

COUNTERTERRORISM WEEKLY

FOR AMERICA'S PROTECTORS

2 - 8 FEBRUARY 2017

(U) This section provides a comprehensive look at a terrorist group(s) or leader(s), and/or CT tools and literature.

SPOTLIGHT 3

- (U) ISIS Drone Management, Acquisitions, and Tradecraft
(U//FOUO) US Homegrown Violent Extremist Recidivism Likely

(U) This section consists of in-depth counterterrorism press articles including context and background information.

ON POINT 8

- 1 **FLORIDA:** (U) Man Convicted of Attempting to Bomb Beach
- 2 **GERMANY:** (U) Police Conduct Raids Targeting ISIS-Linked Cells
- 3 **GERMANY:** (U) Police Arrest Romanian Terrorism Suspect
- 4 **FRANCE:** (U) Soldier Shoots Machete-Wielding Attacker at Louvre
- 5 **TURKEY:** (U) Over 800 ISIS Suspects Detained
- 6 **TURKEY:** (U) Two German ISIS Operatives Arrested, Attempted Disguise
- 7 **MIDDLE EAST:** (U) Al-Qa'ida's *As-Sahab* Media Publishes Kidnapping Guide
- 8 **MIDDLE EAST:** (U) ISIS Simultaneously Publishes Magazine in Multiple Languages
- 9 **IRAQ:** (U) File Indicates ISIS Members Refusing to Fight
- 10 **SYRIA:** (U) Dutch Foreign Fighter Reportedly Killed in Airstrike
- 11 **SYRIA:** (U) Ahrar Al-Sham Commander Killed
- 12 **YEMEN:** (U) Terrorist Groups Criticize US Raid
- 13 **AFGHANISTAN:** (U) Former Warlord Removed From UN Sanctions List
- 14 **PAKISTAN:** (U) Mehsud Tribe Rejoins Tahrir-E Taliban Pakistan (TTP)

(U) NCTC Commentary/ Assessments are written by seasoned NCTC Directorate of Intelligence Analysts or by the NCTC Joint Counterterrorism Assessment Team, comprised of law enforcement and first responders.

TRENDS, TACTICS, & PROCEDURES 13

- (U) Homeland Security Committee February Terror Threat Snapshot
(U) Homeland Security Committee Report on US Airports, Transportation Security
(U) UN Releases Fourth Report on Countering ISIS
(U) German Cabinet Approves Ankle Bracelets to Monitor Extremists
(U) German Project Aims to Counter Radicalization at a Peer Level
(U) Germany Tightens Security Following Truck Ramming Attack
(U) Struggle to Isolate Radicalized Prisoners in Belgium
(U) Belgium Donates Funds to CVE Efforts in Burkina Faso, Mauritania
(U) Slovakia Establishes Unit to Fight Violent Extremism and Hate Speech
(U) ISIS Using Unmanned Aerial Systems (UASs) to Direct Suicide Car Bombers
(U) ISIS Attempts to Buy Allegiance of Refugees
(U) Jordanian Anti-Extremism Strategy to be Ready in March
(U) African Leaders Agree to Joint Counterterrorism Force
(U) Sahel Muslim League Addresses Youth
(U) Somali Authorities Suspend Flights, Impose Curfew for Election
(U) Pakistani Girl Kidnapped for Suicide Attack
(U) Study Finds Indonesian Women Seeking to Become Suicide Bombers

(U) This section informs readers on methods terrorists are utilizing overseas which could be employed domestically.

PARTING SHOTS 19

(U) This section includes press articles with concise summaries for rapid consumption.



(U) Counterterrorism Weekly is an UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY compilation of open source publicly available press and relevant commentary on issues related to terrorism and counterterrorism over the past seven days. It is produced every Wednesday, excluding holidays. Counterterrorism Weekly is produced by the National Counterterrorism Center and contains situational awareness items detailing ongoing terrorism-related developments which may be of interest to Federal, State, Local and Tribal Law Enforcement, security, military personnel, and first responders. Information contained in the Counterterrorism Weekly is subject to change as a situation further develops. The inclusion of a report in Counterterrorism Weekly is not confirmation of its credibility or accuracy of the information contained therein nor does it imply NCTC's official view or endorsement. Comments and requests for information pertaining to articles featured in Counterterrorism Weekly may be directed to nctcpao@nctc.gov.

(U) This product may contain US Persons information deemed necessary for the intended recipient to understand or assess the information provided. This information has been highlighted in the document with the label ^{USPER}, pursuant to E.O. 12333 which affords protections for US persons. FVEY partners' names are also labeled, based on their request.

(U) The material contained in this weekly publication may be subject to copyright. Further reproduction or dissemination by any means is subject to original copyright restrictions and is generally prohibited without the copyright holder's permission. This weekly publication is intended to assist readers in their official capacities, and is not intended to be a replacement for commercial services.

COUNTERTERRORISM

FOR AMERICA'S PROTECTORS

WEEKLY

2-8 FEBRUARY 2017

EXECUTIVES' VIEW

HIGHLIGHTS



- 1 UNITED STATES:** (U) On 6 February, the US House Homeland Security Committee released February's Terror Threat Snapshot. [\[pg. 13\]](#)
- 2 UNITED STATES:** (U) On 6 February, the House Homeland Security Committee released a report titled, "America's Airports: The Threat From Within." [\[pg. 13\]](#)
- 3 FLORIDA:** (U) On 31 January, a Florida jury convicted a man of attempting to detonate a backpack bomb laced with galvanized nails on a Key West beach. [\[pg. 8\]](#)
- 4 GERMANY:** (U) On 1 February, over 1,000 German police conducted antiterrorism raids in Berlin and Hesse against ISIS-linked terrorist cells. [\[pg. 8\]](#)
- 5 FRANCE:** (U) On 3 February, a French soldier shot and wounded a man armed with a machete and carrying two bags on his back as the man tried to enter the Paris Louvre Museum. [\[pg. 9\]](#)
- 6 TURKEY:** (U) As of 6 February, Turkish police detained at least 820 suspected ISIS members during antiterrorism raids in six provinces. [\[pg. 9\]](#)
- 7 MIDDLE EAST:** (U) On 4 February, ISIS issued the 6th issue of *Rumiyah* magazine in Bosnian, English, French, German, Indonesian, Kurdish, Pashto, Russian, Turkish, and Uyghur. [\[pg. 10\]](#)
- 8 MIDDLE EAST:** (U) As of late January, ISIS was reportedly relying on retrofitted commercial UAS to guide suicide car bombers to their targets. [\[pg. 16\]](#)
- 9 YEMEN:** (U) In early February, both al-Qa'ida and AQAP criticized a US raid in Yemen, alleging civilian deaths. [\[pg. 11\]](#)
- 10 SOMALIA:** (U) On 6 February, officials in Mogadishu implemented a 48-hour lockdown to cover the period preceding the 8 February Somali presidential election. [\[pg. 17\]](#)

SPOTLIGHT SUMMARY

(U) ISIS DRONE MANAGEMENT, ACQUISITION, AND TRADecraft: (U) On 31 January, West Point's Combating Terrorism Center (CTC) released a report on the management, acquisitions, and tradecraft involved in ISIS's drone program. The report draws on insight gleaned from the discovery of ISIS documents recovered in Iraq. [\(WEST POINT CTC\)](#)

(U//FOUO) US HOMEGROWN VIOLENT EXTREMIST RECIDIVISM LIKELY: (U//FOUO) NCTC assesses at least some of the more than 90 homegrown violent extremists (HVEs) incarcerated in the US who are due to be released in the next five years will probably reengage in terrorist activity—possibly including attack plotting—because they either remain radicalized or are susceptible to re-radicalization as has already been demonstrated overseas. **(NCTC)**

SPOTLIGHT

(U) ISIS Drone Management, Acquisitions, and Tradecraft

(U) On 31 January, West Point's Combating Terrorism Center (CTC) released a report on the management, acquisitions, and tradecraft involved in ISIS's drone program. The report draws on insight gleaned from the discovery of a small batch of internal ISIS documents recovered in Iraq which provide insight into how the group developed and enhanced its drone capabilities as well as how it manages its drone program.

