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[051811 PPD HDB Intel.pdf](#)

Sorry the attachment might help

Rob Bolvin



TLO INTELLIGENCE BRIEF

18 MAY 2011

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LOCAL

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APACHE JUNCTION

America's Most Wanted Fugitive Captured



After less than a month on the lam, fugitive embezzler and notorious "party mom" Leslie Janous is back in custody. Janous, 36, was arrested by FBI agents Friday afternoon in Apache Junction, Ariz., about 40 miles east of Phoenix. "It is my understanding that we got some lead information from the Knoxville office that led to her being arrested here," said FBI agent Manuel Johnson, spokesman for the Phoenix office. He said Janous was arrested without incident at a residence "near the intersection of Superstition Boulevard and Goldfield Road." A Knoxville FBI spokesman said no further information was immediately available, and it was unclear when more would be released. It is also not immediately clear when Janous will be returned to Knoxville by U.S. marshals.



Also unclear was exactly what Janous was doing in Arizona and in whose home she was found. She pleaded guilty in February to wire fraud and money laundering for the theft of millions of dollars from Scancarbon, a Knoxville precious metals company. She was allowed to remain free pending a sentencing scheduled for July, but her movements were restricted and she was ordered to wear an electronic monitoring bracelet. On April 18, when the device revealed that she was not at home when she was supposed to be, a warrant was issued for her arrest. She has since been featured on billboards and on the "America's Most Wanted" website. Prior to the federal fraud charges, she was widely known for a lavish "Sweet 15" party she threw for her daughter. She had tried to get MTV to film the event, and the party was featured in a lengthy News Sentinel story that generated much comment in the community.

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

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ELOY

Explosives found in Middle School



A middle school south of the Valley was evacuated after explosives were found on school grounds. Pinal County Sheriff's Office spokesman Tim Gaffney said Toltec Middle School students were evacuated and moved to Toltec Elementary School. Eloy police spokesman Brian Jerome said that a suspicious device was reported in a classroom at the middle school. The students were evacuated to the elementary school and a Department of Public Safety bomb squad was called out, Jerome said. The device was rendered safe and taken in as evidence, he said. Jerome said seven students were being questioned by police. There were no injuries. No children were ever in danger, police said, and they determined the device was not going to explode and removed it. The device had paper sticking out of one end as if it were a wick or fuse, and the paper had burn marks as if it had been set on fire. But there were no explosives, police said. The device barely burned. Police said they have the student thought to be responsible. Once they finish their investigation, the school district will determine what to do.



Source: <http://www.abcl15.com>

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GILA BEND

Border Patrol Agents Killed in Pursuit of Suspected Drug Smugglers



Two Border Patrol agents were killed early Thursday (May 12th) morning after their SUV was struck by a train near Interstate 8 in the Gila Bend area, according to the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office. The agents -- identified as Edward Rojas, 35, an agent since 2000, and Hector Clark, 39, an agent since 2001 -- were assisting other officials in pursuing a group of suspected drug smugglers when their blue, unmarked Chevy Tahoe was hit, said Kenneth Quillin of U.S. Customs and Border Protection. The collision occurred just before 6 a.m. in an area known as a crossroads for human-and-drug smuggling. Eight suspected smugglers were taken into custody after the wreck, according to the Sheriff's Office, along with more than 300 pounds of marijuana. Rojas and Clark were part of a federally funded task force that operates in the area, searching for human and drug smugglers.



Agent Hector Clark



Agent Edward Rojas

Arizona Attorney General Tom Horne said the deaths serve as a reminder to the dangers law-enforcement officers face throughout the state. "These agents were pursuing suspected drug traffickers at the time of the accident and they died doing their job to protect U.S. citizens," Horne said in a statement. Border Patrol agents frequently work in the area, about 80 miles north of the border with Mexico, along with sheriff's deputies, Department of Public Safety officers and local police.

Source: The Arizona Republic

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PHOENIX

18 Year Old Arrested in Serial Sexual Assault Case



Neighbors of all ages in south Phoenix breathed easier Wednesday as word spread that an arrest had been made in a series of sexual assaults, the latest an April 25 attack on a 17-year-old girl on her way to school. Phoenix police arrested DeJuan Donaldson, 18, as he left a Fry's Food Store at Baseline Road and Seventh Street. The April assault was the third south Phoenix case in six months involving attacks on school-age girls. In November, a 10-year-old girl was sexually assaulted, and in January, a 12-year-old girl was sexually assaulted. Both cases took place between Seventh and 19th avenues. In both cases, the girls were assaulted while on their way to or from school. In each case, the attacker left DNA evidence on his victim, police said.



Police Cmdr. Robert Demlong said Wednesday that after the second attack, Donaldson was one of almost 200 residents of the area who police interviewed about the assaults. Donaldson's family at the time lived in the area of the first two assaults. Then, on April 5, the family moved to the area of Carson Road and Seventh Street. On April 25, the 17-year-old girl was taken at knifepoint into a vacant house on Carson, near Donaldson's home. Early last week, investigators took DNA samples from Donaldson, Demlong said. Demlong said that Donaldson was arrested on suspicion of sexual assault, sexual abuse, kidnapping and aggravated assault. He said that the DNA tests "tie the suspect to all three assaults." He said he was confident police have the right suspect.

Source: The Arizona Republic

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PHOENIX

Banners on Railway Roadside Shed



On May 9, 2011, a BNSF employee made these observations on approach to BNSF PHX Downtown Yard (1100 W Lincoln Street, Phoenix, AZ 85007), near 11th Avenue and Lincoln where he was conducting a TIH outreach. The banner was seen on a BNSF electrical "roadside" shed at the corner of 11th Avenue and Hadley, one street to the south of east/west Grant Street. There are rail tracks in the middle of this street (11th Avenue) that travel north/south so this shed is actually along the BNSF right of way and I took photos of the BNSF train as it was exiting southbound out of the yard. The BNSF Milepost marker is approximately 193.



Source: DHS-TSA-Phoenix

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PINAL COUNTY

Armed Suspect Arrested Outside San Tan Valley School



Two suspected burglars fleeing Pinal County Sheriff's Office deputies were arrested in San Tan Valley on Tuesday afternoon, one after attempting to blend in with students at a school cafeteria during lunchtime while in possession of a loaded handgun, authorities said. The incident prompted a lockdown at the middle school, located at 33622 N. Mountain Vista Blvd. Patrol officers were responding to a suspicious person/possible burglary in progress in the 3500 block of Allen's Peak Road around 12:30 p.m. when they engaged in a foot chase with two male suspects, losing sight of one but immediately apprehending 19-year-old Charles James, according to the Sheriff's Office. A teacher on his way to cafeteria duty at Mountain Vista Middle School observed a man jumping over a chain link fence and began to approach the male to inquire what he was doing, official reports said. Authorities said that the suspect entered the cafeteria and attempted to blend in with the hundred or so eighth-grade students occupying it.

