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WEEKLY MEDIA REPORT

August 7, 2008

Firebombs Similar to Devices Employed by Animal Extremists in California

Two firebombs that targeted UC Santa Cruz biologists over the weekend have been described by law enforcement as “Molotov cocktails on steroids”. One firebomb gutted a vehicle parked outside the campus home of a researcher while another exploded on the porch of the home of a professor, forcing him and his family to flee. A third researcher received a threatening telephone message, but no explosives were found. Animal rights activists, who have previously protested UC researchers and whose websites include instructions for constructing firebombs, are suspected in the attacks. Pamphlets with the pictures and addresses of 13 researchers and the warning “Animal abusers everywhere beware” were left at a downtown Santa Cruz coffee shop last week.

Source: [San Francisco Chronicle](#)

Teen Possesses False Government IDs and Map of Presidential Motorcade

A Maryland teen arrested last week was in possession of illegal weapons, explosive devices, a map of Camp David highlighting the presidential motorcade route, a manual entitled “How to Kill Someone at a Distance of 200 Meters,” and counterfeit credentials. The false IDs displayed the teen as a CIA employee and a U.S. government contractor authorized to work in Iraq under the protection of the Geneva Convention. He also had a confidential directory of teachers from his high school. Prosecutors advised that the teen planned to obtain sniper-style vision equipment. His father was also charged for providing the teen with the weapons.

Source: [NBC4](#)

Homegrown Group Poses Threat to the U.S.

As-Sabiqun (AS) is a D.C.-based Muslim organization aligned with the black separatist movement. AS has a goal of establishing a modern Islamic state governed by Islamic law by 2050. The group is lead by Abdul Alim Musa who lectures internationally and domestically, with most U.S. events hosted by university Muslim Student Associations and other Muslim youth groups. While Musa instructs followers to invite people peacefully to Islam, he then tells them suicide bombers are heroes and violence is justifiable when Muslims have been pushed as they have been in the U.S. Musa, who has been incarcerated at the U.S. Federal Penitentiary in Leavenworth for drug trafficking and assaulting a federal agent, also lectures on counter-harassment techniques during sessions entitled, “How to Punk the FBI”.

Source: [Counterterrorism Blog](#)

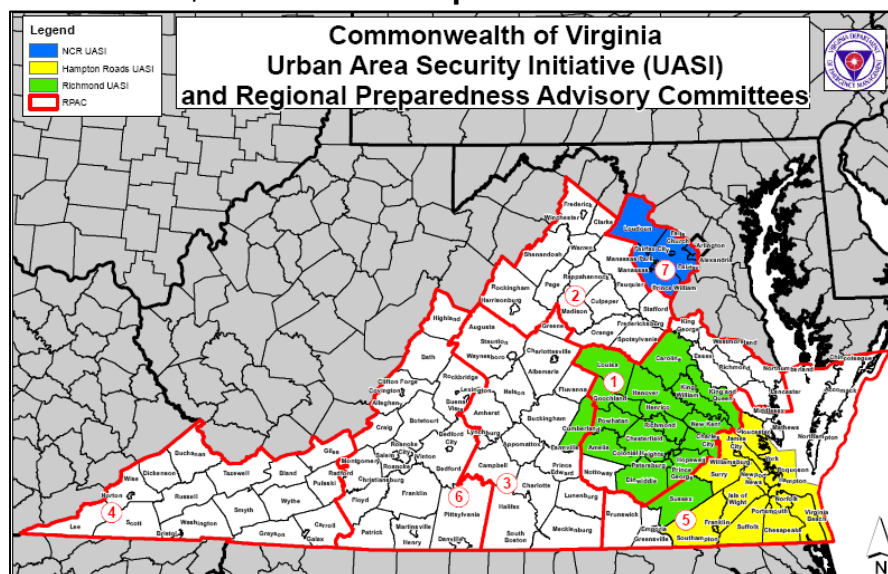
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Al-Qa'ida Announces Death of Four Commanders

A statement announcing the death of four al-Qa'ida commanders was recently released on an Islamic militant website. One of the commanders, Abu Khabab al-Masri, was known as an expert on explosives and poisons and was believed to have trained the operatives who attacked the USS Cole in Yemen in 2000. Based on the common pseudonyms of al-Masri, the other three commanders are believed to be Egyptians. While the statement did not offer any details about their deaths, Pakistan authorities believe they were killed in an American air strike on a compound near the Afghan border last week. The statement called the slain commanders "a group of heroes" and warned of vengeance for their deaths.

Source: [Associated Press](#)

DHS Allots \$1.8 Billion in Preparedness Grants



The Department of Homeland Security approved an increase on \$1.8 billion in preparedness grants for fiscal year 2008 to help strengthen homeland security response at the local level. Richmond, Virginia, is one city of 60 urban areas eligible for \$782 million in the DHS Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) grant program.

The awards are based on risk assessments and effectiveness scores.

Source: [Washington Technology](#)

Federal Security Cameras Not Working at Norfolk Airport

Homeland Security cameras at the Norfolk International Airport were reportedly damaged during a recent storm and will be inoperable until an upgrade occurs at the end of the year. A TSA spokeswoman stated the camera shutdown should not be a concern because the airport's internal security cameras are in place and monitor all public areas at the airport. The federal security cameras mainly monitor the two security checkpoints where travelers pass through the metal detectors.

Source: [Virginian-Pilot](#)

Virginia Firm Pitches Bomb-Detecting Device

A defense and security company in Reston, Virginia, has developed scanners that utilize Millimeter Wave (MMW) sensors capable of detecting radio waves naturally emitted by the human body up to 65 feet away. The human torso produces waves that will register "warm" on the scanner; metal or plastic items placed against the body produce radio waves that register as "cold." Discrepancies in temperature readings

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could reveal potential foreign objects, such as a bomb, secreted on the human body. It is hoped the scanners would be particularly beneficial to airport security officials in attempt to thwart suicide bombers.

Source: [Washington Times](#)

Gangs Using Virginia Schools as Recruiting Grounds

Street gangs use schools, specifically middle schools, to recruit new membership. Active recruiting is not necessarily occurring during school hours, such as in class or between classes. Typically, recruitment begins before school, on the way home from school or during the weekends, and is carried over into the school day. Gang identifiers, such as wearing specific colors or brands of clothing, aid in the influencing process. However, gang members are not always readily identifiable, concealing their “flagging” to colored armbands or band-aids. This type of activity occurs in schools across Virginia and is not a Hampton Roads phenomenon.

Source: [Wavy News](#)

Canadian Street Gangs Contain Multitude Of Ethnicities

According to police intelligence in Ottawa, Canada, more than half of the 600 confirmed gang members in the area are foreign-born. Membership of Ottawa’s two most prevalent gangs, the West Side Bloods and the Ledbury Baniff Crips, consist of 57 different nationalities. The majority of gang members are males between 17 to 25 years of age; only 30 of the 600 identified gang members were female. Recent reports suggest street gangs are using children as young as eight years of age to sell drugs or run guns because they are immune from prosecution under Canadian law. The report highlighted that while street gangs used to be highly homogenous, membership in gangs has broadened beyond original cultural linkages, making member identification more difficult.

Source: [The Ottawa Citizen](#)