



Asia-Pacific Counter-IED Fusion Center IED Monthly Report - September 2020



About the APCFC

APCFC is US Army Pacific's coordinating authority and DoD subject matter expert for C-IED, C-SUAS, and emerging improvised threats in the Indo-Pacific region. APCFC conducts irregular warfare analysis, supports identity activities, provides counter improvised threat (C-IT) training, facilitates engagements with US, Allies, and Partner Nations, and develops Indo-Pacific C-IT and EOD plans, policies and programs to minimize the impact of improvised threats.

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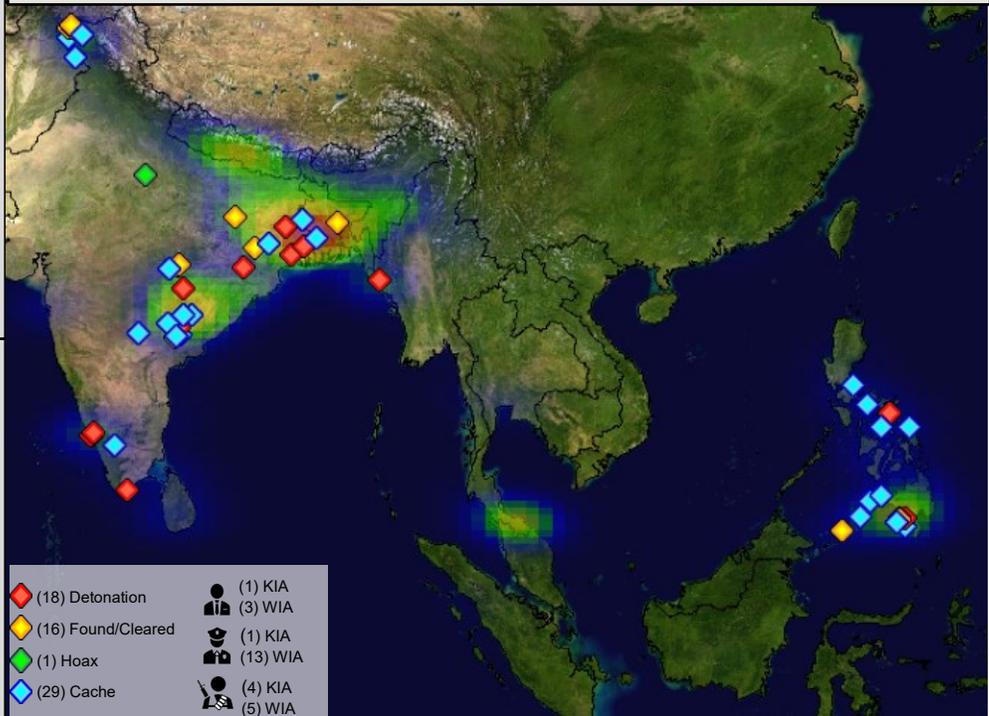
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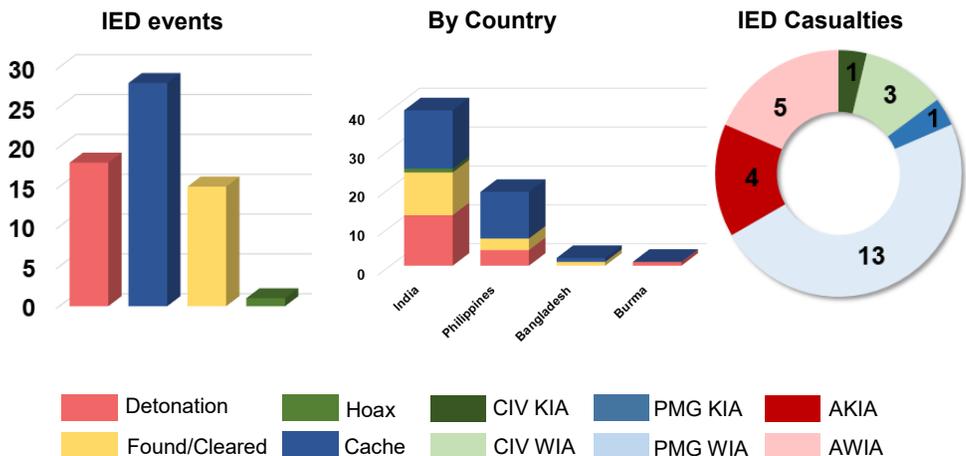
Month at a Glance — September

