Remotely Initiated IEDs: GSM Phones and Beyond
Scoping Paper

This brief scoping paper is based on over 5,000 news items warehoused by OSS Southeast Asia, and additional OSINT collection. At the end of the paper is a table of gisted reports of those IED incidents reported to be remotely initiated, together with other items such as reports of counter-measures. The focus is Indonesia, Thailand, and Philippines.

IEDs initiated remotely provide tactical advantage to the enemy. The IED can be detonated at a time or place of the bomber’s choosing with reduced chance of detection before the event, or of the perpetrators after the event. The bomber not captured or killed by the explosion is a reusable asset.

The use of GSM (cellular/mobile) phones in IED initiation is now common in Indonesia, Thailand, and Philippines. These incidents are gisted in the Appendix and should be read in conjunction with the commentary. This paper also touches on methods of remote-initiation and delivery apart from GSM phones which either may be in use now but have been misidentified in reports or may be used in the future. First a quick review of the three countries.

RCIED Incidents – INDONESIA

Indonesia is well-covered by GSM services with an increasing number of providers competing throughout the chain of islands for the business of a young urbanised Indonesian population.

Major IED incidents are rare in Indonesia but are massive “professional” operations when they occur – Bali, the Marriott, the Australian Embassy, Bali (again) – and suicide bombers have played the major role. Scores of IEDs have been used and confiscated in Sulawesi but these are all home-made primitive, often “fire-cracker” or fire-bomb, devices. Although remotely initiated IEDs are rare, remote initiation seems to have been part of the design in several of the suicide bombings. More significantly, it is thought that Indonesian expertise – including circuit boards designed in Indonesia – is used elsewhere in the region, particularly the Philippines.

A number of recent bombs - pieced together from fragments found at attack sites or recovered from Philippine rebel hideouts - carry Jemaah Islamiyah's signature: the use of electronics, including Indonesian-designed integrated circuit boards, and cell phones that allow more efficiency and flexibility as triggers, according to several investigation reports seen by AP. -- Al-Qaida-linked Southeast Asia militants share bomb designs, Sun Star - Philippines, 20050831
RCIED Incidents – THAILAND

Almost all non-trivial IED events in Thailand are now GSM-initiated and the government has now implemented tighter registration procedures for pre-paid SIM cards. Like Indonesia, Thailand is well-served by a handful of competing providers; the largest of these is owned by the Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra. Thailand has RCIED incidents generally more than once each week and this has intensified in the latter months of 2005.

In contrast to the theory that there is a pan-Islamic Jihadist/Salafic movement working in concert across Southeast Asia are simple statistics. National Counter Terrorism Center (NCTC - US) statistics (figure 2) show that incidents in Thailand are in no way in step with Indonesia and Philippines. These statistics reflect all terrorist incidents (as defined by NCTC), not just IEDs or RCIEDs but graphical plotting of items in the Appendix confirms that the dramatic upsurge in incidents is attributable largely to RCIEDs (see figure 3).
To meet this increasing threat in some small way, Thailand purchased ten "small" jamming devices from Israel in August 2005. - see Army to buy phone jammers, Bangkok Post - Thailand, 20050818.

RCIED Incidents – PHILIPPINES

Although the southern Philippines is subject to almost daily firefights and occasional mass fatality bombings, there are only a handful of reported cases of IEDs triggered by GSM phones.

- JI taught Abu Sayyaf men to make bombs - Former Hostages’ Accounts
  Straits Times - Singapore, 20040407
- All 3 blasts triggered by cell phones — Aussie forensic experts
  Philippine Star - Philippines, 20050219
- Three injured in bomb blast in southern Philippines
  Khaleej Times - UAE, 20050730
- Military discovers terror groups’ bomb lab in South
  Tempo - Philippines, 20050824
- Al-Qaida-linked Southeast Asia militants share bomb designs
  Sun Star - Philippines, 20050831

More importantly, there are repeated and strong suggestions – with no hard OSINT evidence thus far – that Indonesian IED expertise is being honed and imparted at “JI Training Camps” in the southern Philippines.
Remote Initiation

Remote initiation can be defeated only by interdiction of the remote link and the tactical issues vary according to the technology to be defeated.

GSM Phones

GSM operating frequencies vary throughout the world but are always in the bands 850MHz, 900MHz, 1.8GHz, 1.9GHz. GSM handsets often accommodate the bands used in several parts of the world; hence the terms “tri-band”, “quad-band”. The band/s used in Southeast Asia are in use from Istanbul to Irian Jaya (see Figure 3).
In all of the incidents gisted in the Appendix, GSM initiation is directly or indirectly reported; however, it is unlikely that anyone reporting on-scene after a detonation could confidently tell the difference between a GSM handset and an LRCT (Long Range Cordless Telephone) handset. Forensic investigation could determine this later if the relevant fragments are found. Whether the type of handset has been determined in each case in each country, as well as the signalling used for initiation, is not presently known.

Long-Range Cordless Telephones (LRCT)

The Long Range Cordless Telephone (LRCT) is a fairly recent evolution from the common domestic cordless phone. The LRCT is more difficult to defeat than GSM because there is no public provider involved and the possible frequencies used are widely separated and share band-space with important civil (and military) applications. The LRCT is conceptually a new system that builds on the intercom capabilities of the traditional device. Systems made in Taiwan and China now have reputed ranges of 45km and broadcast power of up to 5W-15W, power sufficient for a small campus radio station.

LRCTs throughout the world use the bands 900MHz, 2.4GHz, and 5.8GHz. The systems are now offered by telecommunications authorities, in Australia for instance, to consumers in isolated areas which can not be serviced economically by satellite or cellular phone. Through one exchange-line connection at the base station, the handsets give access to the public telephone network over many square miles as well as intercom ("walkie/talkie") functionality between handsets. China has an obvious application for these systems in its remote areas and a ready export market to many regions.

Since an LRCT system could be operated from a car (12V DC) – with or without access to an exchange line – it would provide fairly sophisticated UHF full-duplex communications to any small group operating anywhere within an area of several miles. With the same expertise as applies to a GSM handset, an LRCT handset can be modified to act at the detonator end of an IED and be initiated by an intercom call to that handset.

One of the latest LRCTs - 9 handsets; 72 hr stand-by; interference monitoring; 100,000 PIN codes – Fujian Nan’an Baofeng, Nan’an City, China

Some of the bands legally allocated to LRCT are very widely used for an increasing range of applications; these are the ISM (industrial, scientific, and medical) bands – used, for example, for WiFi, Bluetooth, domestic intercoms (and baby monitors), and microwave ovens.
**Infra-Red Controllers**

A new generation of infra-red light emitting diodes (irLED) combined with long-established TV remote "channel-changer" technology offers a simple and alternative means of remote control that may have future application to asymmetric incidents involving IEDs.

IrLED controllers, whether sourced ready-made or manufactured using "hobbyist" skills with Radio Shack type of componentry, offer a control link over ranges of 300m (1,000ft) to 2km (1 mile+). If the emitter and receiver are well made they are immune to all jamming but of course need to be placed in direct line-of-sight. Where this line-of-sight can be guaranteed – to and/or from towers, buildings, high ground – irLED control offers an indefeasible initiation link into an otherwise sanitised area protected by jamming.

**An example**

*TSAL6100 High-Power Infrared LED*

*Ideal for "Long-Range" IR Applications*

*beam angle: 10°; wavelength: 940nm; T-1 3/4 [5mm] size; price: $0.70 ea*

*A perfect match for the Vishay TSOP1138, TSOP1140, and Panasonic PNA4602M detector modules.*

**Remote Delivery**

An asymmetric weapon closely related to the remotely-initiated IED systems mentioned is the remotely-delivered IED.

Chinese-made unmanned air vehicles (UAVs) - "drones" – have been used by insurgents in Afghanistan/Waziristan for remote observation but there are no reports of UAVs being used in any Southeast Asian troublespots, and there is no OSINT to-date that UAVs have been used anywhere by insurgents as a weapons delivery system. However, recent work with micro air vehicles (MAVs) has overcome some abiding technical problems and seems to open the way forward for MAVs to be used in relatively unskilled hands for "suicide" delivery of small but lethal quantities of high explosives or biological/chemical agents.

