

TARGETED ACTIONABLE MONITORING CENTER

R-05 A-22

Intent:

To advise security personnel of a threat of increased terror activity in Somalia.

Threat Classification:

MODERATE (Level 3) - available intelligence and recent events indicate that terrorists have the capability to mount an attack on the target and that such an attack is within the group's current intent. It is assessed that an attack is likely to be a priority for the terrorists and might well be mounted.

Justification:

Researchers of the Targeted Actionable Monitoring Center (TAM-C) have identified communications from Ali Mahmud Raji, the spokesperson for al Shabab al Mujahadden in Somalia. In this communication Raji announced the intent of al Shabab to dramatically increase terror attacks during the holy month of Ramadan.

Raji has indicated that the targets of these attacks will be "foreign forces" and the government.

Further, Raji indicated that the increase in attacks will be throughout the Ramadan period.

TAM-C analysts have noted that Western NGOs are frequently identified as being "foreign forces."

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Conclusion:

Analysts of the Targeted Actionable Monitoring Center expect increased attacks on Western NGOs and Western assets in Somalia.

Security personnel responsible for projects in Somalia should be preparing their personnel to be alert for increased terror activity indicators.

Clients of the Targeted Actionable Monitoring Center will be receiving specific guidance.

Timeline:

Through 20 September 2009

TARGETED ACTIONABLE MONITORING CENTER

R-05 A-22

Intent:

To advise security personnel of a threat of increased terror activity in Somalia and Kenya.

Threat Classification:

MODERATE (Level 3) - available intelligence and recent events indicate that terrorists have the capability to mount an attack on the target and that such an attack is within the group's current intent. It is assessed that an attack is likely to be a priority for the terrorists and might well be mounted.

Justification:

Researchers of the Targeted Actionable Monitoring Center (TAM-C) have identified communications from al Shabab al Mujahadden, the al Qaeda affiliated group in Somalia. This communication, deals with the successful US military interdiction and killing of Saleh Nabhani in Somalia. Nabhani was considered one of the primary leaders of al Qaeda in East Africa

As expected by the TAM-C, Shabab al Mujahadden launched an attack soon after Nabhani's killing -- successfully targeting African Union peace keepers. The attack was well planned and executed. It served as a sign of undiminished Shabab power to Somalia's neighboring countries and their Western interests.

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In the most recent communication, Shabab al Mujahadden has threatened to target neighboring countries and the USA. [TAM-C analysts note that the terror group does not have the operational capacity to target the US directly. However, Somali neighborhoods in the US have supplied jihadists to the Shabab movement. Some of these trained mujahideen have returned to the US and remain an internal threat.]

TAM-C analysts note that Kenya is a US ally. Because Nabhani was a native of Kenya, there is a potential for a Shabab revenge attack within that country.

TAM-C analysts have noted that Western NGOs are frequently identified by Shabab al Mujahadden as being "foreign forces" and may be targeted.

Conclusion:

Analysts of the Targeted Actionable Monitoring Center expect increased attacks on Western NGOs and Western assets in Somalia and its neighboring countries.

Security personnel responsible for projects in Somalia and Kenya should be preparing their personnel to be alert for increased terror activity indicators. The potential for attacks range from kidnapping to bombings.

Clients of the Targeted Actionable Monitoring Center will be receiving specific guidance.

Timeline:

Through 10 October 2009

TARGETED ACTIONABLE MONITORING CENTER

R-05 A-22

Intent:

To provide guidance on the increased threat of terror activity as a result of a leadership change in the Horn of Africa.

Threat Classification:

MODERATE (Level 3) - available intelligence and recent events indicate that terrorists have the capability to mount an attack on the target and that such an attack is within the group's current intent. It is assessed that an attack is likely to be a priority for the terrorists and might well be mounted.

Justification:

The Africa Desk of the Targeted Actionable Monitoring Center (TAM-C) has identified a change in leadership of al Qaeda in the Horn of Africa. This change in leadership indicates a higher likelihood of terror activity.

The new leader, Nageh Fadli Abdallah Mohammed, although originally from Yemen, is familiar with conducting terror operations in Africa. He is believed to have been involved in the attack on the Israeli hotel in Kenya in 2002 and a US embassy in 1998.

