



HQ INTEL-ALERT

Special Investigative Bulletin

19 October 2005

BALTIMORE, MD

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Threat to Baltimore, MD Tunnels Real or False Alarm?

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By: Douglas J. Hagmann

OVERVIEW & NATURE OF THE THREAT

At approximately **11:15 a.m. on Tuesday, 18 October 2005**, officials from the state of Maryland, in conjunction with the city of Baltimore and after consulting with various federal, state and local law enforcement agencies, closed the four-lane Baltimore Harbor Tunnel and all but two lanes of the 8-lane Fort McHenry Tunnel. Traffic on the latter was allowed to proceed but was restricted to one lane in both directions, however all vehicles were being inspected before being permitted to pass into the tunnel.

The tunnels were closed due to the reported threat of **Vehicle Borne Improvised Explosive Devices** (VBIEDs) in more than one vehicle, with the vehicles being driven into the tunnels and their explosive payload detonated by the vehicle operators. According to internal sources providing information to this **HQ INTEL-ALERT** investigator, the specific types of explosives could be identified with bomb detection dogs, **and suggested a refined explosive payload.**

The intent of the bombing suspects and their handlers, the hierarchy of the radical Islamic movements, as stated by sources within this investigation, was ambitious, to wit: to detonate enough explosive material to collapse both tunnels, causing a mass-casualty event and cause secondary losses. Their intent was to cause mass panic via their success, interruption in transit nationwide, and economic losses. The plans were reportedly developed over the last few years (subsequent to 9/11) and continue to be operative at key infrastructures throughout the United States. None of the above is anything new in terms of the known and stated objectives of Islamic terrorist operatives and cells located within the United States.

The public was, and continues to be told, that the threat was "specific but unsubstantiated," and involved "claimed that an Egyptian man living in the Baltimore area was plotting to drive a bomb-laden vehicle into one of the tunnels and detonate the explosives."

According to the tip from this one source who was under arrest in the Netherlands and questioned well over a week ago, at least six Egyptian terrorists planned to smuggle the explosives into the Port of Baltimore by ship.

Kevin Perkins, Special Agent in Charge of the Baltimore, Maryland office, publicly stated that there was: "[a] threat of undetermined credibility to an unspecified tunnel in the Baltimore area."

It is known that Maryland Gov. Robert Ehrlich was informed within the last several days by the Department of Homeland Security and the FBI that they were investigating a tip that Arab men, specifically Egyptian-born men in the Baltimore area, planned to blow up a main highway tunnel running beneath Baltimore's harbor using a truck packed with explosives.

Defense & Reaction by U.S. Officials

At approximately 11:30 a.m. yesterday, 18 October 2005, Maryland Transportation Authority Police Chief Gary McLhinney closed I-95 at the Fort McHenry Tunnel for about an hour and Interstate 895 at the Harbor Tunnel for two hours without any to warning motorists. Consequently, traffic was in a gridlock for well over three hours and cars and trucks were being searched as they approached the tunnels. At the same time traffic was stopped, federal agents descended upon two Baltimore area businesses, ultimately arresting four men with the assistance of local police agencies. The two area businesses were identified as follows:

KOKO Market

6020 Eastern Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21224
Phone: (410) 633-0597

According to eyewitnesses, **Maged HUSSEIN**, the owner of KoKo market was arrested and detained by federal authorities, although was not charged and was later released.