After he noticed he was being watched, he fled out another door. Realizing that the suspect didn't belong on campus, the teacher caught up with him and requested that he leave immediately. The suspect obliged, but did not leave through the front office as requested, instead jumping over the chain link fence at the front of the school and fleeing across Mountain Vista Boulevard. Deputies arrested the suspect, Alex Murray, 18, who was found to be in possession of a semi-automatic, fully loaded handgun with a chambered round, across the street from the school.



Source: The Arizona Republic

Alex Murray (left) and Charles James

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SIERRA VISTA

Pipe Bombs Found In Sierra Vista Home



While working on a burglary investigation, sheriff's deputies in Cochise County found seven pipe bombs in a home. Two men were approached by sheriff's deputies south of Sierra Vista about a burglary at a home on Monsanto Avenue. Deputies noticed stolen property in the front yard of one of the suspects and ordered a search warrant. Once on the property, deputies found a shed filled with items that made them think a meth lab was inside the home as well as potential explosives. The bomb squad was called out and confirmed the items were explosive in nature and had been made there at the scene.



Neighbors were put on notice for a possible evacuation after the hazmat team arrived to investigate the potential meth lab. Roads were also shut down while several agencies continued their investigation. Bomb squad workers found seven pipe bombs, which were secured with the help of a robot. However, the K-9 team did not locate any indication of a meth lab. About 12 hours after the investigation began, the scene was cleared. The two suspects, 37-year-old Matthew Hopkins and 29-year-old Daniel Buhr, were taken into custody and charged with theft, criminal damage, possession of a prohibited weapon and burglary.

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

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TEMPE

Arizona State's New Makeover May Inadvertently Court Street Gangs



Arizona State and its partners at Nike were obviously aiming for a younger, hipper, decidedly *edgier* look when they decided to ditch the Sun Devils' longtime logo, a grinning cartoon devil who looks like Walt Disney in an old Halloween costume, in favor of a sleeker, more ominous-looking pitchfork, sometimes set against all-black. Assuming the marketing department's idea of "edgy" didn't quite extend to major urban street gangs, though, they may have succeeded a little too wildly. Or so says diehard ASU alum Kenneth Epich, a Chicago police sergeant assigned to the city's Area One Gang Enforcement unit who instantly matched the new logo with the crude trident symbol that shows up in the tattoos, graffiti and hand signals of one of Chicago's largest and most violent gangs, the "Satan Disciples." "The S.D.'s are going to adopt the (ASU) hat as their hat of choice just as soon as they see the first person wearing one." He probably has reason to worry. After all, there's the devil tie-in. Sun Devils and Satan's Disciples both start with an S and a D. And, of most concern to Epich, there's that trident.

"It bothers me that, one, this gang will be wearing ASU gear, but also that ASU and Nike were so naive to develop it. In my mind, it's the spitting image of the S.D. trident." "Some unsuspecting ASU grad or the nephew of a grad or just some person who was at spring training and liked the hat is going to be wearing it in Chicago and stumble upon a car load of Latin Kings (the S.D.'s rival gang), and they're going to beat the (expletive) out of him or kill him just based on the fact he's wearing a hat," Epich said.



Source: Yahoo News

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TUCSON

Arizona man arrested on chemical weapon charges (2009 incident)



An Arizona man was arrested on Friday on charges he made chemical weapons and used them to release a cloud of poisonous chlorine gas outside the home of a Tucson couple, authorities said. FBI agents arrested Tucson resident Todd Russell Fries, 48, on a two count indictment alleging he made and used a chemical weapon, the U.S. Attorney's office said. The indictment alleged that on August 2, 2009, Fries, who also goes by the alias Todd Burns, placed chemical devices in the front and back yard of a northwest Tucson couple's home. When ignited, the devices produced a football-field-sized cloud of chlorine gas that hovered over the neighborhood and resulted in the evacuation of numerous families in the area. The yellow-green gas causes acute lung damage, and was used as a choking agent during World War One, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "This defendant developed and executed a chlorine gas attack that impacted an entire neighborhood and had the potential to cause tremendous harm and fear," U.S. Attorney Dennis K. Burke said in a statement.

"I commend our partners at the FBI for their diligence on this case, and we expect justice to be served," he added. A conviction on the charges carries a jail term, a \$250,000 fine or both. Sentencing would be determined by the judge presiding over the case, the statement said. Manuel Johnson, a spokesman for the FBI's Phoenix division, declined to give further details of the case, due to pending court proceedings.

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



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TUCSON

The Birthplace of Al-Qaeda in America



Even though Osama bin Laden is dead, the war on terror is far from over. The most recent worry is homegrown terrorism inspired by al Qaeda -- but not directed by it -- and it may be the most difficult threat America has faced since 9-11. His name is Anwar Al-Awlaki, the leader of al Qaeda in Yemen. He's been mentioned more than once as a possible replacement for Osama bin Laden. What isn't mentioned often is that Al-Awlaki was born and raised in nearby New Mexico. After the Fort Hood incident we had five young Muslim Americans, all were born and raised in the United States, and they were captured in Pakistan trying to join a terrorist organization to fight U.S. troops in Afghanistan,' says terrorism consultant Patrick Poole, who earned his credentials by exposing a cleric from Hamas preaching at a mosque in Hilliard, Ohio. Arizona has a long history of being a hotbed of terrorist activity, particularly al Qaeda -- including an infamous first. 'The first al Qaeda cell in the United States was located right here in Arizona in Tucson,' says Poole.

The 9-11 commission report contains 59 references to terrorist activity in Arizona. It also mentioned the existence of a CIA/FBI report titled 'Arizona's Long Range Nexus for Islamic Extremists.' The report has still not been made public. 'We have a number of examples of terrorist operatives who have crossed the border.' According to Poole, our state's border with Mexico is apparently attracting terrorist infiltrators. 'In the past year what we've seen is a full out effort by al Qaeda to recruit Americans... not just with Anwar Al-Awlaki and his internet postings and internet videos, but al Qaeda itself under Al-Awlaki auspices has been producing magazines English language magazines called Inspire.'



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

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CALIFORNIA

Thieves Steal More Than 500 Gallons of Gas



California police are searching for four suspects who avoided rising prices at the pump by allegedly stealing 528 gallons of gas from a Pasadena Mobil station. The suspects activated the station's pumps with a type of card or other mechanism before pumping \$2,465 of supreme unleaded gas into containers on two flatbed trucks, said Lt. Kelly Evans, head of Criminal Investigations at the Pasadena police department. Pasadena authorities believe the suspects - shown wearing hooded sweatshirts in a surveillance video - are affiliated with organized crime. The white trucks seen in the video are "very similar," Evans said, to vehicles used in a theft two weeks ago at a Mobil station in North Hollywood where suspects took off with 1,700 gallons of gas. "[This crime] seems to have been more prevalent since gas prices have started to rise," Evans told FoxNews.com.



