

MILITANTS TURN TO SMALL BOMBS IN IRAQ ATTACKS

AN UPTICK IN VIOLENCE

As Security Limits Big Bombs, Growing Use of 'Sticky Bombs'

By KATHERINE JOEPP
and TRISTAN AL-HUSAINI
BAGHDAD — They are usually no bigger than a man's fist and attached to a magnet or a strip of gummy adhesive — thus the name "abwah lasica" in Arabic, or "sticky bombs."

Light, portable and easy to lay, sticky bombs are tucked quickly under the bumper of a car or into a chink in a blast wall. Since they are detonated remotely, they rarely harm the men who lay them. And as security in Baghdad has improved, the small and cunning bombs — though less lethal than entire cars or even thick suicide belts packed with explosive — is fast becoming the device of choice for a range of insurgent groups.

They are also contributing, in the midst of an uptick in violence, to a growing feeling of unease in the capital.

"You take a bit of C4 or some other type of compound," said Lt. Col. Steven Stover, a spokesman for the United States military in Baghdad. "You can go into a hardware store, take an explosive and combine it with the adhesive, put some glass or marble or bits of metal in front of it and you've basically got a homemade claymore," a common anti-personnel mine.

Sticky bombs are not an Iraqi innovation. "Limped mines" were attached to the sides of ships during World War II, and magnetic booby traps were used during the conflict in Northern Ireland. Magnetic I.E.D.'s, or improvised explosive devices, were first used in Iraq in late 2004 or early in 2005, according to the American military. But sticky bombs have become a staple of Iraqi insurgency.

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Men looked for work this week in Chang'an, China, a town in the coastal region that had long fueled the country's export growth.

DIPLOMATIC MEMO

A World of Advice for Obama on Foreign Policy

By HELENE COOPER

WASHINGTON — The Russians want him to hold off on the installation of a missile defense shield in Poland. The Europeans want him to renounce the idea of "regime change" when it comes to Iran, while the Israelis want to be sure he does not give Iran a pass when it comes to nuclear weapons.

Oh, and let's not forget the Taliban, which issued a statement this week urging him to "put an end to all the policies being followed by his Opposition Party, the Republicans, and pull out U.S. troops from Afghanistan and Iraq."

There is a world of advice out there for President-elect Barack Obama. Within minutes of his election, the calls from foreign

governments began, Obama aides said, and they have not stopped.

While the first telephone exchanges between Mr. Obama and foreign leaders were limited to pledges of future cooperation and invitations to visit, those leaders and their aides have been contacting Mr. Obama's advisers and their surrogates with suggestions on how an Obama administration should conduct, and change, American foreign policy.

There are also signs that some foreign governments are moving to alter the playing field even before Mr. Obama takes office. On Wednesday alone, North Korea said it would not allow international inspectors to take soil and nuclear waste samples from its main nuclear complex; Iran said it successfully tested a new long-range missile that it claimed was

capable of reaching southeastern Europe; and Russia rejected an American proposal meant to assuage Russian fears over the planned missile defense system in Poland and the Czech Republic.

The foreign efforts to sway the new team are normal during any presidential transition, but they are accelerated in this case, foreign policy experts say, because of the historic nature of Mr. Obama's election and the significantly different course that world leaders expect him to pursue in American foreign policy.

"We have heard a lot of important ideas from our friends and allies," said Denis McDonough, a foreign policy adviser to Mr. Obama. "We consider them closely in an effort to be a partner to all

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Factories Shut, China Workers Are Suffering

By EDWARD WONG

CHANGAN, China — Wang Denghui, father of three, arrived more than a year ago in the palm-lined streets of this southern town with a single goal: to find a factory to save for his children's school tuition.

But the plans of Mr. Wang and thousands of co-workers unraveled at noon on Nov. 1, when the Taiwanese chairman of their sailing shoe factory climbed over a factory wall to flee the country and his debts. That left several American shoe companies with unfilled orders and 2,300 workers without jobs.

"He just ran without telling anyone," Mr. Wang said.

