



AL QAEDA CAPABILITY TO CIRCUMVENT AIRLINE SECURITY

“PERHAPS IT IS A UNIVERSAL TRUTH THAT THE LOSS OF LIBERTY AT HOME IS TO BE CHARGED TO PROVISIONS AGAINST DANGER, REAL OR PRETENDED, FROM ABROAD.” – JAMES MADISON, 1798

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The collection of subjects in this document are copy-pastes derived from intelligence gathering on behalf of AML investigations where fraud is used to obfuscate perpetrators and financial crime.

ISIS-K sent messages

Shoot down a commercial airliner

Al Qaeda circumvented airline security

The Airport Nexus Crime Terrorism

Al Qaeda pilots working for commercial airlines

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The enemy appears driven and motivated by something other than ideology or funding. Every one of these events (could have) occurred as a result of a failure of imagination. The job is not to predict tomorrow based on yesterday. That's what academics do. The task is to prevent the end of tomorrow by using your brains and your imagination. If you don't identify and find the threat before it's too late, you might be held responsible for the single largest intelligence fumble since a flight instruction school in Florida failed to grasp the significance of a 19-year-old Al-Qaeda terrorist saying he didn't need to learn how to land.

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ISIS-K sent messages and messengers

September 28, 2021 Alert!

NSA

In August 2021, the National Security Agency (NSA) intercepted encrypted messages between members of al Qaeda, ISIS, and other extremist networks mentioning possible targets in the Middle East and parts of South and Central Asia.

During an ongoing money laundering and risk assessment operation in the Middle East, Egypt, and parts of South and Central Asia, Ultrascan investigators have discovered, through HUMINT intelligence:

- **ISIS-K** sent messages and messengers to activate terrorism cells FROM, IN, and FOR **Indian Kashmir, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, MALDIVES, Philippines, Thailand, DUBAI UAE, Tel Aviv Israel, Qatar, and Bahrain.**

- Those are considered both, being prime targets as well as harboring support for the Al Qaida-ISIS networks and other extremist groups.

- The capabilities of the different cells are (not limited to) **poisoning and hijack** (intercontinental flight) **airplanes (!!!), busses, and trains. Targeting (high-profile) travelers and cities**

- Surveillance, Counter Surveillance, and HUMINT revealed - **travel patterns of up to 3000 Afghan nationals.** Criminal Funding and Facilitators, Support, Recruitment and Threat Levels for Al Qaeda - ISIS Affiliates.

Shoot down a commercial airliner.

September 29, 2021 Alert.

There are disagreements within and between the Taliban factions, supported via Qatar, Pakistan, India, and the (owners of) fighting proxies of al Qaeda and ISIS affiliates in the region.

In general, one can see that parts of the Taliban government and India support insurgencies in and against Pakistan while al Qaeda and ISIS groups fight against the Taliban government for control over certain mining-rich parts of Afghanistan.

Attack the Doha accord stipulations

The enemies of the Taliban government seek to destabilize it by attacks that prove the Government cannot control activities by al Qaeda/ISIS in and from Afghanistan, as stipulated in the Doha US-Taliban accords.

Al Qaeda chatter

In recent weeks, reports surfaced about meetings by regional leaders of al Qaeda. They, among other things, are considering a missile attack on commercial airlines leaving from KBL or MZR. Yet uncommon, these types of attacks are easy to accomplish, and they have the capabilities. However, reports about missile threats against commercial airlines have become standard for ungoverned areas and countries with persistent insurgencies.



Al Qaeda circumvented airline security

The Airport Nexus Crime Terrorism

Airport Insider Security Threat

There are much more or less obvious threat scenario's; this* is only what was derived from the Intelligence, HUMINT, and Anti-Money-laundering (AML) operations focused on the nexus terrorism and organized crime

The goal of aviation security is to prevent harm to aircraft, passengers, and crew, as well as support national security and counter-terrorism policy.

'Crush the enemy's economy.'

Al Qaeda repeatedly designated high-profile airlines as targets in a bid to "crush the enemy's economy." A long-term prime target in the sense of patiently creating access to the aviation industry, airport organizations, and ecosystems. While building its global organization, 'patience' has proven to be one characteristic of the Al Qa'ida leadership.

Security priorities

The priorities are **passenger and baggage screening**; airport security, including access control and perimeter surveillance; aircraft protection; security personnel training; implementation of **security clearances of airport personnel**; air cargo screening; and armed security, including deploying air marshals.