Evans said federal investigations have uncovered cases in which stolen gas - in large quantities - has been sold to smaller gas stations.

Phoenix has had similar incidents within the past six months. This seems to be an increasing event with the hike in gas prices throughout the United States.

Source: Fox/KTLA

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CALIFORNIA/NEW MEXICO

As US Land Borders Tighten, Drug Smugglers Fly



The visiting British pilots were training near a naval air station one night this month when their helicopter came within about 150 feet of an ultralight plane flying without lights. The ultralight darted away toward Mexico without a trace. The near-disaster over the Southern California desert was an example of drug smugglers using low-flying aircraft that look like motorized hang gliders to circumvent new fences along the U.S. border with Mexico. The planes, which began appearing in Arizona three years ago, are now turning up in remote parts of California and New Mexico. And in a new twist, the planes rarely touch the ground. Pilots simply pull levers that drop aluminum bins filled with about 200 pounds of marijuana for drivers who are waiting on the ground with blinking lights or glow-sticks. Within a few minutes, the pilots are back in Mexico.

"It's like dropping a bomb from an aircraft," said Jeffrey Calhoon, chief of the Border Patrol's El Centro sector, which stretches through alfalfa farms, desert scrub and sand dunes in southeast California. The Border Patrol has erected hundreds of miles of fences and vehicle barriers along the border and added thousands of new agents, so drug smugglers are going over, under and around.

Source: Associated Press



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FLORIDA

Six Individuals Charged for Providing Material Support to the Pakistani Taliban



Six individuals located in South Florida and Pakistan have been indicted in the Southern District of Florida on charges of providing financing and other material support to the Pakistani Taliban, a designated foreign terrorist organization. The charges were announced today by Wifredo A. Ferrer, U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Florida; John V. Gillies, Special Agent in Charge, FBI Miami Field Office, and the members of the South Florida Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF). The four-count indictment charges Hafiz Muhammed Sher Ali Khan (hereafter "Khan"), 76, a U.S. citizen and resident of Miami; his son Irfan Khan, 37, a U.S. citizen and resident of Miami; and one of his other sons, Izhar Khan, 24, a U.S. citizen and resident of North Lauderdale, Fla. Three other individuals residing in Pakistan, Ali Rehman, aka "Faisal Ali Rehman;" Alam Zeb; and Amina Khan, aka "Amina Bibi," are also charged in the indictment. Amina Khan is the daughter of Khan and her son, Alam Zeb, is Khan's grandson. All six defendants are charged with conspiring to provide, and providing, material support to a conspiracy to murder, maim and kidnap persons overseas, as well as conspiring to provide material support to a foreign terrorist organization, specifically, the Pakistani Taliban. Defendants Khan, Rehman and Zeb are also charged with providing material support to the Pakistani Taliban.



This investigation was initiated by the FBI in conjunction with the JTTF based upon a review of suspicious financial transactions and other evidence; it was not an undercover sting. According to the allegations in the indictment, from around 2008 through in or around November 2010, the defendants provided money, financial services, and other forms of support to the Pakistani Taliban.

Source: <http://www.justice.gov>

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MISSOURI

Gunman Captured After Entering Army Post, University Campus



Missouri police have captured a gunman who allegedly engaged in a shootout with law enforcement officers and spurred a nearly five-hour manhunt after entering a Missouri Army post and nearby university campus early this morning. Suspect Cody Nathaniel Willcoxson is in custody and suffering from a wound to his arm, police said. The 31-year-old man faces four felony charges of assault on law enforcement and will be held on \$1 million dollar bond, Rolla, Missouri, Police Chief Mark Kearse said. Willcoxson allegedly attempted to enter Fort Leonard Wood near Waynesville, Mo., a spokesperson for the post said. When security asked the man to stop at the gate and submit to further inspection, authorities say he refused to do so. "The driver chose not to do the right thing and continued driving through the west gate toward the main (north) gate on post where he was pursued by military police at Fort Leonard Wood to the point where the vehicle exited the installation through the main gate. The individual was on the installation for less than five minutes," read a statement from officials at the Army post.



After exiting, the suspect continued to evade authorities, driving down I-44 and allegedly firing on police with an AK-47 assault rifle. Police set up spike strips on the highway, prompting the suspect to exit the highway and enter the college town of Rolla, the home of the Missouri University of Science and Technology. Police said the suspect then jumped out of the car and stole a 2003 Ford Taurus. A scant blood trail was left from where the man jumped out of the car and into the grey Taurus, police said. The man ran into McNutt Hall on the university campus. There are no reports of injuries at the Army post or the university campus.

Source: <http://abcnews.go.com>

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NATIONAL

Al-Qaida Aspired to Attack U.S. Train on 9/11/11



Al-Qaida considered attacking U.S. trains on the 10th anniversary of the September 11th attacks, according to an initial look at DVDs, computers, and other documents seized at the raid on home of the al-Qaida leader killed by U.S. troops, NBC News reported. However, U.S. officials told NBC News they have no recent intelligence indicating such a plot is active. The information about a possible train plot is the first intelligence revealed from the trove of material found in the attack on his compound.



Officials said they found what they call "aspirational" items – things al-Qaida operatives were interested in trying to make happen. A government advisory obtained by NBC News and sent May 3 to the rail industry said that as far back as February 2010, al-Qaida was contemplating "an operation against trains at an unspecified location in the United States on the 10th anniversary" of the September 11th attacks. One option, the advisory said, was trying to tip a train by tampering with the rails so that the train would fall off the track at either a valley or on a bridge. Such an attempt would probably only work once, the material in the leader's house said, because tilting or tampering with the rails would be spotted, according to the advisory. Other material mentions a desire to target big mass-transit hubs, an interest long understood because of the history of al-Qaida attacks on rail targets in Spain, the United Kingdom, and India.

Source: msnbc.com

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NEW YORK

Two 'Terrorism' Related Arrests



Two men have been arrested in New York on suspicion of plotting to attack a synagogue, US media reports said. The pair were caught in a sting operation discussing plans to buy guns and grenades with the "aspirational" plan to attack a Jewish house of worship, The New York Times quoted unidentified law enforcement officials as saying. According to the report, the men will be prosecuted by the Manhattan District Attorney's office, rather than federal prosecutors, who usually handle terrorism cases. A spokeswoman for the DA's office refused to comment but said a statement was expected later. Reports said the men were of North African descent, but it was not clear whether they were US citizens or not. New York, which has been targeted by Islamist bombers repeatedly over the last two decades, has been on heightened alert since US commandos killed Osama bin Laden in Pakistan.



A New York police officer stands guard outside of a synagogue following the apparent foiling of a terrorist plot

The two suspects were arrested in Midtown Manhattan the night of May 11. The suspected plotters reportedly exposed themselves through intent to purchase illegal weapons and discussing plans on the phone, while the New York Police Department worked to disrupt the alleged plot with quick arrests rather than attempting to build a federal case.

