

**DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
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**Anti-Terrorism Advisory Council
NEWSLETTER**



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Open Source News reporting Summary: This collection of open source information is offered for informational purposes only. It is not, and should not be, construed as official evaluated intelligence.

Cash transfers attract feds

Prosecutors accuse 3 of trying to send money to Mideast

A former assistant bank vice president was arrested and accused of embezzling \$438,000 from Huntington Bank and illegally wiring it to banks in Lebanon and Jordan. As part of a government crackdown on the illegal transfer of money, federal prosecutors in the counterterrorism unit have brought three cases in Detroit since October, accusing people of attempting to send money to the Middle East. FBI agents arrested former Huntington Bank Assistant Vice President Issam Abdul Hakim-Berjaoui at Detroit Metropolitan Airport last week, upon his return from Amsterdam.

Full story: <http://www.detnews.com/2004/metro/0407/01/b01-200470.htm>

Poultry plant subject of terror probe

Mar-Jac Poultry Inc. in Gainesville, Ga., is at the center of what federal officials call the nation's largest investigation into the financing of terrorism. Government officials allege that more than \$12 million went from a northern Virginia charities foundation connected to Mar-Jac to a secret bank account held by a supporter of Osama bin Laden. Defense attorneys for Mar-Jac on Wednesday denied the allegation and claimed the investigation to be a witch hunt. One of the defense attorneys, former Assistant U.S. Attorney Buddy Parker, said the owners of Mar-Jac, Iraqis and Pakistanis who are now American citizens, are being unfairly targeted and that their 20-year business could suffer because of it.

Full story: http://www.11alive.com/news/news_article.aspx?storyid=48744

Security alert issued to refineries

The Department of Homeland Security has advised law enforcement and refineries in Washington state that at least one refinery could have come under surveillance by terrorists. The department bulletin points to three specific incidents. First, a person in a kayak was possibly video taping a refinery in northern Puget Sound. The same company's security personnel, according to Homeland Security, reported a suspicious encounter with a diver; and someone stole a key ring from a refinery truck with pass keys to refinery gates.

Full story: <http://www.komotv.com/stories/32006.htm>

It's not so much *what folks don't know* that's the problem.
It's that *they know too much... that ain't so ...* that's the problem !

Phone calls put hospitals on alert

Some Central Illinois rural hospitals have been alerted by state public health officials about suspicious phone calls received by at least two hospitals. But Patty Luker, chief executive officer of Dr. John Warner Hospital in Clinton, doesn't think a call last Thursday night is related to any terrorism threat. "I don't put a lot of stock in it," she said Wednesday. "I think it was a hoax." Still, she talked with hospital maintenance staff Friday and told them "to make sure everything was locked down, according our policy."

Full story: http://www.pantagraph.com/stories/070104/new_20040701012.shtml

Fears grow over al-Qaida gassing American subways

Senior operative told of training to spread cyanide in AC systems

As the FBI warns police across the country that al-Qaida continues to show interest in attacking U.S. subways, new intelligence has emerged that al-Qaida has trained operatives to dispense poisonous gases such as cyanide in ventilation systems. Buried in one of the recently released staff reports by the 9-11 Commission is a chilling account of some of the experimentation in methods of mass murder conducted at al-Qaida camps. "The camps created a climate in which trainees and other personnel were free to think creatively about ways to commit mass murder,"

Full story: http://www.worldnetdaily.com/news/article.asp?ARTICLE_ID=39269

FBI tries new ways to find terror threats

Heightened concern centers on upcoming political conventions

The federal authorities, concerned about a terror attack during this summer's national political conventions, have begun a new effort to identify potential extremists inside the United States, including interviews in communities where terrorists might seek refuge, government officials said. The fears about an incident during the conventions or later in the year have also led state and local officials to impose extraordinary security precautions. Persistent if indistinct intelligence reports, based on electronic intercepts and live sources, indicate that al-Qaida is determined to strike in the United States some time this year, the officials said in interviews last week.