Work for a recent thesis has shown that MAV ground-station hardware can inevitably be reduced to a personal digital assistant (PDA) and that a successful algorithm for horizon recognition greatly reduces the skill needed to pilot an MAV\(^{10}\). In theory, much more operating intelligence could be moved to the vehicle itself leaving the ground operator little more to do than launch it in the approximate direction required. Quite close down the technology road the MAV could be
"taught" what its target looks like and it would fly until it succeeded or ran out of fuel. Perhaps 5 or 10 MAVs would be launched on the same mission each carrying as much lethal payload as that model could carry. No large-scale demolition is possible or necessary – the purest form of terrorism is precisely that: widespread and continuing uncertainty and consternation to some socio-political end. Any similarity between this and the V1 ("doodle bug") of the 1940s is no accident. The use of intelligent MAVs for delivery of biological or chemical agents is a further obvious asymmetric application.

"Output of our algorithm for a bank angle greater than 45 degrees.  (a) Estimated horizon shown in red. (b) Classified pixels and estimated horizon."

Counter-Measures

Authorities in several countries such as Thailand have sought to counter the GSM-IED threat by implementing registration of GSM pre-paid SIM users\textsuperscript{11}. Unfortunately, registration of GSM users is mainly of value for investigation \textit{after} an event, has only slight deterrent value, and is defeated if stolen phones (or SIM cards) are used. The only certain preventative counter-measure for GSM systems is switching off GSM services in an area or jamming the radio signals used by the GSM system/s. Switching off GSM systems requires that providers respond quickly and with certainty and that all competing providers serving an area are involved. Jamming, and the circumvention of that counter-measure, are of central tactical importance.

Detection or jamming LRCT systems is more problematic than simply pulling down GSM service in an area. Modern CT systems have some degree of access security using PINs and elementary encryption and some degree of protection against a hostile RF environment using technologies such as FHSS (Frequency Hopping Spread Spectrum) or DSSS (Direct Sequence Spread Spectrum)\textsuperscript{12}.

Jamming – particularly sweep or barrage jamming – has other consequences, particularly in the bands around 2.4GHz. These bands are home to IEEE 802.11b wireless devices – otherwise known as the ubiquitous WiFi -- and a host of X-10 devices, remote links for domestic devices
such air-conditioners, lights, home security, home entertainment. Barrage jamming of these bands in a central business district, particularly if hoaxes and threats necessitate this often or for long periods, would cause public disruption and disaffection exceeded only by road closures and electricity failure.

High-end CT users are aware that **2.4GHz** is an RF jungle and will opt for the less crowded, **5.8GHz**. Similarly, serious computing users never use the **2.4GHz IEEE 802.11b** links for mission-critical purposes; instead they use **IEEE 802.11a** wireless devices operating at **5.8GHz**. In USA, this part of the spectrum includes the *Unlicensed National Information Infrastructure* (U-NII) bands (U-NII 1 to U-NII 3), at **5.15 - 5.825GHz**. Barrage jamming these bands is likely to disrupt friendly mission-critical activities possibly including operations of police, military and other agencies.

The best documented case of the success of jamming counter-measures is the several times they have saved Pakistan's Gen. Musharraf from concerted assassination attempts. *Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf probably escaped Sunday's assassination attempt because of the equipment installed on his car to jam devices that trigger bombs, officials said. …The highly-sophisticated bomb that went off moments after Musharraf’s motorcade passed over a bridge in Rawalpindi was delayed by crucial seconds by jammers that temporarily disabled the bomb, officials said on Wednesday. “It was enough time for Musharraf to cross the bridge,” an intelligence official said. The bomb - estimated to contain 250kg of explosive - was believed to include both a remote control and a timing device to trigger it, intelligence officials said. - Jamming devices saved Musharraf, Aljazeera.net - Qatar, 20031217*

The following are indicative of jamming devices available from various sources; some are of use in jamming in the proximity of suspicious objects to protect bomb disposal personnel: some promise wide area multi-band convoy protection.

**ITALY: CPM Elettronica Ltd**

*CPM Elettronica was born in 1989 as a small laboratory located in Rome by the personal initiative of the owner, Marco Luciani. Compact mobile phone jammer quad bands 4 x 100 mW out; defeats devices operating in the following bands: GSM 900MHz; GSM 1800MHz; DECT; DCS 1900MHz; wireless 960MHz; UMTS 2.12-2.18GHz; Wi-Fi & Bluetooth 2.4-2.5GHz; video senders; paralysis radius is between 2m minimum to over 30m in weak base station signals*

http://www.cpmelettronica.com/jammers_e.htm

**ISRAEL: Netline Communications Technologies (NCT) Ltd, Tel Aviv**

As well as jamming devices, Netline produces cellular signal detectors. CAA - Cellular activity analyzer - CAA monitors and detects all cellular communication activity in a given area such as an office, meeting room or yard. By using pattern-matching technology, the CAA is able to differentiate between signaling activity such as SMS messages sent or periodic registration updates generated automatically by the GSM phone, and actual voice or data calls. Whenever cellular transmission is detected, the CAA provides the user with real time audio and visual alerts. http://www.netline.co.il
RUSSIA: Arli Spetstechnika
Several models; jamming frequencies from 20 MHz to 2.6 GHz
PERSEY-27P: 500Mhz - 2.0 GHz; paralysis range >=35m; 10kg

Possible Futures
The October 2005 three simultaneous bombings in Bali may point to "The New Normal". Although each of the bombs were delivered by suicide bombers it seems (at the time of writing) that some type of remote detonation was also in the design. In those places and on those occasions when suicide bombers are not used, the GSM phone may become the enemy of café and nightclub society in some parts of the world. It is possible that cafés/nightclubs in places such as Bali and Thailand will start to display signs such as "Mobiles Do Not Work Here", an indication – a claim at least – that a small GSM jammer is protecting patrons against GSM RCIEDs. That could quickly become a common feature of successful tourist venues and an excellent return on investment. In that context, militant IEDs are unlikely to disappear but will probably turn to alternative initiation such as LRCT, and even irLED.

irLED links are not, for practical purposes, jammable. Finding the receiver unit is the only effective counter-measure.

MAVs have not yet evolved into high-tech, low-cost "doodle bugs" but the rapid advances in all technological elements of MAVs makes this a logical possibility within one or two years. If they are radio-controlled as they are now, jamming the control frequencies is an obvious counter-measure; if they are of an advanced self-sufficient type, electronic counter-measures are more problematic.
Agency Cooperation

The region has several centres with anti-terrorism security intelligence functions. Each has been established with the mission of multi-lateral intelligence-sharing and cooperation; however some have asked why one centre, rather than three, would not better exemplify sharing and cooperation.

- The **Southeast Asia Regional Center for Counter-terrorism (SEARCCT)** - Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia opened in July 2003 with assistance – after many diplomatic complexities -- from USA.
- The **Jakarta Centre for Law Enforcement Cooperation (JCLEC)** - Semarang, Indonesia (Pusat Kerja sama Penegakan Hukum Jakarta) opened in July 2004 with Australia assistance.
- The **Philippine Center on Transnational Crime (PCTC)** - Quezon City, Philippines – has an anti-terrorism function but more relevant here is the "**Philippine Anti-bomb Data Centre**" - Manila, Philippines, established with Australian assistance.

The **Australian Bomb Data Centre (ABDC)**, an element of the **Australian Federal Police**, is a centre of excellence in the region on the "illegal use of explosives". The ABDC collates information on "all bomb-related incidents reported to it, regardless of design, target or motive" and has assisted with investigations of bombing incidents in Indonesia and Philippines.

ABDC, and these agencies, may be open to liaison with other agencies on RCIED incidents in the region.