Source: AFP

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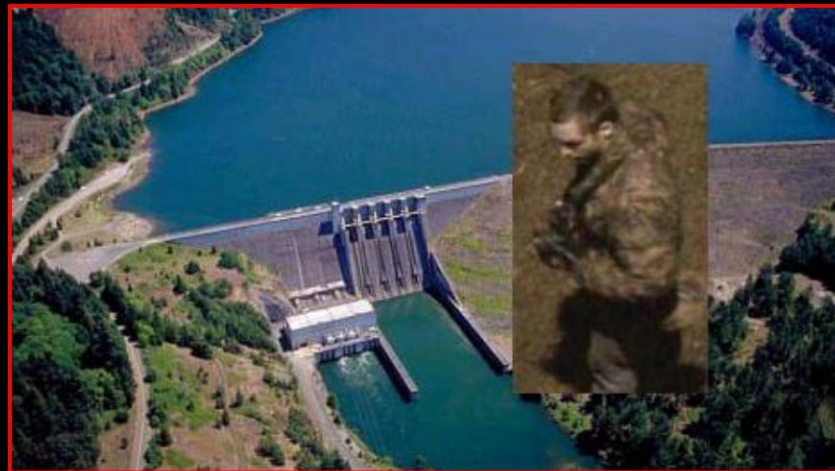
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OREGON

FBI Investigating Intruder at Dam



The FBI wants to know the identity of a man who climbed a barbed wire fence and entered Lookout Point Dam, southeast of Eugene, on March 2. Surveillance cameras caught the intruder on tape just before 2 a.m. Raw: Lookout Point Dam intruder caught on tape The Army Corps of Engineers released the video in the hope the public will help identify the man. "We don't know exactly what he was doing or why he was there," said Erik Petersen, Operations Project Manager, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. "We believe he was taking pictures of the facility. Why? We're not sure," said Petersen. PSU terrorism expert Gary Perlstein agreed there was reason to be concerned, noting that the man was camouflaged and had to intentionally climbed over barbed wire fencing to reach the spot where he was seen on surveillance cameras. The Army Corps is offering \$1000.00 reward for information leading to the man. Anyone with tips is asked to call: 1-866-413-7970.



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

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SAN DIEGO

Suspected Pipe Bomb Closes Down Coronado Bridge



The southbound lanes of the Coronado Bridge and Interstate 5 were shut down Monday morning after CHP found a suspected pipe bomb just north of the on-ramp to the bridge. The one-foot pipe was found on the southbound shoulder of I-5 just after 8:30 a.m., said San Diego Police Department Lt. Hassen. Officers said the tube had caps on both ends. "We called for the San Diego Police bomb squad to come out and evaluate the device," said CHP Officer Art Athans. CHP officers have been told to be on alert after the death of Osama Bin Laden. "Because of the recent events of last night our officers have been briefed to be extra vigilant -- to be more aware of their surroundings," Athans said. After a closer look, investigators said the pipe was some sort of inert military ordnance. "There is no explosive device in it, a training device or something along that line," Athans said. "What exactly it is used for I do not know." Investigators said the device was not hazardous and may have fallen off a passing vehicle.

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



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TEXAS

Mosque in Texas Comes Under Attack and Set on Fire



An Islamic center in Houston, Texas has suffered damage after unknown arsonists set it on fire, but no injuries have been reported. The blaze started after a group of male suspects smashed a window of the Islamic Education Center of Houston and doused a room with gasoline before setting it on fire, spokesman for Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) Ibrahim Hooper said. The Texas chapter of the CAIR issued a statement calling on the FBI to investigate the incident as a possible hate crime.



The surveillance cameras failed to catch a clear image of the suspects as they were reportedly masked, but arson investigators have started a probe into the attack. "The number of recent incidents targeting American Muslims points to a disturbing nationwide trend that needs to be addressed by political and religious leaders at the national level," Hooper said. He added that in the past year, arsonists have targeted mosques or mosque construction sites in Oregon, Tennessee, Texas, and Michigan. In May last year, a bomb exploded at a Florida mosque. A number of other hate incidents targeting American Muslims, those perceived to be Muslim and Muslim institutions have occurred since the alleged killing of Osama bin Laden by US forces on May 1. Some analysts have suggested that Islamophobia will decline after the US announcement of bin Laden's death. But others say the recent attacks signal that anti-Muslim sentiments still remain a problem for the Muslim communities across the US.

Source: <http://jafrianews.com>

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WASHINGTON D.C.

US Senator Plans Hearing on Al-Qaeda Rail Threat



A US senator said Friday he planned to hold hearings to look into freshly revealed intelligence that Al-Qaeda pondered attacks on US railways to mark 10 years since the September 11, 2001 strikes. "Terrorists have attacked rail systems around the world and we've seen the devastating consequences in Moscow, Madrid, London and Mumbai," said Democratic Senator Frank Lautenberg, who chairs a committee with oversight over railways. "When it comes to threats to our national security, trains are a prime target and must be better secured," he said in a statement, calling the possible al-Qaeda threat to trains "a wake up call for America." His comments came a day after the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) warned law-enforcement authorities that seized information from slain extremist leader Osama bin Laden's Pakistan compound showed his al-Qaeda network had as recently as February 2010 weighed attacks on US trains.

DHS did not specify the precise source of the information, but Lautenberg said it was "a handwritten note. The senator, whose home state is New York neighbor New Jersey, noted that 70,000 people ride Amtrak trains, 450,000 ride New Jersey Transit trains, and some eight million ride New York subways each day. "Imagine what it would mean if a terrorist managed to carry out an attack on one of these systems. We must be vigilant to prevent potential terrorist attacks from becoming a reality," he said.

Source: AFP



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WASHINGTON D.C.

Bin Laden Computers a 'Gold Mine' for U.S.



Intelligence agencies combing through computers and storage devices found at Osama bin Laden's compound expect a "gold mine" of data that could expose terror plots, Al-Qaeda figures' locations and funding sources, ex-US officials said. The trove of material hauled away after bin Laden was killed in a US raid on Sunday -- about five computers, 10 hard drives and 100 storage devices -- represents a dramatic intelligence breakthrough for the United States in its fight against Al-Qaeda, said the experts. "I'll be very surprised if this isn't a gold mine for us," said John McLaughlin, a former CIA deputy director.



"I think we're probably going to find reports of potential plotting. We'll probably find something about funding. We may learn something about whatever relationship he did or didn't have with Pakistan. We'll learn about key aides," he told CNN. US officials said a task force of experts from the Central Intelligence Agency, the National Security Agency, the Justice Department and other agencies had begun scouring the material, in a task that would last months and possibly years. Cyber specialists will first dismantle the hardware, taking care for possible booby traps or triggers that would erase files. Then they will extract and copy all the stored data, sifting through temporary files and trying to crack encryption codes, analysts said.

