-year-old Gunner Ascencio and 15-year-old Jonathan Heyn. It is uncertain whether another 17-year-old arrested will face charges as an adult or as a juvenile. The four are accused of setting four fires in one night back in February. Vehicles were set on fire and police believe a Molotov cocktail was thrown at an occupied home. Investigators said that the two gangs were not battling with each other, but it is believed they were having turf wars with other street gangs in the area.

Source: <http://www.abc15.com>

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PHOENIX

Explosives Found in Van at Vacant House



On 5/20/2011 at approximately 1206 hours Phoenix Police Officers responded to a found property call at 3421 N. 26th Lane. Upon arrival the officers contacted relatives of the deceased owner of the property. During the clean up the backyard they were cleaning out an old van they found what they believed were explosives. Phoenix TLO's and Bomb Squad were called out to inspect the items which had now been moved by the caller to a larger metal dumpster in the driveway. It was determined that the occupants of the home were at one time amateur miners. Upon inspection Phoenix Bomb Squad determined the items were indeed explosives but were not in any harmful condition. The items were removed and Phoenix Bomb Squad took disposition of the explosive material. The items removed were 6 plastic bottles of ammonium nitrate (Kinestix, Apache Powder), 2 empty tubes of nitromethane and some hobby fuse. These types of explosives are known as binary. The first component, referred to as "the liquid" is predominantly nitromethane (NM). The other component, referred to as "the solid" is primarily finely divided ammonium nitrate (AN).



Source: Phoenix Police Department

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PINAL COUNTY

Drug Bust: Feds Recover \$3 Million in Marijuana



Pinal County Sheriff's Office, U.S. Customs and Border Protection say a six-day drug operation in Pinal County's Vekol Valley leads authorities to 5,400 pounds of pot worth nearly \$3 million. Customs agents, the Arizona Department of Public Safety and various police agencies, including the Pinal County Sheriff's Office, say they went after smugglers and criminal organizations operating near Casa Grande. "These multi agency details have a much greater impact than just in Pinal County. The cartels of Mexico have between 75 to 100 lookout posts through this known drug and human smuggling corridor. They use these high vantage points to ensure their loads, whether they are humans or drugs, make it through. Some of these loads stop in Phoenix but many of them are sent throughout the United States," said Pinal County Sheriff Paul Babeu. The operation wrapped up May 21 and led to the arrests of 55 suspected illegal immigrants, five U.S. citizens, the recovery of guns and stolen vehicles and more than \$115,000 in cash.



Source: www.kpho.com/news

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SOUTHERN ARIZONA

Cartels Using Arizona Mountaintops to Spy on Cops



Hiking through rough Arizona desert terrain a few miles north of the Mexican border recently with a group of armed DEA agents, we were approached by a lone U.S. Border Patrol agent. He warned we should be careful up ahead, because two people believed to be spotters for a Mexican drug cartel had just been seen running down a ridge to elude U.S. authorities. By now, agents told us, the men were probably hunkered down in a cave or crevice to wait out the patrol. But just to be safe, the DEA agents spread out to cover more ground as they moved forward again, watching closely for the suspected Mexican surveillance team likely sent by drug traffickers to spy on American law enforcement officials on their own soil. Making our way slowly to the rugged hilltops about a mile away, we came across several caves carved out of the rock by wind and rain. On the floor of one of them, we saw clear evidence that a surveillance team had been camping out. Two blankets were spread out next to a pair of shoes. Nearby were boxes of food, tarps, water jugs, toothpaste and a portable stove, on top of which was a pan with fresh cooking oil still in it. Agents also found radio chargers and car batteries used to power communications gear. They told NBC producer-photographer Al Henkel and me that Mexican surveillance teams will work in these mountains for 30 to 60 days at a time.

Federal drug agents say Mexican cartel surveillance teams have set up observation posts on most of the mountain-tops in the Arizona west desert area, from the Mexican border to Phoenix more than 100 miles north. Most of that land sits inside the vast Tohono O'odham Indian reservation, which is the size of Connecticut, but is sparsely populated by only about 20,000 residents.



Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com>

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TEMPE

Police Catch Suspect in Early Morning Shooting on Light Rail Platform



Police have caught the suspect in an early morning shooting on a Light Rail platform in downtown Tempe early Tuesday morning. It happened at about 3 a.m. near Third Street and Mill Avenue. Police brought in K9 units to try and track the suspect. At one point, police vehicles were driving around the downtown area and surrounding neighborhoods. Officers were making announcements, warning folks to stay inside their homes.