Didi's Pizzeria

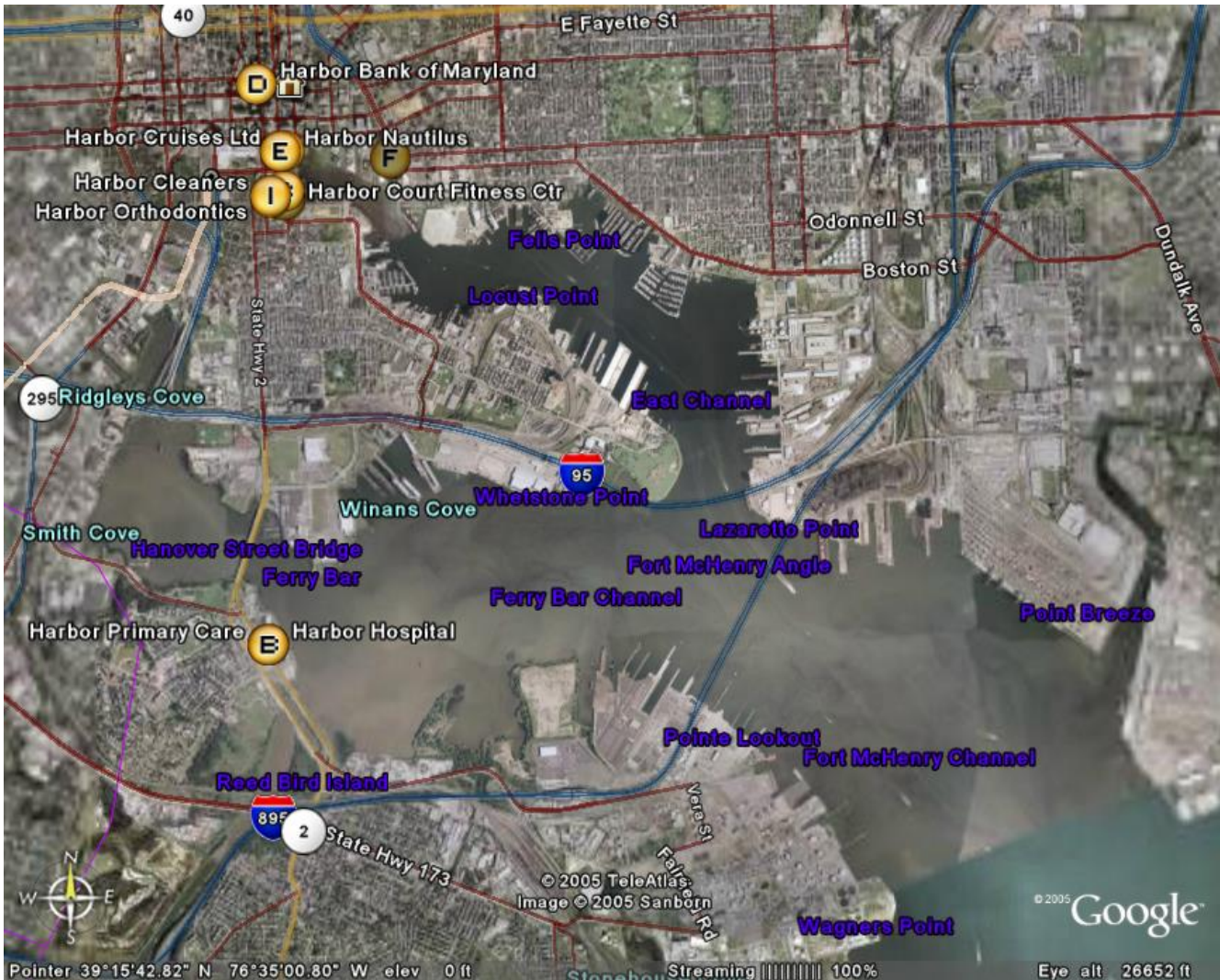
619 S Marlyn Avenue
Essex, MD 21221
(410) 391-8002

Eyewitnesses at this location stated that employees were questioned extensively for several hours. Further, information was provided to the HQ INTEL-ALERT that the line of questioning also extended to the friends, relatives and associates of some of those employees.

Publicly, authorities are stating that the tip was questionable at best, and as a result of the raid on the businesses named, led to the detention and will lead to the ultimate deportation of four-(4) Middle Eastern men (one reportedly from Jordan, while the three others are from Egypt). As of this investigative report, there was no substantiated threat to the citizens of Maryland and the authorities merely acted out of "an abundance of caution." The names of the detainees are not yet being released.

FAST FACT: On an average weekday, approximately 120, 000 commercial and passenger vehicles use the Fort McHenry tunnel; approximately 75,000 vehicles use the Harbor Tunnel. Both tunnels serve 67 million vehicles per year traveling between Baltimore, Washington and Philadelphia, and are 1 ½ miles long.

Satellite Image of Threat Area (Baltimore Harbor Tunnel & Ft. McHenry Tunnel)



Conflicting Information

If you watch or listen to most in the major media, you will hear that there this threat was “not adequately substantiated” and after careful consideration, they took the action they deemed appropriate. Memories of the “New York City Subway Scare” come to mind, where threats against the NY subway system were announced early this month and discarded shortly thereafter – on 10 October 2005 - as either “a hoax” or simply not credible, depending upon the agency providing information to the public. Information pertaining to the NY subway threat was published in an earlier edition of the **HQ INTEL-ALERT**, but is being provided at the end of this report for convenient reference. Our findings on the NY subway system threat, as well as this threat, are contrary to the official public stance of the federal investigating bodies.