Source: AFP

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WASHINGTON D.C.

Officials: Bin Laden Eyed Small Cities as Targets



Though hunted and in hiding, Osama bin Laden remained the driving force behind every recent al-Qaida terror plot, U.S. officials say, citing his private journal and other documents recovered in last week's raid. Until Navy SEALs killed him a week ago, bin Laden dispensed chilling advice to the leaders of al-Qaida groups from Yemen to London: Hit Los Angeles, not just New York, he wrote. Target trains as well as planes. If possible, strike on significant dates, such as the Fourth of July and the upcoming 10th anniversary of the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. Above all, he urged, kill more Americans in a single attack, to drive them from the Arab world. Bin Laden's written words show that counterterrorist officials worldwide underestimated how key he remained to running the organization, shattering the conventional thinking that he had been reduced through isolation to being an inspirational figurehead, U.S. officials said.



His personal, handwritten journal and his massive collection of computer files show he helped plan every recent major al-Qaida threat the U.S. is aware of, including plots in Europe last year that had travelers and embassies on high alert, two officials said. So far, no new plots have been uncovered in bin Laden's writings, but intelligence officials say it will take weeks, if not months, to go through them. He was well aware of U.S. counterterrorist defenses and schooled his followers how to work around them, the messages to his followers show. Don't limit attacks to New York City, he said in his writings. Consider other areas such as Los Angeles or smaller cities. Spread out the targets.

Source: Associated Press

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WASHINGTON D.C.

FBI Probes White Powder in Letters Sent to DC Schools



The FBI on Friday is investigating more than three dozen suspicious letters containing a white powdery substance sent to schools in the capital area, leading authorities to race across the city to check for possible threats. No hazardous substance was found and no illnesses or injuries were reported as a result of the 37 letters found so far at 32 schools, according to the FBI's Washington field office. Four letters were found at area postal facilities, an FBI spokesman said.



They appeared to be mailed from the Dallas area where investigators have been examining similar suspicious letters, the FBI said. Last October, letters that also bore a resemblance to this latest batch were received at some Washington, D.C., schools. The scare harked back to nearly a decade ago when letters laced with deadly anthrax were sent to media outlets and lawmakers. Five people died and 17 others were sickened in that attack, which was later linked to an Army researcher who later committed suicide. In Washington, FBI agents, postal inspectors and local authorities scrambled from school to school over the course of 10 hours on Thursday as new letters were discovered. The scare led to "some school evacuations and tying up hundreds of hours of police and law enforcement resources," the FBI said. The letters are being sent to the FBI's lab at Quantico, Virginia, for review. While the FBI said the letters were printed rather than handwritten and not addressed to individual people, authorities declined to provide further details.

Source: Reuters

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WASHINGTON D.C.

Secretary Napolitano Announces Funding to Strengthen Interoperable Emergency Communications Along and Across U.S. Borders



Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano today announced \$25.5 million in grant funding under the Border Interoperability Demonstration Project (BIDP)—a one-time competitive grant program focused on developing innovative solutions to strengthen interoperable emergency communications along the U.S. borders with Canada and Mexico. "The projects funded through the Border Interoperability Demonstration Project strengthen the security of our northern and southern borders, and our nation's overall preparedness and emergency response capabilities," said Secretary Napolitano. "These BIDP grants provide our state, local, and tribal partners with resources to explore innovative, effective, and adaptable solutions for improving emergency communications."

Funding under the BIDP can be used for equipment purchases, planning, training and conducting exercises. The demonstration projects selected represent varying geographic regions and population densities in order to explore innovative approaches that can serve as models for other communities located along the borders with Canada and Mexico. Office of Emergency Communications (OEC) will provide the selected communities with technical assistance and support while these projects are implemented. Through BIDP and other programs such as capability assessments, training, and technical assistance, DHS continues to identify and institute effective solutions for improving emergency communications throughout the nation.



Source: http://www.dhs.gov/ynews/releases/pr_1304105882772.shtm

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INTERNATIONAL

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AFGHANISTAN

Taliban Use Child Bomber at Start of Offensive



On the first day of its promised spring offensive, the Taliban used a 12-year-old boy as a suicide bomber in an attack that killed four civilians, President Hamid Karzai said, calling the child's recruitment inhumane and un-Islamic. It was one of several attacks across the country that killed seven people, government officials said. The insurgent movement announced in a statement that it would step up operations against military bases, convoys and Afghan officials, including members of the peace council working to reconcile with top insurgent leaders. The offensive begins each year after a winter lull in fighting. "The use of children and youths who don't know the difference between right and wrong in terrorist attacks is inhumane and against all Islamic principles," the president said.



The suicide bomber detonated a vest packed with explosives inside a bazaar in the Barmal district of Paktika province, 160 miles (260 kilometers) southeast of Kabul, on the border with Pakistan. The blast killed four civilians and wounded 12, said Mokhlis Afghan, a spokesman for the provincial governor's office. Among the dead – and the likely target of the attack – was Sher Nawaz, head of a new district council in the Shakeen area of Paktika province, Afghan said. U.S. military intelligence officers said juveniles are often recruited at mosques and Islamic schools and that they are in turn encouraged to recruit their friends. Some are lured by extremist literature or videos. The documents suggest that extremists find youths easier to recruit than adults and that they become more pliant disciples of militant Islam.

Source: Associated Press

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Source: Associated Press

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AFGHANISTAN

Taliban Use Child Bomber at Start of Offensive



Fourteen police officials were killed and 19 people were injured on Wednesday when a suicide car bomb went off in Nangarhar province 120 km east of capital city of Kabul, spokesman for provincial administration said. "It was a suicide car bombing at around 05:00 p.m. local time and in the bloody incident 14 police officials martyred including some police trainers of police-academy in the province," Ahmad Zia Abdulzai told reporters at a press briefing. He said that the blast also injured 19 others and all of them are civilians. He said the suicide bomber blew up his explosive-laden car near a police minibus running in a road just outside provincial capital Jalalabad city bringing back the trainers to their residents. Earlier, a local police official who declined to be identified said that two suicide bombers targeted police vehicles carrying police-academy trainers backed to home at around 04:45 p.m. local time in Behsud district near provincial capital Jalalabad city.



Source: AFP

A handful of the wounded said to be in critical conditions. In the meantime, Taliban militants who largely rely on roadside bombings claimed of responsibility for the attack. Zabihullah Mujahid who claims to talk for the outfit said in talks with media from undisclosed location a Taliban suicide bomber killed over 20 police trainers. In a roadside bomb attack against a vehicle of police-academy in the same province three police officers were killed on April 21. Taliban-led insurgency has been rampant since the militant group announced on April 30 to start spring offensive against Afghan and NATO-led international forces.