The Indo-Pacific region experienced 64 IED events in September: 42 events in South Asia, 22 events in Southeast Asia, and no events in Northeast Asia. These events consisted of 120 devices. In total, there were 18 IED detonation events, 16 IED found and cleared events, one hoax IED, and 29 IED cache events. There were 27 casualties: one civilian killed, three wounded; one Police, Military, Government (PMG) killed, 13 wounded; four adversaries killed, and five wounded.

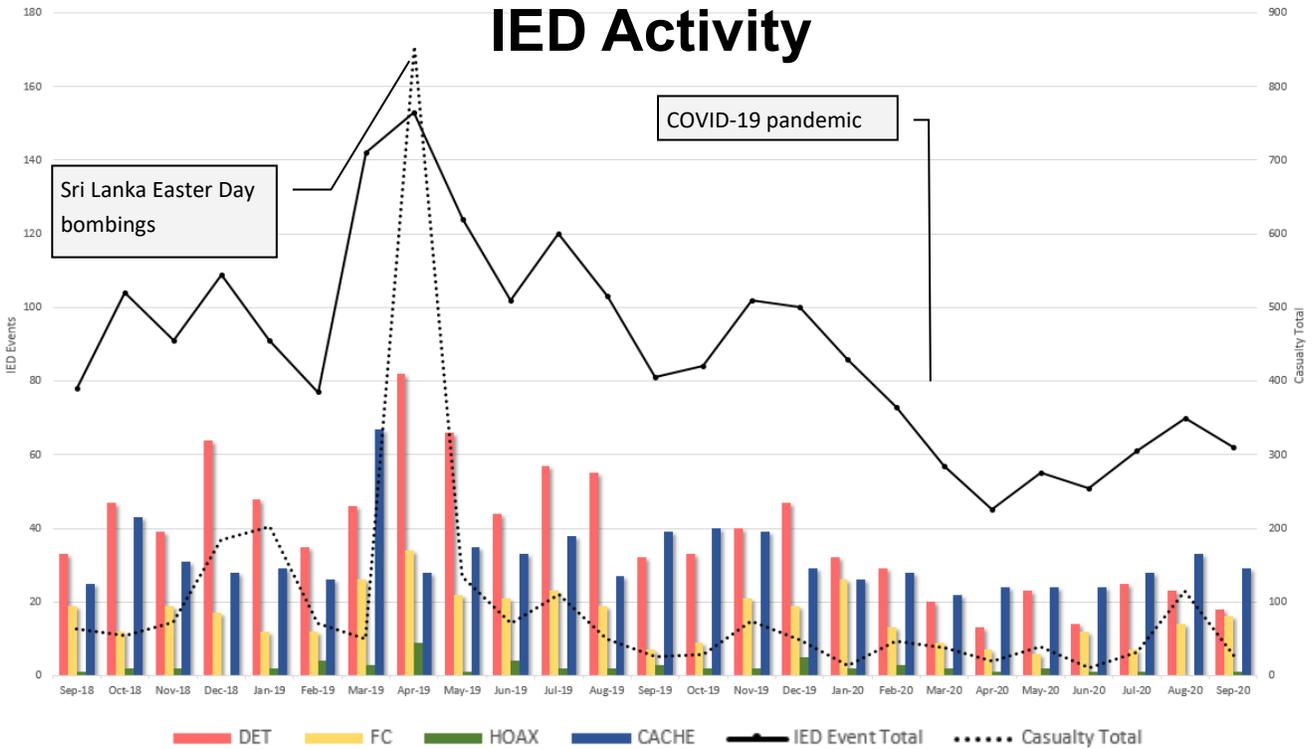
There were 64 IED events in the Indo-Pacific region in September 2020



