THE INFORMER

A Newsletter Produced by the RSO Office, United States Embassy, London

Issue 1 – May 2007



"... The greatest single threat is the lack of conviction that a threat exists"

Lord Radcliffe -1960

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BUREAU OF DIPLOMATIC SECURITY U.S. DEPARTMENT of STATE



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Introduction

Welcome to the first edition of 'The Informer'

A message from the RSO

This document is produced by the Regional Security Office in London with the intention of sharing information and encouraging discussion with law enforcement and security professionals.



The role of the Regional Security Office

The RSO form a part of the State Department's Bureau of Diplomatic Security (DS). DS is a unique law enforcement agency that has a broad scope of global responsibilities. Overseas, DS personnel and security programs provide the first line of defense for U.S. diplomatic missions against the threat of terrorist, criminal and technical attacks. DS through the RSO develops and implements effective security programs to safeguard all personnel who work in every U.S. diplomatic mission around the world. The RSO is also a primary law enforcement agency for liaison with police and security services. The RSO also provides security advice to local American businesses through a program called the Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSAC).

In the United States, the Bureau protects the Secretary of State, the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, and foreign dignitaries below the head-of-state level who visit the United States. DS develops and implements security programs to protect all (more than 90) domestic State Department facilities as well as the residence of the Secretary of State.

The Bureau also assists foreign embassies and consulates in the United States with the security for their missions and personnel. In addition to protective responsibilities, DS investigates passport and visa fraud, conducts personnel security investigations, and issues security clearances.

With the addition of the Office of Foreign Missions to DS in 1996, we also assumed the responsibilities of servicing and regulating the activities of all foreign missions in the United States.

Our Mission

RSO London is committed to assisting your office where possible. Through a trusted and good working relationship we can all help each other in ensuring a safer working environment for all.

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OSAC News

OSAC Conference hosted by RSO London hailed as a success

For the first time in two years, RSO London hosted a country council meeting for OSAC members and invited law enforcement officials at the US Embassy on March 21, 2007.

The event was opened by **His Excellency Robert Tuttle** and **OSAC President Nick Proctor**. Areas explored included Emergency Planning and Business Recovery in terms of the current UK terrorist threat, 'SOCA – A marathon not a sprint' and 'SISBO: An Update on Progress'



Above: OSAC conference hailed a success

As demanded by the majority of OSAC members, 'Animal Rights – Current Tactics and Trends' were discussed in depth and the Metropolitan Police **Deputy Assistant Commissioner Peter Clarke** delivered an enlightening presentation on 'The Current Terrorist Threat in the UK'.

One OSAC member summed up the mood after the event, saying "Over the years I have attended many seminars on similar lines, but yours stood head and shoulders above the crowd for the caliber and mix of attendee, the very high quality of presentation and the obvious willingness to generate confidence and dialogue for an exchange of

ideas and information, vital to successful security cooperation. It was reassuring to enter into a real forum for transatlantic cooperation. It can be all too easy to focus on differences, rather than items in common. Thus it was very gratifying to meet with people keen to operate positively in the latter and I hope that we may be able to support that process even more in the future."

As the **RSO Scott Farquar** stated in the closing remarks, "it is hoped that London would host two country councils per year with a number of smaller meetings held throughout the year".

About OSAC

The Overseas Security Advisory Council was established in 1985 as a Federal Advisory Committee with a U.S. Government Charter to promote security cooperation between the U.S. Department of State and American business and private sector interests worldwide.

With a constituency of more than 3,500 U.S. companies and other private-sector organizations with overseas interests, OSAC operates a website (www.osac.gov), which offers its members the latest in safety-and security-related information, public announcements, warden messages, travel advisories, significant anniversary dates, terrorist group profiles, country crime and safety reports, special topic reports, foreign press reports, and much more. The OSAC staff includes international security research specialists dedicated solely to serving the U.S. private sector.



Above: (OSAC), Overseas Advisory Council

Additionally, OSAC has a network of 100 country councils around the world that draws together U.S. Embassies and Consulates with the local U.S. community including multiple local law enforcement agencies in order to share security information.