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APPENDIX – OSINT News Items

COUNTER-TERRORISM COOPERATION

Malaysia to Open Regional Anti-Terror Center
Reuters - UK, 20030624
KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (Reuters) – Malaysia, in cooperation with the United States, will open an anti-terrorism center next week as part of a drive by Southeast Asian nations to combat militancy, Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Albar said Tuesday. … Malaysia decided to fund the center on its own rather than risk stoking anti-U.S. sentiment among the majority Muslim Malay population, but it still took U.S. help. "Subsequently with their cooperation and necessary personnel expertise from the U.S., we have established what is called Southeast Asia Regional Center for Counter-Terrorism," Syed Hamid told reporters. … The center, to be officially opened on July 1, is primarily for officials from the 10 member states of the Association of South East Asia Nations (ASEAN).

Pakistan, Malaysia to sign anti-terrorism agreement
deepikaglobal.com - India, 20031111
Singapore, Nov 10 (UNI) Pakistan and Malaysia are to sign a Memorandum of Understanding on anti-terrorism cooperation, The Star reported in Kuala Lumpur today. Pakistani High Commissioner to Malaysia Maj Gen (Retd) Talat Munir said he believed both sides have "a lot to share" on the subject. "The idea for a Memorandum of Understanding with Malaysia on anti-terrorism cooperation was discussed at Pakistan's Interior Ministry before I took up my posting here," the daily quoted Maj-Gen Munir as saying. "We are now working out the details and I am confident that it will benefit both our nations," he said.

Pakistan, the world's second most populous Muslim nation, already has such agreements with Thailand and China, among others. …

Australia-Indonesia law centre opens
The Age - Australia, 20050804
A regional centre for joint law enforcement operations between Indonesia and Australia has been opened in Indonesia. … Senator Ellison said the Australian government was contributing more than $38 million over five years to the development of the facility and its ongoing operation. Since its initial opening in July last year, the centre has had 355 participants from more than 23 countries attend, Courses have included post-bomb analysis, anti-money laundering, human trafficking and the investigation of transnational crime. - AAP

Philippines opens anti-bomb data centre
Radio Australia - Australia, 20050913
Australian aid has helped Philippine police open a centre devoted to tracking and identifying terrorist bombers. Our correspondent Shirley Escalante says the equipment in Manila's new Anti-bomb Data Centre has largely been funded under the $US30.7 million Philippine-Australia anti-terrorist package. Australia's ambassador to the Philippines Tony Haley was a guest of honour at the centre's opening ceremony.

Head of the Anti-bomb Data Centre Senior Superintendent, Albert Ferrar, says aside from receiving new equipment, Philippine authorities also received anti-terrorism training from Australia….
**BOMB DESIGN**

**Muslim bomber was Reading Uni whizz kid**

Mirror.co.uk - UK, 20030815
by Simon Cameron-Moore

KUALA LUMPUR (Reuters) - No one really knows why Azahari Husin turned to religion. But whatever it was had a profound impact on the life of the 46-year-old professor of statistics who studied in Britain and Australia and went on to train as an Islamic militant in Afghanistan and the Philippines. … Jemaah members interrogated in Indonesia say that, even while on the run, Azahari is honing his expertise as a master of "improvised explosive devices" and remote detonation. "He's become a nerd, apparently going to Internet cafes to surf the net for new tips on bomb-making," said Abuza, who is familiar with the investigations.

**JL taught Abu Sayyaf men to make bombs – Former Hostages' Accounts**

Straits Times - Singapore, 20040407

Philippine rebels also learnt sniper and combat techniques and how to set off bombs using cellphones

MANILA - Indonesian Islamic militants taught dozens of Abu Sayyaf recruits how to make bombs that could be set off by mobile phones. The recruits also picked up other terror skills while dodging helicopters and troops in a jungle camp last year, a former hostage says. … -- AP

**More sophisticated bombs being used**

The Nation - Thailand, 20040621

YALA - The bomb that injured four policemen here on Saturday used a new type of explosive gel and was detonated remotely by an operator nearby, a security officer said yesterday. The officer, who spoke on condition of anonymity, voiced concern that terrorists in the deep South were increasingly turning to radio-controlled devices to attack officials lured to the scene by decoy explosions or attacks.

… "The attacker was nearby waiting for a chance to detonate the second bomb," the source said. … He said the bomb planter needed to be an expert in electronics, adding that a walkie-talkie or wireless telephone could be adapted as a detonator for such a device. …The past week has seen two incidents when terrorists used remote-controlled bombs to attack officials in the South. One incident occurred in Narathiwat's Ranage district when a Border Patrol Police (BPP) post received a call saying there was bomb at a nearby phone booth. When police were sent to check, a bomb hidden on the route was detonated remotely, injuring four of them. In the province's Sungai Padi district, a BPP team was resting on a bench inside a park when a remotely controlled bomb went off, injuring five of them..

**All 3 blasts triggered by cell phones — Aussie forensic experts**

Philippine Star - Philippines, 20050219
by Christina Mendez

The Australian Federal Police have confirmed findings by local forensic experts that the explosives used in the Valentine's Day bombings in three major cities across the country were triggered by cellular phones, Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Director General Edgar Aglipay announced yesterday.
Military discovers terror groups' bomb lab in South

Tempo - Philippines, 20050824
by Bong Reblando

GENERAL SANTOS CITY – Government troops discovered a bomb laboratory of the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) and Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) in Maguindanao while pursuing fleeing terrorist bands, military officials said yesterday.

Col. Franklin del Prado, however, declined to give the location of the bomb-making plant as a massive military operation, both ground and air, intensifies to capture the band of Khadafi Janjalani and JI regional leader Dulmatin. "As of the moment, we cannot reveal the exact location of the terrorist bomb laboratory because this would certainly jeopardize our ongoing operations," Del Prado said.

Dulmatin sneaked into the country through the wide shores of Mindanao with fellow Umar Patek, who were tagged as those who carried out the Bali Resort bombing in Indonesia that killed 202 foreign tourists, mostly Australians. …

Al-Qaida-linked Southeast Asia militants share bomb designs

Sun Star - Philippines, 20050831

MANILA -- Al-Qaeda's Southeast Asian ally is sharing bomb-making expertise with Muslim militants in the Philippines, providing at least nine explosive designs and eight chemical recipes to help ragtag insurgents become more lethal, according to government reports. … One Philippine security official said Mindanao in the southern part of the country "is like a terrorist academy" with trainees taught how to make bombs, plant them, then set them off in test missions designed to help militants perfect their techniques to complete the course.

Jemaah Islamiyah militants appear to be continuously testing new designs and explosives mixtures, said officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the secretive nature of the information. Previously, many Philippine militants, especially Abu Sayyaf rebels, had relied on simple hand and rocket-propelled grenades to attack civilian targets. …

A number of recent bombs - pieced together from fragments found at attack sites or recovered from Philippine rebel hideouts - carry Jemaah Islamiyah's signature: the use of electronics, including Indonesian-designed integrated circuit boards, and cell phones that allow more efficiency and flexibility as triggers, according to several investigation reports seen by AP....

Most of the bombs used in attacks in the Philippines and Indonesia are believed to have been designed by Jemaah Islamiyah's top experts, including Pitono, a Bali bombing suspect and electronics expert also known as Dulmatin, the reports said. … Philippine authorities have detected mostly cell phone-triggered explosives while poring over bloody scenes of attacks by the Abu Sayyaf and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front in the last five years, according to investigation reports...(AP)

COUNTER-MEASURES

Jamming devices saved Musharraf

Aljazeera.net - Qatar, 20031217

Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf probably escaped Sunday's assassination attempt because of the equipment installed on his car to jam devices that trigger bombs, officials said. … The highly-sophisticated bomb that went off moments after Musharraf's motorcade passed over a bridge in Rawalpindi was delayed by crucial seconds by jammers that temporarily disabled the bomb, officials said on Wednesday. "It was enough time for Musharraf to cross the bridge," an intelligence official said. The bomb – estimated to contain 250kg of explosive - was believed to include both a remote control and a timing device to trigger it, intelligence officials said.

