



# ORANGE COUNTY INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENT CENTER

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## PSTRG Weekly Bulletin Orange County Private Sector Terrorism Response Group January 6, 2012

**Iran Threatens U.S. Ships, Alarms Oil Markets:** Iran escalated its war of words with the United States on Tuesday with a warning to Navy ships to stay out of the strategic Strait of Hormuz, remarks that rattled commodities markets and helped send oil prices soaring. The latest in a series of provocative statements by Iranian leaders was delivered by the Iranian armed forces commander, Gen. Ataollah Salehi, who appeared to threaten a U.S. aircraft carrier that steamed out of Persian Gulf waters last week. The Obama administration brushed aside the threat, but the increasingly bellicose tone, coupled with new economic sanctions against Iran expected to take effect in the coming weeks because of its nuclear program, helped cause the price of oil to jump more than 4 percent to \$103 a barrel. The threat against U.S. ships was the latest in a series of aggressive moves by Iran, which within a week has tested new missiles, boasted of breakthroughs in nuclear technology and vowed to shut down shipping in the Strait of Hormuz, the passageway for one-sixth of the world's oil supply. <http://www.tampabay.com/incoming/iran-threatens-us-ships-alarms-oil-markets/1209026>

**Iran seeking to expand influence in Latin America:** Iran is quietly seeking to expand its ties with Latin America in what U.S. officials and regional experts say is an effort to circumvent economic sanctions and gain access to much-needed markets and raw materials. The new diplomatic offensive, which comes amid rising tensions with Washington and European powers, includes a four-nation swing through South and Central America this month by Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. His government has vowed to increase its economic, political and military influence in the United States' back yard. The visit reinforces recent commitments by Iran to invest millions of dollars in economic development projects for the region, from a mining joint venture in Ecuador to factories for petrochemicals and small-arms ammunition in Venezuela. Iran has also dramatically expanded its diplomatic missions throughout the hemisphere and dispatched members of its elite Quds Force — the military unit U.S. officials in October linked to a foiled assassination plot in Washington — to serve in its embassies, U.S. officials and Iran experts say. [http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/iran-seeking-to-expand-influence-in-latin-america/2011/12/30/gIQArfpcUP\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/iran-seeking-to-expand-influence-in-latin-america/2011/12/30/gIQArfpcUP_story.html)

**Hackers Reveal Personal Data of 860,000 Stratfor Subscribers:** A computer hacking group has revealed email addresses and other personal data from former Vice President Dan Quayle, former Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger, and hundreds of U.S. intelligence, law enforcement and military officials in a high-profile case of cyber-theft. The unauthorized release of account information for 860,000 subscribers to Stratfor, a Texas-based company that provides analysis of national and international affairs, makes it possible to identify some subscribers and, in theory, impersonate them in cyberspace, analysts warned. The data were released in two batches last month by the AntiSec faction of Anonymous, a self-described hacker collective. It also disclosed about 75,000 names, addresses and credit card numbers associated with Stratfor customers, including Kissinger and Quayle. Bumgarner said the Stratfor data included 19,000 email addresses from the ".mil" domain, meaning members of the military. He also found 212 email addresses from the FBI; 71 from the Defense Intelligence Agency, the Pentagon's spying arm; 29 from the National Security Agency, which conducts global eavesdropping and cyber espionage; and 24 from the CIA. Bumgarner said he used off-the-shelf software to crack many of the Stratfor passwords. One intelligence officer used "intel" as a password, and a Navy SEAL officer used "frogman1," he said. After the attack, Stratfor took its website off line and wrote on its Facebook page that it was

cooperating with law enforcement. AntiSec said it targeted the company in part because it had poor network security.

<http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/la-na-cyber-theft-20120104,0,90925.story>

**Two Britons With 'Dozens of AK-47s' Detained in Kabul:** "Two British nationals along with their two Afghan colleagues, a driver and a interpreter, were today detained carrying 30 AKs. The weapons' registration numbers were removed from them." The government official who spoke to AFP said the Britons were arrested in an area of Kabul where foreign forces have bases and facilities. Afghanistan is home to thousands of foreign private security personnel providing services for foreign troops, diplomatic missions and aid organisations. A US congressional report last year found that the number of private security personnel working for the US military in Afghanistan rose to 18,919 at the end of 2010, the highest level used in any conflict by the United States. Around 95 percent of them were Afghans, it added. But relations with the authorities have deteriorated. President Hamid Karzai accuses the firms of breaking the law and taking business away from Afghans. Perceptions that those working for security firms are little more than gun-toting mercenaries, roaming the countryside with impunity, have made them deeply unpopular among Afghans.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/asia/afghanistan/8990967/Two-Britons-with-dozens-of-AK-47s-detained-in-Kabul.html>

**LeT Raising 21 Female Terrorists Against India: Army:** The Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) is raising a group of 21 female terrorists at its training camps in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir for carrying out sabotage activities in India, Army sources said on Tuesday. "We have confirmed reports that LeT is imparting training to 21 selected female terrorists at its training facilities in Muzaffarabad in PoK for carrying out terrorist activities in India," an Army official said. They said the new group, named as Dukhtareen-e-Toiba, is planned to be made active in the Kashmir Valley by the LeT. In the recent past also, reports have suggested presence of female terrorists operatives in the 42 active terror training camps in PoK. The women terrorists are planned to be infiltrated into India through routes in Uri sector or using the aerial route through some other country. Sources said the raising of the female terror group was brainchild of LeT senior functionary and mastermind of Mumbai terror attacks Zakiur Rehman Lakhvi. <http://ibnlive.in.com/news/let-raising-21-female-terrorists-against-india/217513-3.html>