For additional information about OSAC please to contact RSOInvestigationsUnit@state.gov

Further OSAC News

International day of direct action against climate change and the G8

On June 8, 2007, Rising Tide has called for an International Day of Direct Action against Climate Change and the G8.



Above: published on www.risingtide.com

Rising Tide is a network of independent groups and individuals intent on taking action against climate change. Little in currently known about the group but they are calling for autonomous, decentralized actions appropriate for your town, city or local area.

If further information is developed the RSO will make further announcements via the OSAC website.

State Department Report

Country Reports on Terrorism issued by Department of State

The number of people killed as a result of terrorist attacks rose by 40% in 2006 to 20,498. This is the grim finding of the State Department's annual "Country Reports on Terrorism" released on April 30, 2007. The number of terrorist attacks also rose by 14% to 14,338 in 2006 and Iraq (non combatant) contributed to 65% of all deaths. The report continues to identify Iran as the biggest state sponsor of terrorism, supporting terrorist groups throughout the Middle East including Iraq. Syria, Cuba, North Korea and Sudan are also listed as state sponsors of terrorism. The Venezuelan government was also criticized for permitting Colombian rebels to use its territories.

Unfortunately the report also highlights the fact that children were increasingly the victims of terror attacks in 2006. As many as 700 children were killed and 1,100 wounded. This is an increase of 80%.

The report covers developments in countries in which acts of terrorism occurred, countries that are state sponsors of terrorism, and countries determined by the Secretary of State to be of particular interest in the global war on terror. As provided in the legislation, the report reviews

major developments in bilateral and multilateral counterterrorism cooperation as well. The report also provides information on terrorist groups responsible for the death, kidnapping, or injury of Americans,

any umbrella groups to which they may belong, groups financed by state sponsors of terrorism, reports on all terrorist organizations on the Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO) list, and other terrorist groups determined by the Secretary to be relevant to the report.

Beginning with the report for 2005, Country Reports on Terrorism will also address terrorist sanctuaries and terrorist attempts to acquire weapons of mass destruction. It will also include statistical information provided by the National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC) on the number of individuals killed, injured, or kidnapped by terrorist groups.

The latest edition will be released this week and can be located by visiting the following link on: http://www/state.gov/s/ct/rls/crt/



Above: Conoleeza Rice

Source: www.state.gov

Crime Corner

Diplomatic Security probe leads to conviction for ex-Foreign Service Officer

Former Foreign Service Officer sentenced in visa fraud conspiracy



Above: Prison



Above: U.S. visa

On March 1, 2007, Judge John W. Darrah, Northern District of Illinois, sentenced Matthew Christ to 24 months incarceration, three years supervised release and imposed a \$5,000 fine. The court ordered Christ to surrender to the Bureau of Prisons on April 23, 2007.

A federal jury in the Northern District of Illinois found Matthew Christ guilty of conspiracy (to commit visa fraud), 18 USC 371, on November 1, 2006.

Christ was a Foreign Service Officer, stationed at U.S. Embassy Vilnius, Lithuania, from August, 1999 to July, 2001. Christ was assigned as a political-economics officer at the U.S. Embassy in Vilnius where he conspired to fraudulently provide non-immigrant visas. The trial began on October 23, 2006.

Nine others also have been convicted in the case, the U.S. Attorney's office said. The co-conspirators obtained visas from Christ without the applicants' having to appear in person at the American Embassy in Vilnius.

The recipients then used the visas they fraudulently obtained to enter the United States, with most arriving at O'Hare International Airport in Chicago. The sentencing and conviction is the result of a 22-month investigation led by the Bureau of Diplomatic Security and the U.S. Attorney's Office in Chicago with cooperation from Lithuanian law enforcement authorities.

RSO London would also like to **thank the Metropolitan Police Service** for assistance in locating a key witness who was able to testify against Matthew Christ.

How RSO London can help you?

If you are a law enforcement agency and require assistance in the US, in particular with matters on US passport and visa fraud, we can assist. DS is a primary liaison agency with police and security services overseas in an effort to obtain support for US law enforcement initiatives and investigations.

The Bureau receives more than 5,000 requests for overseas investigative assistance from US law enforcement each year, and has achieved noteworthy success in locating and apprehending wanted fugitives who have fled the United States.

