



# Recent Attacks on Israelis

15 March 2012



Aftermath of the bomb attack in New Delhi against an Israeli official's wife's car<sup>1</sup>

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US Army TRADOC G2  
TRADOC Intelligence Support Activity (TRISA) – Threats



# Purpose

- ☐ To inform deploying units, trainers, and scenario writers of the attacks on Israeli/Jewish targets around the world in January-February 2012
- ☐ To identify the recent variety of tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTP) used to target Israeli officials
- ☐ To identify the possible cause in the escalation of attacks against Israeli/Jewish targets

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# Executive Summary

- ☐ Provides a summary of the recent attacks against Israeli targets in Azerbaijan, Georgia, India, and Thailand
- ☐ Describes the TTP for each attack
- ☐ Provides the nebulous links between the attacks on Israeli targets and Iran
- ☐ Lists the possible reasons that Iran may be targeting Israeli interests at this time
- ☐ Attempts to show a correlation between the recent attacks against Israeli targets and Iran's frustration at the number of its nuclear scientists killed over the past several years



# January and February 2012 Attacks Against Israeli Targets

- ☐ **Baku, Azerbaijan:<sup>2</sup>**
  - Wednesday, 25 January 2012
  - Police foiled plot to kill prominent Israeli/Jewish people
- ☐ **Tbilisi, Georgia:<sup>3</sup>**
  - Monday, 13 February 2012, 0830 hours (local time)
  - Israeli embassy worker discovered bomb under car before it exploded
- ☐ **New Delhi, India:<sup>4</sup>**
  - Monday, 13 February 2012, 1520 hours (local time)
  - Motorcycle rider placed bomb that exploded on an Israeli embassy car
- ☐ **Bangkok, Thailand:<sup>5</sup>**
  - Tuesday, 14 February 2012
  - Bomb-makers' house destroyed due to an accidental explosion
  - Thai police stated that the group planned to target Israeli/Jewish people



# Baku Assassination Plot

- ☐ On 25 January 2012, Baku Police arrested three Azerbaijanis with plans to kill the Israeli ambassador in Baku, a prominent local rabbi, and the Chabad Jewish School headmaster<sup>6</sup>
- ☐ Azerbaijani officials claim that Balqardash Dadashov hired Rasim Farail Aliyev and Ali Huseynov to conduct the assassinations for approximately \$150,000 (\$130,000 in some sources)<sup>7</sup>
- ☐ Dadashov:<sup>8</sup>
  - Azerbaijani national that lived in Ardabil, Iran
  - Azerbaijani officials said he was recruited by Iranian intelligence
  - Provided a sniper rifle and explosives to the two assassins
  - Still at large
- ☐ Aftermath:<sup>9</sup>
  - Iran denied any connections to the plot
  - Iran threatened to reconsider its current recognition of Nagorno-Karabakh as part of Azerbaijan if Azerbaijan continued to claim that Iran coordinated the assassination plot in Baku
  - Azerbaijani police are still searching for Dadshov

## Azerbaijan Map



Location of attempted assassinations<sup>10</sup>



# Tbilisi Bomb Found

- ☐ On 13 February 2012, an Israeli embassy worker's personal vehicle was targeted with a sticky bomb:<sup>11</sup>
  - Worker dropped off his child at school and then continued to the embassy
  - Upon backing into his parking spot, the driver heard some odd sounds
  - Driver got out and discovered a bomb stuck to the car with a magnet; other reports state the bomb was attached under the car with duct tape
  - Georgian police defused the bomb without incident
- ☐ Some sources state the bomb was similar in design to the one used in the attack in New Delhi, India later the same day<sup>12</sup>
- ☐ Police found similar bombs the following day in Thailand<sup>13</sup>
- ☐ Aftermath:<sup>14</sup>
  - Israel blamed the Iranians
  - Iranian officials claimed that the Israeli charges were without foundation
  - Iranians blamed the bomb on the Israelis who want to undermine the cordial relationship between Iran and Georgia, which recently resulted in a joint effort to build a Georgian hydroelectric plant
  - Georgian officials are still continuing their investigation



# Georgia Map



Location of attempted bombing<sup>15</sup>





# New Delhi Sticky Bomb

- ☐ On 13 February 2012, motorcyclist conducted a sticky bomb attack with a similar TTP used against Iranian Scientists over the last several years:<sup>16</sup>
  - Rider avoided the closed circuit cameras near the embassy
  - Rider followed the vehicle for at least 10 minutes before the car stopped at a red light
  - Rider placed a small homemade bomb, about the size of a book, on the rear of the vehicle
  - Explosion occurred just a few seconds later, most likely by remote control
  - Vehicle stopped after about 220 yards and became engulfed in flames
- ☐ Casualties:<sup>17</sup>
  - Spouse of the Israeli Defense Attaché, on her way to pick up their children from school, admitted to the hospital with shrapnel wounds to her back and liver
  - Driver admitted to the hospital with minor injuries
  - Two occupants of a nearby car also slightly injured and hospitalized
- ☐ Aftermath:<sup>18</sup>
  - Israel claimed Iran was behind the attack
  - Iran called the Israeli accusations lies
  - Iran said it was an Israeli plot to undermine Iran's relationship with India