This is a highly populated area with Arizona State University just a block away. People who live in the area bordered by University Drive and Rio Salado Parkway on the north and south to Ash Avenue and Packard Drive on the east and west were told to stay indoors. Police later focused their search for the suspect on A Mountain (Hayden Butte). Sgt. Steve Carbajal said officers were checking both the parking garage at the base of the mountain, as well as the mountain itself. The search was concentrated in the Hayden Butte area, but officers are maintained a visible presence in the surrounding neighborhoods. "We never want to limit ourselves to a specific area," Carbajal said. The suspect was found nearly four hours after the shooting. He was hiding behind an apartment complex at Rio Salado Parkway and Mill Avenue. The man was taken into custody without incident. Investigators also have the gun they believe was used in the shooting. Carbajal said it's believed that both the suspect and the victim are transients, but no other details were immediately available. The victim, who was wounded in the leg, is expected to survive his injuries. Police do not know what led to the shooting. The investigation is ongoing.

Source: kpho.com

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TUCSON

Arizona Shooting Spree Suspect Incompetent for Trial



The man accused of wounding Rep. Gabrielle Giffords and killing six in a shooting rampage in Arizona is mentally incompetent to stand trial, a judge ruled Wednesday after two deputy U.S. marshals dragged the man out of the courtroom because of an angry outburst. As survivors of the deadly January attack looked on, Jared Lee Loughner lowered his head, raised it and said what sounded like "Thank you for the freak show. She died in front of me." His words were loud but indistinct, and it wasn't clear who he was talking about. He wore a khaki prison suit and sported bushy, reddish sideburns. U.S. District Judge Larry Burns' decision means the 22-year-old will be sent to back to a federal facility in Missouri for up to four months, where doctors will try to medicate him to see if they can restore his competency to a point where he understands the case against him. The ruling came after Burns said two mental health professionals had concluded Loughner suffers from schizophrenia and is mentally unfit for trial. The judge said Carroll concluded Loughner's mental health has declined in the past two or three years and his thinking on legal issues is confused. Carroll believes Loughner doesn't grasp the gravity of the charges against him and is instead fixated on inconsequential issues.

At least three survivors of the Tucson attack attended the hearing: Giffords aide Pam Simon, who was shot in the chest and right wrist; Eric Fuller, who was shot in the knee and the back; and retired Army Col. Bill Badger, who is credited with helping subdue Loughner after a bullet grazed the back of Badger's head. Fuller said he is comfortable with the judge's incompetency decision and wouldn't be bothered if Loughner spends the rest of his life in a mental health facility.

Source: Associated Press



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TUCSON

Arizona Seeks to Build its Own Mexico Border Fence



Using public donations and cheap convict labor, an Arizona lawmaker is working to build a fence to secure the state's porous border with Mexico against illegal immigrants. A new state law that goes into effect July 20 allows Arizona to build a barrier on the state's 370-mile border with Mexico, provided it can raise sufficient private donations and persuade public and private landowners to let them build it on their land.



"We need to do it this way because, well, the federal government is not building it, and Arizona does not have enough of our own money to build it," said Steve Smith, the Republican state senator who sponsored the law. In a speech in El Paso, Texas, last week, President Barack Obama said border fencing authorized by the U.S. Congress was now "basically complete." The U.S. Department of Homeland Security said it had completed 649 miles out of a total of 652 miles mandated. But Smith called Obama's assertion the fence was complete "an outright lie and a slap in the face to all the people that live across that border." He said he plans to set up a website in coming weeks to channel donations to fund construction of the fence when the law comes into effect, while a committee would determine the best type of fencing to build, and where to erect it. To hold down costs, Smith said he planned to use convict labor in construction at a cost of 50 cents an hour. "There's approximately 6,000 inmates ready to work saving us hundreds of millions of dollars in the process," he said.

Source: Reuters

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NATIONAL

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Detective Robert Bolvin #6209 // (602)763-3772 // robert.bolvin@phoenix.gov

CALIFORNIA

MIIS Student and Co-Authors Accurately Described Bin Laden's Compound Two Years Ago



Erika Mariano (MANPTS '13) is working on a master's degree in Nonproliferation and Terrorism Studies with the long-term goal of becoming an intelligence analyst—a goal she seems well on her way to achieving, thanks in part to the remarkable prescience of a study she co-authored in 2009. Using bio-geographical theories and satellite imagery, Erika, four fellow UCLA students, and geology professors Thomas Gillespie and John Agnew came to the conclusion that Osama bin Laden was most likely hiding in a walled compound in an urban area in central Pakistan. Their report, "Finding Osama bin Laden," was published by the MIT International Review in February 2009 and initially greeted with skepticism. Although the group identified a different city about 130 miles from Abbottabad as the most likely location for the compound, in almost every other respect, their description of the likely circumstances in which Bin Laden was living proved almost eerily accurate.

Erika, a Carmel Valley native, was featured on the front page of the Monterey Herald on May 6, a story that was reprinted in the San Jose Mercury News and other publications. After majoring in political science and environmental studies as an undergraduate at UCLA, she was admitted to the growing Nonproliferation and Terrorism Studies Program at MIIS, where she will be studying Arabic this summer in the Institute's Summer Intensive Language Program. Wherever Erika's professional path may take her in the future, she has already proven herself to be a resourceful and astute analyst!