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AFGHANISTAN

Taliban on Twitter as Afghan Rebels

Enter Internet Age



The Taliban once banned all television, music and cinema in Afghanistan, but now they are fighting their war via Twitter, the online messaging network that revolutionized global communication. The Islamist extremists sent out their first tweet in English on May 12 claiming "enemy attacked in Khak-e-Safid", with a link to their website for more details about rebel fighters killing "at least 6 puppet police". The move into the English language on Twitter is the latest sign that the Taliban are embracing modern technology in the propaganda battle that runs alongside the guerrilla war of ambushes, suicide bombings and mine explosions.

When they ruled Afghanistan between 1996 and 2001, almost all electronic products were outlawed as un-Islamic. Photographs of living things were illegal, and ownership of a video player could lead to a public lashing. Today, they send out text messages and emails, release videos of attacks on US-led international troops, and run a website that evades repeated efforts to close it down. The Taliban's Twitter feed @alemarahweb -- a reference to Islamic statehood -- sends out several messages every day, mostly in the Pashto language, and is followed by 4,200 people with the number growing rapidly since English was introduced. The NATO-led coalition force in Afghanistan on Saturday used its own Twitter feed to post a response saying: "What's that? Taliban's tweeting in English? Lies are lies no matter the language." Bizarrely, the Taliban's Twitter account follows tweets sent out by a British soldiers' charity, as well as a carpet-weaving development program and a site linked to Islamist militants in the Caucasus.

Source: AFP



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IRELAND

Irish Muslim Arrested in Dublin Over Obama Threats



Police arrested Ireland's most notorious Muslim convert Thursday over his reported death threats against President Barack Obama. Police said Khalid Kelly, a 44-year-old dubbed "Taliban Terry" by Dubliners, was arrested at his Dublin residence on suspicion of threatening to kill the U.S. leader. He could be held for up to three days before being charged or released. The arrest came 10 days before Obama's arrival in Ireland and four days after a British newspaper, the Sunday Mirror, printed an interview with Kelly. He is Ireland's most outspoken supporter of al-Qaida and its slain founder, Osama bin Laden. Kelly was quoted as telling the newspaper that he expected al-Qaida to kill Obama during his visit to Ireland in part because the country's police force is poorly armed. The article said Kelly would like to kill Obama himself but was too well-known to police here. "Personally I would feel happy if Obama was killed. How could I not feel happy when a big enemy of Islam is gone?" Kelly was quoted as saying. Kelly, a former Catholic altar boy from inner-city Dublin, converted to Islam while imprisoned in Saudi Arabia in 2000 for selling illegal alcohol.



He since has praised al-Qaida and Osama bin Laden on Irish TV, trained with the Taliban in northwest Pakistan and married a Pakistani woman, and has named one of their two sons Osama. He told an Irish TV documentary in March that Osama "is a name to be proud of" and now prefers himself to be called Abu Osama – "father of Osama." Kelly appears in a 2010 U.S. documentary, "Holy Wars," inspecting guns for sale in a Pakistani border arms market. He returned to Dublin in April 2010 in murky circumstances. He claimed to have been deported from an unspecified country in Eastern Europe and lost his passport along the way.

Source: Associated Press

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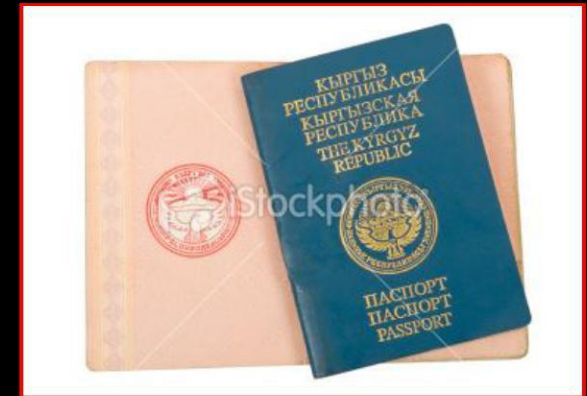
KYRGYZSTAN

Terrorists Could Use Kyrgyz Passports



BISHKEK. May 4 (Interfax) - International terrorists could possess 100,000 Kyrgyz national passport forms dating back to 1994, the director of the republic's document printing company, Taalaibek Dzhumadylov, told Interfax on Wednesday. "Around 100,000 passport forms dating back to 1994 have been lost. They could have ended up in the hands of terrorists," he said. Dzhumadylov worked in the defense, law enforcement and security department of the Kyrgyz government's executive office in 2003. A decision was made then to look into the execution of a contract signed between the Kyrgyz Interior Ministry and a Canadian firm that produced passport forms. "Law enforcement services presented an official report, according to which three million passport forms were imported to Kyrgyzstan, but 2.9 million passports were issued to citizens," he said. No explanation was given for the absence of 100,000 passport forms, he said. Kyrgyz passports have often been confiscated from militants active in Russia's North Caucasus and Afghanistan, from Uyghur separatists, as well as from members of the outlawed Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan, al Qaeda and other terrorist organizations, Dzhumadylov said.

"They [Kyrgyz passports] were also seized from killed Mujahideen fighters who invaded Kyrgyzstan's Batken region in 1999-2001," he said. "Special services need to find all of these passports," Dzhumadylov said. Passport forms printed in 1994 "have become totally obsolete, are filled out by hand, and pictures are simply glued on their front page," he said. "Interpol and the International Migration Organization have already been alerted about the loss of such a large number of passport forms," he said.



Source: Moscow Interfax in English

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LONDON

Bomb Threat from Irish Republicans



British police received a bomb threat for London from dissident Irish republicans Monday, on the eve of an historic trip by Queen Elizabeth II to Ireland and a week before US President Barack Obama. The warning heightened tensions after a spike in violence in Northern Ireland and a statement by a top paramilitary group that the British monarch was wanted for "war crimes." "A bomb threat warning has been received relating to central London today. The threat is not specific in relation to location or time," a Scotland Yard spokesman said. "We believe the threat is in connection with dissident republican terrorism." Police closed a major road leading to Buckingham Palace for several hours on Monday but a search found nothing suspicious, while there was also a controlled explosion of a suitcase nearby. Specialist officers were lowered into a sewer on a winch during the investigation, an AFP journalist at the scene said. Coded warnings have been traditionally used by Irish republican groups. There has been a recent upsurge in republican violence in Northern Ireland, with a policeman killed by a bomb in April, but Scotland Yard said there had been no change in the official threat level.

The Real IRA paramilitary splinter group said the queen was wanted for "war crimes" and was "not wanted on Irish soil", threatening to ensure that she and "her cheerleaders get that message". It will be first state visit to Ireland by a British monarch since the republic gained independence in 1922. The last British monarch to visit was King George V a century ago. Security in Britain and Ireland was already tight as President Obama will visit Ireland next week before going on to visit Britain.



