



VIRGINIA FUSION CENTER
VIRGINIA STATE POLICE
(877) 4VA-TIPS
VFC@vsp.virginia.gov
[VFC Website](#)



WEEKLY MEDIA REPORT

September 25, 2008

(OS) Vandals Deface Obama Sign with 'KKK'

A campaign sign for presidential candidate Barack Obama was the target of a recent act of vandalism in Rockingham County. The letters "KKK" were painted on an Obama sign and the same vandals apparently drew a slash over a nearby Mark Warner for U.S. Senate sign. The signs belong to the Democratic Party and although the vandalism of the Obama sign makes apparent reference to the Ku Klux Klan, there doesn't appear to be any connection to the white supremacist group.

Source: [DNRonline](#)

(OS) Spies Warn Al-Qa'ida Aims for October Surprise

In the aftermath of two major terrorist attacks on Western targets, America's counterterrorism community is warning that al-Qa'ida may launch more overseas operations to influence the presidential elections in November. In late August, during the weekend between the Democratic and Republican conventions, America's military and intelligence agencies intercepted a series of messages from al-Qa'ida's leadership to intermediate members of the organization asking local cells to be prepared for imminent instructions. An official familiar with the new intelligence said the message was picked up in multiple settings, from couriers to encrypted electronic communications to other means. "These are generic orders," the source said - a distinction from the more specific intelligence about the location, time, and method of an attack. "It was, 'Be on notice. We may call upon you soon.' It was sent out on many channels." Officials indicated that al-Qa'ida lacks the capability to pull off an attack in the U.S., and the group would likely target U.S. and allied targets abroad.

Source: [NY Sun](#)

(OS) Al-Qa'ida Vows More Attacks

Al-Qaida threatened major new attacks in Afghanistan and vowed to keep fighting in Iraq even after Americans leave, in a new video to mark the anniversary of the September 11 attacks. The video was issued last Friday, more than a week after the seventh anniversary of the attacks. The delay in release, apparently due to problems in the militant Web sites where al-Qaida posts its videos, raised questions among counter terror specialists over whether the terror network's long-powerful propaganda machine was faltering. In previous years, the group has released a string of videos for the 9-11 anniversary, featuring top leaders trumpeting their victories. Osama bin Laden spoke in

OPEN SOURCE

one of the anniversary videos last year, making his first appearance in nearly three years. He does not appear in the latest video, which promised a surprise speaker, showing him in silhouette with a question mark over his face. The 90-minute video was entitled "The Results of Seven Years of Crusades." It featured speeches by bin Laden's top deputy and other top figures in the terror network, as well as the final testament of one of the hijackers in the 9-11 attacks, who was apparently the "surprise" speaker. But the problems in releasing al-Qaida's 9-11 anniversary video, usually the most eagerly awaited among sympathizers, some suggest, could have been delayed due to the torment in Pakistan and general instability.

Source: [MSNBC](#)

(OS) Video of "Terror Training Camp" in Canada

The NEFA Foundation has obtained exclusive footage of a would-be "terrorist training camp" that took place in a rural section of Canada in 2006. The camp, directed by a CSIS (Canadian Security Intelligence Service) confidential informant, included members of the alleged "Toronto 18" terror cell, who are accused of conspiring to carry out a large-scale terrorist attack in southern Ontario, including plans for truck bombings and storming local buildings, such as the Canadian Parliament and the headquarters of the CSIS. The video features footage of the men receiving instruction on the use of handguns, sniper tactics, and basic calisthenics. Crudely edited by its creators to include nasheed music, the video also shows the men practicing evasive driving maneuvers at night in an abandoned parking lot.

Source: [NEFA Foundation](#)

(OS) Fort Dix Suspects Sought Other Targets

One of the five men awaiting trial on charges alleging they plotted an armed attack on soldiers training at Fort Dix reportedly discussed other targets including the White House and Capitol. The allegations stem from wiretapped conversations between one of the defendants and an FBI informant. One of the defense attorneys indicated the wiretap evidence was not relevant to the case and could be prejudicial to his client, and he said he was considering whether to object to some or all of the prosecution's motion. Defense attorneys are expected to attack the credibility of the FBI informants and may claim that their clients were entrapped. The five men were arrested in May 2007 and accused of plotting to sneak onto Fort Dix to attack soldiers. A sixth suspect plead guilty last year to providing weapons to the group and was sentenced to 20 months in prison. All six men are foreign-born Muslims in their 20s who have spent much of their lives in Philadelphia or its southern New Jersey suburbs. They face charges including attempted murder, conspiracy, and weapons offenses and could be sentenced to life in prison if they are convicted on all counts.