The equipment in Musharraf's car jammed the timer for about a minute, and also jammed the remote control, the officials added. The jammers usually work by emitting a magnetic impulse to block frequencies used to trigger explosive devices - including the electronic signals from precision timers....
US donates anti-terror gear
Phuket Gazette - Thailand, 20041117
PHUKET CITY: As part of its fight against terrorism, the US Department of Defense has donated anti-terrorism equipment worth about 2 million baht to Royal Thai Police Region 8, which includes Phuket.
In a ceremony at Phuket Provincial Police Headquarters this morning, David Turner, Chief of the US Defense Department’s Force Protection Detachment at the US Embassy in Bangkok, presented the equipment to Provincial Police Region 8 Deputy Commissioner Pol Maj Gen Phuvadol Krasae-In. The donation followed the successful completion in September of a five-day anti-terrorism training course organized by the US Defense Department. Fifty-seven police officers from Phuket, Phang Nga, Krabi and Koh Samui completed the course, which was held at the Patong Resort Hotel. …
The donation included lights and mirrors to check under cars for bombs, hand-held metal detectors, and other equipment designed to thwart terrorists before they can strike. …

Phuket police get explosives training
Thai News Agency - Thailand, 20041123
PHUKET, Nov 22 (TNA) - … The basic training programme will focus on new explosive techniques, types of explosive devices, as well as how to respond to suspicious objects, and how to gather evidence from bomb attacks.  (TNA)--E006

Army to buy phone jammers
Bangkok Post - Thailand, 20050818
Device blocks signals that trigger bombs
by Wassana Nanuam
The army will buy 10 small mobile phone jammers for 10 million baht each from Israel for use by bomb disposal experts working in the three southern border provinces of Yala, Pattani and Narathiwat, an army source said. …
The source said the jammer procurement was proposed to army chief Gen Prawit Wongsuwan by the army’s southern front operations command. The army had spent months looking at various jammers produced by the United States, England and Israel and finally picked one from Israel because it is the only kind that can cut signals of all four mobile telephone systems in Thailand -- AIS, DTAC, Orange and Hutch, he said.
The coverage area of this jammer, however, was limited to just 40 metres. A big one, which covers 100-200 metres, costs 70 million baht. The source said the army was in urgent need of the jammers and so would first order 10 small ones. The army now has only one jammer, made in the US, for use in the South, he said. …

Thailand mulling plan to block mobile coverage in restive south
TodayOnline.com - Singapore, 20050825
Thailand is considering blocking mobile phone coverage in restive southern Thailand in an effort to curb bomb attacks, Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra said. … At least 32 bombs were set off in the Muslim-majority southern provinces between July and mid-August, the Nation newspaper said on Thursday, quoting government statistics. - AFP
**REGULATION**

**New mobile phone regulations to curb southern violence**

Thai News Agency - Thailand, 20050418

BANGKOK, Apr 18 TNA – Thailand’s National Security Council (NSC) is working on guidelines to regulate the sale of mobile phone cards, known as ‘SIM cards’ to help reduce the violence in the country’s deep South, according to Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Pol. Gen. Chidchai Vanasatidya. The move comes after a recent spate of bomb blasts in the country’s southern border provinces, where attackers used mobile phones to trigger explosive devices. Pre-paid vouchers for mobile phone can be bought at any convenience store throughout Thailand. …

The prime minister’s family owns the country’s biggest mobile phone service provider, AIS. …

**Water pipe sales controlled to reduce bombs in the South**

Thai News Agency - Thailand, 20050425

BANGKOK, April, 25 (TNA) - Water pipes have been put on a list of materials which are strictly control in Thailand’s three southern border provinces in an attempt to reduce insurgent bomb blasts, the Interior Minister Pol. Gen. Chidchai Vanasatidya told journalists on Monday. …

Officials need to tightly control certain materials which could be used to make bombs, including water pipes and prepaid SIM cards for mobile phones, the interior minister told reporters shortly before meeting national security officials to discuss the surging violence in the provinces of Yala, Pattani and Narathwat. …

**SIM card user registration begins**

Thai News Agency - Thailand, 20050510

BANGKOK, May 10 (TNA) - Mobile phone shops at IT Mall in Bangkok, one of the capital's biggest outlets, have reported a smooth start to a new government scheme to identify and register all purchasers of prepaid SIM cards. … IT Mall shop owners said they had already been collecting client data for several days, ahead of the official start of the scheme, even though the government had not yet provided the official forms. Thailand has 30,000 SIM card outlets across the country with a total sales of 50,000 cards a day. Shop owners believed the move would not affect sales. … The ministry, he said, would begin regulating 21.5 million SIM cards purchased earlier by the end of this month. “Users must report to police or to their service provider if they have lost their phone or transferred their SIM cards to other users to prevent any misuse,” he said, adding that official forms would be distributed to SIM card shops within days.

**Police track owners of SIM card in defused bombs**

Thai News Agency - Thailand, 20050526

NARATHIWAT, May 25 (TNA) – Narathiwat local police believe they will be able to trace the owners of the prepaid cell phone SIM cards retrieved from two defused bombs on Tuesday. …

A bomb disposal squad retrieved the SIM cards from the two crudely made bombs after they defused them. Police telecom technicians are now trying to trace the owners, the head of the squad, Pol. Capt. Preecha Kimklieng told TNA on Wednesday.

Under a new government regulation all purchasers of prepaid cards for mobile phones must register with the service providers. The government introduced the rules to stop the insurgents who have frequently used mobile phones to trigger home-made bombs in Thailand’s three southern border provinces. Early investigations of the SIM cards showed they were prepaid cell phones and had been used before, according to Pol. Capt. Preecha. The owners of the phone will be questioned, he said. …

**Singapore's crackdown on prepaid phone cards**

Radio Australia - Australia, 20050907

Singapore has announced it will impose new regulations to control the sale of prepaid mobile phone cards as part of anti-terrorist measures. The government says the phone cards can be used to set off bombs. The new regulations will most likely be implemented in November. … Evidence that mobile phones have been used to remotely trigger explosives has been uncovered in major terrorist attacks worldwide, including last year's Madrid train blasts. …
### GENERAL RELEVANCE

**BRUNEI: World's 1st Islamic Mobile Phone On Sale In Brunei Soon**

Brunei Direct.com - Brunei Darussalam, 20040708
by Maya Salleh

Bandar Seri Begawan - Muslims in Brunei will soon be privileged to own a mobile phone equipped with unique Islamic applications with the launch of the **world's first Islamic mobile phone**. Dubbed the 'ilikone' i-800, it was first introduced in Lebanon, followed by Jordan, Syria, Sudan and Algeria. It will subsequently be introduced in Qatar, Bahrain and other major Islamic regions like Turkey, Indonesia, Malaysia, Brunei, Bangladesh, Iran, Pakistan and India.

The name 'ilikone' is derived from the Arabic word meaning 'universe' and the model is harnessed with specialist expertise of different international companies to develop the unique applications for special-interest market segments.

The i-800 is the product of an international consortium, comprising partners from UAE, Egypt, England, Australia and South Korea. According to ilkone's CEO Mr Saqer Tellawi, the consortium has devoted two years of research and development to bring this new phone to the market, focusing on key areas from design to manufacturing and distribution networks. "The objective of the i-800 is to satisfy the needs of specific Muslims around the world, the Middle East in particular, through a range of phones providing advanced Islamic solutions, applications and functions. "Ilikone will be a relevant and integral part of the personal lives and practices of modern Muslims everywhere. The advanced mobile technology will meet their practical, technological and emotional needs," he added. …- Courtesy of Borneo Bulletin

**PAKISTAN: Major weapons cache, ‘spy Drone’ found: Operation in N. Waziristan**

Dawn - Pakistan, 20050914
by Ismail Khan

PESHAWAR, Sept 13: Security forces have captured 21 militants in a major military operation in North Waziristan, Peshawar Corps Commander Lt-Gen Safdar Hussain said on Tuesday.