DS has investigated other cases of passport and visa fraud that have been connected to drug trafficking, international organized crime, Money laundering, peadophilia, and murder.

Please direct any inquiries to: RSOInvestigationsUnit@state.gov



Source: www.state.gov/m/ds/

Rewards for Justice Program (RFJ)

Images of the most-wanted terrorists posted at U.S. airports

The Rewards For Justice Program has dispatched "Faces of Global Terrorism" to Airport Hubs in order to Heighten Travelers' Awareness.

Wanted terrorist posters have been distributed to U.S. airports by the Bureau of Diplomatic Security in partnership with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. The poster, "The Faces of Global Terrorism," identifies 26 known terrorists with reward offers of up to \$25 million as part of the RFJ program. Well-known images of Osama bin Laden and Ayman al-Zawahiri are joined on the poster by the most recent addition to the RFJ program, American-born terrorist, Adam Gadahn

"Ensuring the security of our airports from terrorists requires many partnerships," said Kip Hawley, Administrator, Transportation Security Administration. "We're pleased to be teaming up with the U.S. State Department and Diplomatic Security's Rewards For Justice in this vital national effort."

"Increasing an airline traveler's awareness of wanted terrorists is part of the U.S. Government's mission in fighting the war on terror. We believe these posters will help keep this awareness heightened for both travelers and airport workers as well. It is a reminder that we all have a role to play in airport security," said Richard J. Griffin, Assistant Secretary of State for Diplomatic Security.

The goal of RFJ is to bring international terrorists to justice and prevent acts of international terrorism. In many ways the initiative can be compared to that of the UK Home Office Anti-Terrorist Hotline.

IF YOU SUSPECT IT REPORT IT

CALL 0800 789 321

CONFIDENTIAL ANTI-TERRORIST HOTLINE

In each edition of The Informer we hope to update you on any existing cases and new campaigns relating to the program.

Above: UK Police Hotline

Source: www.state.gov/m/ds/



Above: wanted poster

RFJ Arrest and Conviction

Terrorist added to Rewards for Justice most-wanted list



Above: Zulkifi bin Hir

The Department of State is offering a new reward for information leading to the arrest or conviction of Zulkifli bin Hir (a.k.a. Marwan), a notorious terrorist believed to be involved in multiple deadly bomb attacks in the Philippines.

Zulkifli bin Hir is a Malaysian citizen born in 1966 in Muar, Johor. An engineer trained in the United States, he is allegedly the head of the Kumpulun Mujahidin Malaysia (KMM) terrorist organization and a member of Jemaah Islamiyah's Markaziyah, or central command. He has been present in the Philippines since August 2003, where he is believed to have conducted bomb-making training for the Abu Sayyaf Group.

His younger brother, Taufik bin Abdul Halim, (a.k.a. Dany), was involved in the 2001 Jakarta Atrium Mall bombing, and is currently in detention in Indonesia.

CBRNE News

Chlorine Gas Attacks

In Iraq, insurgents have mounted a series of attacks this year started using Chlorine gas as a weapon against both the civilian population and the security forces. The use of such chemical bombs appears to herald a new campaign by the insurgents and such attacks could be copied by other terrorists outside of the Iraqi theatre.

From January 28th to March 16th 2007, at least 32 people died and more than 550 were injured in chlorine gas attacks in Iraq. This is a worrying trend that could be set to increase.



Above: BBC Chlorine report

Chlorine is an extremely dangerous toxic industrial chemical, it is readily available worldwide and is capable of causing mass injuries and fatalities. Based on previous incidents, a chlorine attack may be accompanied by an explosive charge that is necessary to rupture its holding container.

Chemical attacks generally require a smaller quantity of explosives than a conventional bomb. This may mean that in such an attack, the explosion will be more of a "POP" sound rather than a "BANG".

A chlorine attack may or may not form a visible cloud in the areas of highest concentration. The human nose can detect the presence of chlorine at non-hazardous levels allowing for individuals to take immediate protective actions.

Officer Safety

The Plastic Knife (A reminder)

The knife depicted below was confiscated at a Los Angeles Airport security checkpoint. It was discovered during a physical search of a passenger's bag after a toy gun was observed on the x-ray unit.