- (U) On 24 January, the ISIS media office for Ninawa province, in Mosul, released a video titled "The Knights of the Dawawin," which highlighted a new ISIS drone capability—repeatedly dropping small explosives on its enemies from the air with a level of relative accuracy.
- (U) On January 30, the Wilayat al-Furat media office released a video titled "Roar of the Lions," which featured ISIS military operations in the Anbar Province of Iraq. At the end of the video, the group showed a brief teaser for its next release, which contained a video clip of the drone bomb drop capability (this time with what appeared to be a round grenade) being used in Anbar.

(U) While these videos highlight ISIS's capabilities, they are carefully crafted to make the group—and its capabilities—look impressive, and therefore only depict successful operations. The recovered documents provide insight into the inner workings of ISIS's efforts to weaponize drones and the actual challenges they faced doing so.



(U) ISIS drones at facility in Mosul, Iraq (VERA MIRONOVA)

(U) BUREAUCRATIC NATURE OF ISIS'S DRONE PROGRAM

(U) Documents previously recovered from ISIS indicate the group is fairly detail-oriented and bureaucratic in its operations, and ISIS's drone activity appears to be no exception. Two of the recovered documents were standardized drone use reports filled out by operators following the completion of their missions.

(U) The standardized four-page form contained four main sections: type of mission (such as "Bombing" and "Explosive Plane"), group members involved, location of the mission, and waypoint coordinates for the flight. The form also included a checklist designed to help the drone operators conduct pre- and/or post-mission confirmation of drone functionality, a checklist of tools and devices in the operator's "Tool Case," and a section for operators to note whether their mission succeeded or failed. It also provided space for the operators to write notes, possibly to document lessons learned from failed missions or interesting events which occurred during successful ones.

(U) PROGRAM INSTITUTIONALIZATION

(U) Open source reporting indicates ISIS has been interested in drones since as early as 2013. A number of the recovered documents demonstrate how ISIS has had a formal, institutionalized, and resourced drone unit since at least 2015. In addition, this unit was collecting paperwork from different Iraqi governorates, demonstrating broader geographic management of ISIS's drone activity. In 2015, ISIS already planned to use its drones as attack weapons, based on the presence of weapons-related checkboxes on the drone use report documents. Supply lists in the collection also confirmed ISIS acquired hardware and other tools to modify and enhance the performance of commercially available drones and to build its own based on existing airframes.

SPOTLIGHT

continued

(U) ACQUISITION AND PURCHASE LISTS

(U) A preliminary review of the equipment and purchase list items highlight ISIS's efforts to acquire predictable items like cameras, memory cards, GPS units, digital video recorders, and extra propeller blades. The lists also speak to the group's efforts to secure, modify, and enhance the range and performance of its drones, whether commercially procured or otherwise. For example, to protect the transmission of their drone video feeds, members of the group sought to acquire encrypted video transmitters and receivers. A long-range radio control relay system was also sought so the group could extend the range of its drones. The documents do not reveal how ISIS actually acquired material found on the lists; however, virtually all items listed were commercially available.

(U) FUTURE DRONE USE

(U) The recovered documents provide few insights into ISIS's future drone plans. In the short-term, CTC expects ISIS to refine its drone bomb-drop capability, and assesses this tactic will become both more frequently used and more deadly.

(U) One notable omission from the acquisition lists, which could be telling, were requests for quad-copter-style drones. When requests for drones were featured in the documents, they were for fixed-wing airplane bodies. While fixed-wing drones cannot hover in place, they offer certain advantages, such as being able to fly much farther from their controller than quad-copter variants. One of the recovered drone use reports listed the "Farthest Point Distance from Launch Point" of a fixed-wing SkyHunter drone as approximately eight kilometers.

(U) The showcasing of an X8 Skywalker drone—one of the fixed-wing bodies requested in the documents—in its recent video, suggests ISIS may be considering fixed-wing drone platforms for other operational purposes, including using them to penetrate facilities and/or conduct longer-range surveillance or attack missions.

- (U) In July 2016, a member of al-Minbar al-I'lami al-Jihadi forum named "al-Fajr" claimed an ISIS member told him the group was developing "an attack drone that can carry rockets and explosive materials."
- (U) In December 2016, that same forum member posted a similar message: "Your brothers have developed airplanes bigger than those they had before, and they're developing matching rockets that can be carried by these airplanes and controlled from the ground ... also, information was leaked to me that an engineer who used to work in airplanes manufacturing in one of the countries advanced in that field has joined the Islamic State." ([WEST POINT CTC](#))



(U) ISIS image of attack on tank (ISIS)

(U) BACKGROUND AND CAVEATS

(U) The documents reviewed for this analysis were provided to the CTC by a research fellow at the Belfer Center at ^{USPER}Harvard University. Ms. Mironova personally obtained hard copies of the documents while conducting field research in Iraq, embedded with an Iraqi military unit. The documents were discovered in a facility formerly under ISIS control, located in the Muhandeseen neighborhood of Mosul, near Mosul University.

(U) While confirming authenticity of these types of documents is always a challenge, the authors believe they are real given the location and circumstances of their acquisition, the nature of the documents, and the CTC's experience working with a wide array of captured battlefield material. All of the documents appear to be from the 2015 time period. Given the small number of documents, it is not clear how representative this collection is of the full range of internal ISIS documentation about the group's drone program. Researchers should read this analysis with these particular caveats in mind. ([WEST POINT CTC](#))

SPOTLIGHT

continued

NCTC: (U//FOUO) Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UASs)/Radio-Controlled Model Aircraft (RCMA) are readily available from commercial sources, and as the technology improves and the cost decreases, more advanced UASs/RCMAs will likely become more prevalent in unrestricted commercial markets.

(U//FOUO) To promote UAS/RCMA awareness, see the First Responder's toolboxes "Overseas Weaponization of UAS Likely to Continue, Revealing Potential Implications for Domestic Use" (15 December 2016), "Rules Governing Operation of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS)/Remote Controlled Model Aircraft (RCMA) at Stadiums and Mass Gatherings" (12 November 2014), and the Roll Call Release "Advances in Remote-Controlled Model Aircraft Capabilities Challenge Security Operations at Major Events" (12 August 2014).

(U//FOUO) All the aforementioned products are available on the JCAT Special Interest Group (SIG) on the Joint Counterterrorism Assessment Team (JCAT) Community of Interest (COI) on Current, the JCAT Special Interest Group (SIG) on FBI's Law Enforcement Enterprise Portal (LEEP), and the JCAT tab on the Emergency Services (ES) and Intelligence COI on Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN). **(NCTC)**

SPOTLIGHT

(U//FOUO) US Homegrown Violent Extremist Recidivism Likely

(U//FOUO) NCTC assesses at least some of the more than 90 homegrown violent extremists (HVEs) incarcerated in the US who are due to be released in the next five years will probably reengage in terrorist activity—possibly including attack plotting—because they either remain radicalized or are susceptible to re-radicalization as has already been demonstrated overseas.

