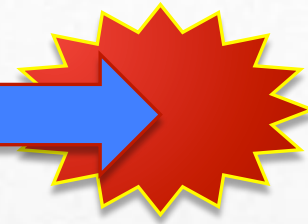


Flashpoints



- **Flashpoints**

by

John Antal

Greatest Danger to USA

1

Medium Danger to USA

2

Dangerous to USA

3

Flashpoints is a bi-monthly update on the most critical national security issues facing the United States. Author and military expert John Antal will provide you with insights and a quick synopsis of the top three flashpoints in the world at the time of each report. Flashpoints will list the greatest danger to the USA, and then list risks of medium and serious danger. Keep abreast of the latest impending international crisis by reviewing Flashpoints.

As of 2013-08-20

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Missing SAMs....

- AS OF 2013-08-20

(August 20, 2013)

Greatest Danger to USA

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Portents of things to come:

“...there were 400 surface-to-air missiles stolen, and that they are ... in the hands of many people, and that the biggest fear in the U.S. intelligence community is that one of these missiles will be used to shoot down an airliner.” *Joe diGenova, August 12, 2013* (Founding partner of the Washington, D.C. law firm of diGenova & Toensing, LLP represents individuals, corporations and other entities before the Federal courts, Congress, and U.S. cabinet departments and agencies on criminal, civil, administrative and investigative matters)

Top 3 Flashpoints

1
*Missing
Surface to Air Missiles*

2
Egyptian Civil War

3
Syrian Civil War
The "new" Al-Qaeda Stronghold



1 –Missing Surface to Air missiles

The closing of 22 embassies across the middle east from Algeria to Bangladesh on August 4, 2012 was the result of intelligence information that al-Qaeda operatives are up to something big. We now believe they have control of an arsenal of shoulder-fired Surface to Air missiles.

- French forces encountered surface-to-air missiles looted from Libya during the recent intervention in Mali. In June 2013 they found al-Qaeda manuals on how to employ the SA-7 SAM. The manuals were translated into Arabic.
- Recent intelligence reports imply that al-Qaeda has secured shoulder fired Surface to Air missiles from stockpiles in Libya.
- On August 12, 2013, Joseph E. diGenova, whose law firm is representing one of the Benghazi whistleblowers, reported that 400 SAMs were in the hands of al-Qaeda. He reported this in an interview on WMAL, a Washington AM radio station. He stated that this information was derived from reliable sources. diGenova's report cannot be independently verified and was not confirmed by official U.S. government sources.
- It is not confirmed if the SAMs reported by diGenova are the or older Soviet-era SA-7s, newer Russian made SA-24s or the latest U.S. made Stinger missiles.
- The most effective range for these missiles is from close-range to 1.4 miles (2.3 kilometers) from the ground. This would imply firing the missiles close to an airfield.
- If true, this puts **game-changing weapons** in the hands of al-Qaeda. If these missiles can be smuggled out of Libya, the missiles could be used in the Syrian civil war, in Egypt or against Western targets. The most likely target is civilian airliners.

What Are the Implications for the US?

- Very dangerous. The war on terror isn't over.
- **If al-Qaeda have Surface to Air Missiles (SAMs), and are trained to use them, they could wreak havoc in the air over the Middle East, Europe and the United States.**
- Some important information:
 - SEPTEMBER 27, 2011 - "I think the probability of al Qaeda being able to smuggle some of the stinger-like missiles out of Libya is probably pretty high," said Richard Clarke former White House counterterrorism advisor and now a consultant to ABC News on Sept. 27, 2011. See: <http://abcnews.go.com/Blotter/nightmare-libya-20000-surface-air-missiles-missing/story?id=14610199>
 - AUGUST 4, 2013 - U.S. Intelligence intercepts point to a major al-Qaeda operation sometime soon, somewhere in the Middle East, prompting us to temporarily close 22 embassies.
 - AUGUST 7, 2013 – The AP reported on August 7 that two Syrians were arrested in Jordan-Northern Syrian border trying to smuggle a large cache of arms including surface-to-air missiles into Jordan. A similar large weapons shipment that included SAMs was intercepted the week before.
 - AUGUST 19, 2013 - The Israeli government's Counter-Terrorism Bureau has issued a report for Israelis to be on high alert for terrorism, listing dozens of countries where it said it had "concrete" indications of a terrorist threat. The report cites to be particularly wary in September, 2013.
 - August 19, 2013 - In recent weeks the Egyptian Army and the Israeli Defense Forces have been actively hunting terrorist and smugglers in Sinai, the huge desert area between the Nile and Israel.

***Flashpoints will keep you posted as more information becomes available.

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What Should the U.S. Do?

ANTAL'S OPINION:

- Securing these missiles must be the top priority for the U.S.
- I believe that U.S. intelligence agencies and the Department of Defense and a lot of “good-guys” are already working day and night to control this situation, but they pose a potential disaster if only one missile is smuggled into the U.S. and downs a civilian airliner.
- The U.S. will continue to work with all partners and allies in the region – especially Jordan, Israel, Libya, Turkey and others -- to find and secure these loose SAMs.
- Some of these missiles are reported to be SA-24 shoulder-launched missiles, the equivalent of latest U.S.-made Stinger missiles.
- If we can locate SAM stockpiles we must use extraordinary measures, including kinetic missile attacks and possibly Special Forces raids to destroy the stockpiles.

