



POTOMAC INSTITUTE FOR POLICY STUDIES
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Daily Terrorism Weather Online

20 May 2013

Policy in Washington

[Obama to Speak on Legality of Drone Program](#)

Author/Source: Associated Press, Washington Post

“President Barack Obama will discuss the legality of his administration’s secret drone program and other counterterrorism practices during a speech Thursday, a White House official said...”

[Obama to Address Guantanamo Prison, Drone Program](#)

Author/Source: United Press International

“President Obama will address the U.S. secret drone program's legality and his pledge to shut the Guantanamo Bay detention camp, a White House official said...”

[Obama Voices Concern to Lebanon on Hezbollah Role in Syria](#)

Author/Source: Matt Spetalnick, Reuters

“U.S. President Barack Obama told his Lebanese counterpart on Monday he was concerned about Lebanese Hezbollah militants fighting in Syria to support Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, the White House said...”

[State Department Says It's Implementing Security Recommendations](#)

Author/Source: United Press International

“The U.S. State Department Monday laid out a series of actions being taken to help protect diplomatic outposts following the deadly attack in Benghazi, Libya...”

Al-Qa'ida

[Two Suspected Militants Killed in Yemen Drone Strike](#)

Author/Source: Sami Aboudi, Reuters

“Two suspected al Qaeda militants were killed on Monday in a drone strike on their vehicle south of the capital Sanaa, tribal and government sources said...”

[Kansas City Man Admits to Supporting Al Qaeda](#)

Author/Source: United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement

“A local man pleaded guilty in federal court Wednesday to conspiring to provide material support to al Qaeda...”

Afghanistan

[Suicide bomber strikes outside provincial council in northern Afghanistan, killing 14](#)

Author/Source: Associated Press, Washington Post

“A suicide bomber dressed in a police uniform killed 14 people including a prominent provincial council chief Monday in northern Afghanistan in an attack outside the council headquarters, authorities said...”



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ISAF Joint Command Operational Update, May 20th

Author/Source: Afghanistan International Security Assistance Force

“An Afghan and coalition security force arrested three insurgents during an operation in Sabari district, Khost province, today...”

Seven Insurgents killed in Eastern Afghan Operations

Author/Source: Chen Zhi, Xinhua

“Seven insurgents have been killed in joint operations in eastern Afghan provinces, said the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) on Monday...”

Iraq

Iraqi Tribal Leaders Demand Federation

Author/Source: Al Jazeera

“Tribal leaders in Iraq are warning of war unless the country splits into a federation amid a new wave of apparently sectarian violence...”

Car Bombs Target Shi'ites in Iraq, Killing More Than 60

Author/Source: Kareem Raheem, Reuters

“More than 60 people were killed in a series of car bomb explosions targeting Shi'ite Muslims across Iraq on Monday, police and medics said, part of the worst sectarian violence since U.S. troops pulled out in December 2011...”

Wave of Attacks Kills At Least 86 in Iraq

Author/Source: Sinan Salaheddin, Miami Herald

“A wave of attacks killed at least 86 people in Shiite and Sunni areas of Iraq on Monday, officials said, pushing the death toll over the past week to more than 230 and extending one of the most sustained bouts of sectarian violence the country has seen in years...”

Shiites Targeted in Iraq in Another Day of Sectarian Strife

Author/Source: Mohammed Tawfeeq and Joe Sterling, CNN

“A string of car bombings and shootings across Iraq left more than 50 people dead Monday, authorities said, in what is the latest spate of violence in a country plagued with Sunni-Shiite tension...”

Israeli-Arab Conflict

Israel Says 'No Proof' Its Troops Shot Mohammed al-Dura

Author/Source: BBC

”An Israeli investigation has said a French news report in 2000 which blamed Israeli troops for shooting dead a Palestinian child was baseless...”

Israel Cancels Unesco Visit

Author/Source: Robert Tait, The Telegraph

”Israel has called off a visit to Jerusalem's historic Old City by the UN's cultural heritage body after accusing the Palestinians of trying to "politicise" the event...”

Middle East

Kelly Warns of Potential Crime-Terrorism Nexus in Latin America



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Author/Source: Jim Garamone, United States Department of Defense

“A potential connection between crime syndicates and terrorists in Latin America would constitute a clear danger to the region, U.S. Southern Command’s senior leader told reporters at the Pentagon today...”

Hezbollah Suffers Big Losses in Syria Battle

Author/Source: Khaled Yacoub Oweis and Dominic Evans, Reuters

“About 30 Lebanese Hezbollah fighters and 20 Syrian soldiers and militiamen loyal to President Bashar al-Assad have been killed in the fiercest fighting this year in the rebel stronghold of Qusair, Syrian activists said on Monday...”

Egypt sends dozens of tanks into Sinai after abduction

Author/Source: Cheryl K. Chumley, The Washington Times

“President Mohammed Morsi sent dozens of armored vehicles into Sinai on Monday, in response to a video released over the weekend in which seven Egyptians kidnapped by militants begged for their freedom...”