Above: The plastic knife. At least 9cm in length detected by the airport x-ray unit

The knife was completely transparent on the x-ray. It is sharp and could easily be used as a stabbing weapon. The knife was distributed free of charge to attendees at a local Las Vegas Shotgun/Handgun Outdoor trade show.

Source: Metropolitan Police

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Chlorine gas has a pungent, bleach-like odor that is easily detectable at a very low concentration. The level at which chlorine will cause immediate health effects is three times greater than this easily detectable level.

In high concentrations, chlorine will cause an immediate burning sensation in the eyes, nose and throat which may lead to coughing, chest tightness, watery eyes, blurred vision, nausea, and vomiting with continued unprotected exposure. Chlorine gas is highly corrosive when it contacts moist tissues such as the eyes, skin, and upper respiratory tract.

First Aid for Chlorine Inhalation:



Serious damage to the nose, throat, and linings of the respiratory tract can result from inhaling chlorine gas. Severe exposure to chlorine gas requires immediate medical attention.

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Chlorine Gas Attacks (Continued from Page 6)

The following first aid measures should be undertaken for all cases of chlorine over exposure:

- Exposed persons should be moved to an uncontaminated area with fresh air.
- Oxygen Artificial Resuscitation (not mouth-to-mouth method) should be administered to unconscious victims.
- Oxygen should be supplemented if breathing is difficult.
- The victim should be positioned in a semi-sitting position so that mucous secretions and/or vomit do not obstruct the airway.
- Victims should avoid physical exertion to prevent aggravating symptoms related to pulmonaryedem (lungs filling with fluid).

First Aid for Eye Contact: Chlorine in any form is corrosive and irritating to the eyes. The following first aid measures should be used on contaminated eyes:

- Remove contact lenses, if applicable
- Flush eyes with copious amounts of water for at least 15 minutes
- Seek immediate medical attention.

First Aid for Skin Contact: Chlorine is corrosive and irritating to the skin.

The following first aid measures should be applied in the event of skin exposure to liquid chlorine:

- Quickly remove contaminated clothing
- Flush exposed skin with copious amounts of water
- Seek immediate medical attention.

Choking Agents – substances that cause physical injury to the lungs:

Name	Exposure	Characteristics	Symptoms	Onset	Treatment
Chlorine (CL)	Inhalation, or skin and eye contact.	Colorless to slightly yellow gas with sharp irritating odor.	Choking, sore throat, labored breathing, build-up of fluid in the lungs; "dry land drowning" from lack of oxygen.	Within hours.	Remove from exposed area & remain still, supply oxygen; seek medical attention.
Phosgene (CG)	Inhalation, or skin and eye contact.	Colorless gas with odor of freshly mown hay or corn.	Same as above.	Same as above.	Same as above.

Source: www.state.gov/t/np/wmd/



Physical & Residential Security:

U.S. Consulate Protected by British Bollards

As work finally begins on the security perimeter at the U.S. Embassy in London, the picturesque setting of Regent Terrace, Edinburgh has seen the completion of work conducted at the U.S. Consulate.

The Consulate opted to install the ATG Access SP1000 bollards to stand guard outside its front entrance. ATG Access has installed over 250,000 bollards in the UK and abroad and its anti-terrorist SP1000 product is fast becoming the preferred method of secure access control for government facilities and other areas at risk of attack by vehicle borne explosives.



Left: U.S. Consulate Edinburgh



Above: works during the installation of bollards



Right: ATG Access SP1000 bollards

The SP1000 has been tested to the forthcoming PAS68 standard which has been designed to match or exceed the American K12 L3 standard. One single SP1000 bollard was tested on three separate occasions, first at 30mph and then twice at 50mph, each time with a fully laden 7.5 tonne truck. Each test resulted in a dead stop of the vehicle and the bollard continuing to function.

Source: www.buildingworks.com

DS in Action

A Royal Pleasure

DS Agents provided dignitary protection for members of the British Royal family on three separate occasions during the past six months. Most recently, in late January 2007, Prince Charles and the Duchess of Cornwell returned to the U.S. for their first ever visit to Philadelphia.





