Outages

Intellink Instant Messenger (IIM) service will undergo maintenance that may result in NSA Linkup federated users being momentarily disconnected. Users directly connected to the JWICS IIM service will not be impacted.
Start: Thursday, January 03, 2013 12:30:00 AM
End: Thursday, January 03, 2013 12:45:00 AM
(Note: times shown are local to you)
(U) Manhunting Timeline 2008

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(U) The following manhunting operations took place in Calendar Year 2008:

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- 1 (U) August
  - 1.1 (U) Syria
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[edit] (U) August

[edit] (U) Syria
(U) Syrian Brigadier General Muhammad Sulayman was assassinated on 1 Aug 2008.

- (U) 1 August 2008: Syrian Brigadier General Muhammad Sulayman was assassinated by a sniper near Tartous. Sulayman had a hand in three primary areas: internal Syrian issues connected to the regime and the party; sensitive military issues; and Lebanon-related issues, through which he was apparently connected both to Hizballah and to others in the Lebanese political arena. Different elements may have wanted to see Sulayman dead, and the implications of his assassination varied according to the respective theories. [1]

- (TS//SI//REL TO USA, GBR) 1 August 2008: The assassination of Syrian Brigadier General Muhammad Sulayman by Israeli naval commandos near Tartus, Syria was the first known instance of Israel targeting a legitimate government official. [2] [3]

[edit] (U) July

[edit] (U) Pakistan

- (S) 28 July 2008: According to open and clandestine reporting, Al-Qaida's CBRN leader Abu Khabab al-Masri was killed in Pakistan. [4] [5]

[edit] (U) Serbia

- (U) 22 July 2008: Radovan Karadzic, former leader of the Bosnian Serbs, was arrested by the Serbian security service for war crimes after eluding authorities for years. [6] [7]

[edit] (U) May

[edit] (U) Pakistan
(S/SI/NF/MR) 2 May 2008: Turkey sent 17 aircraft to strike KGK camps in the Qandil region, including those associated with senior leaders.[9]

(U) 1 May 2008: a U.S. Navy Tomahawk missile strike in the central Somalia town of Dusa Marreb killed Aden Hashi Ayrow, a militant long identified as one of Al Qaeda’s top operatives in East Africa and the top commander of the Shabab al-Mujahidin Movement, an Islamist militia, which the American government recently classified as a terrorist group. According to witnesses and a spokesman for the Shabab, more than 10 people were killed, including Ayro, his brother and several other high-ranking Shabab commanders.[10]

April 2008: Attacks carried out by Predator UAVs doubled over the previous month, totaling 12 strikes. The primary targets were insurgents who launched rocket and mortar attacks against Baghdad’s Green Zone and during counterinsurgency operations in Sadr City. Operations personnel praise the UAV ability to respond immediately to detected threats.[11]

(U) 4 April 2008: Somali pirates operating in the Gulf of Aden seized the 850-ton private yacht Le Ponant with 22 French citizens and 10 others on board. President Nicolas Sarkozy ordered French military forces to locate and make contact with Ponant. French military forces made contact on April 6 and CMA-CGM, the boat’s owners, began negotiations. According to press reports, CMA-CGM paid a $2 million ransom. At least 10 Groupe d’Intervention de la Gendarmerie Nationale (GIGN) counterterrorist police flew to Djibouti on 7 April.[14] The pirates released the hostages unharmed on 11 April, with only superficial damage to the boat. Working with French naval forces including helicopters from the helicopter carrier Jeanne d’Arc, frigate Jean Bart and corvette Le Commandant Bouan, the task force pursued and captured six of ten Somali pirates as they attempted to escape into the Somali countryside. All 30 hostages were flown back to France while the pirates await trial.[12] See also MV LE PONANT Hijacking April 2008

(U) 7 Apr 2008: US and Afghan forces attack the remote villages of Shok and Kendal, targeting
Hizb-e-Islami Gulbuddin forces that had gathered in the village with Taliban militants. Governor Tamim Nuristani passed on a rumor from Afghan troops that Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, leader of Hizb-e-Islami, was rumored to have been meeting with top deputy Kashmir Khan.

**[edit] (U) March**

**[edit] (U) Thailand**

- (U) 6 March 2008: U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) announces that arms dealer Viktor Bout (aka "The Merchant of Death" and a former major in the KGB) had been arrested in Bangkok. Accused of offering to sell 100 surface-to-air missiles to the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC). Bout, who had assembled a portfolio of cover companies and airlines, including nearly 50 former Soviet cargo transport aircraft, had been the subject of a 2003 United Nations report for "embargo busting" and a 2005 Department of the Treasury report for illicit support to nefarious groups. 
  
  On 26 Apr 2010, a Thai criminal court dismissed Bout's claim that his arrest by Royal Thai Police in Bangkok was illegal because a U.S. DEA agent assisted in the apprehension. The U.S. government was appealing a decision by the court denying a pending extradition request to return Mr. Bout to New York to stand trial. The Russian parliament officially condemned his arrest in September 2008 and called for Bout's return "to his motherland." Charges of Russian bribery have hung over the proceedings. The United States has made several efforts to counter Russia. President George W. Bush raised the issue with Thai leaders in 2008. President Obama's national security adviser, James L. Jones, wrote to members of Congress in November 2009 that the administration has "pressed repeatedly" at the "highest levels" of the Thai government for Bout's extradition. 
  
  On 20 Aug 2010, a Thai appeals court ruled that Bout could be extradited to the United States.

**[edit] (U) Somalia**

- (U) 3 March 2008: The United States launched a Tomahawk missile in an attempt to kill Saleh Ali Saleh Nabhan, a Kenyan terrorist connected with the 1998 embassy bombings in Kenya and Tanzania.

**[edit] (U) Afghanistan**

- (U) March 2008: British Special Forces conduct covert operations against drug smugglers in southern Afghanistan for the first time.

**[edit] (U) Pakistan**

- (U) March 2008: The United States has stepped up its use of pilotless planes to strike at Al-Qaeda targets along Pakistan's rugged border area, a measure that in the past drew protests from President Pervez Musharraf but now has his government's tacit approval. Since January, missiles reportedly fired from CIA operated Predator drones have hit at least three suspected hideouts of Islamic militants, including a strike on a house in a South Waziristan village called Toog. The moves followed a tacit understanding with Musharraf and Army chief Gen. Ashfaq Kiyani that allows U.S. strikes on foreign fighters operating in Pakistan, but not against the Pakistani Taliban, the officials said.
February

Philippines

- (S/NF) 4 Feb 2008: Philippine Armed Forces, acting on sole-source reporting that insurgents are present, raid the village of Maimbung on Jolo Island in the southern Philippines; the Armed Forces of the Philippines claim government troops engaged in an hour-long gun battle in which two soldiers and three Abu Sayaf Group (ASG) terrorists were slain and only afterwards noticed that the villagers—two of whom it later claimed were ASG members—had been killed, saying they may have died in the crossfire or in a simultaneous incident between warring local families. ASG vows retaliation.

References

   - Israeli Website: European Sources Say Shawqat Family Behind Syrian Gen's Killing (U). GMP20080811739001, Sigint, 10 August 2008
   - Lebanese Paper Cites Sources on Assassination of Syrian General Sulayman (U).