Source: <http://www.miis.edu>

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Detective Robert Bolvin #6209 // (602)763-3772 // robert.bolvin@phoenix.gov

CHICAGO

Headley Alleges More Pakistan Militants, ISI Links



The federal government's star witness at a Chicago terrorism trial revealed more potentially damaging details on alleging close cooperation between a Pakistani militant group and the country's top intelligence agency, telling jurors that he frequently exchanged emails and met with members of both groups a month before the deadly 2008 attacks in Mumbai. David Coleman Headley returned to the witnesses stand for a second day in the terrorism trial of a Chicago businessman accused of collaborating in the three-day siege of India's largest city – giving a rare glimpse into the inner workings of the Pakistani militant group Lashkar-e-Taiba and how he was recruited by a member of Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence agency, known as ISI, to take part in the Mumbai plot. Headley told jurors that he met with both his handlers from Lashkar and ISI in Pakistan in October 2008 – one month before the Mumbai rampage that killed more than 160 people including six Americans – and his Lashkar contact, Sajid Mir, said militants had unsuccessfully tried to do the attack in September but crashed their boat leaving Pakistan. They also talked for the first time about a separate plot to attack a Danish newspaper that in 2005 had printed cartoons of Prophet Muhammad, he said.



As the government's first and main witness in the trial of his longtime friend Tahawwur Rana, Headley's testimony outlining links between the ISI and Lashkar could inflame tensions between Pakistan and India and place even more pressure on the already frayed U.S. and Pakistani relations. It also could add to the questions about Pakistan's commitment to catch terrorists and the ISI's connections to Pakistan-based terror groups, especially after Osama bin Laden was found hiding out earlier this month in a military garrison town outside of Islamabad.

Source: Associated Press

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KENTUCKY

Iraqi arrested for U.S. troop attacks



An Iraqi man has been arrested in Kentucky on charges that he helped plot and carry out attacks on American troops after the U.S. invasion in 2003, the Justice Department said. Waad Ramadan Alwan was charged with conspiracy in connection with attacks between 2003 and 2006. He and a second Iraqi, Mohanad Shareef Hammadi, were also charged for allegedly trying to provide support and weapons to an al Qaeda affiliate in Iraq in a subsequent U.S. sting operation. They entered the United States in 2009 after seeking and receiving refugee status. They were arrested last week in their current hometown of Bowling Green, Kentucky and if convicted, could face up to life in prison, U.S. prosecutors said. Alwan, 30, was charged with conspiracy to kill Americans overseas, distributing information about how to build and detonate improvised explosive devices (IED) and attempting to provide support to al Qaeda in Iraq, a loose affiliate of the late Osama bin Laden's group, among other charges.

The FBI launched an investigation into Alwan in September 2009 and nearly a year later began using a confidential source to talk with him about his activities in Iraq, which allegedly included using IEDs and sniper rifles to target U.S. troops, between 2003 and 2006, according to prosecutors. In the investigation, the FBI was able to identify two fingerprints that belonged to Alwan that were obtained from a part of an unexploded IED recovered on a roadway near Bayji, Iraq, according to court papers unsealed on Tuesday. During conversations with the confidential source, Alwan said that he "didn't come here for America. I came here to get a passport and go back to Turkey, Saudi or wherever I want," according to the court papers.



Source: Reuters

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MARYLAND

Lockheed Martin Confirms Attack on Its IT Network



US defense contractor Lockheed Martin confirmed late Saturday that it had detected "a significant and tenacious" attack on its information systems network. "Lockheed Martin detected a significant and tenacious attack on its information systems network," said a company statement. The company's information security team detected the attack almost immediately and took what is described as "aggressive actions" to protect all systems and data, the statement added. "As a result of the swift and deliberate actions taken to protect the network and increase IT security, our systems remain secure," Lockheed Martin said. "No customer, program or employee personal data has been compromised." The incident was under investigation, and Lockheed Martin said it was keeping appropriate US government agencies informed of situation. It did not mention any suspected source of the cyber-attack. The company said that despite the attack, it remained confident in the integrity of its "robust, multi-layered information systems security."



Headquartered in Bethesda, a Maryland suburb of Washington, Lockheed Martin employs about 126,000 people around the world. It focuses on design, development, and manufacturing of advanced technology systems, including some of the most advanced weaponry. It is one of the world's largest defense contractors, with about 74 percent of its revenues in 2009 coming from military sales, according to published reports.

Source: AFP

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MASSACHUSETTS

Man Held in Car Bomb Probe Deported to Pakistan



A Pakistani man arrested during the investigation of the failed New York Times Square car bombing was deported to Pakistan, federal authorities said. Aftab Ali Khan, 28, was accompanied Sunday by Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers on a flight from Logan International Airport to Islamabad, the agency said in a statement. Khan, his uncle and a man in Maine were arrested on immigration violations nearly two weeks after the failed bombing attempt on May 1, 2010. Khan pleaded guilty last month to immigration and illegal money-transfer charges and was sentenced to time served. He did not face terrorism-related charges. Khan, who lived in Watertown, came to the U.S. in August 2009 on a 90-day visa to get married. Prosecutors alleged that Khan gave \$4,900 to Faisal Shahzad, of Bridgeport, Connecticut, who was later convicted in the bombing attempt. They said it was part of a transaction to get an equivalent amount of money to Khan's family in Pakistan.