Information provided to this investigator by three separate law enforcement sources in the Baltimore area suggest that there is more to this story than being reported. All three sources demanded anonymity for the purpose of this investigation, citing their position and proximity to the investigation and the policy not to comment on an ongoing investigation. Each stated that the threat with respect to **the locations, the time and the names of the suspects were known in advance of the tunnels being closed, and some of the men were already under active law enforcement surveillance.**

Although no explosives were recovered, this source confirmed to this **HQ INTEL-ALERT** investigator that “the fruits of this surveillance” showed no signs that this threat was a hoax. “Just the opposite,” stated this source, adding that surveillance findings not only “showed corroboration of threat information, but verified that the suspects were acting in concert together, and their behavior over the last 48 hours, **especially the last several hours before the tunnels were closed** was suspicious to say the least.” When questioned about the exact behavior mentioned, this source refused to provide specifics.

“That information is highly confidential and part of an ongoing investigation. There are at least 4-6 more individuals, all Arab and all holding radical Islamic beliefs, who are either being sought or are under surveillance. In fact, those detained on immigration violations are not the key players, or even the players, in this plot.” This information was substantiated by the other two LE sources as well. “Expect more arrests, but don’t expect them to be made public.”

When asked if the threat remains active, all three sources states yes, with one source adding that he has instructed his family **“not to use the tunnels, at least not for a while.”**

Obviously, the above information is in direct conflict with what is being reported by the major media. When questioned why the investigative authorities are not being open with the public, two of the three sources (one federal) indicated that they are afraid of “public perception and reaction.” “The perception would be that we are unable to protect or infrastructure, which to a large extent is true, while the reaction would be – or could be – a public demanding a pound of flesh from Arab Americans, or men of Middle Eastern origin in the U.S.”

“Besides, it is not politically correct to profile,” the federal source stated with a chuckle.

Suspects – Illegal Immigrants to be Deported

Northeast Intelligence Network director Doug Hagmann was interviewed on [The Pat Campbell Show](#) on [AM 540 WFLA](#) in Orlando, Florida from 6:00-6:30 a.m., and on [The Tom Bauerle Show](#) from 9:00-10:00 a.m. today concerning this incident. During both interviews, this investigator confirmed that those detained on immigration violations **were going to be deported and not tied to the terror threat. As of this report, federal authorities have announced that they are deporting all four men, yet have not publicly released their names.**

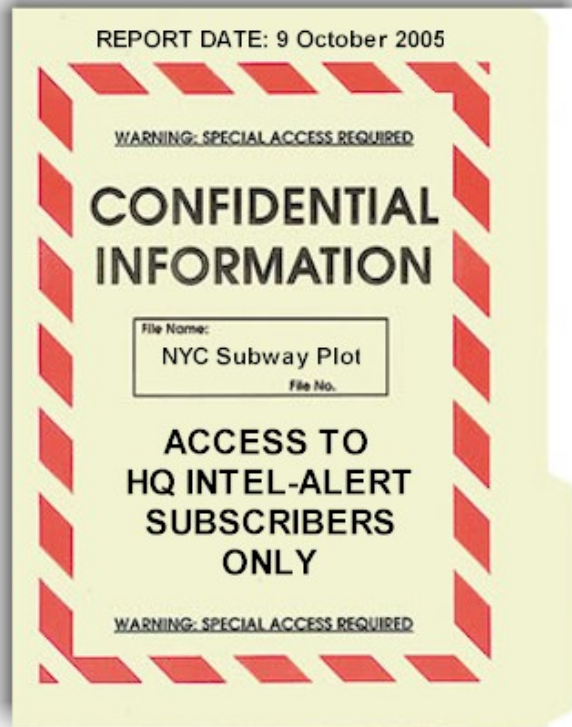
Conclusion

Based on information collected over the last 24 hours, information has been developed that the threat against the two tunnels in Maryland was indeed – and remains real, and “several” of the “potential” terrorists remain either under surveillance or are currently being sought. Covert security measures remain in effect concurrent with the surveillance being performed on the men, all with ties to radical Islam.

