

The ERRI Monthly Briefing

Emergency Response and Research Institute Counter-Terrorism and National Security Briefing

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Continental United States Threat Level:

Elevated Condition (Yellow). An Elevated Condition is declared when there is a significant risk of terrorist attacks. Federal departments and agencies should consider undertaking the following steps:

- a) Increasing surveillance of critical locations.
- b) Coordinating emergency plans as appropriate with nearby jurisdictions.
- c) Assessing whether the precise characteristics of the threat require the further refinement of preplanned Protective Measures.
- d) Implementing, as appropriate, contingency and emergency response plans.



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All reports appear first in the ERRI Daily Intelligence Reports. Contact ERRI or visit <http://www.emergency.com> for subscription details.

The NYPD Needs *YOUR* Help to Fight Terrorism

The New York Police Department has established a 24-hour hotline for citizens to call in tips on suspected terrorist activity.

Calls to the number: (718) 615-7040 will be answered by specially trained officers. The hotline is being operated by the NYPD's counter-terrorism division. Calls will be kept confidential.

FBI Joins Morocco Bombing Investigation Team

FBI SPECIAL AGENTS JOIN INVESTIGATION INTO BOMBINGS THAT KILLED 29 PEOPLE
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Understanding Post 9/11 Terrorism

SINCE 9/11 THE TERRORISM PARADIGM HAS CHANGED SIGNIFICANTLY AND ERRI LOOKS AT WHY THE WORLD MUST ACCEPT IT
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QUOTE OF THE MONTH:

"Those people who say they want to make jihad against the United States or Israel, what they did is pointless. Jihad is not like this."

-- Abdullah Al-Blehed, whose son was killed in the bombings in Saudi Arabia
May 17, 2003

Emergency Response and Research Institute

6348 N.Milwaukee, #312, Chicago, IL 60646, USA

Voice/Messages: (773) 631-3774

Facsimile: (773) 631-4703

Email: webmaster@mail.emergency.com

Website: <http://www.emergency.com>

ERRI Senior National Security Analyst Clark Staten

ERRI EmergencyNet News Managing Editor: Steve Macko

ERRI Monthly Briefing Editor and Analyst: Jeremy Zakis

What The World Must Understand About Terrorism

IN THE WAKE OF THIS MONTH'S TERRORIST ATTACKS IN RIYADH, SAUDI ARABIA AND CASABLANCA, MOROCCO, ERRI MANAGING EDITOR STEVE MACKO LOOKS AT WHY THE WORLD NEEDS TO QUICKLY LEARN THE NEW TERRORIST PARADIGM

CHICAGO, May 19 -- If this past week left any doubt, we are in a new kind of war -- the first of the 21st century -- a war of terror and a war on terror. It is a global guerrilla war but one without a battleground. It is open-ended, without boundaries, without a specified nation-state as a belligerent with definable or negotiable ambitions.

One cannot be sure who the enemy is or -- as in the case of the fugitive Usama bin Laden -- where to find him. We can only be sure that this enemy will fight unrestrained by moral scruples or -- even more important, perhaps -- even by rationality. We have to wage this war as we have others ... inspired by the values WE defend but determined in our readiness to adapt. We have to find new weapons for old fanticisms.

That won't be easy. This worldwide menace is too many-sided. Terrorists strike everywhere in different guises. They kill at random in residential complexes in Riyadh, in the streets of Casablanca, in a dance hall in Bali, in crowded buses in Jerusalem, in the Arab street, and even on the high seas. They blow up a French oil tanker saying it is a "Christian" vessel, but they also fire rockets at a school in Afghanistan because it educates young Muslim girls. How are we supposed to deal with that?

Some analysts say that there may be no single bloody hand in the planning and execution of all this, but there is a common, mad thread with the common purpose of threatening civilized life as never before.

Fear is the name of the game, aggravated by nonstop media coverage as we watch in horror. We perceive that we are under attack by well organized terrorists with weapons that can kill in the thousands, fanatics who are prepared to die, who have the tactical advantage of picking and choosing when and where to strike, who have even more latitude, as proven this past week, in the choice of targets if their purpose is simply to create fear, panic, and economic destruction, i.e. Bali.

Here is a message to Europe and some other countries who are still not quite grasping the war we are in: We are going to have to get used to a long and many-fronted war without the prospect of clear victory. The old concept of war and conflict has become obsolete.

This is a new kind of war. The enemy, again proven this past week, is Hydra-headed -- individual crazies and well-organized conspirators. Al-Qaeda, as DCI George Tenet has put it, has "reconstituted" itself and intends to strike us again. We -- and Europe -- MUST understand in these cases that it is better to take the risk of action early than the risk of reacting too late.