**Weapons Discoveries at Airports Continued During the Holidays:** The week between the Christmas and New Years' holidays saw over a dozen loaded and unloaded guns, along with a variety of other weapons confiscated at airport checkpoints around the country. Officers with the Transportation Security Administration (TSOs) found hand grenades, loaded guns, and martial arts weaponry on some passengers making their way through security checkpoints during the holiday week. A TSA body scanner at Pensacola (FL) International Airport found a non-metallic martial arts weapons called a "Tactical Spike" in the sock of a passenger there. In a single carry-on bag at Wichita Mid-Continent Airport TSOs found a tree saw with a 13-inch blade, a pocketknife with a 3-inch blade, two throwing knives with 8-inch blades, eleven individual 30-06 rifle rounds, one 12-gauge shotgun slug, five buckshot shells, and five boxes, each containing 25 rounds of 12-gauge shotgun shells. In two separate incidents at Los Angeles International and San Diego International Airports two sets of three throwing knives were found in carry-on bags, said the agency. TSOs also found a varied assortment of other potentially dangerous items in carry-on luggage during the week, including stun guns, a realistic replica firearm, brass knuckles, a butterfly knife, a gravity assist knife, a collapsible baton, ammunition, firearm components, daggers, throwing knives, a brass knuckle knife, a switchblade, a torch lighter containing a spring loaded knife, a butcher knife, a throwing star, and a cat eye. Agents also found intentionally concealed weapons too. It said TSOs detected a 14-inch cane sword was discovered at Dallas/Fort Worth International, as well as a 3-inch double edged knife was found concealed as a belt buckle at Los Angeles International. [http://www.gsnmagazine.com/node/25352?c=airport\\_aviation\\_security](http://www.gsnmagazine.com/node/25352?c=airport_aviation_security)

**Bureau of Counterterrorism:** The Department of State announces the establishment of the Bureau of Counterterrorism, fulfilling one of the key recommendations of the Quadrennial Diplomacy and Development Review concluded in December 2010. The Bureau of Counterterrorism will lead the Department's engagement in support of U.S. government efforts to counter terrorism abroad and to secure the United States against foreign terrorist threats. The new Bureau will assume the responsibilities of the Office of the Coordinator for Counterterrorism. <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2012/01/180136.htm>

**Unchecked Cargo Stirs Fears:** Millions of shipping containers, which in some cases have been used by organised criminal networks to move illegal goods including luxury vehicles, car parts and e-waste, are leaving the nation's ports every year unchecked by customs officials. A *Sun-Herald* investigation into maritime container security also revealed that export containers were being packed with goods by workers who have not been required to undergo any background checks. Out of more than 2 million sea containers leaving Australian ports every year, just 2599 were inspected by customs and border protection officials in 2010-11 compared with 4165 containers in 2008-09. The department seized 40 suspicious containers in the past three years. A former NSW police assistant commissioner, Clive Small, said agencies had paid little attention to export containers over the years. He said criminals had considered using the method to send large amounts of cash out of the country. Crime syndicates have used sea containers as a cheap and easy way to move illegal goods, and know how to route shipments through countries to attract the least attention. Earlier this year *The Sun-Herald* reported how e-waste was regularly being shipped out of the country to Asian and African countries. Pakistan, India, Africa and parts of Asia are among the regions considered particularly high-risk destinations for e-waste. Criminal gangs were thwarted by NSW police earlier this year from using shipping containers to export luxury cars stolen to order and car parts for lucrative vehicle markets in the Middle East. <http://www.smh.com.au/national/unchecked-cargo-stirs-fears-20111231-1pg9z.html>

### **Upcoming Events**

**Saturday 7 January** Supercross [http://www.supercrossonline.com/Events/2012/01/07/Anaheim,\\_CA/](http://www.supercrossonline.com/Events/2012/01/07/Anaheim,_CA/)

**Saturday 7 January:** Easyriders Bike Show at the Anaheim Convention Center.  
<http://www.easyridersevents.com/event/2012-01-07-2012-Easyriders-Anaheim-Bike-Show>

**Saturday 14 January- Sunday 22 January** Professional Bull Riders  
<http://www.hondacenter.com/EventDetails.aspx?EventID=661>

**Thursday 19 January - Sunday 22 January:** NAMM (National Association of Music Merchants) Show at the Anaheim Convention Center (85,000+ expected to attend). <http://www.namm.org/thenammshow/2012>

### **Upcoming TV Programs (EST Time)**

**1/10/12:**History Channel; "Targeting Bin Laden: Dead or Alive" - Show Time: 9:00 PM

**1/12/12:**National Geographic Channel; "Inside the New Black Panthers" - Show Time: 5:00 AM

**1/13/12:**National Geographic Channel; "KKK: Inside American Terror" - Show Time: 9:00 PM

**1/16/12:**National Geographic Channel; "The Last Days of Osama Bin Laden" - Show Time: 7:00 PM

**1/17/12:**National Geographic Channel; "Unabomber: The Secret History" - Show Time: 8:00 PM & 11:00 PM