Source: AFP

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NORTH KOREA

Exporting Missiles to Mideast and Asia



North Korea remains "actively engaged" in exporting ballistic missiles, components and technology to numerous customers in the Middle East and South Asia in violation of United Nations (UN) sanctions, a UN panel said in a report. North Korea has also completed - or is about to complete - construction of a second launch site for long-range rockets, according to the panel report to the UN Security Council that was obtained on Monday by The Associated Press. The launch site on the country's west coast is close to Tongchangdong and could be used for ballistic missiles in violation of UN sanctions, the report said. It said the installations appear "bigger and more sophisticated" than the original site on the east coast used for the 1998, 2006 and 2009 Taepodong missile launches. North Korea embarked on the development of ballistic missiles in the 1970s and in the 1990s it test-fired a Nodong missile with a 1,300-km range. "In an effort to get hard currency and advance its own programs, the country has been actively engaged in the export of complete (missile) systems, components and technology to numerous customers in the Middle East and South Asia," the panel said.



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

During a military parade last Oct 10, it said, North Korea displayed its new Musudan intermediate-range missile and a new warhead for its Nodong missile "which presented a strong design similarity with the Iranian Shahab-3 triconic warhead". Iran, however, denied that Tehran had exchanged missile technology with North Korea. Iran Foreign Ministry spokesman Ramin Mehmanparast argued that Iran's missile capabilities are so advanced that it does not need outside help, and he slammed the report's findings as "fabrications". Iran and North Korea are both under UN sanctions over their nuclear ambitions. Iran insists its nuclear program is aimed at peaceful purposes mainly to generate electricity.

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PAKISTAN

Suicide Attacks Kill 80; Taliban Claim bin Laden Revenge



Islamabad, Pakistan -- The Pakistani Taliban claimed responsibility Friday for suicide attacks on a military training facility in the nation's northwest, saying they were carried out in retaliation for the killing of terrorist leader Osama bin Laden. The twin suicide bombings killed at least 80 people, nearly all of them military recruits who had just completed their training, said Bashir Ahmad Bilour, a senior provincial minister. About 140 others were wounded. "Pakistani and the U.S. forces should be ready for more attacks," said Ihsan Ullah Ihsan, a spokesman for the Pakistani Taliban, who accused the Pakistani military of having alerted the United States to bin Laden's location. "Osama was our great leader and the killers of Osama will have to pay its price," he said. The back-to-back explosions took place shortly after scores of recruits had left the Shabqadar Fort, a training facility in the district of Charsadda, said Jahan Zeb Khan, a senior police officer.



The Pakistani army has carried out numerous ground and air operations in Mohmand but it has not been able to stamp out the militants. The Pakistani Taliban represent a confederation of Taliban groups in northwestern Pakistan, where they are based, said Bill Roggio, military-affairs analyst who is managing editor of The Long War Journal. Those fighters attack targets in Pakistan and across the border in Afghanistan. The group, which is headquartered in Quetta, is different from the Afghan Taliban, which has been focused on re-establishing the Islamic Emirate in Afghanistan.

Source: CNN

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PAKISTAN

Two grenades thrown at Saudi consulate in Karachi



KARACHI: Drive-by attackers lobbed two grenades at the Saudi consulate in Pakistan's largest city of Karachi on Wednesday, in a first possible violent reaction to the US killing of Osama bin Laden. Officials reported no damage and no casualties after two men on a motorcycle threw the explosives at the heavily fortified building in Clifton, the smartest neighborhood of Karachi, nine days after bin Laden was killed in Pakistan. "This was an attack on the Saudi consulate. Two motorcycle riders threw two grenades and fled," provincial government official Sharfuddin Memon told AFP. "One exploded and hit the outer wall. The second landed inside and fortunately didn't explode. It was later defused by bomb disposal," he said. "There were no casualties. We are seeing this incident in the present context. It could be a reaction of the Osama incident." Pakistan has been in the grip of domestic and international crisis since US Navy SEALs flew in, seemingly undetected, from Afghanistan to identify and kill the Saudi-born Al-Qaeda terror mastermind at a suburban compound on May 2.



Source: AFP

An AFP photographer said ambulances, police and paramilitary Rangers swarmed outside the Saudi consulate after the attack, where small shrapnel marks could be seen on the outer wall of the building. Mohammed Safdar, a police official at the scene, said security guards at the diplomatic mission had opened fire on the attackers but they escaped. "Two security men at the gate opened fire on them, but they managed to flee," he told AFP. "The security guards informed us and we reached the spot immediately. The bomb disposal squad are here. Other police and Rangers have surrounded the area," he added.

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PAKISTAN

Homes on Osama Bin Laden Network - Arrest of al-Qaida Man



Pakistani security forces arrested a "senior al-Qaida operative" in Karachi, signaling the first significant move against Osama bin Laden's network inside Pakistan since his death on 2 May. Security agencies in the port city of Karachi apprehended Muhammad Ali Qasim Yaqub, alias Abu Suhaib al-Makki, a Yemeni said to have worked directly under the al-Qaida leadership along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border. The army described the arrest as a "major development in unravelling the al-Qaida network operating in the region", triggering speculation it may signal a wider heave against Bin Laden's top lieutenants. However, Makki's seniority in al-Qaida was not immediately known. In the past both the US and Pakistan have retrospectively attributed seniority to previously unknown al-Qaida militants. Since Bin Laden's death the US has put pressure on Pakistan to crack down on militants believed to be sheltering in Pakistan, including Ayman al-Zawahiri, the Taliban leader Mullah Omar, and the leadership of Lashkar-e-Taiba, which carried out the 2008 Mumbai attacks.

Senator John Kerry, visiting Islamabad for the Obama administration, on Monday presented a list of demands to the Pakistani government, but refused to say what they were. US officials are frantically sorting through a treasure trove of intelligence captured from Bin Laden's house, including hundreds of computer disks. It was not immediately clear whether Makki's arrest came from Pakistani or US intelligence. The arrest offered a glimmer of hope in another gloomy day for Pakistan-American relations. Earlier there was an exchange of fire between NATO and Pakistani forces along the Afghan border that injured two Pakistani soldiers.



Source: <http://www.guardian.co.uk>

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SOMALIA

Al-Shabaab Vow to Avenge Bin Ladin 'Very Soon'



MOGADISHU, May 11, 2011 (AFP) - Somalia's Al Qaeda-inspired insurgents vowed Wednesday to avenge the killing of Osama bin Laden by US special forces in Pakistan. Top officials of the Shebab Islamist group, including Muktar Robow, Sheikh Hasan Dahir Aweys and US-born Omar Hamami -- better known as Abu Mansoor al-Amriki -- said they planned revenge "very soon" but gave no indication how it would be achieved. "We are sending a message to (US President Barack) Obama and (Secretary of State) Hillary Clinton that we will avenge the death of our leader Sheikh Osama bin Laden very soon," Hamami told reporters during a Shebab meeting in Afgoye town west of the capital Mogadishu. "Osama is dead but the holy war is not dead. Mujahedeen fighters all over the world are fully prepared to revenge the death of our leader," he added. The Shebab, who control much of Somalia, pose a serious security threat in the region where Al Qaeda operatives bombed US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania in 1998.