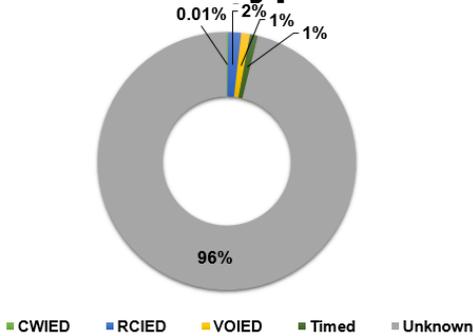
Icons depict events for September 2020; heat map depicts event density from September 2019—September 2020



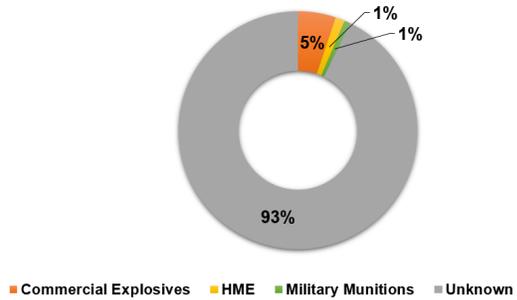
IED Activity



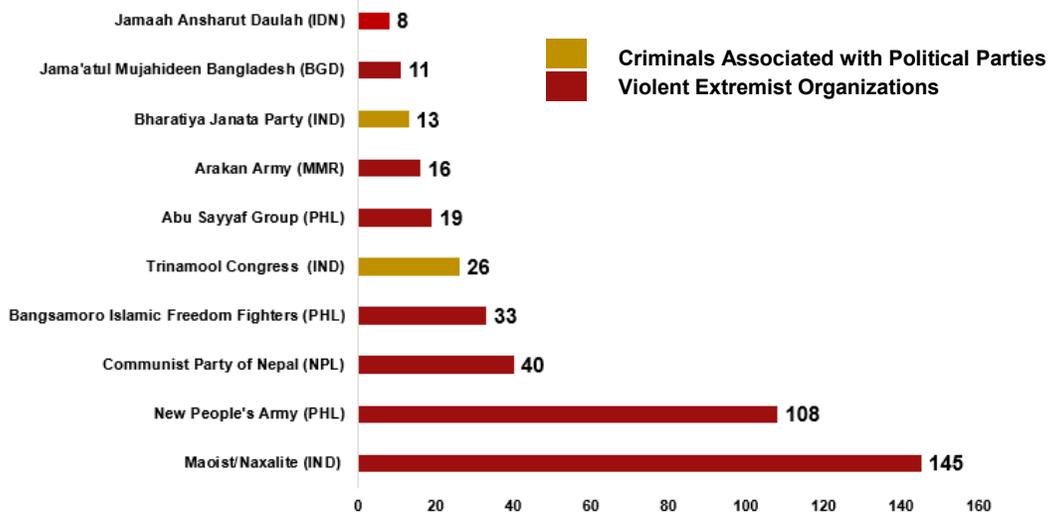
Switch Type



Main Charge Type



Groups Associated to IED Events



C-sUAS: Pakistan-Based Terror Groups Using sUAS to Smuggle Weapons into India



Pakistani hobbyist drone shot down by Indian BSF in Rathua, J&K, India, 20 June 2020.

Since late-2019, India has been experiencing multiple events of Pakistani-backed terrorist organizations conducting smuggling operations from Pakistan using commercial off the shelf (COTS) and hobbyist hexa-copters. Between mid-August and late-September 2019, the Pakistan-backed Khaliastan Zindabad Force used sUAS to conduct resupply operations in Punjab, India likely in support of VEO operations in the Punjab and J&K regions. Items recovered from the resupply operations include at least five AK-47s, 472 rounds of ammunition, four Chinese-made .30 bore pistols and 72 rounds of ammunition, five satellite phones, nine hand grenades, and counterfeit currency.