- (FOUO) NCTC has seen high rates of recidivism among those incarcerated for non-terrorism related criminal activity, suggesting the likelihood of violent extremist recidivism is also high. As of late 2016, 300 terrorism offenders were in prison, including 80 who were arrested in the past two years.
- (U//FOUO) From 2005 to 2010, 56 percent of all released US prisoners were rearrested within one year of release, 68 percent were rearrested within three years, and 77 percent were rearrested within five years, according to a Bureau of Justice Statistics' study of 400,000 prisoners in 30 states. For violent offenders, 39 percent were rearrested within one year, 62 percent within three years, and 71 percent within five years, according to the National Institute for Justice.
- (U//FOUO) Two of the four January 2016 Jakarta attackers were previously sentenced to prison for terrorism-related offenses, according to US-based think tank and open-source reporting. As of January 2016, 47 out of 300 terrorists released from Indonesian prison reengaged in terrorism within the first two years of release, according to the same US-based think tank and open-source reporting.

(U//FOUO) Nontraditional CT partners—such as probation and parole officers, corrections personnel, and local law enforcement—will probably be in a position to anticipate threats and radicalization from recidivists, in addition to prison officials and personnel at FBI field offices who perform assessments of terrorist inmates released into their areas of responsibility. Equipping these partners with specialized countering violent extremism (CVE) and CT capabilities, including training to identify violent extremist radicalization and mobilization to violence indicators, will enhance partner ability to monitor violent extremists for recidivism. Procedural improvements, including better defining lessons learned, processes, and tools to craft release conditions, and identifying and sharing new leads and threat reporting with the FBI and the IC will assist officers with HVE releases.

(U//FOUO) Released offenders are provided supervision conditions to follow to remain out of prison by US Probation and Pretrial Services, according to probation officials. NCTC assesses court-imposed conditions tailored with CVE and CT subject-matter expertise could reduce the risk of a subject reoffending, while also enhancing opportunities to identify best practices in probation sentencing and release conditions as a more common and viable off-ramping strategy in the future.

- (U//FOUO) Using lessons learned from successful criminal population monitoring models—such as the Megan's Law sex offender registry—and monitoring may better equip CVE stakeholders to register, track, and monitor violent extremist offender activities and movements, according to studies focused on existing sex offender monitoring and recidivism.
- (U//FOUO) Ensuring probation, parole, and corrections personnel are involved with state and local CT liaison officer programs and are cleared to work on Joint Terrorism Task Forces would build a more comprehensive framework that provides access to offenders' full criminal histories to prepare all agencies that would potentially engage with violent extremist recidivists.

SPOTLIGHT continued

(U//FOUO) RECIDIVISM CONCERN BEYOND THOSE TRADITIONALLY CONVICTED

(U//FOUO) HVEs who receive probation or are charged with non-terrorism offenses which have shorter sentences could miss out on rehabilitation services offered in prison. It will be important to alert probation and parole officers to terrorism or radicalization backgrounds and evaluate the recidivism of these types of HVEs when considering future prosecutions or CVE “off-ramping,” given that these are relatively untested efforts.

- (U//FOUO) In early October 2016, Kansas-based violent extremist ^{USPER}Alexander Blair was sentenced to 15 months in prison and two years of supervised probation by US Probation and Pretrial Services for financial support to a fellow violent extremist who built an IED in a 2015 plot to attack Fort Riley, according to open-source reporting. A federal judge rejected a five-year prison sentence and a five-year probation sentence, deeming both too harsh.
- (U//FOUO) In 2010, deceased ^{USPER}Elton Simpson, one of the 2015 Garland, Texas, attackers, was sentenced to three years probation for making material false statements to the FBI about his desire to travel for and support violent extremism. (NCTC)

(U) NCTC defines an HVE as an individual inspired by a foreign terrorist organization of any citizenship who lives or operates primarily in the US, was radicalized primarily in the US, and who incites, conducts, or facilitates ideologically influenced terrorist activities while acting independently of any direction from a foreign terrorist organization. (NCTC)

ON POINT

1 **FLORIDA: (U) Man Convicted of Attempting to Bomb Beach**

(U) On 31 January, a Florida jury convicted ^{USPER}Harlem Suarez, 23, a.k.a. Almlak Benitez, of attempting to detonate a backpack bomb laced with galvanized nails on a heavily populated Key West, Florida, beach, according to the Department of Justice. Suarez reportedly planned to remotely detonate the bomb with a cellular phone.

- (U) According to evidence, Suarez told an FBI source he wanted to make a “timer bomb,” which would be buried and detonated at a public Key West Beach. Suarez was arrested for taking possession of explosive devices and materials to conduct the attack on 27 July 2015.
- (U) Suarez was found guilty of attempting to use a weapon of mass destruction and providing material support to ISIS.
- (U) In addition, Suarez used social media to promote ISIS and post violent extremist rhetoric.
([DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE](#))

NCTC: (U//FOUO) According to DHS, recent IED incidents reveal traditional practices of first responders which may be changed to improve survivability of victims and the enhance the safety of first responders caring for them.

- (U//FOUO) Single or multiple IED events targeting civilians and/or first responders represent a growing threat. Types of IEDs likely to cause mass casualties include “leave behind” parcels, backpacks, or luggage placed in crowded environments; suicide vests and suicide belts; and VBIEDs.
- (U//FOUO) Understanding the numerous ways in which IEDs can cause injuries and how the environment plays a role in exacerbating or mitigating their blast effects is critical to increasing survivability when unexploded IEDs are present or secondary IEDs are suspected.

(U//FOUO) In addition, the combination of both IEDs and active shooter incidents in an organized, complex attack requires both treatment and extraction of the injured from a hostile environment. The conditions during such tactical assaults in a civilian setting speak to the need for first responders and first receivers to adopt evidence-based hemorrhage control, risk evaluation, and casualty management measures in a potentially dangerous environment. For additional information see DHS product titled, “First Responder Guide for Improving Survivability in Improvised Explosive Device and/or Active Shooter Incidents” dated June 2015. (**NCTC**)

2 **GERMANY: (U) Police Conduct Raids Targeting ISIS-Linked Cells**

(U) On 1 February, over 1,000 German police conducted antiterrorism raids in Berlin and Hesse against ISIS-linked terrorist cells, resulting in the arrest of four individuals.

- (U) Attack plans were still in an early phase and no specific target had been selected, according to the Hesse State Criminal Investigations Office.
- (U) The operation involved searching mosques, private apartments, and company premises in over 54 areas, including locations throughout Frankfurt, Offenbach, and Wiesbaden.
- (U) The main suspect arrested was a Tunisian national, 36, who reportedly recruited for ISIS and built up a network of supporters, among other things, with the goal of committing a terrorist attack in Germany.
- (U) The Tunisian entered Germany as an asylum seeker in August 2015, five months after gunmen stormed the Bardo Museum and killed 21 foreign tourists, prosecutors said, adding Tunisia suspects he was involved in that attack. ([DEUTSCHE WELLE](#), [REUTERS](#))

ON POINT continued

3 **GERMANY: (U) Police Arrest Romanian Terrorism Suspect**

(U) On 2 February, German police arrested a Romanian man, 21, at Frankfurt Airport on suspicion he was preparing an attack motivated by violent religious extremism.

