



TRC TWW Report

Terror Web Watch Report



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Graphic: A member of the Jihad Cell Forum posted a metro map, suggesting an attack on the Metro Center stop of the Washington DC metro. The Arabic in the corner describes it as "the metro and tunnels of the capital of Washington."



Orientation/Introduction:

Please review the introduction to the Terror Web Watch at [Intel Report](#).

Item 1: Chemical attack on Washington Metro system suggested on well-known jihadist Web site

A posting on "the Jihadist Cell" forum urged an attack on the Washington Metro System. The posting was dated August 10, and includes a Washington Metro map, with Arabic in the corner describing it as such (see graphic).

[begin translation]

I think that the best thing is to concentrate our efforts on carrying out a variety of operations of the kind that Mohammed Atta carried out in America. These kinds of operations and attacks are what create a real effect in the world because the victims are American citizens. When you look at the best targets, you find that the Washington metro is a great target for a chemical attack. Here is a map of the metro [map attached]. The metro is very crowded at the station "Metro Center" between the hours of eight and nine thirty in the morning.

An attack using [conventional] explosives would also create large American civilian losses, but I think that using chemical weapons in the metro would yield great results.

[end translation]

The "Jihadist Cell" is a forum for the exchange of bomb making instructions and other training and tactical materials and discussions. It is located on the Al-Saf Jihadist Web site, which is a newer version of the "Al-Masada" site. The user name of the member of the forum who posted this message is "Awaiting Martyrdom."

It is unknown whether any of the members of this forum are actually capable of carrying out such attacks, or whether any of the training materials or attack and targeting suggestions that appear on the forum have ever influenced operations off-line. Materials appear to be of varying degrees of sophistication. It is, however, currently one of the most popular and well-known Jihadist Web sites, and it posts the claims of responsibility for attacks from terrorist groups in Iraq ([Country Profile](#)) such as al-Qaeda in the Land of the Two Rivers ([Group Profile](#)) and Ansar al-Sunna ([Group Profile](#)). The claims of responsibility for the Sinai Peninsula attacks last month were also posted on this site ([Terrorist Incident](#)).

Disclaimer: The Terrorism Research Center provided this Intel Report to relevant authorities upon discovery of this posting. Its inclusion in the TWW Report is not intended to be a validation of the threat or terrorists' capability to engage in such an attack. However, it does provide some useful insight into the level of discussion and planning taking place on Jihadist Web sites regarding US homeland targets.

Item 2: A manual on poisonous gases and chemicals entitled: "A one of a kind creation: The Ethereal Killer"

The link to this document was posted on "the Jihadist Cell," the same forum on which the above threat (Item 1) appeared. Trains are mentioned as an ideal target. However, whereas the above threat suggests a train station, this document specifies that trains are more appropriate than their stations because they lack security cameras. Other targets are suggested as well.

The introductory paragraph to this document states: "The experts from among the Mujahideen know that the weapon that is the most fatal, the most terrifying, and is also the cheapest is: poisonous gases. If one could come up with a way to deliver the payload without harming the person carrying and using [the gases], it would be the favorite weapon to terrorize the enemy and to use against the Infidel armies." The author is unknown.

One delivery mechanism he suggests is to put the payload into sealed glass vials in a device that uses a very small detonator to break the glass and release the gas from the vials.



Elsewhere, the document says ventilation systems and air conditioners are good ways to disperse chemical agents throughout a room.

The document also suggests that a mix of two kinds of poisonous gases should be used together: one because of its fatality, the second because it would create the most terrifying images of death. It suggests a nerve agent to stop the function of the heart and lungs that the writer says would be cause of the majority of fatalities. The writer says that along with that, another agent should be used that blisters the skin and membranes and creates air bubbles in the blood to cause bleeding from the nostrils and ears. He recommends this because the injuries and deaths from this agent would be "of the ugliest kind... and would instill the most terror."

Recipes for different substances are listed. Several pictures of different devices are supposedly included also, but the pictures would not load correctly on the copy accessed by Terror Web Watch.