Syria’s Bashar Assad: I’m not stepping down

Author/Source: Cheryl K. Chumley, The Washington Times

“Syria’s President Bashar Assad emerged from the shadows to announce in a publicly televised interview that he’s not stepping down, and he’s not caving to “terrorists” who were tearing apart his country...”

Egyptian Police Block Israel Border Crossing in Fury at Kidnapping

Author/Source: Voice of America

“Egyptian police enraged by the kidnapping of seven of their colleagues by Islamist gunmen in the Sinai Peninsula blocked a commercial border crossing with Israel on Sunday, security sources said...”

Violence Surges in Strategic Syrian City

Author/Source: Amir Ahmed, CNN

“Violence surged in the strategically important Syrian town of Qusayr on Sunday...”

Israel Said to be World Leader in UAV Exports

Author/Source: United Press International

“Israel’s high-tech defense industry leads the world in exporting unmanned aerial vehicles, a new study says, while UAV designers are reported to be moving toward developing drones so advanced they could replace manned aircraft...”

Syria: Jabhat al-Nusra Split After Leader’s Pledge of Support for al-Qaeda

Author/Source: Richard Spencer, The Telegraph

“Jabhat al-Nusra, the much-feared militant jihadist group that has taken control of large rebel-held areas of northern Syria, has split in two following its leadership’s public declaration of allegiance to al-Qaeda...”

Outlook Dim as Syria Diplomacy Gathers Force

Author/Source: Khaled Yacoub Oweis and Peter Graff, Reuters



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“The world's diplomats will make a major new push in the coming days for negotiations to end Syria's civil war, but their chances of achieving a peace deal look as remote as ever...”

[Report: Iran Inaugurates Production of New Air Defense Missile System](#)

Author/Source: Associated Press, The Washington Post

“Iran says it has started mass producing a new sophisticated air defense missile system capable of engaging low-altitude aircraft...”

Southeast Asia

[Malaysia Court Orders Release of 3 Terror Suspects](#)

Author/Source: Associated Press, The Jakarta Post

“A Malaysian court has ordered the release of an al-Qaida-linked former army captain and two other suspects charged with inciting terrorist acts...”

East Asia

[Chinese Hackers Who Breached Google Gained Access to Sensitive Data](#)

Author/Source: Ellen Nakashima, The Washington Post

“Chinese hackers who breached Google’s servers several years ago gained access to a sensitive database with years’ worth of information about U.S. surveillance targets, according to current and former government officials...”

[North Korea fires sixth missile in three days](#)

Author/Source: Chookyung Kim, Reuters

“North Korea fired two short-range missiles on Monday, making six launches in three days, and it condemned South Korea for criticizing what it said were its legitimate military drills...”

Africa

[Congo's Army Clashes With Rebels Near Goma](#)

Author/Source: Jonny Hogg

“Congo's army used combat helicopters to bombard rebel fighters on Monday near the city of Goma in the first clashes in nearly six months, days before U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon was due to visit the troubled eastern borderlands...”

[Nigeria Says Has Islamists on Defensive](#)

Author/Source: Tim Cocks, Reuters

“Nigeria claimed an early success for its military offensive against Islamist insurgents in the northeast on Monday, saying the militants' activities had been stifled by nearly a week of attacks on their bases...”

[Nigeria Says 14 Militants, 3 Soldiers Killed in Latest Fighting](#)

Author/Source: Heather Murdock, Voice of America

“The Nigerian military says it has killed 14 Boko Haram militants and arrested 20 others...”

Europe

[Dagestan Bombs Kill Four, Two Dead in Shootout Near Moscow](#)

Author/Source: Steve Gutterman, Reuters



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“Two car bombs killed at least four people and wounded dozens of others on Monday in one of the bloodiest attacks this year in Dagestan, a turbulent province in Russia's North Caucasus region where armed groups are waging an Islamist insurgency...”

[Russia Upsets Terror Plot; 2 Militants Killed](#)

Author/Source: Cheryl K. Chumley, The Washington Times

“Russian counterterrorism agents say they’ve killed two militants who were planning a terrorist attack in Moscow...”

Latin America and the Caribbean

[Panamanian Authorities Seize 2.4 Tons of Cocaine](#)

Author/Source: Latin American Herald Tribune

“Panama’s National Aeronaval Service, or Senan, seized 2.4 tons of cocaine and arrested a Honduran man in an operation in the Caribbean province of Colon, authorities said Monday...”

Technology and Cyber

[China Resumes Cyber Attacks on US, Firm Says](#)

Author/Source: Voice of America

“A U.S. computer security firm says the Chinese military has resumed cyber attacks on American companies after a hiatus...”

International Organizations

[U.N.'s Ban frustrated with North Korea](#)

Author/Source: United Press International

“There's a risk that the short-range missile tests by North Korea will escalate tensions in the region, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said...”