- (U) The man was suspected of engaging in online discussions about an attack in Germany. Karlsruhe police stated the man allegedly planned to travel to Romania to prepare for the attack, though there was no indication he had a specific target.
- (U) Police officers seized written notes and electronic storage devices during a search of the man's home. A judge ordered the man be kept in detention. ([AP](#))

4 **FRANCE: (U) Soldier Shoots Machete-Wielding Attacker at Louvre**

(U) On 3 February, a French soldier shot and wounded a man armed with a machete and carrying two bags on his back as the man tried to enter the Carrousel du Louvre in Paris, outside the Louvre Museum.

- (U) The man shouted "Allahu akbar" (God is great) and rushed at police and soldiers before being shot, police said. The attacker survived but was seriously wounded, the head of Paris Police Michel Cadot said, adding the bags the man carried contained no explosives.
- (U) As of 4 February, the Egyptian Interior Ministry confirmed the attacker was Egyptian-born Abdullah Reda Refaie al-Hamahmy, 28.
- (U) Prime Minister Bernard Cazeneuve said during a visit to Bayeux in Normandy: "It appears to be an attempted attack of a terrorist nature." One soldier was slightly wounded in the attack. ([REUTERS](#), [AP](#))

NCTC: (U) Terrorists continue to conduct attacks using simple tactics, including the use of edged weapons. Security personnel are encouraged to maintain an understanding of current trends and tactics to increase safety, promote situational awareness, and develop adaptive security measures. Understanding a terrorist attack may target a facility's security position at entrance or exit location allows first responders to adjust normal protocols and procedures to operate rapidly during an emergency. Effective responses to terrorist attacks can be reinforced through pre-incident coordination and training—including multidiscipline interagency drills—which offer the chance to test integration and compatibility. (**NCTC**)

5 **TURKEY: (U) Over 800 ISIS Suspects Detained**

(U) As of 6 February, Turkish police detained at least 820 suspected members of ISIS and other terrorist groups during antiterrorism raids in six provinces, the most extensive detention operation to target the organization in Turkey to date, according to Turkish state media.

- (U) Most detained were reportedly foreign nationals. At least 60 suspects were detained in the capital, Ankara, while 150 were arrested in Sanliurfa province near the Syrian border.
- (U) In addition, 30 were detained in simultaneous operations in Konya province and 10 others were held in Adiyaman province. Police also detained 18 suspects in Kocaeli and Istanbul, 47 in Gaziantep, and 46 others in Bursa province. ([REUTERS](#), [WASHINGTON POST](#))

ON POINT continued

6 **TURKEY: (U) Two German ISIS Operatives Arrested, Attempted Disguise**

(U) As of 5 February, German nationals Adnan Sutkovic from Bremen and Zülhajat Seadini from Hamburg were detained by Turkish police after crossing the border from Syria.

- (U) The two men—suspected of planning an attack in Europe—were sought by Interpol after traveling to fight for ISIS in April 2015.
- (U) According to Turkish media, the men received hair transplants in Ankara after entering Turkey in order to avoid detection. Both are accused of membership in a terrorist organization and official documentation fraud.
- (U) Both men reportedly claimed they only went to Syria to help people; however, Sutkovic was spotted in an ISIS propaganda video with former London postman Harry Sarfo, according to German press reporting. ([DIE WELT](#))

7 **MIDDLE EAST: (U) Al-Qa'ida's As-Sahab Media Publishes Kidnapping Guide**

(U) On February 5, al-Qa'ida's *as-Sahab* media foundation published a guide authored by Saif al-Adl on kidnapping.

- (U) The 39-page document, titled “A Lecture on Kidnapping,” was posted on Telegram.

(U) According to the Director of SITE Intel., the kidnapping guide was based on one of the FBI's most wanted terrorists Saif al-Adl's 2000 lecture. The guide explores the benefits of taking hostages, the process of kidnapping; and the December 2009 hijacking of Indian Airlines Flight 814, among other topics.

- (U) Previously, in April 2014, al-Qa'ida leader Ayman al-Zawahiri advised Muslims to kidnap Westerners—and Americans in particular—to exchange for al-Qa'ida prisoners. ([AS-SAHAB](#), [SITE INTEL](#))

NCTC: (U) A familiarity with TTPs in violent extremist propaganda is particularly useful to first responders as they may encounter this material during the course of their duties. Recognition and reporting of these encounters has the potential to disrupt a plot prior to an attack. (**NCTC**)

8 **MIDDLE EAST: (U) ISIS Simultaneously Publishes Magazine in Multiple Languages**

(U) On 4 February, ISIS issued the 6th issue of *Rumiyah* magazine in Bosnian, English, French, German, Indonesian, Kurdish, Pashto, Russian, Turkish, and Uyghur.

- (U) The publication celebrated and justified the New Year's nightclub attack in Istanbul, Turkey, and derided a Turkish-proposed “safe zone” in Syria.
- (U) Amidst calls to arms and advice on how to live an Islamist lifestyle, the issue featured infographs on chemical warfare. The magazine went on to feature an article on the peace talks in Astana, and claimed an attack in Maan, Jordan, which killed one security officer.

([RUMIYAH](#))



(U) Rumiyah magazine cover (**ISIS**)

ON POINT continued

9 IRAQ: (U) File Indicates ISIS Members Refusing to Fight

(U) As of early February, multiple ISIS members reportedly provided various reasons they did not want to fight, according to documents from the Tariq Bin Ziyad battalion—made up largely of foreigners—found by Iraqi forces at a former ISIS base in a neighborhood of Mosul.

- (U) Among issues cited were a Belgian violent extremist with a medical note indicating back pain, a member from France who claimed he wanted to leave Iraq to conduct a suicide attack at home, several terrorists who requested transfers to Syria, and others who simply refused to fight.
- (U) Iraqi forces also recovered a stash of passports—16 Russian and four French—in an ISIS headquarters in the Dhubat neighborhood of Mosul, according to Iraqi Lt. Gen. Abdul Ghani al-Assadi, commander of Iraq's counterterrorism forces, who added terrorists may be forging passports to leave the country. ([WASHINGTON POST](#))

10 SYRIA: (U) Dutch Foreign Fighter Reportedly Killed in Airstrike

(U) On 1 February, the Syrian opposition group of journalists, Raqqa Is Being Slaughtered Silently, reported ISIS operative Saleh Yahya Ghazali Yilmaz, a.k.a. Israfil Yilmaz, from the Netherlands was killed in airstrike near Tabqah, west of Raqqa, Syria, on 28 January.

- (U) Yilmaz, 28, was a Dutch citizen of Turkish descent who left a career in the Royal Netherlands Army in 2013 to join ISIS.
- (U) In an online question and answer session in 2015, Yilmaz indicated he defended the November 2015 Paris attacks by stating to the ^{USPER}New York Times, in part, “You can’t just declare war on the Muslims, [kill their women and children], and expect to be left alone even though you might reside somewhere far away.”
- (U) In mid-November 2015, The Netherlands issued an international warrant for him, describing him as a dangerous terrorist. ([NY TIMES](#), [RIJKSOVERHEID](#), [RAQQA IS BEING SLAUGHTERED SILENTLY](#))

11 SYRIA: (U) Ahrar Al-Sham Commander Killed

(U) As of 4 February, Ahrar Al-Sham Abu Hani Al-Masri was reportedly killed in a strike in Idlib's northern countryside.