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“Morsi was elected president and held office for one year but in that time he tried to make everything Muslim Brotherhood controlled. Egyptian culture over 5,000 years is a mix of religions and civilizations in which the Islamic religion is one ingredient of the Egyptian character. The Muslim Brotherhood are like a Nazi group that demand that everything changes and people everything to their way.” *Ashraf ElKholly, Egyptian Ambassador to Britain. August 19, 2013.*

- 2 – Egyptian Civil War Continues with no end in sight**
- The fighting in Egypt is getting more fierce with a reported between 600- 1,000 killed in riots and armed skirmishes between Muslim Brotherhood fighters and the Egyptian Army.
 - The Egyptian military has declared that it cannot negotiate with the Muslim Brotherhood.
 - The U.S. has publicly decried the use of force and pressed the Egyptian Army to negotiate.

Analysis:

- The Muslim Brotherhood are not “good guys.” Their radical ideology spawned al-Qaeda.
- Today, the majority of the Egyptian people support the Army and want the rule of law.
- If the Egyptian Army backs down, the Muslim Brotherhood will take over Egypt and impose an authoritarian radical Islamic government.
- Look for the Army/Egyptian Government to hold the line, crack down further and outlaw the Muslim Brotherhood.
- This will take a long time before the issue is settled.

Flashpoints



3 – Syrian Civil War (No Change)

The war continues to rage and al-Qaeda influence grows

- When the US pulled out of Iraq in 2011, al-Qaeda in Iraq sent its top leaders to form the Al-Nusra Front in Syria.
- The al-Qaeda presence in Syria is growing and estimated at at least 6,000 fighters. Most are from Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Libya, and Tunisia. At least 1,000 are reported to be from Chechnya.
- The war rages on. “Syria has ceased to exist...Syria no longer functions as a single all-encompassing unitarily-governed state.” Charles Lister, an analyst at IHS Jane's Terrorism and Insurgency Center.
- Syria has broken up into three areas:
 - **Assad Regime** controls a strip from the southern Jordanian border, to the capital Damascus and up to the Mediterranean coast.
 - **Sunni Muslim rebels, mostly al-Qaeda**, control parts of Idlib and Aleppo provinces in the north and stretches along the Euphrates river to the porous Iraqi border in the east.
 - **Kurdish rebels** control the far northeastern corner.

QUESTION:

Is Syria already a safe-haven for al-Qaeda?

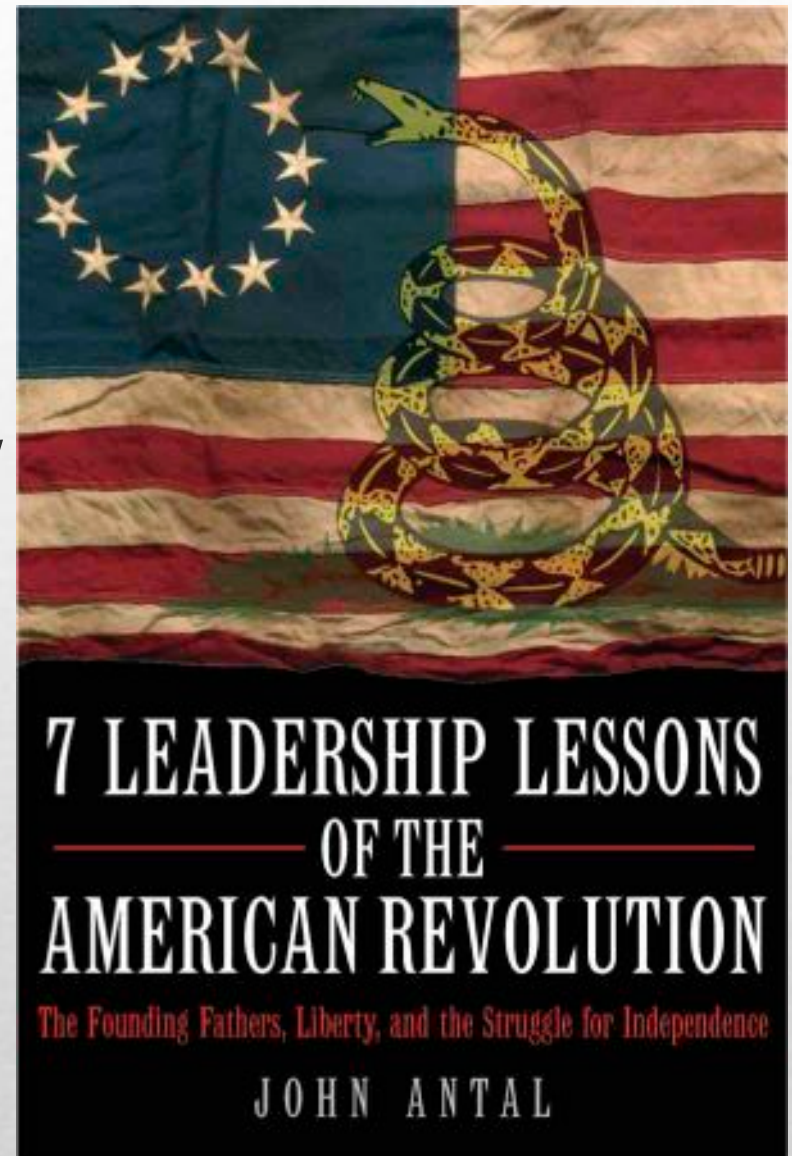
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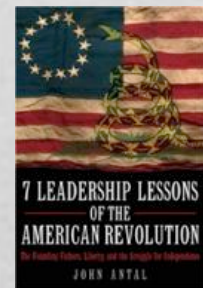
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- **Bradley Thompson, television writer and producer and the co-writer for the hit TV series' *Battlestar Galactica* and the second season of *Falling Skies*.**



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