In the past decades, the aviation industry became leading in developing Hi-Tech countermeasures against threats.

Wake-up call

Initially, the state-of-the-art detection systems at modern airports make it difficult for terrorists to sneak bombs onto planes.

After the threat by AQAP-Khorasan with "Ingenious explosives" and "tactics not detected by security measures," the efforts of the security industry were immediately dedicated to detecting "**Ingenious explosives.**"

Meanwhile, the vision of Al Qaeda always was building presence inside their targets to change them 'like cancer from within and enable their mission "Tactics."

*** Terrorist groups found loopholes and developed new ways to get bombs onto passenger jets by recruiting insiders and inserting their people in critical positions within the ecosystems of their enemies.**



Oktober 1, 2021 Alert!

Al Qaeda pilots working for commercial airlines.

From 2009 we recognized an increasing number of Al Qaeda supporters in pilot training and working for commercial airlines

Busy airports are big cities

It takes a vast array of workers to make Big Airports run smoothly. Customers rely on pilots, mechanics, ticket agents, security personnel, and vendors to create a smooth transportation hub. Most jobs are with private employers such as airlines, hotels, cleaners, and foodservice companies, while other airport jobs are direct with the facility.

For example, there are 76,000 employees in the London Heathrow airport area

Access to aircraft

When properly secured, access to aircraft is limited to owners, pilots, service personnel, and other authorized persons.

**** Organised crime has access to the ecosystems of all those categories. This threat always existed but changed dramatically when shifting from criminally into ideologically motivated.***

The airport, where crime meets ideology

The workforce and visitors on an airport mirror society, including crime. At that first line of defense, tackling crime at the back leads to treating symptoms and needs to be addressed at the front before incidents happen.

**** International transport hubs provide a perfect matrix to synchronize and fuse criminally inspired activity with ideology-driven terror mechanisms.***

Crime persists despite heightened security

Since losses are covered by insurance, why worry about security? Frequently stolen items are laptops and iPads. Travelers and security are alert for thefts from baggage carousels, swiped property left unattended, and robberies by baggage handlers.

* Under that layer of insured petty crimes hides trafficking by serious organized crime.

Presence of insider threats

Even though the list of serious crimes recorded inside airport areas seems sheer endless, what we know is the tip of the iceberg.

**** Criminal and anti-money laundering investigations revealed the 'nexus organized crime terrorism' on airports in Europe and the MENA.***

Investigations revealed, for example - Hezbollah with smuggling and sale of counterfeit drugs. - Members of the Muslim Brotherhood who worked at the airlines (pilots) and as staff in the baggage department facilitating card fraud and theft. - The Taliban controlled their traffickers of white heroin. - Al Shabaab is operating telecom shops facilitating credit card airline ticket fraud. - Boko Haram is perpetrating ID theft, conducting fake bank branches, and change offices. All major crime

Ultrascan Research
Amsterdam
The Netherlands
+31 20 80 80 335



groups that worked on the airports knew beforehand which of the flights (the passengers) would NOT be checked.

Terrorists and sympathizers work at airports

Few airports require employee screening before work, a shared responsibility often starts with the private employers and ends with a limited crosscheck for criminal records before security badges are issued.

**** In European airports, we found minions everywhere, from airplane cleaners, maintenance, pilots, shuttle service, and baggage handlers to operators of screening machines that waved their friends through checkpoints. Also, security staff that knowingly 'operated' a scanning machine with crucial malfunctions were not exceptional in the MENA.***

Suspect behavior by staff is often categorized and prioritized under the usual crimes, which intentionally veils possible terror (support) acts.

Profiling for terror threats needs to be adapted and extended to the apparent criminal ecosystems on airports.

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For two decades, we've heard how irrelevant HUMINT has become.

*Why do we need secret agents? Isn't it all rather quaint?
Is it that we see a different, more frightening world than you do?*

Our enemies are no longer nations and do not exist on a map but are non-state actors and unknown individuals. Look around you, who do you fear? Can you see a face, a uniform, a flag? No.

Yet, before breakfast in their pajamas, they can do more damage from their laptops than an intelligence agent can during a year in the field. Online organized crime doesn't know law and order, has a Wild West mentality, and is lawless to the core. Anarchy.

While transparency became fashionable in the West, the World is not more transparent now. Today it's more opaque, in the shadows, and that's where we do battle. So, before you declare that irrelevant, ask yourselves, how safe do you feel?

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