TAM-C analysts believe that the new leader of al Qaeda of the Horn of Africa will attempt to assert his authority with terror activity in the near future.

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TAM-C Alert subscribers are reminded that a spokesman for al Shabaab (Somali Young Mujahideen) recently requested that Muslims attack Israeli and American embassies everywhere and "kill any person holding a passport of America and Israel."

TAM-C analysts note that the threat of killing Americans is of special concern because of the number of Somali "missing boys" from America who have received jihadi indoctrination and military training in Somalia. As a result of the return of some of the "missing boys", there is increased potential of a Somali Young Mujahideen-influenced terror attack, including lone-wolf actions, on American soil.

Additionally, TAM-C subscribers are reminded that a spokesman for al Shabaab recently made direct threats against Kenya and countries providing military personnel to the African Union peacekeeping detachment in Somalia.

Conclusion:

TAM-C analysts have reassessed the previous Alerts set to expire 4 November 2009 (expired) and 27 November 2009. These Alerts have been extended.

TAM-C analysts believe that the new leadership of the al Qaeda affiliate in the Horn of Africa will assert his leadership by pushing for an immediate increase in terror activity.

Security personnel should advise their personnel of the potential for terror activity through the use of VBIEDs and small arms fire.

Additionally, as was indicated by the recent kidnapping (and subsequent release) of 2 Kenyans who lived and worked in Somalia, the risk of kidnapping is high.

TAM-C clients have received specific information.

Timeline:

Through 12 December 2009

TARGETED ACTIONABLE MONITORING CENTER**R-05 A-21****Intent:**

To provide guidance on the increased threat of terror activity in Kenya.

Threat Classification:

MODERATE (Level 3) – available intelligence and recent events indicate that terrorists have the capability to mount an attack on the target and that such an attack is within the group's current intent. It is assessed that an attack is likely to be a priority for the terrorists and might well be mounted.

Justification:

Africa Desk researchers of the Targeted Actionable Monitoring Center (TAM-C) have identified recent internal Somali jihadist communications identifying the need to conduct terror activity within and against Kenya.

Jihadi groups within Somalia are being encouraged to protect Somalia from incursions from Kenya and to attack the "secular and Christian regime" inside Kenya. According to the communications, "this state (Kenya) works side by side with the United States in her war against the Muslims, and helps the United States in the displacement of the Muslims."

The communications claims that Kenya has killed and arrested leaders from Shabab al-Mujahidin and has arrested their fighters who tried to infiltrate Somalia through Kenya. This, they say, is proof that Kenya is on the side of the United States in the war against Muslims.

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Additionally, the communications identify proof that there is a tight intelligence cooperation between the Kenya and the US -- the fact that "the main CIA base in Africa is in Kenya." This, they claim is the reason "that Osama (bin Laden) launched a bombing attack on the American embassy in Kenya."

The communications indicates a clear desire by jihadists to attack Kenya from outside and to "organize armed militia from Somalis that are in Kenya who will fight (the state) of Kenya."

Conclusion:

TAM-C analysts believe that there is significant risk of terror attack against Kenyan interests both inside Kenya and in surrounding countries that are within the operational range of al Shabaab.

TAM-C analysts believe that the risk of an attack to the American embassy in Kenya is significant because of the close identification by the jihadists that the United States is the real enemy. Such an attack will be a return to a previous target, a strategy used by international jihadists.

American-identified interests, including corporations and official offices, are at risk of becoming a secondary target.

TAM-C analysts believe that al Shabaab (or an affiliated jihadist group) has the operational capability to mount such an attack.

Timeline:

Through 17 December 2009

TARGETED ACTIONABLE MONITORING CENTER**R-01 B-11****Intent:**

To provide guidance on the increasing threat of terror activity aimed at international naval and maritime assets.

Threat Classification:

MODERATE (Level 3) – available intelligence and recent events indicate that terrorists have the capability to mount an attack on the target and that such an attack is within the group's current intent. It is assessed that an attack is likely to be a priority for the terrorists and might well be mounted.