Diplomatic Security Agents walk with Charles and the Duchess of Cornwall in Philadelphia, PA, Jan 27, 2007

DS protects more dignitaries than any other U.S. Government agency. addition to protecting the Secretary of State. agents protect the US Ambassador to the United Nations and all foreign dignitaries below the level of head of state who visit the United States, averaging 150 per year. This has included many prominent figures from Yasser Arafat to the Dalai Lama numerous British foreian to secretaries and other members of the British government.

Source: Dept. of state

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UK and U.S. Current Threat Levels

Threat level catagories

As of March 19, 2007 The United States threat level stands at 'Elevated', or 'Yellow'. As of 14th August 2006, the current UK threat level stands at: "Severe"















CRITICAL

AN ATTACK IS EXPECTED IMMINENTLY

SEVERE

AN ATTACK IS HIGHLY LIKELY

SUBSTANTIAL

AN ATACK IS A STRONG POSSIBILITY

MODERATE

AN ATTACK IS POSSIBLE BUT NOT LIKELY

LOW

AN ATTACK IS UNLIKELY

Forthcoming Notable Dates



Announcements

- + 7 May: May Day Bank Holiday in England and Wales
- + 24 May: In the US, 4 Muslim extremists each jailed for 250 years for the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Center – 1994
- + 28 May: US Memorial Day
- + 8 June: Abu Musab al-Zarqawi (al-Qaeda leader in Iraq) killed by Coalition Forces – 2006
- + 4 July: US Independence Day 1776
- + 7 July: Islamist suicide bombers attack London's transport infrastructure killing 52 people - 2005
- + 21 July: Attempted bomb attacks on London's transport infrastructure 2005
- + 22 July: Uday and Qusay Hussein are killed in Mosul, Iraq 2003

New worldwide caution issued by U.S. Department of State

A new worldwide caution was issued to U.S. citizens on April 10, 2007. Concern remains about the continued threat from terrorist attacks, demonstrations and other violent actions against U.S. citizens and interests overseas. Current information suggests that Al-Qaeda and affiliated organizations continue to plan terrorist attacks against multiple regions, including Europe, Asia, Africa and the Middle East. These attacks may employ a wide variety of tactics to include assassinations, kidnappings, hijackings and bombings.

Ongoing events in Iraq and elsewhere in the Middle East have resulted in demonstrations and associated violence in several countries. Americans are reminded that demonstrations and rioting can occur with little or no warning.

In August 2006, British authorities arrested a significant number of extremists engaged in a plot to destroy multiple passenger aircraft flying from the United Kingdom to the United States. The September 2006 attack on the U.S. Embassy in Syria and the March 2006 bombing near the U.S. Consulate in Karachi, Pakistan illustrate the continuing desire of extremists to strike American targets.

Extremists may elect to use conventional or non- conventional weapons, and target both official and private interests.



Above: Terrorist attacks in New York, Bali, London and Madrid

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New worldwide caution issued by U.S. Department of State

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The bomb attacks targeting buses carrying foreign workers in March 2007 and December 2006 in Algeria, a series of bombings in Thailand in May and September 2006 that targeted commercial and tourist destinations in the far south, and the bombings in the Egyptian resort town of Dahab in April 2006 all illustrate how terrorists exploit vulnerabilities associated with soft targets. Additional examples

of such targets include high-profile sporting events, residential areas, business offices, clubs, restaurants, places of worship, schools, public areas and locals where Americans gather in large numbers, including during holidays.

Financial and economic targets of value may also be considered as vulnerable possible venues; the vehicle-based suicide attack on an oil facility near Mukalla and Marib in Yemen in September 2006 and the failed attack on the Abqaiq oil processing facility in Saudi Arabia in late February 2006 are such examples.

Above: London transport still a major threat from terrorist attacks

In the wake of the August 2006 plot against aircraft in London,

numerous terrorist attacks on trains in India in 2006, the July 2005 London Underground bombings, and the March 2004 train attacks in Madrid, **Americans are reminded of the potential for terrorists to attack the public transportation systems.** In addition, extremists may also select aviation and maritime services as possible targets.

All citizens are strongly encouraged to maintain a high level of vigilance, be aware of local events, and take the appropriate steps to bolster their personal security.

Source: Dept of State

Contact Us