Full story: http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/national/180778_terror05.html

Related Reporting:

FBI works to intensify intelligence-gathering

<http://www.columbiatribune.com/2004/Jul/20040706News011.asp>

Eyes and ears of the Nation

Thousands of truckers, bus drivers and rest-stop workers are being enlisted to spot terrorists. Is this comforting news?

The Department of Homeland Security this year gave \$19.3 million to the American Trucking Associations, which is based in Alexandria, Va., to recruit a volunteer "army" called Highway Watch. So far, 10,000 truckers have signed on to become amateur sleuths. Over the next year, the goal is to add tollbooth workers, rest-stop employees and construction crews, creating a corps of 400,000 people drawn from every state.

Full story:

http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,1101040705-658321,00.html?promoid=rss_nation

FMCSA to require special safety permit for HAZMAT carriers

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) today announced that trucking companies planning to haul certain highly hazardous materials must have a special safety permit, beginning Jan. 1, 2005. FMCSA said it is requiring the special permit because certain highly hazardous materials would be more dangerous in crashes or if used in terrorist attacks.

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Full story: <http://www.dot.gov/affairs/fmcsa0704.htm>

Minneapolis terror suspect licensed to haul hazardous freight



The FBI identified Mohamad Elzahabi as a suspected terrorist well before the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks and more than 2½ years before his arrest last week, law enforcement officials said Tuesday. Yet officials of the Minnesota Department of Public Safety said they had no clue that Elzahabi was suspected of having Al-Qaida connections when he applied for, and in early 2002 received, a commercial driver's license to drive a school bus and to haul hazardous materials. Before the Minneapolis man got final approval for the commercial license, the FBI ran Elzahabi's name through a database and cleared him on Jan. 18, 2002, said Pat McCormack, interim director of the department's Division of Driver and Vehicle Licensing. Since

Sept. 11, the FBI and U.S. Transportation Department have focused on tightening restrictions and procedures to prevent terrorism suspects from gaining licenses to haul hazardous materials.

Full story: <http://www.startribune.com/stories/1576/4853573.html>

Ports boost security against terror threat



Canadian ports have implemented new security rules as part of a worldwide agreement between 147 nations to secure ports against potential terrorist attacks. The new security regulations have been put in effect on the day the U.S. Coast Guard denied entry to three foreign ships that planned to enter U.S. ports. From now on, all foreign-flagged ships will be inspected and required to show that they meet the standards of the new international security code. Ships are now required to have a security officer on board, an alarm system, with restricted access to engine rooms and the bridge. Those who fail to comply with the new regulations face tough penalties.

Full Story: http://www.ctv.ca/servlet/ArticleNews/story/CTVNews/1088710093793_26/?hub=World

Madrid school used by British on bombers' list

Cell planned two more train attacks and targeted a Jewish recreation centre, say Spanish police

A primary school attended by British children was yesterday revealed as one of the potential targets of the Islamists who killed 190 people in March's Madrid bombings. Information on the private bilingual school, in an exclusive neighbourhood where David Beckham once rented a house, was found in a flat in the satellite town of Leganes - where most of the bombers blew themselves up when surrounded by police on April 3. Brains school, which has a number of British teachers, was one possible target apparently selected by the gang who police now believe had decided to make the March 11 commuter train attacks the start of a continued campaign. The Madrid attacks were financed by the proceeds of drug sales and "by contributions from each of the members of the cell", according to the report. It confirms that the explosives used were bought with 25 kilos of hashish from a former miner in the northern Asturias. Two Sterling machine guns and a Czech CZ machine gun, together with two pistols, were bought from the Bulgarian mafia, according to the report.

Full Story: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/spain/article/0,2763,1252273,00.html>

Also read:

Interactive guide

[Basque nationalism](#)

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Explained

[Batasuna and Basque separatism in Spain](#)

Al-Qaeda's attack strategy revealed

Al-Qaeda planned to target Spain as the weakest link of the coalition in Iraq to force its troop pullout, according to a document from the terror network broadcast Wednesday by Radio France Internationale. "We consider that the Spanish government cannot suffer more than two to three strikes before pulling out (of Iraq) under pressure from its own people," said the document obtained Wednesday by AFP from RFI's regional office in Beirut. The document has apparently been issued in late February, as it refers to the early days of the Islamic new year which fell on February 21. Made-up of 54 pages in Arabic, the document has been authenticated by western experts of the Islamic radical terror network of Saudi-born fugitive Osama bin Laden.