In a section entitled: "Places to Use," the author lists off targeting suggestions:

[begin translation]

You may use the substance in any closed place, with little ventilation, in which only those people you want to kill are present (Jews, Americans, and all of their allies like the British, etc). Examples include:

Establishments of licentiousness

Theaters

Malls

Jewish temples

Dance floors

Trains (but not in a station because there are security cameras)

Schools

Hospitals

Restaurants and bars

Places of usury [tr note: anywhere interest is used, like financial institutions]

Cinemas

Closed sporting events

Casinos

Churches located in Islamic countries

Government buildings

[end translation]

"The fruit of months, years, of experimentation of how to prepare and apply [this weapon] is now between your hands and between these lines," writes the anonymous terrorist in the first paragraph. The claim is a bit grandiose. The document is only eight pages long and, while providing some good foundational knowledge on the topic, the document is more like a collection of general tips for usage and a discussion of appropriate targeting with different agents than a complete how-to book for a chemical attack. Still, it could demonstrate some real experimentation done with these agents.

Item 3: Terrorists urged to take advantage of "Google Earth" satellite imaging service for pre-attack surveillance

"A program that allows you to see the cities of the world by satellite – you can see your own house," said a member of a well-known terrorist Web site. "A dream for the Mujahideen," he called it, posting a link to download the "Google Earth" program.

"This allows you to see buildings and cars...you can zoom in and see anywhere in the world. You can see schools and restaurants and important buildings, etc, in a number of countries," extols the writer.

"This is very beneficial to the Mujahideen," he writes, "I have posted it here because of what Sheikh Zawahiri said in his speech," referring to the recent video-taped speech of al-Qaeda second in command, Ayman al-Zawahiri (for a full translation, see last week's Terror Web Watch). The writer continues, "I am sure that America will be struck more forcefully than ever before. Remember my words."

He also adds that he thinks that "the Palestinian President and President Bush could be assassinated."



The statement and links to download the program were reposted on multiple Jihadist sites. However, the original posting seems to have come from the "Tajdeed" site, associated with British Islamist Mohammed al-Masaari.

The program seems like it could be helpful to terrorists plotting an attack. According to the product Web site, "Google Earth" boasts the following capabilities:

"Fly from space to your neighborhood. Type in an address and zoom right in. Search for schools, parks, restaurants, and hotels. Get driving directions. Tilt and rotate the view to see 3D terrain and buildings. Save and share your searches and favorites. Even add your own annotations."

Such a program that allows terrorists to conduct a key aspect of operational planning – surveillance – in cyberspace rather than in the physical world makes it easier for them to plan in relative safety without being caught. This program, if it could be effectively used for surveillance, could remove the danger of an important stage in planning, which currently provides a value opportunity to law enforcement for interdiction. With this program, terrorists would no longer be as vulnerable to counter-surveillance – scaling back a significant operational risk.

Further, the "share your searches and favorites" function may allow users in disparate locations to perform surveillance on the same target without meeting one another in the real world – another opportunity for law enforcement to draw connections between dangerous individuals, recognize suspicious activity, and thwart a potential attack.

Other members of one Jihadist forum were excited about the find, but one member reported he was disappointed to find that the program did not allow one to see into Israel ([Country Profile](#)), as well some of the European countries. Others were worried that the program may allow western intelligence bodies to track their surveillance activities.

The Google Earth site says that the images are not real time, which means that they could not completely supplant physical surveillance.

Item 4: 501 Statements from al-Qaeda in Iraq compiled into online book



Al-Qaeda in the Land of the Two Rivers has released a compilation of statements, including pre-attack speeches from suicide bombers and claims of responsibility for attacks across Iraq. The compilation was posted on the website "al-Tajdeed." The message with the links to download the electronic book says that there will be close to 1,000 statements compiled in this way in two parts. The second part has not yet been made available, but the first part contains 501 statements and is 500 pages long.

Most of the statements, in one way or another, describe successful attacks on Coalition forces and Iraqi security and police. The propaganda impact of having so many apparently successful attacks will be considerable for Zarqawi's supporters, who already seem under the impression that the insurgency is winning the war.

The cover of the compilation can be seen on the left.



Item 5: Video Available: "The Top Ten"

A compilation has been made of "the Top Ten," insurgent attacks in Iraq. The video contains some English descriptions of the attacks, as well as rough English translations of Koranic passages. It is directed toward a western, specifically American, audience and contains some of the more devastating attacks on Coalition troops by the insurgency.

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