Khan is not accused of knowing what Shahzad would do with the money. But investigators say they uncovered fraudulent immigration documents and that Khan lied to them while they were investigating the Shahzad case. Shahzad, who admitted leaving an SUV rigged with a homemade bomb in busy Times Squares, was arrested trying to leave the country on a Dubai-bound flight two days later. He was sentenced to life in prison.



Source: Associated Press

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NEW YORK

Conn. Man Accused of Selling Pipe Bombs in NYC



An imam from Trinidad and Tobago was convicted in a New York court of plotting to blow up fuel depots at John F. Kennedy International Airport, the FBI said. The FBI said Kareem Ibrahim, a Shiite imam, offered religious instruction and operational support to a group planning set off explosions at JFK airport in New York. "The defendant believed the attack would cause extensive damage to the airport and to the United States economy, as well as the loss of innocent lives," the FBI said in a statement. The case claims the plot originated with Russell Defreitas, a Guyanese naturalized U.S. citizen who worked as a cargo handler at the airport. The FBI said he recruited others, including Ibrahim, to join the plot in 2006. Ibrahim, according to the evidence, instructed Defreitas that attackers in the JFK plot should be ready to "fight it out, kill who you could kill and go back to Allah." Alleged co-conspirators had ties to al-Qaida and the militant group Jamaat al-Muslimeen. Ibrahim and other suspects in the case were arrested in Trinidad in 2007 aboard a plane bound for Iran. Ibrahim faces sentencing in October. He could be sentenced to life in prison. Defreitas was sentenced to life in prison in February.

Source: upi.com



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NEW YORK

Conn. Man Accused of Selling Pipe Bombs in NYC



A Connecticut man charged with manufacturing and selling eight homemade cardboard tubes packed with explosives from his car in a Bronx parking lot was ordered held without bail. Nicholas Lahines of Bridgeport, Conn., was charged in U.S. District Court in Manhattan in a criminal complaint with five counts related to selling and transporting explosives. U.S. Magistrate Judge Henry B. Pitman ordered him held without bail after his initial court appearance. He said Lahines was a danger to the community. His lawyer, Peggy Cross, declined to comment but said in court that Lahines should be allowed to stay with his mother in Florida while awaiting trial. The complaint said an overnight search of Lahines' apartment turned up several more tubes similar in shape and dimension to those he sold for \$3,200 to a confidential source working for the government when he was arrested Thursday. The complaint said at least one law enforcement officer was injured during the search when agents examined a small jar containing a small amount of a white powdery residue and the substance detonated.



It said agents also identified about 15 flashlights that a bomb technician at the scene said appeared to have been adapted to form a destructive device and they saw three photographs of between 50 and 80 cylindrical objects with fuses that appeared similar in size to those Lahines sold. Assistant U.S. Attorney Sean Buckley told Pitman that a search of his apartment showed there were bomb-making materials strewn about. Connecticut FBI spokesman William Reinter said there was no evidence of ties to terrorism in the case.

Source: Associated Press

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OHIO

U.S. Husband, Wife Admit Trying to Fund Hezbollah



An Ohio husband and wife pleaded guilty to charges of conspiring to send hundreds of thousands of dollars to Lebanon's Shiite militant group Hezbollah, US prosecutors said. Hor Akl and his wife, Amera Akl, both 38, entered their guilty pleas in a US federal court in Ohio, as part of an agreement with prosecutors to seek reduced sentences. US authorities said the couple had agreed to pack a 2004 Chevrolet Trailblazer with more than \$200,000 cash intended for Hezbollah, which the United States has classified as a foreign terrorist organization. Prosecutors said the Akls conspired with an FBI undercover operative between August 2009 and June 2010. Hor Akl "understood the funds would be sent to a designated terrorist organization and used to target Israel," prosecutors said in a statement announcing the pleas. They agreed to hide the money in the vehicle, which was to be shipped to Lebanon.



The FBI operative delivered \$200,000 to the Akls on June 3, 2010 and told them he would return later with more money. Both pleaded guilty to conspiracy to provide material support and resources to a foreign terrorist organization. Hor Akl also pleaded guilty to conspiracy to violate money laundering laws, perjury and two counts of bankruptcy fraud. Their sentencing hearing is scheduled for later this year.

Source: AFP

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TEXAS

Irving Cab Driver Arrested on Weapons Charge



The FBI and the Joint Terrorism Task Force joined the investigation of an Irving taxicab driver after firefighters found suspicious materials inside his apartment near Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport. The unspecified items were discovered after Irving firefighters responded to a small fire at apartment of 41-year-old Sharif Ahmed Nour. The bomb squad and hazardous materials experts were dispatched a short time later. At the time, police said the contents of the apartment did not pose a threat to the public. "At this point we're taking every precaution necessary," said Irving police Officer John Argumaniz. "That's why we've called in the joint task force to assist with the investigation." Nour's orange Jet Taxi was parked outside the apartment, surrounded by yellow police tape.