The search operation, the biggest in North Waziristan, also yielded a huge cache of arms and ammunition, communication equipment and a **remote-controlled Drone**, he told a news briefing here. The Chinese-made remote-piloted vehicle was used by militants to spy on army movements and positions in the region, the corps commander said. … Also on display were hundreds of video CDs, training manuals in Arabic, instructions on how to make bombs and explosive devices and **frequency modules**.
INCIDENTS

Note: Several Incidents appear in the categories above

PHILIPPINES

'They asked if they could pray [in my house]'
INQ7.net - Philippines, 20050223
by Luige del Puerto
WEEKS before the Valentine's Day bombing of a passenger bus in Makati, two men living in a poor Mandaluyong community asked a woman neighbor if they could use a room in her house to pray. … Late on Monday and yesterday, the country's Anti-Terrorism Task Force swooped down on the community and nabbed the two men, identified by authorities as Gamal Baharan, alias Tapay, and Angelo Trinidad, alias Abu Khalil Trinidad. Little did 'Nay Vina realize that the two men who used her house to hold their prayers were the alleged bombers, who killed four people and wounded more than 100 others in the Feb. 14 attack. …
Fruits of the raid
They included a hand grenade, three boxes of blasting caps, five boxes of 45 mm ammunition, 52 feet of time fuse, two small clocks, several small batteries, and suspected C-4 plastic explosives contained in two toothpaste tubes, a film container, and a hair oil plastic bottle. The raiders also recovered several SIM packs, and a cell phone charger, according to officers on the ground. …

Three injured in bomb blast in southern Philippines
Khaleej Times - UAE, 20050730
GENERAL SANTOS, Philippines (AFP) – Three people were injured on Saturday when a bomb hidden in a motorized pedicab exploded near a public market in the southern Philippines, police said.
One of the injured, the pedicab's driver Rey Nobleza, told police two men appeared to set the bomb off after he dropped them off separately near a Koronadal city market, said deputy police provincial director, superintendent Adolfo Bautista. The bomb, hidden inside an egg tray, was triggered by a cellphone, Bautista added.
Police said casualties were relatively light because only the bomb's blasting cap went off while the main explosive, a 60-millimeter mortar shell, did not explode and was recovered by the bomb squad. …

THAILAND

Thai police defuse bomb in restive south
Straits Times - Singapore, 20040120
BANGKOK - Thai police have defused a bomb in a southern town as they continue their hunt for stolen guns and suspects involved in the latest violence in the largely Muslim region. Police said yesterday they had destroyed a bomb hidden in the fuel tank of a motorcycle parked in front of a convenience store late on Sunday in Kokepoe district, 1,100km south of Bangkok. It was the second bomb planted in the area this month.
'If there had been officers surrounding the vehicle, a call could have been made from a phone nearby to a cellphone hidden in the motorbike to trigger the bomb,' police spokesman Colonel Chaitat Intanujint told a Bangkok radio station. He said the 600g dynamite bomb was similar to one planted in the city of Pattani this month that killed two policemen who were trying to defuse it. … -- Reuters
### Bomb explodes as ministers meet in Thailand's Muslim south

**Hi Pakistan** - Pakistan, 20040323  
**BANGKOK:** A bomb exploded Tuesday in Thailand's Muslim-dominated south near a hall where the new interior and defence ministers were meeting, leaving one woman seriously injured, officials said. Police in Narathiwat province said the four kilo (nine-pound) remote-controlled bomb exploded in a restroom at a telephone company office, injuring a female employee. Defence Minister Chetta Thanajaro and Interior Minister Bhokin Bhalakula were chairing a meeting of top local officials in a hall across the road from the office to discuss a wave of violence in the south.

### Thailand sees no foreign role in bomb attack

**Reuters** - UK, 20040328  
**by Kittipong Thaicharoen**  
**BANGKOK (Reuters)** - Foreign terror groups are not suspected in a bomb attack that wounded nearly 30 people in Thailand's Muslim south, the first attack on civilians since a wave of violence began in January, officials have said. Police believe the bomb was triggered by remote control. Inside the bar, a shattered neon Carlsberg beer sign lay on the ground next to broken chairs and tables.

### Narathiwat: PM greeted by arson, bombs

**The Nation** - Thailand, 20040509  
**Attacks coincide with final leg of Thaksin's visit**  
Unidentified assailants continued a series of attacks in the deep South yesterday as Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, under heavy guard, wrapped up his three-day visit to the area. The attacks, which started on Friday evening, included bombings, arson and an ambush of police officers. An hour later, Rusoh police received a tip-off that a bomb had been planted near a rural road connecting the district with Tambon Laloh. Rusoh police chief Colonel Sombat Boonpho led a search of the site. When he and his team arrived, assailants used a remote-control device to detonate an anti-tank bomb before ambushing them. A battle lasted about 10 minutes in which police vehicles were damaged, but no casualties were reported. Before retreating, assailants left spikes on the road to prevent police from pursuing them.

### Bomb explodes in Thailand's south as PM calls for security offensive

**Channel NewsAsia** - Singapore, 20040612  
**BANGKOK:** A remote controlled bomb exploded in southern Thailand as Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra vowed to step up security in the restive Muslim-majority provinces. Police said the roadside bomb exploded without causing casualties, opposite the home of Narathiwat's chief judge at 10:00 am (0300 GMT) near the southern provincial capital of the same name. "It was a remote control bomb planted under the tree and we also found part of the mobile phone (used to detonate the device)," said a Narathiwat police spokesman. The explosion came only one hour after the Thai premier used his weekly national radio address to outline increased security measures in the provinces near Malaysia, including the questioning of anyone deemed suspicious by the army or police.

### Thai policeman shot dead, four wounded by bomb blasts in restive south

**The Nation** - Thailand, 20040619  
**BANGKOK, June 19 (AFP)** - A Thai police officer was shot dead Saturday by suspected militants, and four policemen were slightly wounded by two bomb blasts in the kingdom's restive Muslim-majority south, police said. In the capital of neighbouring Yala province, two remote control bombs were detonated at a Chinese-style pavilion in a public park, causing minor injuries to four policemen. "The first bomb exploded at 10:45 am (0345 GMT) with no casualties, but the police went to the scene to collect evidence and the second bomb exploded 11 minutes later, wounded four of them," a Yala policeman said. Police managed to detain an undisclosed number of suspects for interrogation but the policeman declined to provide details.
### Suspect in southern attacks arrested

The Nation - Thailand, 20040802  
NARATHIWAT - … Five people were injured in the province's Sungai Kolok district on Saturday night when a **remote-controlled improvised bomb** was detonated, police said yesterday. …  
The bomb was hidden underneath a bench in front of the house and was set off by remote control, police said. Colonel Surasak Romayanond, superintendent of the Sungai Kolok police station, said that it appeared the attack was targeted at the policeman as the bomb was detonated shortly after he joined the group. …

### Roadside bomb injures two policemen in Yala

The Nation - Thailand, 20040805  
Two police officers assigned to provide security for teachers were injured when a bomb planted along the side of a road went off yesterday in the southern province of Yala. … Police suspect a remote controlled bomb **detonated by a mobile phone** was used in the attack. …

### Thai motorcycle bomb kills 1, wounds 30

Khaleej Times - UAE, 20040826  
Reuters: NARATHIWAT, Thailand - A powerful bomb hidden in a motorcycle killed one person and wounded 30 in Thailand's mainly Muslim south on Thursday, a day ahead of Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra's visit to the restive region. The bomb, apparently **set off by remote control**, exploded at a bustling morning market in Narathiwat province and the wounded included six policemen, seven marines, shoppers and schoolchildren, officials said.  
… Police said the bomb, which appeared to have been **triggered by a mobile phone** found in the debris, went off as elementary school pupils were preparing to march from the market to their school sports day. Six of them were slightly injured.  
Four hours later, another **remote-controlled bomb** went off in front of a shop near a Buddhist temple in nearby Yingor district as a bomb squad dealt with what turned out to be a fake grenade 30 metres (yards) away, police said. No one was injured. “The bomb was wrapped in a plastic bag and placed in front of a grocery store,” Yingor police superintendent Surat Kienthong told Reuters. …