- (U) Al-Masri previously fought with violent extremists in Afghanistan, Chechnya, and Somalia.
- (U) Al-Masri was released from jail in 2012 after 10 years of detention under clemency of now ousted Egyptian President Mohammad Morsi. ([AL-MASDAR](#))

NCTC: (U//FOUO) The death of al-Masri, a violent extremist with connections to al-Qa'ida leaders, deprives the Syrian battlefield of an experienced fighter. The Nusra Front, al-Qa'ida's affiliate in Syria—known publicly as Fatah al-Sham Front and more recently under the umbrella entity Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham—used the death of al-Masri to show Syrian opposition elements the futility of avoiding contact with al-Qa'ida because more recently al-Masri was associated with Ahrar al-Sham. (**NCTC**, [AL-MASDAR](#))

12 YEMEN: (U) Terrorist Groups Criticize US Raid

(U) In early February, the latest issue of the pro-AQAP magazine *Al-Masra* was published, and stated civilians—among them children—were killed in a 29 January US raid in Al Bayda, Yemen. The groups leader, Qassim al-Rimi, released an audio statement condemning the raid.

- (U) AQAP claimed several US troops were killed and further asserted AQAP downed a helicopter. US Central Command (CENTCOM) subsequently announced an estimated 14 AQAP terrorists were killed during a raid by US forces.
- (U) CENTCOM also noted civilians may have been hit by gunfire from aircraft called in to assist US troops and casualties could have included children. AQAP also claimed the raid killed the 8-year-old daughter of deceased AQAP leader ^{USPER}Anwar al-Awlaqi.

(U) Separately, Al-Qa'ida released a message through its online al-Nafir media agency condemning the raid and the killing of civilians. ([CENTCOM](#), [AQAP](#), [AL-NAFIR](#))

ON POINT continued

13 AFGHANISTAN: (U) Former Warlord Removed From UN Sanctions List

(U) On 3 February, the UN removed Hezb-i-Islami leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, a former Afghan warlord, from its ISIS and al-Qa'ida sanctions list. According to a UN statement, the Security Council decided Hekmatyar would no longer have his assets frozen, be subject to a travel ban, or to an arms embargo.

- (U) Hekmatyar previously fought US forces after the 2001 invasion, though he later agreed to lay down arms. In September 2016, Hekmatyar signed a peace treaty, which gave him and his followers immunity for past actions and granted them full political rights. (AP)

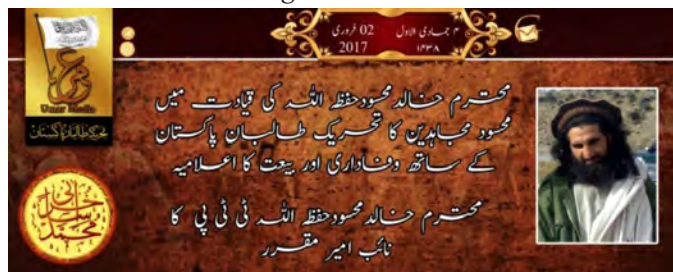


(U) Gulbuddin Hekmatyar (AP)

14 PAKISTAN: (U) Mehsud Tribe Rejoins Tahrik-E Taliban Pakistan (TTP)

(U) On 2 February, the Mehsud faction of the Taliban led by Khalid Mehsud, a.k.a. Khan Said, released a statement indicating his faction would rejoin TTP.

- (U) The statement said the return came after “the defection of the rogue elements to the rival parties,” possibly a reference to Khalifa Umar Mansour. Mansour conducted multiple attacks on Pakistani schools and other civilian institutions, some of which TTP denounced.
- (U) Mehsud previously broke away from TTP and formed his own movement in 2014, calling TTP “un-Islamic.” Both groups are designated terrorist organizations by the US and have committed attacks in both Pakistan and Afghanistan. (LONG WAR JOURNAL)



(U) Khalid Mehsud (MEHSUD)

TRENDS, TACTICS, & PROCEDURES

(U) Homeland Security Committee February Terror Threat Snapshot

(U) On 6 February, the US House Homeland Security Committee released February's Terror Threat Snapshot, a monthly assessment of the ISIS terrorist threat facing America, the West, and the world. Key findings included:

- (U) Although ISIS faces continued counterterrorism pressure in its key safe havens, the group maintains an external attack capability.
- (U) European nations are moving forward with counterterrorism reforms designed to mitigate the terrorist threat, though the continent still suffers from security weaknesses which make European countries more vulnerable to attack.

(HOMELAND SECURITY COMMITTEE)



(U) Reported US Terror Threat (HOMELAND SECURITY COMMITTEE)

(U) Homeland Security Committee Report on US Airports, Transportation Security

(U) On 6 February, the House Homeland Security Committee released a report titled, "America's Airports: The Threat From Within." The report is the result of a two-year investigation conducted by the Transportation and Protective Security Subcommittee. Key findings of the report included:

- (U) Inconsistencies exist across the aviation system related to how airport and air carrier security officials educate their credentialed populations on responsibly using their access and reporting suspicious activities.
- (U) Conflict between industry and government stakeholders often impedes needed improvements to aviation security.
- (U) A majority of airports do not have full employee screening at secure access points.

(HOMELAND SECURITY COMMITTEE)

TRENDS, TACTICS, & PROCEDURES continued

(U) UN Releases Fourth Report on Countering ISIS

(U) On 2 February, the UN released the fourth report of the Secretary-General on the threat posed by ISIS to international peace and security, and the range of UN efforts in support of member states in countering the threat.

- (U) The report noted ISIS is militarily on the defensive in several regions, notably in Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, and Syria, and the group has not been able to withstand sustained pressure within several conflict zones. However, ISIS is partially adapting to this situation by using techniques such as more covert recruiting methods.
- (U) The report also noted the flow of foreign terrorist fighters to Iraq and Syria was slowed considerably due to increased control measures of member states as well as the diminished “attractiveness” of the core of ISIS as a result of military pressure, adding the core group was facing financial decline.
- (U) Despite a decline, the report noted the group still called for attacks in the US, and directly threatened Europe, West Africa, and the Maghreb.
- (U) Recommendations to member states included work to continue to strengthen national and international frameworks to respond to the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters and to specifically address the global threat posed by ISIS-related trends. States were encouraged to enact measures to curtail travel and transit; counter ISIS financing; strengthen legal instruments to prosecute, rehabilitate and reintegrate ISIS fighters; and enhance cooperation with the private sector. (UN)

(U) German Cabinet Approves Ankle Bracelets to Monitor Extremists

(U) On 1 February, the Cabinet of Germany approved electronic ankle bracelets to monitor suspected violent extremists who authorities believe pose a threat to the public.

- (U) Previously, only convicted individuals were required to wear the device to monitor location and movements; however, the cabinet proposal would require anyone deemed a security threat to wear the device, by order of the Federal Criminal Police Office (BKA).

- (U) The change to the law was approved by the Cabinet as part of a larger package of amendments to BKA law. (DEUTSCHE WELLE)

(U) German Project Aims to Counter Radicalization at a Peer Level

(U) As of early February, the 180° Wende (180° Turn) initiative in Cologne, Germany, sought to counter radicalization of young people by bringing them together with others of their age group. The initiative is based out of Cologne’s Kalk district, where 40 percent of the population consists of people from foreign countries.