Nour is under arrest, and was originally going to be charged with having bomb-making components, but it was later decided to charge the man with possession of prohibited weapons. "At this point it's too early to jump to any conclusions and speculate whether it may be terrorist related or whether it may be ... something local," Argumaniz said. Agents said they do not believe Nour is part of any terror network, but it was still unclear Sunday night whether he actually intended to cause any harm.



Source: <http://www.wfaa.com/news>

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Detective Robert Bolvin #6209 // (602)763-3772 // robert.bolvin@phoenix.gov

WASHINGTON D.C.

Al-Qaida Bomber Leaves Behind a Fingerprint



The FBI has a fingerprint and forensic evidence linking al-Qaida's top bomb maker in Yemen to a trio of explosive devices used in recent attacks on the United States, tangible reminders that Osama bin Laden's death has not eliminated the threat from the group's most active and dangerous franchise. Investigators have pulled a fingerprint of Ibrahim al-Asiri off the bomb hidden in the underwear of a Nigerian man accused of trying to blow up a plane over Detroit on Christmas Day 2009, U.S. counterterrorism officials said. Investigators also determined that the explosives used in that bomb are chemically identical to those hidden inside two printers that were shipped from Yemen last year, bound for Chicago and Philadelphia. Intelligence officials long have believed al-Asiri helped build the Christmas and cargo bombs but have never disclosed how they were able to directly link him to the failed attacks. The fingerprint also would help establish al-Asiri's identity if he ever were apprehended, possibly allowing the Justice Department to extradite him to the U.S. for prosecution. It's not clear who provided the FBI with the original fingerprint used to match the one lifted from the underwear bomb. But it probably came from Saudi Arabia, where al-Asiri and his brother were arrested for their involvement in an al-Qaida-affiliated terrorist cell. They were released and later fled to Yemen in 2006.



In March, the State Department designated al-Asiri a terrorist and banned Americans from doing business with him. The U.S. said he was also involved in planning to bomb Saudi oil facilities. He's also implicated in the 2009 attack on Saudi Deputy Interior Minister Prince Mohammed bin Nayef, the country's top anti-terrorism official. Intelligence officials say al-Asiri strapped a bomb on his younger brother, who volunteered for the suicide mission. The attack killed the younger brother but only managed to injure Nayef.

Source: Associated Press

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Detective Robert Bolvin #6209 // (602)763-3772 // robert.bolvin@phoenix.gov

WASHINGTON D.C.

More Than 30 Cities Cut Out of DHS Grants



More than 30 smaller and mid-sized U.S. cities are losing about \$170 million in federal anti-terrorism funding that began after the Sept. 11 attacks, perplexing some local officials at a time when information gleaned from Osama bin Laden's hideout suggests al-Qaida is being encouraged to attack smaller targets. The Department of Homeland Security said Thursday that narrowing the list of cities eligible for Urban Areas Security Initiative grants is part of larger budget cuts that eliminated more than \$780 million in grant money from the last federal budget. New York, Washington and 29 other high-threat urban areas will still receive grants this year. Texas took the largest hit, with Austin, El Paso and San Antonio being dropped after the cities received a combined \$14.5 million in funding last year. Ten states were left with no cities receiving funds after New Orleans, Honolulu and Indianapolis were cut. New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, whose city region will continue to receive around the same \$151.5 million as years past, praised the decision to prioritize the most high-risk cities instead of thinly spreading the money around. Department of Homeland Security spokeswoman Amy Kudwa said cities no longer on the list will continue to receive federal homeland security dollars funneled down from grants given to each state. DHS officials said current intelligence reflects that terrorist groups remain focused on major U.S. cities such as New York, Chicago, Los Angeles and Washington. The grant program was launched in 2003 in response to security threats in the wake of the terrorist attacks. Initially the money was available only to New York City, Washington, Los Angeles, Seattle, Chicago, San Francisco, and Houston. But since 2008 more than 60 cities have been awarded the risk-based grants. The cuts come at a worrisome time for law enforcement. After the killing of bin Laden, U.S. authorities have recovered evidence from his compound in Pakistan that the terror leader was encouraging his followers not to limit attacks to New York City, but consider other areas such as Los Angeles or smaller U.S. cities in future attacks.

Source: Associated Press

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Detective Robert Bolvin #6209 // (602)763-3772 // robert.bolvin@phoenix.gov



WASHINGTON D.C.