"...To acknowledge our vulnerability is not to be fatalistic or defeatist. It is simply to recognize the magnitude of the challenge..."

To acknowledge our vulnerability is not to be fatalistic or defeatist. It is simply to recognize the magnitude of the challenge. It appears that the Saudis have come to this realization, based on how they responded to last week's terror bombings there.

Europe and some other parts of the world will not feel the same as we do, for the United States is the number one country on the globe and thus is the number one target.

POTUS rightfully said: "Either you are with us or against us." Many Europeans replied: "We don't accept either option." Well, that's too bad. But it was New York and Washington that was hit on 9/11 and not Paris and Brussels. And like it or not, the Europeans must understand that 9/11 changed the rules of the ballgame. Americans have no intention of turning the other cheek anymore. Americans understand that there is an enemy coming after us and we intend to get that

"...9/11 changed the rules of the ballgame..."

enemy before they get us.

What the Europeans are having a hard time understanding, I believe, in regards to President Bush is that he is meeting the terror issue with a moral clarity that begets diplomatic or strategic clarity. POTUS sees the threat for what it is -- not a political argument that might be compromised but a mortal threat that can never be mediated -- for how do you talk to crazy people?

Weakness and decency only inflame the madmen, such as Usama bin Laden, whose daring and cruelty grow bigger every day.

That is why the pacifists and the Europeans will have to get used to taking the battle to the enemy. We simply have to accept and take into account the unending hatred of America that resides in the militant Muslim world.

In regards to those in the militant Muslim world who oppose us, I think the best policy we can put forth is something that Cicero said many, many years ago: "Let them hate us so long as they fear us."

Several years ago I put forth the idea of actively pursuing and killing Usama bin Laden at all costs, otherwise thousands of lives were going to be lost. Sadly, my prediction came true on 9/11.

I was told by a former member of the State Department "that the United States doesn't do that kind of thing."

Guess what? We're doing it now.

The full version of this article first appeared in ERRI Daily Intelligence Report on May 19, 2003. To subscribe to the ERRI Daily Intelligence report please e-mail Clark Staten at sysop@mail.emergency.com or call the ERRI head office at (773) 631-3774

TERRORISTS ARE ATTACKING MANY PARTS OF THE WORLD EVERY SINGLE DAY. DO YOU NEED TO KNOW WHERE, HOW AND WHY?

The ERRI Weekly Summary of International Terrorism

- Complete listing of ALL known terrorist attacks for the week.
- Complete weekly update of counter-terrorism activities from around the world.
- Weekly terrorism statistical information including total number of attacks and casualty figures.
- Progressive data showing year-to-date terrorist statistics including the number of attacks this year by country and terrorist group.
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MOROCCO UPDATE

FBI Joins Suicide Bombing Investigation Team

AUTHORITIES CONFIRM 29 PEOPLE WERE KILLED WHEN FIVE SUICIDE BOMBERS STRUCK TARGETS AT CASABLANCA

EmergencyNew News Service

MOROCCO, May 20 -- The Morocco government said on Tuesday that young suicide bombers who killed at least 29 people in Casablanca last week were linked to international terrorism.

A day after FBI special agents joined the investigation into the five almost simultaneous blasts, Interior Minister Mustapha Sahel said the interrogation of two would-be attackers who survived the blasts had established the link. He said in a statement carried by the official MAP news agency: "The arrest of the two terrorists still alive has led to considerable progress in terms of information. This allows us today to confirm the link with international terrorism."

Officials said eight of the suicide bombers, who press reports said were aged 18-24, came from Casablanca's impoverished Sidi Moumen neighborhood. Some were students. The attacker whose explosive device did not go off, who was arrested on the spot, worked as a parking attendant.

Analysts say that the bombers made quite a few mistakes in their attacks. The bombers attacked a Jewish community center when it was closed and empty. A day later, the building would have been packed.

Another attacker blew himself up near a fountain, killing three Muslims. He apparently mistook it for one near a Jewish cemetery not far away. The cemetery was undamaged.

These and other miscalculations indicate that the suicide attackers were not as well-trained as first believed. A high-level Moroccan official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that investigators suspect the bombings were the work of home-grown Islamic groups working on instructions from al-Qaeda.

In the apparent attempt to attack the Jewish cemetery, the bomber detonated his explosives at a fountain about 150 feet from the graveyard.

The head of the local police unit suspected the bomber meant the explosion to take place at a similar fountain at the cemetery entrance.

Investigators were busy on Monday looking for evidence of overseas ties to the bombers. Police were trying to determine if the attackers were linked to the extremist group Salafia Jihadia, which is accused of ties to al-Qaeda.

Another Moroccan group suspected is the Attakfir wal Hijra, also believed to have al-Qaeda links.