Full story: <http://www.brunei-online.com/bb/fri/jul2w17.htm>

US, Britain and Australia to build global intelligence operation to counter al-Qaeda

Counter-terrorism chiefs in the US, Britain and Australia are aiming to build a global intelligence-sharing structure that will allow security services to assess threats and issue warnings continuously across all time zones. The new system is intended to allow each country to benefit from the daytime collection and assessment of information on the threat from groups affiliated to al-Qaeda. Security services in the different time zones will assess information received from the other services and then pass on updated assessments in an unbroken flow. "The step change has been in the intelligence sharing because no one country can understand al-Qaeda," said a senior security official involved in creating the new system. Extensive intelligence sharing on terrorism and other issues between the three countries is already routine. But al-Qaeda's fragmented structure has intensified the focus on local terrorist cells whose cross-border links have become increasingly difficult to identify.

Full story:

<http://news.ft.com/servlet/ContentServer?pagename=FT.com/StoryFT/FullStory&c=StoryFT&cid=1087373362602>

FEMA unveils online Training Course for First Responders

The Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced on 29 June a new online course that will help first responders understand the concepts and principles underlying the new National Incident Management System (NIMS). The course, which takes approximately three hours to complete, is designed to help local officials incorporate NIMS into their own planning and policies. NIMS, a newly developed, standardized incident management approach, was created in March 2004 to streamline coordination at the federal, state, and local levels by providing doctrinal guidance for managing acts of terrorism, natural disasters, and other emergencies. "Enhancing the capabilities of first responders and emergency managers is key in responding to all hazards," stated Michael D. Brown, Under Secretary of Homeland Security for Emergency Preparedness and Response, adding that "this new online course is one of many ways...to put NIMS into practice for the American people."

COMMENT:

The online course was developed by training experts at the Department of Homeland Security's Emergency Management Institute and is the latest in a series of efforts to push national-level guidance to local officials. The course can be found at: <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWEB/IS/is700.asp>

Short blackout triggers terrorism fears in Singapore

Singapore began a probe yesterday into a rare two-hour power failure that sparked panic, including fears that the city might have been the target of a terror attack. Nearly half of Singapore went dark when a valve tripped late on Tuesday at a station that receives gas from West Natuna, Indonesia, power authorities said. Six gas-fired power generators suddenly shut at around 10:15pm. The blackout triggered fears that ultra-efficient Singapore, which prides itself on first-class infrastructure, had suffered an attack.

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Full story: <http://www.taipeitimes.com/News/worldbiz/archives/2004/07/01/2003177292>

US suspects terror African diamond link

The US is stepping up its anti-terrorist efforts in west Africa amid continuing controversy over alleged links between al-Qaeda and the smuggling of Sierra Leonean diamonds through Liberia. Washington has begun looking more closely at terrorist financing in a region where the US military is increasingly active in efforts to disrupt terrorist networks, according to government officials and a leading Congressman. A US Congressional panel on the September 11 2001 terrorist attacks concluded this month there was "no persuasive evidence" that al-Qaeda funded itself through trafficking in diamonds from African states experiencing civil wars. But a US government official covering west Africa told the FT the US authorities had started to examine more deeply alleged financial links between the regime of Charles Taylor, exiled former president of Liberia, and groups such as Hizbollah and al-Qaeda. "We want to find out the infrastructure," the official said. "Taylor has ties to things other than what's happening in Liberia. We want to find out who and what."