In January 2020, a drug-smuggling organization utilized sUAS to smuggle walkie-talkies, counterfeit money, and small weapons from Pakistan into Punjab. In June 2020, a Pakistani hexa-copter was shot down by Indian Border Security Forces (BSF) in Rathua, J&K, India. The sUAS was carrying one M-4, two M-4 magazines, 60 rounds of ammunition, and seven Chinese M67 grenades. Indian BSF assessed the weapons are intended for Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) forces in the region.

Indian forces believe they recovered weapons, ammunition, narcotics, and cash from at least three sUAS smuggling events during the month of September. One event included the arrest of three Kashmiri-based Pakistani Lashkar-e Tayyiba (LeT) members who were detained after they picked up the smuggled items. According to Indian authorities, LeT and JeM terrorist organizations are using the smuggled items to “disrupt peace and law and order in J&K.”

APCFC Comment: Although no sUAS were discovered during the September 2020 events, it is apparent that Pakistani and Indian-based terrorist organizations are continuing to use COTS/hobbyist built sUAS as a low-cost platform to conduct cross-border weapons smuggling in support of terrorist operations in India.

Sources: Yahoo (9/22/20) Times of India (9/28/19) Economic Times (9/25/19) The Tribune India (1/10/20) Bhaskar Live (6/21/20) One India (9/19/20)