Bin Laden Seemed to Stick to Schemes He Knew Best



For Osama bin Laden, who spent years in seclusion with little to do but devise new ways to kill Americans, the first big plans to emerge from his compound paint a picture of a terrorist who stuck to what he knew best and what worked before: planes, trains and ships. He hoped to attack trains, just as terrorists had done in Mumbai, India, and Madrid, Spain. He retained his fascination with attacking airplanes. And, according to U.S. officials and a law enforcement bulletin Friday, he wanted to hijack oil tankers and blow them up at sea. The fact that they were old ideas made them no less deadly. Yet with no specific plan in motion and after so many warnings about similar plots over the past decade, the revelations were met with little more than a shrug by many in the security business. Part of that is due to the billions of dollars that the U.S. has spent on intelligence and security since the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. So much has been spent on secret wire taps, satellite surveillance and new spies and analysts that the U.S. isn't supposed to be caught by surprise. Anything less than foreseeing and preventing an attack is a failure.



But the predictability of bin Laden and his commanders is one reason why the core group of al-Qaida is no longer the gravest threat to America. That has fallen to the al-Qaida affiliate in Yemen, where operatives have proved more clever and nimble than the terror group's founders, now forced deep into hiding by CIA drone attacks. The Yemeni group has come perilously close to carrying out two major attacks on U.S. targets. In the first, the group stitched a bomb into a terrorist's underwear on Christmas 2009 and outsmarted years of airline security improvements. The second was last year's attempted bombing of U.S.-bound cargo planes.

Source: Associated Press

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Detective Robert Bolvin #6209 // (602)763-3772 // robert.bolvin@phoenix.gov



INTERNATIONAL

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Detective Robert Bolvin #6209 // (602)763-3772 // robert.bolvin@phoenix.gov

Belgium-France-Netherlands

Alarm Clocks Blow up at IKEA Stores



French, Belgian and Dutch police have launched investigations after minor explosions struck IKEA stores in each country late on Monday in what appears to have been a coordinated attack. No one was seriously hurt in the blasts at the world's biggest furniture retailer, although two workers in Belgium suffered minor injuries. Rigged alarm clocks blew up in IKEA stores in Ghent in Belgium and Lille in France, and there was an explosion in a bin outside the IKEA store in Eindhoven in the Netherlands. The alarm clocks were linked to small amounts of gunpowder, and prosecutors said they did not think that the bombers had intended to cause significant injury. "Federal police with dogs did a sweep of other stores but there was nothing suspect that was found," An Schoonjans, a Ghent prosecutor, told Reuters. A spokeswoman for IKEA, known the world over for low-price, self-assembly flat-packed furniture, said there had been no warning before the attacks. IKEA risk manager Edwin Gaasenbeek told Dutch news agency ANP there was no reason for extra security measures at the company, owned by a foundation controlled by Swedish founder Ingvar Kamprad.



"Of course, it has happened before. But we do not consider it as blackmail or extortion," Gaasenbeek was quoted as saying. Two Polish men were jailed in 2004 for planting bombs at two Dutch Ikea stores in 2002 and trying to extort 250,000 euros (\$360,000) from the Swedish furniture chain. In 2009, there was a threat to blow up several Amsterdam stores, including an IKEA outlet, and seven people were arrested but it turned out to be a hoax and the people were released.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com>

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Detective Robert Bolvin #6209 // (602)763-3772 // robert.bolvin@phoenix.gov

DUBIA

Egyptian Named New Al-Qaeda Leader



Al-Qaeda has chosen a former Egyptian special forces officer as interim leader of the violent extremist group following the death this month of Osama bin Laden, CNN and al-Jazeera reported Tuesday. Saif al-Adel, a top Al-Qaeda strategist and senior military leader, has been tapped as "caretaker" chief of the group, CNN reported, citing former Libyan militant Noman Benotman, who has renounced Al-Qaeda's ideology. The pan-Arab satellite channel Al-Jazeera issued a similar report that quoted a Pakistani security official as saying Adel was appointed during a meeting of between "six and eight Al-Qaeda leaders."



Saif al-Adel

Mohammed Mustafa al-Yamani was also chosen as the network's commander. Pakistan's The News newspaper had also corroborated the report, citing unnamed sources in an article datelined Rawalpindi, a city home to the military headquarters of the Pakistani Armed Forces near the capital Islamabad. The decision to choose Adel, also known as Muhamad Ibrahim Makkawi, came as militants grew increasingly restive over the lack of a formal successor to bin Laden, who was killed in a dramatic US commando raid deep in Pakistan on May 2, Benotman told CNN. Adel took refuge in Iran after the US invasion of Afghanistan, according to Al-Jazeera report. The 50-year-old militant was allegedly involved in attacks that targetted US embassies in Nairobi and Dar al-Salam in 1998. Bin Laden's long-time deputy Ayman al-Zawahiri, another Egyptian, is considered to be his presumed successor. Benotman said the appointment of Adel on a temporary basis may be a way for the group to gauge reaction to having someone outside the Muslim holy region of the Arabian Peninsula at the helm.