Justification:

Arabic language researchers of the Targeted Actionable Monitoring Center (TAM-C) have identified communications from international jihadists indicating the desire to target international maritime and naval vessels. The terrorist targeting of shipping is particularly aimed at American vessels.

TAM-C researchers note that the jihadist communications places a high priority on the collection of targeting intelligence. The collection of information includes the identification of computerized data to assist in the identification of ships, their ownership, transit routes and intended ports of call.

The jihadist communication includes 2 additional salient facts:

- 1) The Somali pirates have expertise in attacking shipping that should be utilized.
- 2) Vessels are most vulnerable to attack as they approach the shore [rather than at sea].

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TAM-C analysts believe that the jihadi terrorists are still working on the planning of the tactical operations to be used against shipping. The cooperation between the Somali pirates and international jihadists will be a component in this planning.

TAM-C analysts state that the important principle is the terrorists' desire and intent to exercise their ability against the United States (similar to the attempted Christmas day attack on the Detroit-bound Delta flight). Attacks will occur even if they are not completely successful.

Conclusion:

TAM-C analysts believe that terror attacks against international shipping will occur in the near term.

There is potential that, with the cooperation of Somali pirates, international maritime assets will be treated differently. Some taken for their ransom value, others disposed of in an act of terror.

Timeline:

Through 26 February 2010

TARGETED ACTIONABLE MONITORING CENTER**R-05 A-21****Intent:**

To provide guidance concerning jihadist targeting advice focusing on Kenya.

Threat Classification:

MODERATE (Level 3) Available intelligence and recent events indicate that hostile elements have the capability to take action against the target and that such action is within the adversary's current intent. It is assessed that an attack or action is likely to be a priority and might well be mounted.

Justification:

The African Desk of the Targeted Actionable Monitoring Center (TAM-C) has identified jihadist communications recommending the use of vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices in Nairobi and tourist locations within Kenya to relieve pressure on Somali jihadists.

The communication states that press reports within the UK have indicated that thousands of Somali soldiers have completed training within Kenya and are prepared to start an offensive against jihadist forces operating within Somalia. The communication indicates that these forces will enter "Somalia to participate in wide operations accompanied by crusaders from Ethiopia, African forces, Sheik Sharif forces and Muslims groups that (support the government)." The communications indicates that there will be possible participation of American aircraft in the offensive.

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Recognizing that the economy of Kenya depends on tourism, the communications recommends the use of multiple VBIEDs to disrupt the Kenyan economy.

TAM-C analysts note that the potential for a preemptive attack against Western-identified targets within Somalia is also increased.

Conclusion:

TAM-C analysts indicate that the potential of terror attack within Kenya and Somalia is increased at this time. Recent terror attacks within Somalia has included the use of explosives and artillery fire on civilian targets.

Western and tourist sites within Kenya are at increased risk of a terror event at this time.

Western NGOs should increase attempts to identify pre-operational surveillance at this time

Timeline:

28 February 2010

TARGETED ACTIONABLE MONITORING CENTER**R-05 A-21****Intent:**

To provide guidance concerning continuing jihadist targeting advice focusing on Kenya.

Threat Classification:

MODERATE (Level 3) Available intelligence and recent events indicate that hostile elements have the capability to take action against the target and that such action is within the adversary's current intent. It is assessed that an attack or action is likely to be a priority and might well be mounted.

Justification:

The African Desk of the Targeted Actionable Monitoring Center (TAM-C) has identified additional Somali jihadist communications recommending the initiation of a preemptive "holy war" against Kenya.

Speaking of Kenya, a spokesman for Al Shabaab stated, "the enemy is on his way to attack us, and we shouldn't wait for them. Instead we need to stop them." The communication states that "Kenya is mobilizing thousands of her forces in addition to the training that she did for Somali forces."

The spokesman stated that combined forces are "planning to attack the Shabaab from the land, air and sea so they (the Shabaab) need to be ready to defend our country."

As further indication that an attack is imminent, the communication states that "American aircraft have started to fly in the sky of Kisumyo."