### Power Gel bomb at petrol station, two more defused

The Nation - Thailand, 20040829  
Arrests over Thursday market blast; suspects hired to ‘stage violence’  
One bomb exploded at a petrol station and two others were defused yesterday in violence-plagued Narathiwat, as Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra said violence was likely to intensify. The bomb exploded about midnight at a Caltex petrol station belonging to Pipat Klinprathum in Narathiwat's Muang district, destroying a pickup truck and causing minor damage to the station and nearby houses, said Sub-Lieutenant Titikorn Wattanacharoenphan.  
The 10-kilogram bomb was made of Power Gel, an explosive usually used for mining and construction. It was placed near a concrete wall and **triggered by remote control**, Titikorn said. …

### Bomb blasts target teacher convoy in Thailand's troubled south

Channel NewsAsia - Singapore, 20040901  
BANGKOK: Militants triggered two bombs in an **attack on an armed convoy** escorting teachers to work in the troubled south of Thailand but nobody was hurt, police said.  
The blasts were the latest in a spate of violence in the Muslim-majority south that has left more than 285 people dead this year from bomb and gun attacks and a failed separatist uprising. One person was killed and more than 30 injured last week in a bombing at a market ahead of a visit by Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra.  
Police said a third **roadside device** was defused Wednesday after the two blasts in Narathiwat, one of the three worst-affected provinces during this year’s violence. … - AFP
Southern violence flares anew after Thai Cabinet reshuffle

Star Online - Malaysia, 20041007
BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) - Suspected Muslim extremists in southern Thailand went on a fresh spree of violence - killing two people and wounding seven in attacks - after the government announced a Cabinet reshuffle meant to deal with the region's insurgency, officials said Thursday. …
In Thursday's incident in Yala, a bomb exploded as a pickup truck carrying soldiers serving as a protection unit for teachers passed by. The bomb, believed detonated by remote control, injured three sergeants and a civilian, police Lt. Col. Adinan Hisamahale said. - AP

String of rebel attacks in southern Thailand

The Statesman - India, 20041113
Bangkok, Nov. 13. — … A powerful bomb exploded at about 6 p.m. at Angmor Restaurant in Narathiwat's Muang (city) district, damaging the restaurant and shattering glass as far as 30 metres across the street. At least 16 people were seriously injured. Police said a person posing as a customer left a bag laden with explosives in the restaurant and detonated it by a mobile phone after leaving. …

Thai soldiers hit by hidden bomb

CNN - USA, 20041208
BANGKOK, Thailand (Reuters) -- Six Thai soldiers were wounded by an improvised bomb hidden under a road checkpoint in southern Thailand by suspected Muslim militants, police said on Wednesday. The explosives, remotely triggered by a cellular phone late on Tuesday, had been planted in soft clay ground at the temporary checkpoint in predominantly Muslim Narathiwat province before the soldiers arrived, police told Reuters. …

Bomb in Thailand’s Muslim south kills one, injures about 30

Khaleej Times - UAE, 20050116
BANGKOK, Thailand - A bomb exploded on Sunday at a noodle shop in restive, Muslim-dominated southern Thailand, killing one person and injuring about 30, officials said.
… Police said the bomb, estimated to weigh about six kilograms (10 pounds), was left in the middle of the shop and triggered remotely using a mobile phone.
…

Thai provincial governor escapes bomb, six hurt

Reuters - UK, 20050210
BANGKOK, Feb 10 (Reuters) - A remote-controlled bomb probably planted by Muslim militants exploded near the governor of the southern Thai province of Narathiwat on Thursday, wounding six people, police said.
The bomb, detonated by mobile telephone, went off at a stadium in the town of Narathiwat during a ceremony attended by several high-ranking officials, but Governor Pracha Taerat was unhurt, they said. …
Car Bomb Kills 5, Injures 40, in Thai Tourist Town
Reuters - UK, 20050217
by Sukree Sukplang
SUNGAI KOLOK, Thailand (Reuters) - A car bomb killed five people and injured 40 in a tourist town in southern Thailand on Thursday shortly after the Thai prime minister left the region following a visit to discuss security.

It was the first car bomb blast in the troubled Muslim region, where remote-controlled bombs, ambush killings and school arson attacks have claimed more than 500 lives in just over a year. Officials said the bomb, estimated to contain about 220 pounds of fertilizer, exploded in a car behind a hotel in Sungai Kolok, a town near the Malaysian border whose bars and nightclubs are popular with tourists.

"This is the first car bomb in the region after we defused a similar one made of a gas cylinder and fertilizer here two years ago," Narathiwat provincial governor Pracha Taerat told Reuters at the scene, littered with charred motorcycles and cars. …

Militant fugitives' children planted Thai bomb -PM
KeralaNext.com - India, 20050218
[Asia News]: SINGAI KOLOK, Thailand – The first car bomb of a separatist uprising in Thailand's Muslim south was planted by relatives of hunted militant leaders, Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra said on Friday. …

There has been considerable speculation that Jemaah Islamiah, the Southeast Asian branch of al Qaeda, may be involved in the violence that has claimed almost 600 lives in the region. Militants have unleashed several motorcycle bombs, triggered by mobile telephone, but security officials said a car bomb was a step up in sophistication.

The car, stolen from an army camp two years ago, was parked near a busy hotel hosting a wedding party. The fertiliser bomb inside it, weighing at least 50 kg (110 lb), wrecked cars, shattered windows and damaged shops over a wide area. "They aimed for a wider scale of victims. It is an act of terrorism," Pracha said.

Thaksin said it should not be classified as a car bomb but as a car with a bomb inside and that its effect was made more powerful by its placement near power poles and a shop with gas canisters. …

Foreign links to Thai rebels
The Standard - Hong Kong, 20050308
Evidence is mounting that foreign terrorists have provided funds and advice to Islamic rebels in Thailand's south, terrorism experts and a military officer said, despite the government maintaining the violence is the work of local separatists. …

He said the rebellion was sparked by Thai Muslims who fought against the Soviet Union in Afghanistan and then returned to Southeast Asia. A number of the returnees live in Malaysia, Vitaya said. "Their attacks have developed systematically, like moving from time bombs to bombs triggered by mobile phones, and now the car bomb," a senior military officer said. "It may not exactly replicate Iraq or the Middle East, but at least we have to be aware that they have learned from or even use professional terrorists to stage these kinds of attacks." … - AGENCIES / The Standard, Sing Tao Newspaper Group and Global China Group.

Dozens hurt in latest violence in southern Thailand
Thai News Agency - Thailand, 20050320
YALA, March 20 (TNA) - Ten security officials and five civilians have been injured in two separate bomb explosions in southern Thailand on Sunday.
The first bomb blast ripped through a riverside pavilion, injuring seven police officers in Yala province. The bomb was detonated by a cell phone, according to the police. …

In another bomb blast in Narathiwat three soldiers and a 13-year old boy who was riding his motorcycle in the area were injured. The bomb was exploded while the soldiers were setting up a checkpoint. The police believe the explosive device was planted in a nearby tree and detonated by a cell phone. …
Thai commander survives attempt on life
Hi Pakistan - Pakistan, 20050324
BANGKOK: One of Thailand’s top army commanders narrowly escaped a bomb detonated by suspected separatist militants in the Deep South Thursday, as a second blast wounded four soldiers and a Buddhist monk, police said.

In Narathiwat’s Janae district a bomb placed in brush along a roadside exploded just moments after the motorcade of Second Army commander Lieutenant General Hern Wannaprasert had passed, police said. Hern, who was visiting his troops from Thailand’s northeast who is conducting peacekeeping and security operations in the Deep South, is one of Thailand’s four senior most commanders of ground troops.

No one was injured in the blast although it blew out windows in the motorcade’s vehicles. "We are investigating, but it is possible that people who planted the bomb knew the commander would pass,” police said.

The bomb was triggered by mobile telephone, causing an 80-centimetre (two-foot) deep crater in the ground. …

At Least 12 Policemen Wounded in S.Thailand Bombing
Reuters - UK, 20050327
BANGKOK (Reuters) - At least 12 policemen were wounded by two bombs that exploded early Sunday in Thailand’s restive Muslim south, where nearly 600 people have been killed in a 15-month insurgency, the police and army said.