Source: AFP

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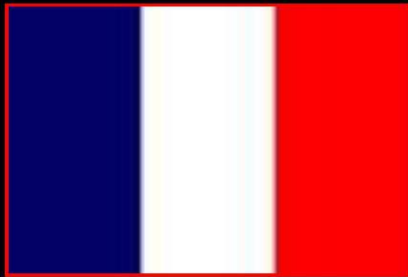
Detective Robert Bolvin #6209 // (602)763-3772 // robert.bolvin@phoenix.gov

FRANCE

Four Suspects to be Indicted on Terrorism Charges



Four people suspected of belonging to radical Islamist circles were referred for trial by the Paris prosecutor's department on the evening of Friday 13 May. They are expected to appear before antiterrorism magistrates Saturday 14 May, charged with "criminal conspiracy with a view to a terrorist enterprise." These four people, young men aged around 20, were arrested Tuesday 10 May at Stains (Seine-Saint Denis,) Garges-les-Gonesse, and Corneilles-en-Paris (Val-d'Oise,) together with two others, who were released after being held for four days. The group, comprising two French nationals, a Turk, and an Indian, was training in the Paris area in the hope of visiting jihadist training camps in Pakistan. There they wanted to train in weapons handling and to learn how to manufacture and handle explosives. The leader of the group, which was formed some months ago via the Internet, is an engineer from India, an IT expert, Niaz A. It was on his return from a working visit to Algeria, a week ago, that he was arrested by police officers of the Central Directorate of Domestic Intelligence (DCRI,) as he left the aircraft 10 May. Apart from several exchanges over the Internet, the group met frequently, but were apparently not planning any attacks in France. "They had not yet reached that stage," one police source said.



Source: Paris Le Monde

Unknown to the police services until a few weeks ago, they were identified following surveillance of Islamist websites and on the basis of intelligence received. Their plan was to go to combat zones along the Pakistani-Afghan border in order to gain combat experience there and then to return to France to organize operations here. At the beginning of the week, Interior Minister Claude Gueant said that this dragnet was linked to the arrest in January, in Lahore in Pakistan, of two French nationals trying to join Al-Qa'ida. They had been taken in charge by a network tasked with recruiting young combatants and sending them to combat zones.

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Detective Robert Bolvin #6209 // (602)763-3772 // robert.bolvin@phoenix.gov

INDONESIA

Police Search for 15 Suicide Bombs



Indonesian police said they were searching for 15 suicide vests prepared by a terrorist cell that carried out an attack on a police mosque last month, wounding 30 people. Information gathered from suspects detained in relation to the attack suggested another 15 vest bombs were circulating somewhere in the massive archipelago, police said. "We are still looking for 15 bombs," police spokesman Anton Bachrul Alam told reporters in Cirebon, West Java, where the mosque was attacked on April 15. Twenty-two suicide vests had already been seized as part of the ongoing investigation, he said. Police also released a video made by the bomber, Muhammad Syarif, 32, whom they allege was linked to several militant networks including Jemaah Ansharut Tauhid, founded by radical cleric Abu Bakar Bashir. Police have arrested at least 25 suspects linked to Syarif, who was killed instantly when he set off his device in a prayer room at a police compound.

The suspects were allegedly involved in a series of recent incidents, including book bombs that were sent to Muslim moderates and counter-terrorism officials. Police also foiled a bid to set off a massive bomb near a church on the outskirts of Jakarta at Easter. No one was killed in those incidents. Officials have warned of possible retaliatory attacks by local extremists bent on avenging Osama bin Laden, the Al-Qaeda leader who was killed by US forces in Pakistan this month.



Source: AFP

Indonesian police escort a suspected terrorist to a vehicle after a press conference

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Detective Robert Bolvin #6209 // (602)763-3772 // robert.bolvin@phoenix.gov

UGANDA

Warns of al Shabaab Attacks in Coming Days



Uganda police warned soccer fans on Friday that Somalia's al Shabaab insurgents could attack them while they watch Saturday's Champions League final. Abbas Byakagaba, the director of the police anti terrorism unit, told a news conference that the al Qaeda-affiliated insurgents could also strike on June 3, the Matyrs' Day public holiday and that they had boosted security in the country. Al Shabaab, which has waged an insurgency against Somalia's Western-backed government, claimed responsibility for the bombings in Kampala while fans watched last year's World Cup final on television, killing 79. The Somali insurgents have in the past issued warnings of possible strikes the east African country to try to force it to withdraw its peacekeeping troops deployed in Somalia, as part of an African Union mission (AMISOM). "We have several events coming up: we have European Champions League finals, there's the Martyrs Day and the information we have is that al Shabaab is targeting these events," Byakagaba said, referring to the match at London's Wembley stadium between Manchester United and Barcelona..

Byakagaba said they had intelligence indicating that an unspecified number of al Shaabaab operatives had entered the country and were planning to launch attacks on crowded areas and big events, adding: "We have heightened our vigilance." Al Shabaab has criticized Ugandans for re-electing President Yoweri Museveni, who they blame for invading their country.