- (U) The head of the initiative, Mimoun Berrissoun, has met hundreds of young people who feel as if they are caught between two cultures despite their German identity. The radicalization of young people always stems from the same reasons, says the 30-year-old social scientist. “They get on the wrong path when they can’t make any headway in their lives,” he explains, such as when they can’t fit in at school, have nothing to fill their time or “get lost somewhere in a high-rise district.”
- (U) According to Berrissoun, his staff members and numerous volunteers want to treat the teens as peers. The “180° Turn” initiative operates via a network of students, trainees, and young people of different nationalities who move in circles where teens are at risk of being radicalized—in their soccer teams, mosques and community centers. In a training course, the network members are taught to recognize the signs of radicalization in people.
- (U) The initiative is running in other cities like Bonn and Leverkusen, and Berrissoun envisions an eventual network spanning the German state of North Rhine-Westphalia. (DEUTSCHE WELLE)

TRENDS, TACTICS, & PROCEDURES continued

(U) Germany Tightens Security Following Truck Ramming Attack

(U) On 6 February, German leaders announced an agreement to tighten security measures after the December 2016 truck attack on a Berlin Christmas market, including further measures to deport migrants seen as security risks.

- (U) The proposals were put forth in January by Justice Minister Heiko Maas and Interior Minister Thomas de Maiziere. “A well-fortified government is our answer to terrorist threats,” Maas said in a statement, adding “We are in agreement that the existing rules must be rigorously enforced, and that we must tighten the rules where necessary.” Maas said it was critical that those migrants who were ordered to leave the country were actually deported.
- (U) The push to tighten security began when authorities discovered the perpetrator of the Christmas market attack, Tunisian national Anis Amri, was still in the country despite deportation orders; German authorities had not sent Amri back to Tunisia because they were awaiting papers from the Tunisian Government. [\(REUTERS\)](#)

(U) Struggle to Isolate Radicalized Prisoners in Belgium

(U) Completely isolating radicalized prisoners is difficult, according to Head of Belgian State Security Jaak Raes.

- (U) As part of the fight against radicalization, the Belgian Government modified two wings of its Ittre prison to accommodate radicalized prisoners deemed most likely to influence their cellmates. However, 23 prisoners held in the modified area nonetheless succeeded in communicating with prisoners in other wings.
- (U) According to the Head of the Civil Intelligence Services, “We realize that they are incredibly creative—they have a lot of time to deliberate in implementing alternative communication systems. We must not imagine that they could possibly have no contact with other prisoners. This would indeed be an illusion.”

- (U) Prison construction presents one problem; construction is such that throughout the evening or night, prisoners can shout from one wing to another in a language prison wardens don’t understand. Messages can also be exchanged during walks and other non-cell activities.
- (U) The director of Ittre prison, Valérie Leburton, suggested a separate prison for radicalized individuals may be required. [\(BRUSSELS TIMES\)](#)

(U) Belgium Donates Funds to CVE Efforts in Burkina Faso, Mauritania

(U) As of 31 January, Belgian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Didier Reynders announced Belgium will contribute €250,000 (approximately US \$268,000) to fund prevention of terrorism in Burkina Faso and Mauritania.

- (U) The grant is intended to fund training sessions in the fields of research, investigative techniques, judicial cooperation initiatives, and to combat terrorism finance.
- (U) Training will be conducted by the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), charged with assisting countries with legislative and criminal law aspects of counterterrorism.
- (U) The new initiative specifically focuses on combatting terrorism using a comprehensive approach which respects human rights. [\(SAT PR\)](#)

(U) Slovakia Establishes Unit to Fight Violent Extremism and Hate Speech

(U) On 1 February, Slovakia’s Prime Minister Robert Fico unveiled a special police unit to fight violent extremism, warning of the rise of fascism in Europe and Slovakia.

- (U) The 125–person unit will investigate crimes related to support and funding of terrorism and violent extremism, hate crimes, and hate speech, both online and offline, according to Slovakian police. [\(REUTERS\)](#)

TRENDS, TACTICS, & PROCEDURES continued

(U) ISIS Using Unmanned Aerial Systems (UASs) to Direct Suicide Car Bombers

(U) As of late January, ISIS was reportedly relying on retrofitted commercial UASs to guide suicide car bombers to their targets. ISIS has used commercial UASs for reconnaissance and to direct operations in the past; however, these recent efforts may be in response to recent personnel losses, according to a labor economist at ^{USPER}Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government.

- (U) ISIS was reportedly spending larger sums of money on the devices, hacking store-bought machines, applying rigorous testing protocols, and mimicking tactics used by US unmanned aircraft.
- (U) Early in the Mosul fighting, suicide bombers tended to be deployed haphazardly more to terrorize than to kill; however, ISIS adapted the use of such bombers. In early 2016, Turkish forces in northern Iraq saw small, toy-like drones overhead. They were subsequently struck by accurate incoming fire, according to Jonathan Schroden, director of the Center for Stability and Development at the Center for Naval Analyses.
- (U) With Mosul's streets filled with debris, the drones can serve as a way for their operators to direct people on the ground—including suicide attackers—to an open path. According to Iraqi Special Forces Brig. Gen. Haider Fadhil, the UASs were being used to guide car bombs in real time, stating "They were giving instructions by radio to the suicide driver and following his progress" by video feed. (AP)

(U) ISIS Attempts to Buy Allegiance of Refugees

(U) On 6 February, a report released by Quilliam, a London-based think tank, found ISIS capitalizes on the desperation of refugees, attempting to buy their allegiance to bolster its ranks.

- (U) ISIS reportedly engaged in efforts to recruit refugees in humanitarian camps and migration routes to Europe, as well as in Turkey, Jordan, and Lebanon. The group offered financial incentives—up to \$2,000—to new recruits in refugee camps and provided free passage to those open to joining ISIS.
- (U) According to the report, ISIS views refugees entering Europe as valuable assets, as "children and young people who are recruited and trafficked by ISIS are an important resource, as they allow the group to convey a sense of future for itself as a state." (QUILLIAM)

(U) Jordanian Anti-Extremism Strategy to be Ready in March

(U) On 1 February, Retired Major General Sharif Omari, director of a counter-extremism and violence program at the Jordanian Ministry of Culture, said a comprehensive national strategy for combating violent extremism was in the final stages of development and was expected to ready in March.

- (U) The strategy will mostly target young people, as they constitute 70 percent of the Kingdom's population.
- (U) Omari noted most of those who joined violent extremist groups are young men, and for this reason, "we are targeting this group."
- (U) In an earlier interview, Zeina Ali Ahmad, United Nations Development Programme country representative, said Jordan will be the first country in the region to implement a comprehensive project to counter violent extremism. The national strategy, developed with UNDP's technical support, is to be used as a model for all parties working to combat terrorism.
- (U) UNDP will provide the expertise for the project, titled "Preventing Violent Extremism," according to Ahmad, who noted in terms of security, Jordan stands out as a model in countering violent extremism, adding the strategy will focus on combating the phenomenon socially and economically. (THE JORDAN TIMES)

TRENDS, TACTICS, & PROCEDURES continued

(U) African Leaders Agree to Joint Counterterrorism Force

(U) On 6 February, five African countries reached an agreement to create a regional counterterrorism force.

