



Office for Bombing Prevention

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# Extremist Threat Report – Incident

## (U) 17-18 September 2016: Multiple IED Incidents in New Jersey and New York

### (U) **KEY FINDINGS:**

- (U) Seaside Park, NJ: At approximately 0935 hours on 17 September 2016, an IED detonated in a trash can near a scheduled Marine Corps charity run. There were no casualties. Only one of three linked pipe bombs in the trash can detonated.
- (U) New York, NY: At approximately 2030 hours on 17 September 2016, an IED exploded near 23<sup>rd</sup> Street and 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Manhattan. The explosion injured 29 people. Authorities later discovered and removed a second device, also a pressure cooker, on 27<sup>th</sup> Street.
- (U) Elizabeth, NJ: At approximately 2030 on 18 September 2016, two men discovered and reported a backpack with five IEDs in a trash can at the New Jersey Transit train tracks. One device detonated while bomb technicians attempted to render it safe.
- (U) On 19 September 2016, law enforcement authorities identified a suspect, Ahmad Khan Rahami<sup>USPER</sup>. Police apprehended Rahami after an exchange of gunfire, which wounded police and the suspect. Rahami is suspected of emplacing the explosive devices.



(U) **Ahmad Khan  
Rahami<sup>USPER</sup>**

Source: Twitter

This document was prepared by **DHS Office for Bombing Prevention TRIPwire Team.**

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[tripwirehelp@dhs.gov](mailto:tripwirehelp@dhs.gov)

(U) **ANALYST NOTE:** Open-source media reports indicate the devices in Seaside Park, NJ and New York, NY incorporated similar flip-style cell phones. Open-source media reports also noted the devices in New York contained exploding targets and improvised initiators using Christmas tree lights.

**(U) SUMMARY OF EVENTS:****(U) Seaside Park, New Jersey**

- (U) On 17 September 2016 at approximately 0935 hours local time, an IED detonated in Seaside Park, New Jersey. The explosion destroyed a trash can near a boardwalk at Ocean Avenue and D Street. Seaside Park is approximately 80 miles from New York City.
- (U) The Seaside Semper Five 5K, a charity run to raise money for Marine Corps veterans, was scheduled to start at 0900, but was delayed by an unexpected number of on-site registrations for the event and by the discovery of an unattended backpack. The backpack was examined by authorities and eventually claimed by a race participant.
- (U) Approximately 3,000 people were assembled at the registration area for the race when the IED detonated. There were no injuries reported and investigating officials believe no one was near the explosion when it occurred. There was no damage to buildings or impact on infrastructure.
- (U) The IED consisted of three pipe bombs taped and wired together and connected to a flip-type cell phone, used as a trigger. Only one of the three pipe bombs reportedly detonated; two others were recovered and rendered safe by bomb technicians.



**(U) 19 September 2016: Seaside Park, New Jersey**

*Source: ABC News*



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**TRIP**wire*tripwire.dhs.gov***(U) New York City, New York**

- (U) At approximately 2030 hours on 17 September 2016, an IED detonated underneath a dumpster at 131 West 23rd Street in the Chelsea neighborhood of Manhattan in New York City. The explosion threw the dumpster across the street, projected large pieces of debris 150 feet and shattered windows more than a block away. It wounded 29 people; all of the victims were released from hospital by 19 September 2016.
- (U) The IED reportedly consisted of a pressure cooker, an explosive compound, ball bearings or BBs for fragmentation, a flip-style cell phone trigger and one or more homemade Christmas tree light initiators. Media reports state that traces of exploding target material (a mix of ammonium nitrate, aluminum powder, and other materials) were found at the site of the explosion.
- (U) At approximately 2330 local time, authorities found a second IED near 132 West 27th Street. This device was similar to the device on 23rd Street and consisted of a pressure cooker, with ball bearings for fragmentation, a flip-style cell phone trigger, and one or more Christmas tree light initiators.
- (U) FBI discovered Ahmad Khan Rahami's fingerprints on the bomb recovered from West 27th Street. On 19 September 2016, Rahami, a naturalized US citizen from Afghanistan and New Jersey resident was shot and arrested in Linden, NJ after a shootout between the suspect and responding law enforcement personnel.



**(U) 17 September 2016: Photograph of Blast-Damaged Dumpster near 23rd St and 6th Ave in New York, NY**

*Source: New York Newsday*



**(U) 17 September 2016: Photograph of undetonated IED found near 27th St and 6th Ave in New York, NY**

*Source: New York Post*



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**TRIP**wire*tripwire.dhs.gov***(U) Elizabeth, New Jersey**

- (U) On Sunday, 18 September 2016, at approximately 2030 hours local time, two men discovered a backpack at the New Jersey Transit train tracks in Elizabeth, New Jersey. According to media reports, the men took the backpack believing something valuable was inside, but contacted police when they noticed the bag contained multiple pipes with wires protruding.
- (U) FBI, Union County, and New Jersey State Police bomb technicians responded to the scene and found five IEDs inside the backpack. At approximately 0040 hours local time on 19 September 2016, one device detonated while bomb technicians attempted to render the IEDs safe. An FBI spokesperson indicated no injuries were sustained.
- (U) In a news media report, an Elizabeth city spokesperson said that there were no cell phones or electronic devices found with the IEDs.
- (U) Some media reports indicate there were three “larger” pipe bombs and two smaller devices found in the backpack. No additional details regarding the devices was immediately released to the public.



**(U) 18 September 2016: LE perform render safe procedures on five IEDs inside a backpack in Elizabeth, NJ**

*Source: AP / Andres Bayona & Adriana Diaz*



**(U) 19 September 2016: One IED detonates during render safe procedures on five IEDs inside a backpack in Elizabeth, NJ**

*Source: AP / Andres Bayona & Adriana Diaz*



**NJ and NY Event Comparisons to Al Qaeda Inspire Magazine:**

(U) NOTE: The following table compares the characteristics of the devices found in New York and New Jersey, as described in **open-source media reporting**, against techniques and devices described in various issues of Al Qaeda's *Inspire* magazine.

	17 Sep: Seaside Park, NJ (Partial Detonation)	17 Sep: West 23rd St., New York, NY (Detonation)	17 Sep: West 27th Street, New York, NY (Recovered)	18 Sep: Elizabeth, NJ (Detonation/Recovered)	Inspire Magazine, Issue 1	Inspire Magazine, Issue 3	Inspire Magazine, Issue 14
Container	X			X	X		X
Pipe with End Caps					X		
Pressure Cooker		X	X				
Switch (Firing)	X	X	X			X	
Initiator	X	X	X		X		X
Modified Christmas Tree Light							X
Low Explosive Powder	X				X		X
Binary Explosive (Exploding Targets)		X					
Enhancements		X	X		X		X
Steel Shot/Ball Bearings							





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