Source: <http://af.reuters.com>



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Detective Robert Bolvin #6209 // (602)763-3772 // robert.bolvin@phoenix.gov

VENEZUELA

Opinion: Iran is Building a Secret Missile Installation



In November of last year, the German daily Die Welt reported that a secret agreement between the Venezuelan president, Hugo Chávez, and his Iranian counterpart, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, had been signed. The agreement was said to have been signed and finalized on October 19 by both parties, though no details were offered. Hugo Chávez, who had traveled to Iran on what was called expansion of relations between the two countries, acknowledged that the details of the latest accords were not released, and that some agreements went beyond those put on paper. The leaders of Iran and Venezuela hailed what they called their strong strategic relationship, saying they are united in efforts to establish a "New World Order" that will eliminate Western dominance over global affairs. Now the German newspaper, however, confirms that the bilateral agreement signed in October was for a missile installation to be built inside Venezuela. Quoting diplomatic sources, Die Welt reports that, at present, the area earmarked for the missile base is the Paraguaná Peninsula, located 120 kilometers from the Colombian border.



Based on sources inside Iran, reports indicate that the Revolutionary Guards have established many entities and facilities in Venezuela as front companies involved in covert operations, such as exploration of uranium. Venezuela is said to have significant reserves, something that Iran is desperately in need of for the continuation of their nuclear bomb project. Other activities include housing of the Quds forces, along with Hezbollah cells in these facilities, so they can expand their activities throughout Latin America and form collaborations with drug cartels in Mexico and then enter America.

Source: Fox Latino News

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Detective Robert Bolvin #6209 // (602)763-3772 // robert.bolvin@phoenix.gov



ACROSS THE BORDER

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Detective Robert Bolvin #6209 // (602)763-3772 // robert.bolvin@phoenix.gov

Terrorist Group Setting Up Operations Near Border



Three suspected organized crime gunmen were killed and another three were wounded in a clash near the northeastern Mexican city of Matamoras with army troops, who seized more than 100 weapons and nearly a score of vehicles after the gun battle, military sources said. The Defense Secretariat's 4th Military Region said in a statement that 83 automatic rifles, 18 handguns, five grenade launchers, a rocket launcher, 11 fragmentation grenades, 28 40 mm grenades, 315 ammunition clips, more than 18,000 rounds of ammunition, 17 vehicles and eight kilos of marijuana were confiscated in Wednesday's operation. The operation began after an air force helicopter detected a convoy of vehicles traveling on a road near Matamoras, Tamaulipas state, and followed them to determine their destination, the secretariat said. It added that the air force personnel called for army support after gunmen began shooting at the chopper. When the army troops arrived, the assailants fired gunshots at them and fled in different directions from the soldiers' return fire. After reinforcements arrived, troops blocked off the area and combed several streets in the zone until they located the abandoned vehicles and weapons.



Source: <http://latino.foxnews.com>

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Detective Robert Bolvin #6209 // (602)763-3772 // robert.bolvin@phoenix.gov

Mexican Police Catch Gulf Drug Cartel Leader



Mexican federal police captured a leading member of the Gulf drug cartel Friday at what appeared to have been his birthday party, authorities said. Gilberto Barragan Balderas "is considered one of the main leaders of the Gulf Cartel" and is the subject of a \$5 million reward by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, said Ramon Pequeno, head of anti-drug operations for the federal police. Barragan Balderas was allegedly in charge of the cartel's operations in Miguel Aleman, across the border from Roma, Texas. Police captured him at a party at a ranch near another border city, Reynosa, which is across from McAllen, Texas. Police said the party was apparently in honor of Barragan Balderas' May 19 birthday. Two alleged associates were also arrested in the raid, which also netted an assault rifle and three pistols.



Barragan Balderas, 41, is wanted on drug trafficking charges in the United States under a 2008 indictment. A DEA statement says he was "responsible for obtaining advanced notice regarding the movement and locations of military and state police patrols and mobile checkpoints, thus protecting shipments of cocaine and marijuana for the Gulf Cartel and Los Zetas" before the two gangs split in 2010. The Gulf and Zetas cartels are now bitter rivals, and federal police said one of Barragan Balderas' "duties was to defend territory in Tamaulipas against attacks by the rival Zetas."

Source: Associated Press

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Detective Robert Bolvin #6209 // (602)763-3772 // robert.bolvin@phoenix.gov



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Detective Robert Bolvin #6209 // (602)763-3772 // robert.bolvin@phoenix.gov



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QUESTIONS, COMMENTS OR CONCERNS...???



CONTACT:

DETECTIVE ROB BOLVIN #6209
PHOENIX POLICE DEPARTMENT
HOMELAND DEFENSE BUREAU
(602) 763-3772
robert.bolvin@phoenix.gov

OR

DETECTIVE BRIAN ISSITT #7475
PHOENIX POLICE DEPARTMENT
SPECIAL ASSIGNMENTS UNIT
brian.issitt@phoenix.gov

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