An unidentified number of militants detonated two bombs and opened fire at the policemen as they were riding in an armored railway car as part of a routine security patrol in Narathiwat province, adjacent to the border with Malaysia. …

Two die in triple Hat Yai blasts
Bangkok Post - Thailand, 20050404
Airport, department store, hotel targeted – Spread of violence to tourist spot worries govt

Songkhla: At least two people died and 52 were injured, many seriously, in three bomb explosions that went off at Hat Yai international airport, a department store and a hotel almost simultaneously last night. The incidents caught authorities off-guard as the ongoing violence involving Muslim militants has mostly taken place in the three border provinces of Pattani, Yala and Narathiwat.

The first explosion went off about 8.25pm at Carrefour department store on Phetkasem road in Hat Yai town. Police believe it was a home-made bomb planted in a rubbish bin in front of the store and triggered remotely by a mobile phone. …

Thais fear bombs mean southern unrest spreading
Reuters - UK, 20050404
by Trirat Puttajanyawong
BANGKOK (Reuters) - Fears that 15 months of unrest is spreading from Thailand's Muslim far south increased on Monday after an unprecedented triple bomb attack on an airport, hotel and supermarket just outside the violence-hit region. …

Flights had resumed at Hat Yai airport, where mobile phone signals had been randomly turned off as a measure to prevent remote-controlled bombs, Deputy Transport Minister Phumtham Vechayachai told reporters. … - additional reporting by Nopporn Wong-Anan and Panarat Thepgumpanat
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**Bomb explosion wounds two policemen in Thailand**

Star Online - Malaysia, 20050406

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) - A remote-controlled bomb exploded Wednesday in southern Thailand, wounding two police officers, an official said. The device blew up near the Sungai Kolok district train station in Narathiwat province as the two officers arrived to inspect the bomb, which had been found earlier by a restaurant owner in the area, said police Sub-Lt. Anond Pradip. They suffered minor injuries. The restaurant owner, Pricha Kongkiri, discovered the bomb in a flower planter and moved it near a wall behind the train station before calling police. The device is believed to have weighed about 20 kilograms (44 pounds), he said. The bomb exploded as two policemen got out of their car to investigate. - AP

**Powerful bomb defused in southern Thai trade centre**

Reuter - UK, 20050408

by Nopporn Wong-Anan

BANGKOK (Reuters) - Thai police have defused a bomb in the southern commercial centre of Hat Yai, where suspected Muslim militants struck at the weekend in a rare attack outside their usual territory, security officials said on Friday.

The remote-controlled 3 kg (6.6 lbs) device -- like Sunday's bombs made of gunpowder and fertiliser -- was defused on Wednesday, a senior policeman said. "The bomb was connected to a mobile phone and meant to cause damage, not take lives, otherwise it would have contained a lot of nails," the officer told Reuters. He declined to say where the bomb was found, but Thai newspapers said it was in a rubbish container next to a leading department store and failed to explode because it was not wired properly. …

**Latest bomb blast in troubled southern Thailand kills two police officers**

Star Online - Malaysia, 20050424

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) - Suspected Islamic separatists detonated a bomb in southern Thailand on Sunday, killing two police officers and wounding three other people, just hours after the country's revered queen appealed to the nation to condemn such attacks.

The device, believed to have been triggered by a mobile phone, exploded in a small house used by a village chief in the Sungai Kolok district of Narathiwat province and caused damage in a 30-meter (98-foot) radius, said police Lt. Sittidej Ruansong. …-AP

**Soldiers injured**

Bangkok Post - Thailand, 20050509

NARATHIWAT: Six soldiers including a platoon commander were injured while patrolling on Saturday night in Jana district, where militants detonated a powerful bomb damaging their military truck humvee….
Bomb in southern Thailand kills two patrolling marines, wounds eight
Star Online - Malaysia, 20050513
BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) - Two Thai marines were killed and another eight wounded when a bomb on a road exploded Friday as their truck passed by in southern Thailand, police said. The marine unit was patrolling late afternoon in Narathiwat province's Bajoh district, an area of frequent sectarian violence, when the blast occurred, said police Lt. Surachai Khanthapanam. …

Insurgents launch 65 bombs in Southern Thailand in 6 months, report
Xinhua News - China, 20050517
BANGKOK, May 17 (Xinhuanet) – Insurgents have launched a total of 65 bomb attacks in Thailand's restive deep south over the past six months, said a security report submitted to Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra. The report identified 65 bombs of all kinds planted in the past six months, saying that only 12 were defused by the authorities, newspaper Nation on Tuesday quoted anonymous Government House source as saying. About one third of the bombs were planted along the southern railway and 35 others near the railway, while the rest were planted elsewhere, said the report produced by the Southern Border Provinces Peace-building Command (SBPPC). The report presented to Thaksin on Monday suggested parts of the bombs were assembled and smuggled across the border from Malaysia, noting that assailants now tended to detonate multiple bombs to cause larger damage. BRN Coordinate, a separatist group set up in the 1960s, was still believed to be the leading organization behind the bomb attacks. SBPPC believed BRN strategy commanders sought cooperation or support from national and local politicians and various interest groups in their areas.

Government dismisses ICG report on troubled south
Thai News Agency - Thailand, 20050519
BANGKOK, May 19 (TNA) - Deputy Prime Minister Chidchai Vanasatidya has rejected an influential think tank's assessment that the unrest in country's predominately Muslim south could attract foreign "jihadist" elements if mishandled. … Deputy Prime Minister Chidchai also acknowledged that the Prime Minister was not happy with the upsurge of almost daily attacks in the southern provinces after the deadline set by the government for the registration of pre-paid mobile phone users. The measure is aimed at stemming the number of attacks using bombs remotely-detonated by mobile phone signals.

Four injured in bomb blast at Rantau Panjang
New Straits Times - Malaysia, 20050606
by Ridzwan Abdullah and Sharifah Mahsinah
SUNGAI GOLOK (Thailand), Mon: THREE policemen, including a top local officer, and an elderly couple were wounded when a bomb exploded at a public park here today. The blast, which took place at about 100 metres from the Malaysian border town of Rantau Panjang, occurred as a team from the Organisation of the Islamic Conference was visiting Narathiwat province to assess the situation in the restive southern region. The bomb, placed in a parked Suzuki motorcycle at the Srithon park, where locals were taking part in morning walks, is believed to have been triggered by a mobile phone at 8am Malaysian time. The park is situated next to a secondary school, but fortunately there were only a few students at that time as classes had yet to begin.
Five injured in latest bomb blasts
Thai News Agency - Thailand, 20050608
NARATHIWAT, June 8 (TNA) – Four policemen and a soldier have been injured in the latest bomb attacks in the southern border province of Narathiwat on Wednesday. The policemen were on duty protecting teachers when the bomb exploded near the Ban Ipase School in Narathiwat’s Rangae district just after 8 am. The 5-kilogramme bomb was planted on the roadside near the school fence and was triggered by a mobile phone, according to the local police investigating the incident. ... Less than an hour later, suspected insurgents triggered another bomb using a cell phone injuring a soldier on duty to protect teachers in Ruso district.

Narrow escape as car bomb fails to detonate
Thai News Agency - Thailand, 20050614
YALA, June 14 (TNA) - Disaster was narrowly averted this morning when a bomb planted under a car parked outside a house in Thailand's southern border city of Yala failed to detonate. Bomb disposal experts who rushed to investigate the suspicious package under the car parked in Yaha district immediately cordoned off the area, cut mobile telephone signals, and used high-pressure guns to cut off the fuse. But the 5-kilogram bomb, made from fertilizer, a torch battery and saltpetre, was apparently a dud. Police, who said that the explosive device had probably been planted last night, blamed the incident on southern insurgents.