From the last Issue of the HQ INTEL-ALERT:

New York City: CURRENT SUBWAY THREAT

Target: NYC Subways - The Real Story



The Threat is "specific to place, time and method."—NYPD Law Enforcement Source

October 9, 2005 — The New York subway system consists of 656 miles of track and 4 million riders per weekday. **Over the last few days, the New York City Police Department is investigating what it deems a credible tip that 19 operatives have been deployed to New York to place bombs in the subway. On Thursday, October 6, 2005, security in the subways was dramatically increased at the insistence of NY Mayor Bloomberg and NYPD counter-terrorism officials. By doing so, they might have actively averted a disaster from a coordinated terrorist attack, despite the federal government countering Bloomberg's statements and openly downplaying the threat. In fact, he could**

well have not only caused the terrorists to put a "hold" on their plans – but to change their targets altogether.

The Origin & Validity of the Threat

The press reported that the threat originated from the interview and interrogation of an Iraqi terrorist when three Iraqi terrorists were arrested two weeks ago during a raid by a joint FBI-CIA team in an area just south of Baghdad. At least one of the terrorists also purportedly passed a "lie detector" test administered by both agencies. Mayor Bloomberg was actually delayed being notified until several days *after* the interviews and tests when the threat was finally deemed to be credible by DoD officials working with the CIA, despite the doubtfulness of the information by those in the FBI and Department of Justice. (Yet another perfect example of the current state of the ongoing turf battles between government agencies).

According to the primary sources relating facts of the original threat, at least 19 operatives were to place improvised explosive devices in the subways using briefcases. The number 19, of course, holds significance from the 2001 hijackings.

This specific plot was reportedly nearly a year in the making, according to two inside sources. But it does not stop there: the IEDs were to be laced with chemical toxins, and were not simply explosive devices. In other words, this plot was intended to cause as many casualties as possible during the system's rush hour.

To further illustrate that the officials were expecting chemicals to be used, Penn Station was evacuated because of a soda-pop can that was found early last Friday filled with green dye and sodium peroxide. That event remains under investigation, but sources close to the HQ INTEL-ALERT *do not* believe it is related to the actual threat by the Islamic terrorists destined to carry out the attacks.

HQ INTEL-ALERT INVESTIGATIVE FINDINGS



Although this recent and specific threat was linked to recent arrests made in Baghdad, information was provided to Doug Hagmann, investigator for the HQ INTEL-ALERT, *that the threat and planned attacks also might involve events that took place in June of this year.*

On 15 June 2005, the HQ INTEL-ALERT reported that a man of Middle Eastern origin was detained and questioned after he was caught with others having in his possession maps and sketches of the New York City subway system. The suspect was caught during a fire department inspection of a previous sprinkler violation at a bodega located at **1173 Broadway in the Bushwick section of Brooklyn** at noon on June 12, 2005. The suspect was part of a group of at least five other Middle Eastern men who were discovered at this location during the follow-up inspection of a faulty sprinkler at the small Broadway Market. Public records show that the bodega is owned and operated by **MOHAMMAD ISMAIL**, 303 Cindy Street, Old Bridge, NJ (Legal Disclaimer: Obviously, there is nothing whatsoever to suggest any impropriety on the part of Mr. ISMAIL. He was not charged or arrested with any crimes).

The Connection: From Baghdad to Broadway

So, what does a Bodega on Broadway in Brooklyn have to do with terrorists arrested in Iraq? According to reports from law enforcement sources who request anonymity, electronic surveillance of *at least one* of those who were present inside of the mini-mart in June has an active connection to one of the suspected terrorists arrested in Iraq. It does not mean or otherwise imply involvement of the owner, but does confirm that at least one of those Middle Eastern men in the store was indeed the subject of a larger investigation (name withheld to avoid compromising an investigation). The documents also found at this location included sketches of some of the subway system's ventilation mechanisms, which would be important in consideration of the release of a toxic chemical agent.

It is also important to note that at least one of the men questioned at the mini-mart was from Iraq and possessed a number of identifying documents, each with his picture but each containing a different name.

Further investigation stemming from the possession of "false identification" found similar documents for over a dozen more individuals – suggesting that 12 of the 19 might have already been in the United States in June 2005.