

DEPT. OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND FBI BULLETIN
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(U//FOUO) 2013 Arabian Peninsula Threat Awareness

7 August 2013

(U) Scope

(U//FOUO) This Joint Intelligence Bulletin provides law enforcement and private sector safety officials with awareness of the current threat environment surrounding the Arabian Peninsula. We are providing this information to support the activities of DHS and FBI and to assist federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial government counterterrorism and first responder officials and the private sector to deter, prevent, preempt, or respond to terrorist attacks in the United States.

(U) Overview

(U//FOUO) DHS and FBI are monitoring indications of a credible threat that emanates from and may be focused on the Arabian Peninsula or elsewhere. DHS and FBI are not aware of any specific, credible information indicating a threat from international terrorists focused on the Homeland. Further, DHS and FBI have no information indicating any specific tactic is involved in the current threat stream. The Department of State has issued a worldwide travel advisory through the end of August. DHS and FBI note that known terrorist groups, including al-Qa'ida and its affiliates, have conducted external attacks in the past targeting the Homeland and remain a persistent threat.

(U) Threat from al-Qa'ida and Its Affiliates

(U//FOUO) DHS and FBI note that al-Qa'ida and its affiliates remain a persistent threat to the Homeland. In the past, these groups have used creative improvised explosive device (IED) construction and concealment techniques to conduct attacks, including efforts to foil aviation security procedures to target the Homeland. We remain concerned that al-Qa'ida and its affiliates continue to adjust their tactics, techniques, and procedures for targeting the West, including efforts to continue to target Western aviation.

(U//FOUO) Indicators of Pre-Operational Surveillance and Attack Planning

(U//FOUO) Given the ongoing threat reporting and past instances of plotting emanating from the Arabian Peninsula, we are providing indicators and protective measures to aid law enforcement, first responders, and private sector security officials in identifying and mitigating potential threats. Each indicator listed below may be, by itself, lawful conduct or behavior and may also constitute the exercise of rights guaranteed by the US Constitution. In addition, there may be a wholly innocent explanation for conduct or behavior that appears suspicious in nature. For this reason, no single indicator should be the sole basis for law

enforcement action. The totality of behavioral indicators and other relevant circumstances should be evaluated when considering any law enforcement response or action.

(U//FOUO) Possible indicators of pre-operational surveillance or attack planning include:

- (U//FOUO) Unusual or prolonged interest in or attempts to gain sensitive information about security measures of personnel, entry points, peak days and hours of operation, and access controls such as alarms or locks;
- (U//FOUO) Suspicious observation of or unusual questions about security procedures at airports or other transportation sector locations or engaging in overtly suspicious actions to provoke and observe responses by security or law enforcement officers;
- (U//FOUO) Suspicious observation of security reaction drills or procedures; multiple false alarms or fictitious emergency calls to same locations or similar venues;
- (U//FOUO) Discreet use of cameras or video recorders, sketching, or note-taking consistent with pre-operational surveillance;
- (U//FOUO) Unusual interest in speaking with building maintenance personnel;
- (U//FOUO) Suspicious observation of or unusual questions about facility security measures, to include barriers, restricted areas, cameras, and intrusion detection systems;
- (U//FOUO) Suspicious observations of or questions about facility air conditioning, heating, and ventilation systems;
- (U//FOUO) Suspicious purchases of items that could be used to construct an explosive device, including hydrogen peroxide, acetone, gasoline, propane, or fertilizer;
- (U//FOUO) Suspicious activities in storage facilities or other areas that could be used to construct an explosive device; and
- (U//FOUO) Attempted or unauthorized access to rooftops or other potentially sensitive areas.

(U) Protective Measures

(U//FOUO) Terrorists have demonstrated continued interest in attacking significant infrastructure, economic, and symbolic targets using a variety of techniques. We encourage state and local law enforcement, as well as security personnel, to consider [...] protective measures