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A previous communication (dated 7 February 2010) from Shabaab stated that thousands of Somali soldiers have completed training within Kenya and are prepared to start an offensive against jihadist forces operating within Somalia. The communication indicated that these forces will enter "Somalia to participate in wide operations accompanied by crusaders from Ethiopia, African forces, Sheik Sharif forces and Muslims groups that (support the government)." That 7 February 2010 communication also indicated that there would be possible participation of American aircraft in the planned offensive.

Recognizing that the economy of Kenya depends on tourism, the 7 February 2010 communication recommended the use of multiple VBIEDs to disrupt the Kenyan economy.

TAM-C analysts note that the potential for a preemptive attack against Western-identified targets within Somalia is also increased.

Conclusion:

TAM-C analysts indicate that the potential of terror attack within Kenya and Somalia is increased at this time. Recent terror attacks within Somalia have included the use of explosives and artillery fire on civilian targets.

Western and tourist sites within Kenya are at increased risk of a terror event at this time.

Western NGOs in the affected areas should increase attempts to identify pre-operational surveillance at this time.

Activities in this area are being monitored closely by the TAM-C. Elevated intelligence coverage will be maintained for clients.

Timeline:

Timeline extended to 8 March 2010.

TARGETED ACTIONABLE MONITORING CENTER**R-4 B-11****Intent:**

To provide guidance on terrorists' continued focus on the disruption of international maritime traffic.

Threat Classification:

MODERATE (Level 3) Available intelligence and recent events indicate that hostile elements have the capability to take action against the target and that such action is within the adversary's current intent. It is assessed that an attack or action is likely to be a priority and might well be mounted.

Justification:

Arabic language researchers of the Targeted Actionable Monitoring Center (TAM-C) have identified continued planning for the disruption of international maritime traffic. The communication is labeled, "Urgent for the mujahidin of Somalia and Yemen: A proposal to close "Bab Al-Mandab". The Bab Al-Mandab is the narrow body of water between Yemen and Somalia.

Noting that the placement of improvised naval mines will cost millions of dollars in direct costs to search for and remove (at a cost of only thousands of dollars to place), the jihadist communication states that the indirect loss to the West may exceed a "billion dollars" (as a result of diversion of oil tankers and disruption of the main shipping lines in the Red Sea).

To increase effectiveness of this anti-shipping operation, TAM-C analysts note that the mujahidin are encouraged to spread the improvised sea mines across a broad area.

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TAM-C analysts note the potential spreading of dummy mines in addition to operational mines.

TAM-C analysts note that the intent of this terror operation is a continuation of the asymmetrical war called by the mujahadin "the war of the flea and the dog." The goal of this operation is:

- 1) Propaganda value more than the sinking of ships
- 2) Cause a direct affect on shipping through the Suez Canal
- 3) Affect resupplying of the crusaders in Iraq and Afghanistan
- 4) Blockade Israel

TAM-C analysts note that the targets of the anti-ship mines are not exclusively freight or military ships -- entertainment/cruise ships are as much a target.

TAM-C analysts note that the tactic, while discussed for use in Bab Al-Mandab, has previously been employed elsewhere. Internal jihadist communications previously identified by the TAM-C recommended the use of "barrel bombs" (TAM-C Alert 2010 Feb 02). Those floating anti-ship mines or barrel bombs were employed in the Mediterranean Sea.

TAM-C analysts note that the mujahidin employing this tactic are encouraged to "put out a cautionary statement for all the Islamic civil ships" in advance of such an operation.

Conclusion:

TAM-C analysts note that the use anti-ship mines has previously been used in the Mediterranean Sea near the coast of Israel.

Clients of the Targeted Actionable Monitoring Center will be notified immediately through establish communications channels if a communication to "Islamic civil ships" is identified.

Timeline:

No end date. Information provided for situational awareness.

TARGETED ACTIONABLE MONITORING CENTER

R-05 A-24

Intent:

To provide guidance on potential for increase in violence in Arabian Peninsula as a result of potential activity in Somalia.

Threat Classification:

MODERATE (Level 3) Available intelligence and recent events indicate that hostile elements have the capability to take action against the target and that such action is within the adversary's current intent. It is assessed that an attack or action is likely to be a priority and might well be mounted.