## India Map



Location of sticky bomb attack<sup>19</sup>



# Thai Police Stop Bombers

- ☐ On 14 February 2012, an accidental explosion destroyed a bomb-making house in Bangkok, Thailand<sup>20</sup>
- ☐ Closed circuit cameras showed three men leaving the house right after the explosion, one carrying a heavy backpack<sup>21</sup>
- ☐ One individual was injured in the explosion:<sup>22</sup>
  - The perpetrator attempted to wave down a taxi.
  - The perpetrator threw a bomb at the taxi vehicle, injuring the driver and three other bystanders, when the taxi refused to stop to pick him up.
  - Police attempted to apprehend the perpetrator, but the suspect ran away.
  - When the suspect determined he could not escape, he attempted to throw a box-like object at the police. It exploded, severing at least one, and possibly both, of the thrower's legs.
- ☐ Aftermath:<sup>23</sup>
  - Thai police stated that the group planned to attack Jewish/Israeli targets.
  - Thai police indicated that the bomb-making material they found, with a kill radius of fewer than 45 yards, was similar to the bombs found in Tbilisi and that exploded in New Delhi the day before.
  - Police found Iranian currency, U.S. dollars, and Thai money at the house along with several other sticky bombs housed inside cheap radios.



# Thai Police Stop Bombers (Continued)

### ☐ Three suspects in custody:<sup>24</sup>

- **Saeid Moradi**
  - Iranian male charged with explosives possession and attempted murder
  - Caught after the bomb he attempted to throw at police hit something and exploded near him, severing his leg(s)
- **Mohamad Khazaei**
  - Iranian male charged with explosives possession and attempted murder
  - Detained at the Bangkok airport as he attempted to flee the country
- **Masoud Sedaghat Zadeh**
  - Male under investigation for terrorism-related activities
  - Detained upon his arrival by plane in Malaysia at the request of the Thai police
  - Awaiting possible extradition back to Thailand

### ☐ Three suspects at large:<sup>25</sup>

- **Nikkhahfard Javad**
  - Middle Eastern male
- **Leila Rohani**
  - Iranian female charged with explosives possession and attempted murder
  - Rented the house that was destroyed by the accidental explosion
  - Fled to Iran, a country that possesses no extradition treaty with Thailand
- **Nourouzi Shaya Ali Akbar**
  - Iranian male wanted on suspicion of possessing and making explosives
  - Filmed by a closed circuit TV camera leaving the suspects' house
  - Believed to currently be in Iran



## Thailand Map<sup>2</sup>



Location of accidental explosion<sup>26</sup>



# Possible Connections to Iran

- ☐ Four of the six suspects in the Thailand bombing are Iranian; two of the three suspects still at large are possibly hiding in Iran.<sup>27</sup>
- ☐ The Azerbaijani citizen that hired the two assassins for the Baku attacks lived in Iran.<sup>28</sup>
- ☐ The Azerbaijani police say that the men confessed they were hired by Iranian intelligence agents.<sup>29</sup>
- ☐ Forensics determined that the bombs in Tbilisi, New Delhi, and Thailand were of similar construction.<sup>30</sup>
- ☐ Thai police arrested a Lebanese-Swedish man with alleged links to Hezbollah (supported by Iran) in January, who led them to a bomb-making warehouse that contained over 8,800 pounds of urea fertilizer and other components used to make bombs.<sup>31</sup>
- ☐ Iran wanted revenge for the assassinations of its nuclear scientists:<sup>32</sup>
  - Most Iranians believe that Israel's Mossad is behind the assassinations.
  - Iran vowed revenge against the assassins after the latest Iranian nuclear scientist was killed in January 2012.



# Possible Connections to Iran (Continued)

- ☐ **Fourth anniversary of the assassination of Lebanese Hezbollah leader, Imad Moughniyeh, supposedly by Israel's Mossad:<sup>33</sup>**
  - Killed 12 February 2008
  - Iranian-backed Hezbollah vowed revenge
  - The attacks in India and Georgia occurred the day after the anniversary
  - Israel put its foreign missions on alert for possible attacks
- ☐ **Previous history of Iranian-supported attacks:<sup>34</sup>**
  - 1994: Buenos Aires attack on a Jewish community center killed 85 people
  - 1996: Khobar Towers in Saudi Arabia killed 19 U.S. military personnel and 1 local civilian; 372 others injured in the attack
  - Both the U.S. & Israel claim they have stopped several Iranian-supported attacks in the last decade, including ones planned on American soil
- ☐ **Attacks aimed at soft targets in countries with less security:<sup>35</sup>**
  - Targeted Israeli vehicles or people and not the actual embassy buildings
  - Iranians can travel to Georgia and Azerbaijan without visas, providing them some of the easiest access to Israeli targets
  - Both Georgia and Azerbaijan enjoy a closer relationship with the U.S. than many other Middle Eastern countries
  - Iran claims that Azerbaijan supported Israel's Mossad in attacks against its nuclear scientists