For decades, the steamy Pearl River Delta area of southern Guangdong Province served as a primary engine for China's astonishing economic growth. But an export slowdown that began earlier this year and that has been magnified by the global financial crisis of recent months is contributing to the shutdown of tens of thousands of small and mid-size factories here and in other coastal regions, forcing la-

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For Obama and Family, the Other Transition Is Strictly Personal

By PETER BAKER

CHICAGO — A couple of weeks ago, Barack Obama headed to the Hyde Park Hair Salon for a trim. He greeted the staff and other customers and plopped down in the same chair he has cut his hair for the last 14 years.

But when he wanted a trim this week, the Secret Service took one look at the shop's large plate-glass windows and the gawking tourists eager for a glimpse of the president-elect and the plan quickly changed. If Mr. Obama could no longer come to the barber, the barber would come to him and cut his hair at a friend's apartment.

Life for the newly chosen president and his family has changed forever. Even the constraints and security of the campaign trail do not compare to the bubble that has enveloped him in the 10 days since his election. Renegade, as the Secret Service calls him, now lives within the strict limit of times when the power lines of the plane.

He has chosen to spend this time before his Jan. 20 inauguration at his long-time Chicago home, which has in some ways been transformed into a secure fortress for his protection. After years of the pool parties and rallies, he has retreated into an almost hermetic seclusion, largely hidden from public view and



With their father in the car, Sasha Obama, left, and Malia Obama arriving Thursday at school.

spotted only when he drops his two daughters off for school or goes for a workout at the gymnasium in a friend's apartment building.

"This is a tremendous personal transition, as well, far beyond what anyone could imagine," said Alexi Giannoulias, the Illi-

nois state treasurer and a close friend. "Little things like going to the gym, going to the movies, going to dinner with his wife, none of that will ever be the same again. Things that we take for granted."

Mr. Obama is putting off the change as much as he can by re-

maining in Chicago during the transition. "I am not going to be spending too much time in Washington over the next several weeks," he told someone in a telephone conversation overheard by reporters on his chartered plane heading back to Chicago after a

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Now in Sight: Far-Off Planets

By DENNIS OVERBYE

A little more of the universe has been pried out of astronomers. Two groups of astronomers have taken the first pictures of what they say — and other astronomers agree — are most likely planets going around other stars.

The achievement, the result of years of effort on improved observational techniques and better data analysis, presages more such discoveries, the experts said, and will open the door to new investigations and discoveries of what planets are and how they came to be formed.

"It's the tip of the iceberg," said Christian Marois of the Herzberg Institute of Astrophysics in Victoria, British Columbia. "Now that we know they are there, there is going to be an explosion."

Dr. Marois is the leader of a team that recorded three planets

PHIL KALVO/
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY
To astronomers, not just dots.

circling a star known as HR 8799 that is 130 light-years away in the constellation Pegasus. The other three, led by Paul Kalas of the University of California, Berkeley, found a planet orbiting the star Fomalhaut, only 25 light-years from Earth, in the constellation Piscis Austrinus.

In an interview by e-mail, Dr. Kalas said.

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A massive cocktail of soot, smog and chemicals is altering weather patterns in large parts of Asia, according to a United Nations report. PAGE A6

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Doctors in Berlin reported curing a man with AIDS. But with a treatment experiment is impractical and risky. PAGE A8

Senate Showdown in Georgia
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Powerboat racers risk their lives at 200 m.p.h. for the title of Top Gun. PAGE B12

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Motorists' gasoline bills are falling but instead of spending the money, consumers are putting it in the bank and paying off credit card bills. PAGE B1

Waiting on the Rescue Package

More than a month and nearly \$300 billion into the financial rescue effort, consumer loans remain scarce. PAGE B1

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David Alvarez and two other actors alternate in the title role of the new Broadway musical "Billy Elliot." A review by Ben Brantley. PAGE C1

Stephen Daldry talks

about directing the musical version of "Billy Elliot," which stars three young actors in rotation.

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The Stylish Cabin

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