Justification:

The Africa Desk of the Targeted Actionable Monitoring Center (TAM-C) has identified internal jihadist communications forecasting an American military attack on the Islamist group, Shabab al Mujahidin. The jihadist communications states that the US will be supporting the oppressive Somali government.

TAM-C analysts indicate that the jihadists expect the attack to start in the coming weeks. According to the jihadists, one of the main goals is to release areas of the capital city that are controlled by Shabab al Mujahidin.

TAM-C analysts note that communications from Al Qaeda of the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) have stated:

"The prey is coming to you, so don't forget to tell us..."

"Your victory is close and the help from the Arabian Peninsula is on its way with Allah help."

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TAM-C analysts note that there has been strong cooperation between the two militants groups (AQAP and Shabab al Mujahidin). Additionally, AQAP has called on the Somali jihadists (who align themselves with Al Qaeda) to cooperate in the targeting of shipping near Yemen and the Horn of Africa.

TAM-C analysts note that any other force that is perceived to participate in an attack in support of the Somali government (United Nations, African Union, etc.) will be exposed to the same threat being directed at the United States.

TAM-C analysts note that Shabab al Mujahidin has accused Kenya of preparing to attack with the assistance of the United States.

Conclusion:

TAM-C analysts note that pressure is increasing on AQAP and Shabab al Mujahidin to take offensive acts to preempt such an attack. The preemptive actions could range from actions against shipping in the Bab al-Mandab to attacking Western assets in the Arabian Peninsula.

The threat against Western assets in Somalia remains very high. The threat against Western and government assets in Kenya is elevated.

Timeline:

Through 4 April 2010

TARGETED ACTIONABLE MONITORING CENTER

R-05 A-21

Intent:

To provide guidance concerning continuing jihadist targeting advice focusing on Kenya.

Threat Classification:

MODERATE (Level 3) Available intelligence and recent events indicate that hostile elements have the capability to take action against the target and that such action is within the adversary's current intent. It is assessed that an attack or action is likely to be a priority and might well be mounted.

Justification:

The Africa Desk of the Targeted Actionable Monitoring Center (TAM-C) has identified recent communications from an Al Qaeda-aligned source recommending the initiation of a preemptive "holy war" with the "heretic regime" of Kenya. TAM-C analysts state that this recent communication is additional evidence of the jihadist desire to relieve pressure on the Somali rebel organization, Al Shabaab, that wishes to impose Islamic rule in Somalia.

The intercepted communications states, "To our brothers in Kenya: go out and help Somalia [Al Shabaab] your neighbor country, help in any way you can."

TAM-C analysts previously noted that a previous communication stated, "the enemy is on his way to attack us, and we shouldn't wait for them. Instead we need to stop them." This communication stated that "Kenya is mobilizing thousands of her forces in addition to the training that she did for Somali forces."

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TAM-C analysts previously noted that a communication (dated 7 February 2010) from Shabaab stated that thousands of Somali soldiers have completed training within Kenya and are prepared to start an offensive against jihadist forces operating within Somalia. The communication indicated that these forces will enter "Somalia to participate in wide operations accompanied by crusaders from Ethiopia, African forces, Sheik Sharif forces and Muslims groups that (support the government)." That 7 February 2010 communication also indicated that there would be possible participation of American aircraft in the planned offensive.

Recognizing that the economy of Kenya depends on tourism, the 7 February 2010 communication recommended the use of multiple VBIEDs to disrupt the Kenyan economy.

TAM-C analysts note that the potential for a preemptive attack against Western-identified targets within Somalia is also increased.

Conclusion:

TAM-C analysts indicate that the potential of terror attack within Kenya and Somalia is increased at this time. Recent terror attacks within Somalia have included the use of explosives and artillery fire on civilian targets.

Western and tourist sites within Kenya are at increased risk of a terror event at this time.

Western NGOs in the affected areas should increase attempts to identify pre-operational surveillance at this time.

Activities in this area are being monitored closely by the TAM-C. Elevated intelligence coverage will be maintained for clients.

Timeline:

Timeline has been extended through 14 April 2010.