Full story:

<http://news.ft.com/servlet/ContentServer?pagename=FT.com/StoryFT/FullStory&c=StoryFT&cid=1087373352131>

Police searching for 'next Mohammed Atta'

Central America on alert for FBI 'top 5' terror suspect

Costa Rica, Nicaragua and Panama are on alert for the possible entry of suspected terrorist Adnan G. El Shukrijumah, after Honduran authorities warned that the 29-year old suspect, referred to by law enforcement sources as "the next Mohammed Atta," may be seeking to cross into one of the countries. Shukrijumah, who is considered one of the FBI's "top 5" terrorist concerns, allegedly was spotted in Honduras on May 27 at a Tegucigalpa Internet café. "We found out that this man was in Tegucigalpa at the end of May," Leonel Saucedo, spokesman for the Honduran Security Ministry told media. "He was seen in an Internet cafe in the city and we confirmed that he made phone calls to France and the United States from there."

Full story: http://worldnetdaily.com/news/article.asp?ARTICLE_ID=39237

Related reporting:

Al-Qaeda Sought to Bomb Panama Canal, Honduran Security Says

http://quote.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=10000086&sid=as5DRu6fTf_E&refer=latin_america

Polish troops find warheads in Iraq

Polish troops recently discovered more than a dozen warheads containing mustard or sarin gas in Iraq, United States Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said in a recent radio interview. Rumsfeld said Polish Defence Minister Jerzy Szmajdzinski told him about the find when they met earlier this week at a Nato summit in Istanbul. "He pointed out that his troops in Iraq had recently come across - I've forgotten the number, but something like 16 or 17 - warheads that contained sarin and mustard gas," Rumsfeld told Newradio 600 KOGO of San Diego, California, in an interview on Wednesday. "Now these are weapons that we always knew Saddam Hussein had that he had not declared, and they have tested them," he said. The Pentagon released a transcript of the interview on Thursday.

Full story:

http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?sf=2813&art_id=qw1088701741389U262&click_id=2813&set_id=1

Related Reporting:

Chemical Munitions Found by Polish Soldiers Were Being Pursued by Terrorists

<http://ap.tbo.com/ap/breaking/MGBCE6E6WD.html>

Polish army says Iraq shells had deadly cyclosarin

<http://www.reuters.co.uk/newsPackageArticle.jhtml?type=worldNews&storyID=540453§ion=news>

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ICE releasing illegal aliens on nationwide basis

The Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency is releasing certain illegal aliens from federal custody across the country because it lacks the funds to detain them. The releases are designed to cut the number of illegal aliens in ICE's detention system, which is budgeted to hold 19,444 detainees, but has housed thousands more for most of the fiscal year. To ease the strain on the system, Cerda told ICE managers to lower the number of aliens coming into the detention system, while releasing others now being held in federal and local jails.

Full story: <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0704/070204p1.htm>

Want your car bulletproof? Just add water...

Norwegian scientists have come up with a smart and cheap way to armour cars that might someday put regular bullet-proofing companies out of business. Conventional plating is very heavy and hauling it around all the time when the occupants are not in danger is a serious waste of fuel so researchers at Norway's Forsvarets Institute have come up with a simple, yet very smart, solution. They've found a way to build plastic or light metal tanks into a vehicle's bodywork, says the New Scientist in its latest issue, that contain only energy-absorbing carbon fibre sheets. But fill the tanks with water and the light, non-bulletproof units turn into what the researchers call "a superb shield" against bullets.

Source: <http://www.motoring.co.za/index.php?fArticleId=2133170&fSectionId=928&fSetId=381>

Also see *'Related News Reporting:*

<http://www.motoring.co.za/index.php?fSectionId=928&fArticleId=296722>

<http://www.motoring.co.za/index.php?fSectionId=928&fArticleId=227029>



Deadly blast in Sri Lanka capital

A suicide bomber has killed herself and four police officers in an explosion at a police station in Sri Lanka's capital, Colombo, officials say. The woman had been taken for questioning after trying to enter the office of a Tamil leader opposed to the Tamil Tiger rebels, police said. Six police officers and three civilians were injured in the attack. Suspicion has fallen on the Tigers but it is not clear if this was an attempt to end a ceasefire with the government.

Full story: http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/3872481.stm

Featured Internet Site

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