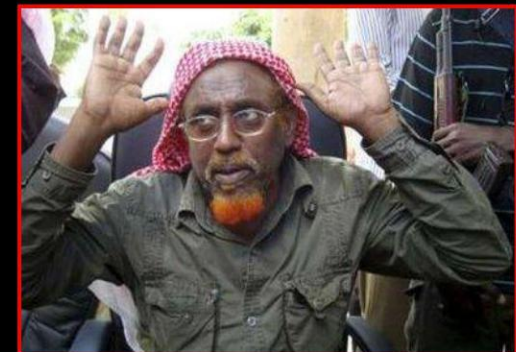
Source: AFP



Left: Muktar Robow

Right: Abu Mansoor al-Amriki

Bottom: Sheikh Hasan Dahir Aweys



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UNITED KINGDOM

Terror Arrests at Nuke Plant



FIVE men were arrested under the Terrorism Act close to a British nuclear plant yesterday – just hours after it was announced Osama Bin Laden had been killed. They were detained near Sellafield – which handles highly dangerous nuclear material –following a stop check on a vehicle by officers from the Civil Nuclear Constabulary, who police the facility in West Cumbria. The arrests come as the world braces itself for a bloody backlash after Bin Laden supporters vowed to avenge his death.



The public was being warned to remain extra vigilant for fear of a reprisal from groups sympathetic to al-Qaeda. Cumbria Police said it had swooped on five men, all in their 20s and from London, who were arrested under the Terrorism Act. Security has been tightened since US special forces carried out a daring mission that killed Bin Laden on Sunday. In Britain armed police patrols were stepped up and people were urged to be vigilant – especially with the London Olympics due next year. Hate-preacher Omar Bakri, exiled from Britain for extremist rants, claimed the Arab world had "lost a leader" and predicted revenge attacks. Section 41 of the Terrorism Act 2000 means cops can arrest anyone they "reasonably suspect" to be a terrorist. Sellafield is heavily protected – both by private security personnel and officers from the Civil Nuclear Constabulary, some of whom are armed. The plant responsible for decommissioning and reprocessing nuclear waste and fuel manufacturing, on behalf of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority. It has been open since the 1940s, when it was used as a Royal Ordnance factory supporting the war effort. The site is also home to the world's first commercial nuclear power station – Calder Hall, which operated from 1956 to 2003.

Source: [The Sun.co.uk](http://TheSun.co.uk)

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ACROSS THE BORDER

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Terrorist Group Setting Up Operations Near Border



A terrorist organization whose home base is in the Middle East has established another home base across the border in Mexico. "They are recognized by many experts as the 'A' team of Muslim terrorist organizations," a former U.S. intelligence agent told 10News. The former agent, referring to Shi'a Muslim terrorist group Hezbollah, added, "They certainly have had successes in big-ticket bombings." Some of the group's bombings include the U.S. embassy in Beirut and Israeli embassy in Argentina. However, the group is now active much closer to San Diego. "We are looking at 15 or 20 years that Hezbollah has been setting up shop in Mexico," the agent told 10News. Since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, U.S. policy has focused on al-Qaida and its offshoots. "They are more shooters than thinkers ... it's a lot of muscles, courage, desire but not a lot of training," the agent said, referring to al-Qaida. Hezbollah, he said, is far more advanced. "Their operators are far more skilled ... they are the equals of Russians, Chinese or Cubans," he said. "I consider Hezbollah much more dangerous in that sense because of strategic thinking; they think more long-term." Hezbollah has operated in South America for decades and then Central America, along with their sometime rival, sometime ally Hamas.

Now, the group is blending into Shi'a Muslim communities in Mexico, including Tijuana. Other pockets along the U.S.-Mexico border region remain largely unidentified as U.S. intelligence agencies are focused on the drug trade. "They have had clandestine training in how to live in foreign hostile territories," the agent said. The agent, who has spent years deep undercover in Mexico, said Hezbollah is partnering with drug organizations, but which ones is not clear at this time.



Source: <http://www.10news.com/news/27780427/detail.html>

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Mexican Drug Smugglers Tunnel 250 Feet Through Solid Rock Beneath U.S. Border



A tunnel running 250 feet beneath the U.S.-Mexican border has been discovered fully kitted out with electricity, water pumps and ventilation. Authorities in Arizona said although they've found dozens of tunnels in Nogales, a city in Santa Cruz County since the 1990s, this one is by far the most sophisticated. Chief border patrol agent Randy Hill said those who were building it had chiseled through solid rock and installed lighting and other equipment. Border patrol found an entrance to the tunnel on May 2 in an abandoned building. An investigation has begun with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration and the Mexican government. The tunnel lies 15 feet beneath the ground and is three feet wide and five feet high. Chief Hill said: 'This tunnel is more sophisticated than other recently discovered tunnels. They chiseled through solid rock and then installed electricity, lighting, water pumps, and ventilation'.

'It is a prime example of the risks traffickers will take and the lengths they will go to smuggle contraband into our country.' The state of Arizona straddles a heavily trafficked route for powerful Mexican cartels smuggling marijuana, cocaine, heroin and methamphetamines into the U.S. Security has been tightened along the shared border in recent years leaving drug smugglers no option but to burrow underground to try to evade detection. At least eight tunnels have been found running beneath the streets on both sides of the border since October last year.



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

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13 Killed In Mexican Border Lake Shootout



Mexican marines patrolling a lake along the border with Texas discovered a drug gang camp on an island, provoking a gun battle that left 13 people dead, the navy said Monday. One marine and 12 suspected gunmen of the Zetas drug cartel were killed in the battle Sunday on Falcon Lake in the northeastern state of Tamaulipas, the navy said in a statement. The navy said the gunmen opened fire first when the marines discovered the camp, which the gang is believed to have used as a launching point for smuggling marijuana into Texas by speedboat. Marines seized more than 20 guns after the shootout, including several assault rifles.



Falcon Lake, a dammed section of the Rio Grande, is where U.S. citizen David Hartley was presumably chased and gunned down by pirates Sept. 30. His body has not been found and Mexican investigators have reported no leads in the case. His wife, Tiffany Hartley, told authorities she and her husband were using personal watercraft on Falcon Lake when they were approached by pirates who shot and killed her husband. The couple, who lived in nearby McAllen, Texas, at the time, were returning to Texas after photographing a historic church on the Mexican side of the lake, Hartley said. Mexican officials called off a search for David Hartley on Oct. 14, but the case remains open. The search was hampered when authorities received threats, presumably from the Zetas.

Source: Associated Press

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