Terrorism Alerts Guided by Threat Matrix

TOP SECRET DAILY REPORT
RESPONSIBLE FOR DETERMINING
THREAT LEVELS

EmergencyNew News Service

WASHINGTON, May 28 -- The recent decision to put the United States on Orange (high) alert for a terrorist attack was reportedly based largely on a top-secret daily report produced by the FBI and CIA that details every sign of a threat, from intercepted e-mails to satellite photos to clandestine whispers of spies.

Each day the President is at the White House, U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft, FBI Director Robert Mueller and CIA Director George Tenet brief POTUS in the Oval Office about threats facing the United States at home and abroad.

The crux of their briefings is the document formally titled: "Terrorist Threats to U.S. Interests Worldwide," or more informally, the "Daily Threat Matrix." The high level of threat "chatter" collected worldwide and detailed in the Matrix was a key to the recent decision Tuesday to raise the terror threat level from elevated (yellow) to high (orange). The other main consideration was recent

deadly bombings in Saudi Arabia and Morocco that officials say point to a resurgence of activity by the al-Qaeda terror network.

In recent congressional testimony, Mueller said the Matrix is produced "to ensure we are working off a common knowledge base" as officials assess threats from al-Qaeda and other groups as well as individual "lone wolf" extremists and violent homegrown radicals. The document is a list of every threat directed at the United States in the past 24 hours.

Government officials familiar with the Matrix described it as a daily compendium of a few pages to 30 or more. Each threat is entered in tabular format, with those considered the most severe listed first.

One federal law enforcement official said that no threat is ignored, and even known hoaxes are reported. Sometimes only pieces of the Matrix get out publicly, leading to a distorted view of reasons behind heightened vigilance for terror.

Risk Analyst Steve Macko explained the ERRI Threat Matrix that is included in its daily reports: "While we don't have access to the classified information that is included in the government threat matrix, we can still get a feel of something happening worldwide through open sources. We often see spikes in the number of terrorist incidents and in the number of threats being reported."

Each entry of the government Threat Matrix includes the type of source, such as a human informant (HUMINT), intercepted signal or computer e-mail (ELINT). Precise details are withheld to protect the intelligence source and method, and even these general entries are given in a classified code for an additional layer of security. Also included are possible targets and which terrorist group might be plotting an attack, if that is known, and some notes about a threat's level of credibility or corroboration.

For the FBI, this action could mean obtaining an emergency warrant -- Ashcroft sometimes is awakened in the middle of the night for his signature -- to set up secret surveillance and tap telephones of suspected terrorists in the United States.

Before the 9/11 attacks, the CIA was responsible for providing the White House and other government agencies with terrorist threat assessments, working with such intelligence entities as the National Security Agency, the Defense Intelligence Agency and others. Since the attacks, the FBI has reinforced its domestic intelligence-gathering capabilities, working more closely with the CIA than ever in the past.

The daily Threat Matrix now is produced by the two agencies' counterterror units together at the new Terrorist Threat Integration Center, now at CIA headquarters in Virginia but soon to get its own home.

Logan International Airport Introduces Security Measures

EmergencyNew News Service

BOSTON, May 21 -- Logan International Airport introduced a high-security ticketing hall on Monday with blast-resistant windows, extra space for baggage screening and separate rooms for procedures such as taking off shoes.

The ticketing hall is part of a project to expand the airport's international terminal. It becomes the first major airport facility incorporating post-9/11 federal security measures to open in the United States.

The two planes that destroyed the World Trade Center on 9/11 were hijacked from Logan. The ticketing hall, which began to be phased in for passenger use on Monday, is the length of two football fields and combines luxury with security.

Have you seen something suspicious?

Don't take chances --
Help the LAPD Fight Terrorism...

1-877-A-THREAT

The Los Angeles Police Department's **Terrorism Tip Hotline** has already received thousands of calls and some of them have provided important information in 12 to 15 ongoing investigations.

Warnings and Advisories

UNITED STATES

Friday 30th May 2003

U.S. Department of Homeland Security Downgrades Threat Level to "ELEVATED"

The national terror alert level was lowered from Orange to Yellow on Friday afternoon, indicating that the United States has returned to an "Elevated" state of alert for a domestic terror attack. A spokesman for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security said: "The intelligence community has concluded the number of indicators and warnings that led to raising the threat level have decreased, and the heightened vulnerability associated with the Memorial Day holiday has passed."

The alert level was raised to "High" on 20 May following the deadly homicide bombings in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, and Casablanca, Morocco. At the time, the U.S. government called for increased security nationwide, saying it was concerned that the wave of attacks overseas could spread to the United States. Authorities described the intelligence pointing to a domestic attack as general in nature, with nothing credible suggesting a time, location, method or target.

Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge said on Friday that the nation must remain on alert despite the return to yellow. He said in a statement: "The lowering of the threat level is not a signal to government, law enforcement or citizens that the danger of a terrorist attack has passed. The U.S. intelligence community remains concerned that al-Qaeda is attempting to exploit our weaknesses and believes that the United States and its interests are still at a significant risk of terrorist attack."

Ridge said visible security serves as a strong deterrent for terrorism. The threat level was lowered after consultations with members of the president's homeland security council.

May 2003 Terrorism Statistics

EmergencyNew News Service

Number of International Terrorist Attacks: 32

Number of People Killed in Terrorist Attacks: 193

Number of People Wounded in Terrorist Attacks: 814

All statistics appear first in the **ERRI Weekly Summary of International Terrorism Report**. For more information about subscribing to the report or the daily intelligence and emergency services report, please contact Clark Staten at: sysop@mail.emergency.com

Al-Qaeda Threatens U.S. Water

EmergencyNew News Service

WASHINGTON, May 29 -- Abu Mohammed al-Ablaj, a reputed spokesman for the al-Qaeda terror network, told an Arabic-language news magazine that the terror group is planning to try and use poisons to attack the United States, specifically threatening to contaminate the nation's water supply. He told the London-based al-Majallah magazine that "al-Qaeda does not rule out using Sarin gas and poisoning drinking water in U.S. and Western cities."

Some U.S. officials play down the threat, but others point out that al-Ablaj had communicated with the magazine prior to the suicide attacks earlier this month in Saudi Arabia, warning that al-Qaeda was about to stage a major offensive in the kingdom. A U.S. intelligence official, who would not comment on al-Ablaj's credibility, played down the threat to U.S. water supplies. The official said: "It is very difficult to covertly poison a reservoir. It would take many truckloads of poison, which would make it difficult to do secretly. That is not really a viable threat."

White House Accuses Iran of Harboring Al-Qaeda

EmergencyNew News Service

WASHINGTON, May 27 -- The United States accused Iran on Tuesday of harboring al-Qaeda militants and said it was worth checking a claim by an Iranian opposition group that the Islamic government was secretly constructing two uranium enrichment plants.

The White House described as "insufficient" the steps that Iran claims to have taken to rein in the terrorist group. Iran has denied that it is harboring al-Qaeda members. That assertion is disputed by U.S. officials.

Notice About Advisories

All Advisories contained in this briefing are currently active. For more detailed country threat assessments contact the Emergency Response and Research Institute.

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Keeping with the Times: Pentagon Considers Overseas Military Shift

END OF COLD WAR AND NEW TERRORIST THREAT NECESSITATES CHANGES

EmergencyNew News Service

WASHINGTON, May 18 -- Matching an effort to modernize the U.S. military at all levels, the Pentagon and its NATO partners have begun reviewing the best locations for U.S. military bases abroad and the ideal force posture for U.S. troops overseas.

With the Cold War over and few, if any, military threats in Europe, the United States may pull military bases out of old North Atlantic Treaty Organization countries such as Germany and move them to more friendly countries like Romania and Bulgaria.

Military planners say that operations in Kosovo, Afghanistan and Iraq have demonstrated that heavier military operations aren't necessarily better and that smaller, more agile units can do the job just as well and often in less time. Although U.S. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld hasn't been very forthcoming with details on the process, he said last

week that the U.S. military's presence will be adjusted to "fit the 21st century." The SecDef said: "It seems to me that so many things have changed in the world since those forces were put there during the Cold War era, they're now spread out through dozens and dozens of places throughout the world. That's not efficient."

About 250,000 U.S. military men and women are stationed abroad. Of them, 118,000 are in Europe, including 71,000 in Germany. The Asia-Pacific region houses 90,000 U.S. personnel, with just under 40,000 of them in Japan and another 37,000 in South Korea.

Rumsfeld said: "The ultimate test is, how capable, how lethal, how effective is what you have? It does not necessarily go to the total number of forces."

The decision to relocate also coincides with recent reluctance or outright hostility toward the United States. The U.S. military shut down its last major military

mission in Turkey on 1 May. Now that Saddam Hussein is gone, no-fly zone patrols of northern Iraq originating out of Turkey are no longer necessary. Aside from that, the Turkish government also wouldn't let the United States use its bases to launch Operation Iraqi Freedom.

By summer's end, U.S. troops will pull out of bases in Saudi Arabia, where their presence has been a source of anti-American sentiment. Saudi bases were used to mount flights over a no-fly zone in southern Iraq.

The Pentagon is looking at changing the makeup of U.S. forces in South Korea and Central Asia as well. The force size may be boosted in areas of current concern, such as Asia and in the Middle East, where terrorism concerns are mounting.

NATO Supreme Commander U.S. Gen. James Jones is reviewing moving European bases eastward.

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