Morning blast rocks Narathiwat
Thai News Agency - Thailand, 20050615
NARATHIWAT, June 15 (TNA) – Insurgents struck in Thailand's southern border province of Narathiwat again today, planting explosives in two of the province’s districts. The first, which occurred in front of a rubber warehouse in Waeng district, was detonated by a mobile telephone shortly after 09.00hrs. Police who rushed to the scene afterwards found pieces of the device scattering across a two-metre radius, but no-one was injured in the blast. In Joh Ai Rong district, an explosive device was discovered by local troops making a routine survey in tambon Bukit. The 15-kilogram device, concealed in a fire extinguisher and buried in a hollow beside the road, was found to contain nails and dynamite. Security officers speculated that the device, which was defused by bomb disposal experts, had been planted last night and that security officers were the intended target.

Two fake bombs found in Pattani
Thai News Agency - Thailand, 20050617
PATTANI, June 17 (TNA)- Two fake bombs were found in Thailand's southern border province of Pattani this morning. A security force guarding teachers found a suspicious object in a plastic bag placed near Ban Yaring School. A bomb disposal squad rushed to the scene to investigate the material suspected to be an explosive device, while the police cordoned off the area and cut off cell phone signals. However, the officers found no explosive material, but some rocks and paper. About 500 meter away from the school, an old gas cylinder was placed on a roadside, but no explosive device was found inside the suspicious container. Police believed that ill-intentioned militants wanted to instigate unrest in the area, as a nearby market was crowded with people today. (TNA)--E004

Bomb found in southern province
Thai News Agency - Thailand, 20050624
NARATHIWAT, Jun 24 (TNA) - A police bomb squad has defused an explosive devise found by a road in the southern province of Narathiwat Friday. The disposal team cut the phone signal in the area before inspecting the bomb found on the Takbai-Narathiwat road in Muang district. The five-kilogram bomb was composed with urea fertilizer and wires. It was prepared to be detonated by a cell phone.
Yala Attacks: 60 people believed to have taken part
The Nation - Thailand, 20050716
Seven suspects detained in connection with Thursday's coordinated raid on city; another blast outside hospital /As many as 60 attackers, most of them young people, are believed to have taken part in the synchronised attacks in Yala on Thursday night.
The Southern Border Provinces Peace-building Command announced yesterday that seven suspects had already been detained for their alleged involvement in the violence, which killed two police officers and injured 17 people.
Between 7.10pm and 8.15pm on Thursday, Yala’s Muang district was a chaotic scene of power blackouts, five explosions, four arson attacks and several other incidents including the discovery of fake bombs, armed insurgents waylaying police and road spikes being scattered about to impede pursuit. …
In Yala, a bomb exploded at a restaurant, injuring four people. The bomb was hidden in a rubbish bin and was **detonated by a cell phone.** …

Bomb explodes at Big C in Pattani
Bangkok Post - Thailand, 20050802
One man was injured and two cars were damaged after a **remote-controlled bomb** exploded at the Nong Chik branch of Big C superstore in Pattani’s Muang district. Another device exploded at the entrance to a teacher's home in Narathiwat, injuring one man and damaging several vehicles. Elsewhere, a police officer's son and a former village headman were seriously injured in separate attacks.
At the Nong Chik branch of Big C, chaos erupted when a bomb went off in its car park at about 2pm. The store's management immediately urged all staff and customers to leave the site and temporarily closed the store so a police investigation could take place. The homemade device had been placed in a flower pot and was triggered by a mobile phone.
Earlier yesterday, a bomb exploded at the entrance to a teacher's home opposite a rubber research centre in Narathiwat's Sungai Padi district. The bomb, believed to be targeting soldiers providing protection for teachers, exploded at about 8.05am when a protection team arrived. …
In Pattani, a suspicious-looking box was left in the driveway of a defence volunteer. A bomb squad was called in to destroy the iron box left near the home of Vareesaran Daralanchakorn, 36, a defence volunteer from Yaring district. The box, weighing around 5 kg, contained fertiliser material, a stick of dynamite, iron rods, a **mobile phone and a SIM card**. …
Meanwhile, a source said there is a **strong demand for second-hand Nokia 3310 mobile phones** in the three southernmost provinces. Police were investigating whether or not these phones could be used in bomb attacks, he said.

Bomb blasts wound Thai soldiers in Muslim south
Reuters - UK, 20050811
BANGKOK, Aug 11 (Reuters) - Crude bombs went off in Thailand's largely Muslim south on Thursday, wounding six soldiers, two of them seriously, police said. The two badly wounded soldiers were hit by an **improvised bomb triggered by mobile phone** near a security post in front of a school in Narathiwat province, they said. Shrapnel from the bomb inflicted minor wounds on three other soldiers at the post in Su-ngai Golok near the Malaysian border. Less than an hour later, a soldier on patrol in the area was wounded by a time bomb. …

Thai minister warns 'a lot more people' will die as explosive licenses reinstated
Mainichi Daily News - Japan, 20050819
PATTANI, Thailand (AP) -- Thailand's defense minister reluctantly lifted a ban on explosives used in quarries in the country's restive southern provinces, but warned Muslim insurgents could steal the materials for bombs that will kill "a lot more people," … A **remote-controlled roadside bomb**, meanwhile, exploded late Thursday as a military truck passed in Yala province, but none of the 10 soldiers on board were injured, said police Col. Parinya Kwanyeun. He said two other homemade bombs were found and defused Friday morning. …
Police officer car bomb explosion in Thailand, killed one, wounded three

Pravda - Russia, 20050907

A bomb attached to the bottom of a car belonging to a police officer detonated Wednesday, in Thailand's insurgency-plagued south, killing one passenger and wounding three others.

The bomb was made and set by suspected Islamic rebels exploded as the car approached a checkpoint in Narathiwat province's Tak Bai district, said police Sgt. Seksan Waeduramae, the vehicle's owner and driver. A female passenger was killed and her husband seriously wounded by the blast, which badly damaged the vehicle. … It was unclear when the bomb, believed to have been triggered by a mobile phone signal, was attached to Seksan's car.
NOTES

1. The full-text of any news items mentioned is available from OSS if it is not still available from the original publisher. Copyright in all items remains the property of the original copyright owner.

2. GSM – A standard established in 1982 by Groupe Special Mobile of the pan-European standards organization, Conference Europeenne des Posts et Telecommunications (CEPT); now accepted to stand for Global System for Mobile Communication. More than one billion people use GSM phones as of 2005. GSM is the dominant mobile phone system worldwide with about 70% of the world's market. GSM’s main competitor, CDMA2000, is used primarily in North America.

3. Some buoyancy in the GSM market – in Indonesia, Malaysia and other Islamic countries -- may arise from the needs of young people to circumvent the abiding restrictions on the association of men and women in public.

4. There has been some evidence in suicide cases (London 2005 and Bali 2005) that remote initiation was a "failsafe" (backup) element of the device, presumably to be used in the case of capture, failure of the primary initiation, or failure of the bomber's nerve. Similarly, there is some evidence that timers are sometimes also incorporated in the design.

5. The SIM card comprises a single standardised software application - the Subscriber Identity Module (SIM) - running on dedicated hardware - a Universal Integrated Circuit Card (UICC or “SmartCard”)


7. 45km is certainly marketing puffery that may at best be true for a desert on a good day; however a system such as that may have a reliable range of 2 to 10 km in an urban area; a useful capability.

8. Frequency "bands" are internationally agreed under the auspices of International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the world's oldest existing international organization, established in 1865.

9. Ready-made IrLED controllers generally follow standards established by the Infrared Data Association (IrDA). The most common carrier frequencies are in the 30-40KHz range but some manufacturers use 455KHz or 1.125MHz. See http://www.rentron.com/remote_control/IRLED.htm#6


11. The significance of the pre-paid SIM card is that it provides a randomly allocated mobile phone number and some usage credit over the retail counter, in contrast to a mobile phone account that is tied to a known person at a known billing address.

12. Using FHSS, the signal randomly jumps around in the range of frequencies that the unit can handle; making it "impossible" to follow a conversation on a scanner. DSSS is a similar principle but less complex.

13. Jakarta Centre for Law Enforcement Cooperation - +62 24 8504009 phone ; +62 24 8504060 fax; PO Box 6602 Semarang 50232 Indonesia; http://jclec.com/


15. Contact details are still being gathered – the first head of the Centre is Senior Superintendent Albert Ferrar.