# Analysis

- ☐ Despite claims from Israeli officials or analysts' speculation, evidence of Iranian involvement in the attacks or planned attacks on Israeli officials/Jewish people in Azerbaijan, Georgia, India, and Thailand is only circumstantial (based on OSINT evidence only).
- ☐ Similarly, the Iranian claims that the Israeli Mossad attacked its nuclear program/scientists is also circumstantial.
- ☐ Both Iran and Israel will continue to blame each other for any attacks against their interests unless significant evidence proves otherwise.
- ☐ If Iran and Israel are engaged in a shadow or proxy war, both sides will likely attempt to keep it at a low level to avoid involvement of other countries, especially the U.S.
- ☐ If the attacks by one side go beyond a certain level, however, Iran or Israel may escalate the conflict if the country considers its national interests to be at stake.





# Training Implications

- ☐ **Combat Training Centers (CTC) can role-play bomb makers using electronic devices such as radios.**
- ☐ **CTCs could role-play motorcyclist bomb attacks that replicate the TTP used to attack Israeli targets.**
- ☐ **Soldiers in all operational environments must remain vigilant at all times and be aware of their surroundings.**
- ☐ **Soldiers need to vary their routine and routes so they do not become an easier target for personal attacks.**
- ☐ **Soldiers need to know what their TTP are for a potential motorcycle magnetic bomb attack.**



# Variable Implications

(Using PMESII-PT OE Variables)

### Political:

#### ☐ Shadow War

- Israel believes that Iran conducted these attacks in January-February 2012.<sup>36</sup>
- Iran believes that Israel's Mossad is behind the attacks on the Iranian nuclear scientists over the last several years.<sup>37</sup>
- The recent attacks possibly could be Iranian payback, but Iran does not want to raise the stakes to such a high level as to cause a direct attack on its country from either Israel or the U.S.

#### ☐ Proxy War

- Iran could be behind the attacks against the Israelis, but used others to carry out the missions such as Hezbollah.<sup>38</sup>
- There is no proof, but Israel may be collaborating with the Mujahedin-e Khalq (MKO), the internal opposition group to the current Iranian regime, and some Azerbaijani officials to attack the Iranian nuclear scientists.<sup>39</sup>



# Variable Implications

(Using PMESII-PT OE Variables)

### Military:

- ☐ If involved, the Iranian military will continue to remain in the background as to maintain plausible deniability.
- ☐ Iran will only conduct a direct military attack on Israel if it feels its national interests are at stake.<sup>40</sup>

### Economic:

- ☐ These assassinations or assassination attempts on Israeli targets have little impact on any country's economy.

### Social:

- ☐ Most Israelis publically state that Iran or the Hezbollah with Iranian support is behind these recent attacks against Israeli people.<sup>41</sup>
- ☐ Most Iranians likely feel the need for revenge against someone for the death of their nuclear scientists and they blame Israel.<sup>42</sup>
- ☐ Iran is developing a "Cult of Personality" around its dead scientists by changing the names of its nuclear facilities to honor them and involving their children in activities associated with the nuclear program.<sup>43</sup>



# Variable Implications

(Using PMESII-PT OE Variables)

### Information:

- ☐ Israel will attempt to use any attacks against its interests to its advantage.

### Infrastructure:

- ☐ Due to the security of most Israeli buildings, attacks will most likely continue against soft targets or Israeli officials in transit.

### Physical Environment:

- ☐ Most of these attacks involved small amounts of explosives that limit the collateral damage.<sup>44</sup>

### Time:

- ☐ For the foreseeable future, Israel and Iran will continue to blame each other for any assassination attempts on their officials.
- ☐ As long as the attacks on Iranian scientists continue, Israel can expect that attacks on Israeli/Jewish soft targets will continue.



# OEA Team Threat Report

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## POCs

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# OEA Team Threat Report



❑ AKO

<https://www.us.army.mil/suite/portal/index.jsp>  
(<https://www.us.army.mil/suite/folder/11318389>)

**Threat Products: AKO“Easy-Link”**  
Contemporary Operational Environment and Threat Integration Directorate

The screenshot displays the AKO Army Knowledge Online portal. On the left, a login box is visible with fields for Username and Password, and a 'Login' button circled in red. Below this is a 'CAC Login to AKO/DKO' section. The main content area shows a 'Home' page with a 'Files' tab selected. A 'Favorites' list on the right shows various folders, with 'TRISA-CTID' circled in red. A red arrow points from the 'TRISA-CTID' folder in the Favorites list to the 'TRISA-CTID' folder in the main content area. The 'TRISA-CTID' folder is also circled in red. A red box highlights the 'Files' tab in the top navigation bar.

1. Login
2. “Click” Files
3. Search to:  
TRADOC G2  
TRISA-CTID
4. “Click” & Find !