- (U) The announcement came as leaders of the Sahel G5 states—Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger—met to discuss the area's security situation.
- (U) Officials did not announce the size of the new force or where troops would be stationed, but Chad's President Idriss Deby stated some European nations would be asked to help. "What we want is for European countries to give us the means. We are going to be on the front line ourselves in the fight against terrorism," said Deby, speaking as current G5 chief, adding the new G5 deployment would "save the lives of (European) soldiers." ([AFP](#))

(U) Sahel Muslim League Addresses Youth

(U) On 17 January, the League of Ulama, Preachers and Imams of Countries of the Sahel held a two day workshop in N'djamena, Chad, under the theme "the Role of Imams of the Sahel Region in Protecting Young People Against Radicalization and Violent Extremism."

- (U) The league views the countries of the Sahel as disproportionately threatened by groups such as al-Qa'ida and Boko Harm, and considers youth the most vulnerable targets for radicalization.
- (U) In addition, the league encouraged countries to provide programs targeting young people, programs which take into account cultural sectors "to protect young people against any indoctrination attempt by the ideologists of terrorist groups."
- (U) The league also encouraged countries to train religious leaders in new communication technologies "to reach broader audience[s] and make it more efficient and effective." ([JOURNOLDUTCHAD](#))

(U) Somali Authorities Suspend Flights, Impose Curfew for Election

(U) On 6 February, officials in Mogadishu implemented a 48-hour lockdown to cover the period preceding the 8 February Somali presidential election. Mogadishu Mayor Yusuf Hussein Jim'ale announced the curfew as a measure to deter al-Shabaab operatives who may attempt to disrupt the election.

- (U) The curfew barred civilian vehicles from public roads. Thousands of soldiers, police officers, and other security personnel were deployed to patrol the streets and enforce the curfew. Authorities also shut down local air traffic, and Somalia's civil aviation authority announced all flights to Mogadishu's Aden Adde International Airport would be suspended.
- (U) In addition, authorities decided to change the election venue from the police academy to the airport because of security and corruption concerns.
- (U) Al-Shabaab previously vowed to undermine the federal government by launching attacks in a bid to disrupt the elections. ([HIIRAAAN ONLINE](#))

(U) Pakistani Girl Kidnapped for Suicide Attack

(U) On 2 February, Pakistani Frontier Corps (FC) personnel found a girl, 10, from Quetta, who told security officials she was kidnapped and told to conduct a suicide attack.

- (U) The girl stated she was kidnapped from Jacobabad, Sindh, adding the kidnappers told her to press a button on an explosive device at a site with a large number of police personnel.
- (U) The girl claimed the kidnappers advised they would give money and a house to her parents in return.
- (U) The kidnappers left the girl and fled after they spotted an FC checkpoint in the area. Security forces began searching for the kidnappers, but no arrests were immediately made. ([PAKISTAN TODAY](#))

TRENDS, TACTICS, & PROCEDURES continued

(U) Study Finds Indonesian Women Seeking to Become Suicide Bombers

(U) In late January, a study by the Jakarta-based Institute for Policy Analysis of Conflict stated there is increasing eagerness among Indonesian women to become directly involved in radicalism, rather than merely support their violent extremist husbands.

- (U) According to the report, the growing problem was highlighted after the December 2016 arrest of two women with links to ISIS; the women allegedly planned suicide attacks in Indonesia. According to the report, “Indonesian women in extremist organizations are now catching up with the lethal practices of their sisters in other parts of the world.”
- (U) Increasing female involvement was reportedly linked to the appeal of ISIS, and also to the growing sophistication of social media, which allows more women to read violent extremist propaganda and take part in radical chat forums.
- (U) The most high-profile cases detailed were the arrest of two former domestic workers, Dian Yulia Novi and Ika Puspitasari, who allegedly volunteered to become suicide bombers in Jakarta and Bali. Authorities detained Novi and her husband the night before a planned attack on the presidential palace in Jakarta and later detained Puspitasari, who was part of the same network and was planning to conduct a bombing on the holiday island of Bali, the report said.
- (U) Other women have been arrested for offenses which include setting up a pro-ISIS charity, helping to make a bomb, and being fighters with a militant group on Sulawesi Island. IPAC called for the Indonesian Government to prioritize the study of female radical networks, including interviewing women deported from Turkey after allegedly trying to cross into Syria to join ISIS. ([AFP](#))

PARTING SHOTS

1 GERMANY: (U) Three Arrested Over ISIS Links

(U) On 31 January, German police arrested three men in Berlin on suspicion of having close links to ISIS militants and planning to travel to the Middle East for combat training, according to a police spokesman. The three men, aged 21, 31, and 45, were formally suspected of having prepared “a serious act of violent subversion” for planning to attend combat training, though the police spokesman said there was no indication of any specific plan to conduct an attack in Germany. ([REUTERS](#))

2 GERMANY: Afghan Suspected of Taliban Membership Indicted

(U) On 1 February, German prosecutors said they indicted Afghan national Wajid S. on suspicion of fighting for the Taliban and breaking arms control laws. Federal prosecutors said Wajid is believed to have joined the Taliban in Afghanistan in 2009 and received weapons training, adding he took part in fighting in Afghanistan’s Kapisa province in 2014 and 2015, during which his unit attacked Afghan police. ([AP](#))

3 GERMANY: (U) Syrian Man Arrested For ISIS Membership

(U) On 7 February, German authorities arrested a Syrian man accused of membership in ISIS and of sexually assaulting a woman as she tried to flee ISIS-controlled territory in Syria. Federal prosecutors said Akram A., 31, was arrested Tuesday in the Greifswald area of northeastern Germany. He was accused of membership in a terrorist organization and committing a war crime. Prosecutors said the suspect ran an ISIS checkpoint set up to control people leaving territory held by the group, where he used the promise of an “exit permit” to lure a woman to a house and assault her. ([AP](#))

4 SPAIN: (U) Two Alleged ISIS Recruiters Detained

(U) On 6 February, the Spanish Interior Ministry announced the detention of two Moroccan men accused of violent extremist views and recruiting others. Both men, aged 25 and 27, allegedly raised money through drug trafficking and theft to support ISIS. Agents of Spain’s Guardia Civil conducted a search of the men’s apartment in Badalona, bordering Barcelona. ([AP](#))

5 AZERBAIJAN: (U) Security Forces Kill Four Suspected of Terrorist Plot

(U) On 1 February, the Azeri State Security Service said security forces killed four members of a group planning to conduct terrorist acts in the country. The group, reportedly eliminated during a special operation, was “loyal to a number of terrorist organizations operating in foreign countries and had been planning to carry out terrorist acts in Azerbaijan,” the security service said. One suspect was arrested. ([REUTERS](#))

6 TURKEY: (U) Ten Arrested Over Nightclub Attack

(U) On 31 January, fourteen people were detained for allegedly aiding and abetting ISIS operative Abdulkadir Masharipov, who confessed to conducting the New Year’s attack on Istanbul’s Reina nightclub. Ten were subsequently arrested for “being members of an armed terrorist organization” and “attempting to abolish the constitutional order,” while four others were released on probation. The prosecutor also sought the arrest of Mamasharipov—the militant in Ar Raqqa, Syria, who reportedly told Masharipov to conduct the attack—for “aiding intentional killing 39 times.” ([HURRIYET DAILY NEWS](#))

