



NJOHSP *at a glance*

YOUR WEEK IN REVIEW | July 5, 2016

Aviation: Istanbul Attack Succeeded Despite Tight Security

The attack on Ataturk Airport in Istanbul on June 28 succeeded in causing mass casualties despite tight security, illustrating the difficulty of preventing attacks in public areas of airports. The three attackers arrived at the airport by taxi. Two of them opened fire as they approached a security checkpoint, and Turkish police returned fire. The attackers then detonated their suicide vests. Security camera video showed one of the gunmen falling to the floor after being shot (see photo), and then detonating his explosives.



Although none of the attackers penetrated the security checkpoints, they were able to kill at least 45 people and wound more than 230. After the attack at the Brussels airport in March, Turkish security officials began placing armed guards near the entrance to the Istanbul terminal, which likely prevented the casualties from being even worse and reduced the damage from the explosions.

The public areas of airports, where large numbers of people gather for ticketing, for baggage pickup, for ground transportation, and for the security screening itself, remain vulnerable soft targets. This has led to calls for moving security checkpoints to the doorways of terminals, but security analysts point out that this would only push crowds out onto sidewalks or parking lots, creating new vulnerabilities. Some major airports have increased the number of police officers patrolling the public spaces. Ultimately, the vulnerabilities associated with airports indicate the necessity of degrading and destroying the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), al-Qa'ida, and other terrorist organizations that threaten international aviation.

ISIS: Capability to Conduct Devastating Terror Attacks Remains Strong, Despite Battlefield Losses

Three major incidents within the past week show that ISIS remains capable of conducting major coordinated terrorist attacks, despite setbacks such as the recent loss of the city of Fallujah in Iraq and the killing of senior ISIS commanders in US counterterrorism strikes. Although ISIS has not claimed responsibility for the attack on the airport in Istanbul, the group is the primary suspect. In Bangladesh, on July 1, 20 hostages, including three students at US colleges, were killed in a 10-hour standoff at an upscale restaurant in Dhaka. In Iraq, on July 3, in the deadliest single bombing in Baghdad in the past decade, at least 175 people were killed and 200 wounded when a truck bomb detonated in a shopping district in the downtown section of the city (see photo). Smaller attacks have occurred in several other countries.



The series of attacks has followed an audio message in late May by ISIS spokesman Abu Muhammad al-Adnani, calling for attacks during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, which ends today (July 5). The attacks in Istanbul and Dhaka were noteworthy in that they were not conducted by lone offenders, but by teams of operatives, and showed a degree of coordination and planning. As the ISIS insurgency suffers losses, the group can be expected to continue to lash out and demonstrate its continuing robust terror capability.

Event Security: Hillary Clinton Campaign Event in Atlantic City on Wednesday

News media reports quote the campaign of presumptive Democratic Presidential nominee Hillary Clinton as saying that Clinton has a campaign event planned in Atlantic City on Wednesday, July 6. Her campaign says the time and location of her appearance have not yet been finalized. She reportedly chose the Atlantic City venue for a speech on the business dealings of presumptive Republican nominee Donald Trump.

Contact Information

Any agency with information or comments/questions on this or other analytical products, please contact the NJOHSP Analysis Bureau at analysis@njohsp.gov or 609-584-4000.

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