Source: [Washington Post](#)

(OS) Female Suicide Bombers Latest War Tactic

In a village east of Fallujah in Anbar province, a veiled, olive-skinned woman described herself as the second in command of the Naseeba al-Ansariya Martyrdom Battalion. The unit is an arm of the Islamic State of Iraq, an umbrella group created in November by the insurgent group al-Qa'ida in Iraq. She claimed that the 20 members of the group were would-be suicide bombers who were the wives, sisters or daughters of insurgents killed by U.S. or Iraqi forces. U.S. and Iraqi officials say Sunni insurgent groups,

especially al-Qa'ida in Iraq, are using religion, money and empty promises to persuade sometimes vulnerable women to conduct suicide attacks, highlighting the movement's desperation at a time when its influence and ranks have declined. Efforts by the U.S. military and Iraq's neighbors have limited the number of Arab fighters reaching Iraq, a flow that was once the major source of recruits willing to commit suicide. U.S. military intelligence officials said they are unaware of a unit of female suicide bombers; Iraqi officials said they think there are networks of female operatives. Both the Americans and Iraqis acknowledged that revenge is a key motive and said women were being used instead of male fighters.

Source: [Washington Post](#)

(OS) Richmond International Airport to Begin Imaging Screening

By the end of the year, the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) will begin using electronic imaging to screen randomly selected passengers at Richmond International Airport (RIC). TSA will install two of the \$170,000 machines at RIC where about 1.8 million passengers go through security screening annually. Millimeter-wave passenger-imaging technology sees through clothing, quickly detecting weapons, explosives and other metallic and non-metallic items concealed under clothing without physical contact. The imaging systems have been placed at a number of airports and the TSA plans to install millimeter-wave devices at the Atlanta, New York-LaGuardia, Chicago O'Hare, Raleigh-Durham, Las Vegas, Boston, Indianapolis, Tampa, San Juan, San Francisco, Buffalo, Tulsa and Jacksonville airports.

Source: [Richmond Times Dispatch](#)

(OS) TSA Tests Scanners for Car Bombs

A controversial new X-ray technology is being tested that could stop potential terrorists from blowing up a car bomb at one of the nation's airports. The TSA is running a test at a North Carolina ferry terminal of a 21-foot-high arch-like machine that shoots low-intensity X-rays at cars as they pass through. The photos show whether explosives or drugs might be in the car. The technology, called backscatter X-ray, is in use at several airports to screen passengers. The four-week test at a small ferry terminal in NC will gauge public reaction and the machine's ability to find bombs. Searches escalated last summer after two men with ties to al-Qa'ida drove an SUV into entrance doors at Glasgow Airport in Scotland, igniting a fire. TSA officials indicated the test is not related to the Glasgow terror attack. The TSA has no intelligence pointing to a potential car bombing at an airport, but the X-ray machine could be useful if there was such a threat. "Rather than stopping all vehicles or doing random checks, you could run vehicles, especially large-panel trucks, through the machine," TSA officials stated. Similar machines are protecting military bases in the USA and in Afghanistan.

Source: [USA Today](#)

(OS) Companies Need Help to Stop Terrorism

Businesses need to take a greater responsibility in preventing terrorist attacks, a former Attorney General said speaking to nearly 120 corporate executives at an anti-terrorism conference for the business community. The former Attorney General stated that attacks from America's enemies are no longer aimed at its military or industrial strength but at disrupting its economy. He said that as the attacks become increasingly

sophisticated and can originate from anywhere in the world, the government will not be able to stop them all, requiring the private sector's help and expertise. The former AG stated that "The commercial world is frequently the target, especially in a culture that stands for freedom, opportunity, enterprise, creativity, productivity and trade," and "For those of us that are involved outside of government now we have to understand that this is an important enough enterprise that we can't leave to government alone."

Source: [NBC Action News](#)

(OS) Prosecution Rests in Norfolk Gang Trial

After resting their case Monday, federal prosecutors dropped 22 charges against two suspected gang leaders but left intact the bulk of their case alleging a widespread racketeering conspiracy that includes accessory-to-murder charges. Two defendants still face enough charges that, if convicted, could get them life prison terms. They are accused of leading the Bounty Hunter Bloods gang in Norfolk. Prosecutors dismissed 16 of 36 charges against one defendant and six of 52 against the second defendant, all dealing with specific incidents of drug trafficking and firearms possession. Each still faces charges of racketeering, assault, maiming and kidnapping, other drug and firearms offenses, and charges of being accessories after the fact to the East Ocean View mob killing of a subject in July 2007. Defense attorneys tried to get more counts dismissed, citing a lack of evidence. The judge ruled that the jury would make the final decision on the remaining charges. A third defendant, still faces six charges alleging that she assisted in a home invasion robbery that targeted her boyfriend.

Source: [PilotOnline](#)