7 ISRAEL: (U) Vehicular Ramming Attack Wounds Three

(U) On 2 February, a Palestinian woman rammed her vehicle into a police cruiser at the entrance to the West Bank settlement of Adam, wounding three civilians. The woman—whom the military stated was a terrorist—was subsequently arrested. ([JERUSALEM POST](#))

PARTING SHOTS continued**8 SYRIA: (U) Jordanian Airstrikes Target ISIS Arms Depot, Barracks**

(U) On 3 February, Jordan conducted airstrikes against ISIS targets in southern Syria, hitting an arms depot, a warehouse for making car bombs, and barracks used by the extremist group, according to state media. Drones and precision-guided munitions reportedly killed and wounded an unspecified number of ISIS militants, and also targeted an ISIS-held former Syrian Army post. (AP)

9 SYRIA: (U) Turkish Forces Kill 51 ISIS Terrorists

(U) On 4 February, Turkey struck 59 ISIS targets and killed 51 terrorists in northern Syria as part of its ongoing incursion, according to the Turkish military. Turkish forces previously surrounded the ISIS-controlled town of al-Bab as part of a five-month long operation. Four of those killed were emirs, or local commanders, the Turkish military said, adding its jets destroyed 56 buildings and three command and control centers in the al-Bab and Bzagh regions.

(REUTERS)

10 IRAQ: (U) US Embassy Reports Threats Against Baghdad Hotels

(U) On 6 February, US Embassy Baghdad announced it limited the movement of its personnel after receiving "credible threats of possible attacks on hotels frequented by Westerners." "As a reminder, US citizens should maintain a heightened sense of security awareness and take appropriate measures to enhance their personal security at all times when living and working in Iraq," according to an emergency security message for US citizens on the embassy's website.

(STATE DEPT.)

11 IRAQ/SYRIA: (U) ISIS News Agency Claims UAS Attacks

(U) In early February, the ISIS-affiliated *A'maq* news agency claimed ISIS conducted 12 attacks over a period of three days using explosive-laden UASs against Popular Mobilization Forces personnel near Tal Afar Airport in Iraq, PKK fighters, Iraqi security forces, and other targets in Iraq and Syria. (A'MAQ)



(U) ISIS graphic claiming attacks (ISIS)

12 BAHRAIN: (U) Bomb Blast Outside Capital; No Casualties Reported

(U) On 5 February, a bomb exploded on a main thoroughfare on the outskirts of the Bahraini capital Manama, damaging several cars but causing no injuries. The Bahraini Interior Ministry described the blast as a terrorist act. (REUTERS)

13 EGYPT: ISIS-Sinai Claims Fighters Conducted Sinai Attack

(U) On 31 January, ISIS-S claimed its fighters killed and wounded 20 Egyptian soldiers in four days of clashes in the northern Sinai. In a statement posted on a pro-ISIS website, ISIS-S said the fighting took place south of the coastal city of el-Arish and the militants also destroyed two tanks, a Humvee, and two other military vehicles. (AP)

PARTING SHOTS continued

14 EGYPT: (U) ISIS-Sinai Releases Picture of Killed Palestinian Fighter

(U) On 5 February, ISIS-Sinai released an official photo of Palestinian Fighter Abu Abdir Rahman al-Maqdisi. Al-Maqdisi was a former Hamas preacher from Gaza who was killed in December 2016. (ISIS-S)



(U) Abu Abdir Rahman al-Maqdisi (ISIS-S)

15 EGYPT: (U) Army Kills 14 Militants in Sinai Raid

(U) As of 6 February, Egyptian soldiers killed 14 militants and arrested ten others in a raid in central Sinai, according to the Egyptian military. The operation—which occurred over the previous five days—destroyed three car bombs and ten other explosive devices and seized weapons, communication devices, and military clothing. (REUTERS)

16 LIBYA: (U) Homemade Hand Grenade Recovered

(U) As of 31 January, Libyan National Army forces recovered a homemade hand grenade. The grenade contained an explosive as well as coins wrapped around the device in plastic, for fragmentation. (TWITTER)



(U) Improvised grenade recovered in Libya (TWITTER)

17 NIGERIA: (U) Boko Haram Conducts Attack Against Military Base, Town

(U) On 7 February, Boko Haram militants launched an attack against a military base in the Damaturu Local Government area of Yobe State. Militants infiltrated the area in five vans in the early morning hours and attacked a local military base, then conducted a coordinated attack on the town of Sasawa. At least two people were reportedly killed. (VANGUARD)

PARTING SHOTS continued

18 NIGERIA: (U) Troops Save Female Suicide Bomber, Kill Another

(U) On 7 February, Nigerian troops saved the life of a young woman strapped with explosives and killed another would-be suicide bomber, apparently sent by Boko Haram to attack the northeastern city of Maiduguri, according to police. Soldiers on guard duty spotted the two moving toward a large gas station and ordered them to halt. When they continued to advance, soldiers shot and killed one of the women. The second then surrendered. Both women were wearing jackets laden with explosives which soldiers were able to disarm. ([AP](#))

19 SOMALIA: (U) Al-Shabaab Executes Four Men Accused Of Spying

(U) On 5 February, al-Shabaab militants in Jamame district of lower Jubba region, Somalia, publicly beheaded four men accused of spying for the country's Western-backed government, the US, and Kenya, according to a local governor, who claimed the men admitted to the crime. ([REUTERS](#))

20 AFGHANISTAN: (U) Suicide Bomber Strikes Supreme Court

(U) On 7 February, a suicide bomber detonated explosives outside the Afghanistan Supreme Court in Kabul. The Ministry of Public Health said at least 20 people were killed and 38 injured people were taken to city hospitals. Police said an apparent suicide bomber targeted Supreme Court employees leaving their offices at the end of the work day. On 8 February ISIS claimed the attack, and stated the bomber was a Tajik national. ([REUTERS](#))

21 AFGHANISTAN: (U) Taliban Reportedly Conducts Armed UAS Experiments

(U) As of 4 February, Taliban forces reportedly began exercises utilizing armed UASs for attacks against US military forces in Afghanistan. The exercises were reportedly conducted in Taliban-controlled territory in the Herat, Helmand, and Zabul areas of Afghanistan, and aimed to arm UASs with explosives for potential attacks in the region. ([UMMAT](#))

22 PAKISTAN: (U) Two Officers Injured in Suicide Attack on Police Station

(U) On 7 February, two policemen were injured when a suicide bomber rammed his vehicle into a police station in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa's Bannu district—at least the second suicide attack on the station. Police reported extensive damage to the installation. ([THE EXPRESS TRIBUNE](#))



NATIONAL COUNTERTERRORISM CENTER (NCTC)

NCTC serves as the primary organization in the US Government for integrating and analyzing all intelligence pertaining to terrorism possessed or acquired by the US Government (except purely domestic terrorism); serves as the central and shared knowledge bank on terrorism information; provides all-source intelligence support to government-wide counterterrorism activities; establishes the information technology (IT) systems and architectures within NCTC and between NCTC and other agencies that enable access to, as well as integration, dissemination, and use of, terrorism information.

NCTC serves as the principal advisor to the Director of National Intelligence (DNI) on intelligence operations and analysis relating to counterterrorism, advising the DNI on how well US intelligence activities, programs, and budget proposals for counterterrorism conform to priorities established by the President.