India

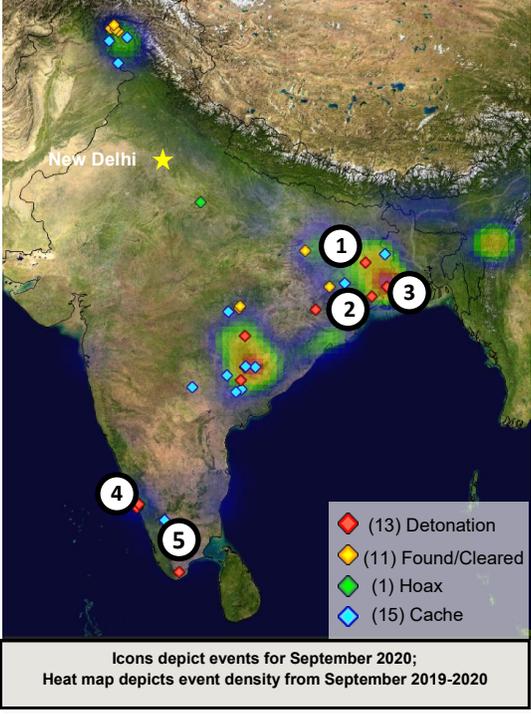
IED Activity

Total IED Events: 40 Total Casualties: 14

(1) KIA
(2) WIA

(0) KIA
(2) WIA

(4) KIA
(5) WIA

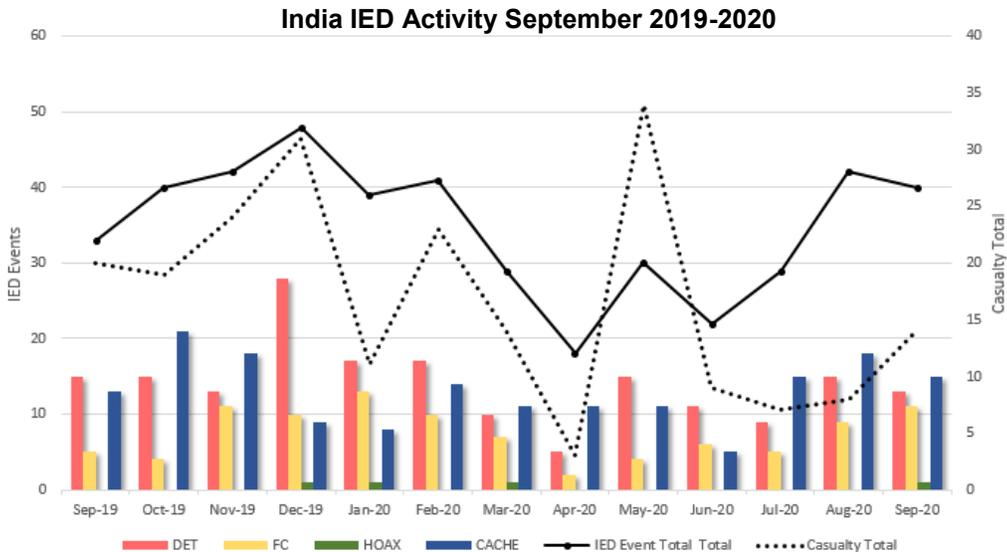


- 1 6 September - An IED detonated killing two people and injuring another in Kamarhati City, West Bengal State. The blast occurred inside a shanty where crude bombs were being stored. **Tribune India (9/6/20)**
- 2 7 September - Two perpetrators were killed during the fabrication of IEDs to hunt wild animals on private property Deogarh District, Odisha State. **Daily Pioneer (9/7/20)**
- 3 19 September - A clash at religious celebration resulted in the death of a local politician when the opposing sides began throwing IED at each other in Sabang District, West Bengal State. **NDTV (9/20/20)**
- 4 4 September - An IED prematurely detonated injuring three Maoist rebels as they attempted to assemble the device in Kannur District, Kerala State. **OpIndia (9/4/20)**
- 5 26 September - Perpetrators attacked a family with IEDs which injured a three year old child in Madurai District, Tamil Nadu State. The attack was the latest in a series of attacks and honor killings between two local families. Additionally, the attack saw two women beheaded, and an IED cache was found and cleared after perpetrators abandoned their positions. **Uni-India (9/26/20)**

APCF Comment: IED activity in India was comparable to last month and was consistent with historical trends. IED related events are expected to continue at their current rate and begin to wane at the onset of winter conditions. Politically motivated IED activity in West Bengal showed a decrease as intraparty disputes have shifted their focus to upcoming assembly polls in the next six months.

The Red Corridor saw a marginal increase in Communist Party of India – Maoist IED activity, while the Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) region saw an increase in activity from four to 10 recorded IED events. Extremists located in J&K likely are attempting to increase their optempo to offset successful counterinsurgency and counterterrorism efforts in the past several months. J&K extremists likely will attempt to maintain elevated IED activities before winter conditions start and the Government of J&K moves from their summer capital in Srinagar to the Jammu winter capital in October.

The Seven Sisters region showed no IED activity this month which is probably attributed to ongoing peace negotiations and elevated monsoon rainfall in the last two weeks of September. IED activity in the Seven Sisters region likely will remain low in the near term as peace negotiations continue.



IED reporting and casualty statistics derived from open sources are not confirmed; statistics should be considered approximations.

Bangladesh

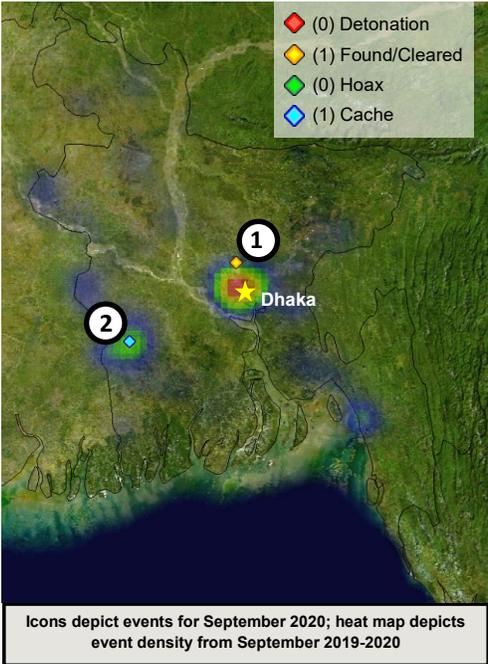
IED Activity

Total IED Events: 2 Total Casualties: 0

(0) KIA
 (0) WIA

(0) KIA
 (0) WIA

(0) KIA
 (0) WIA



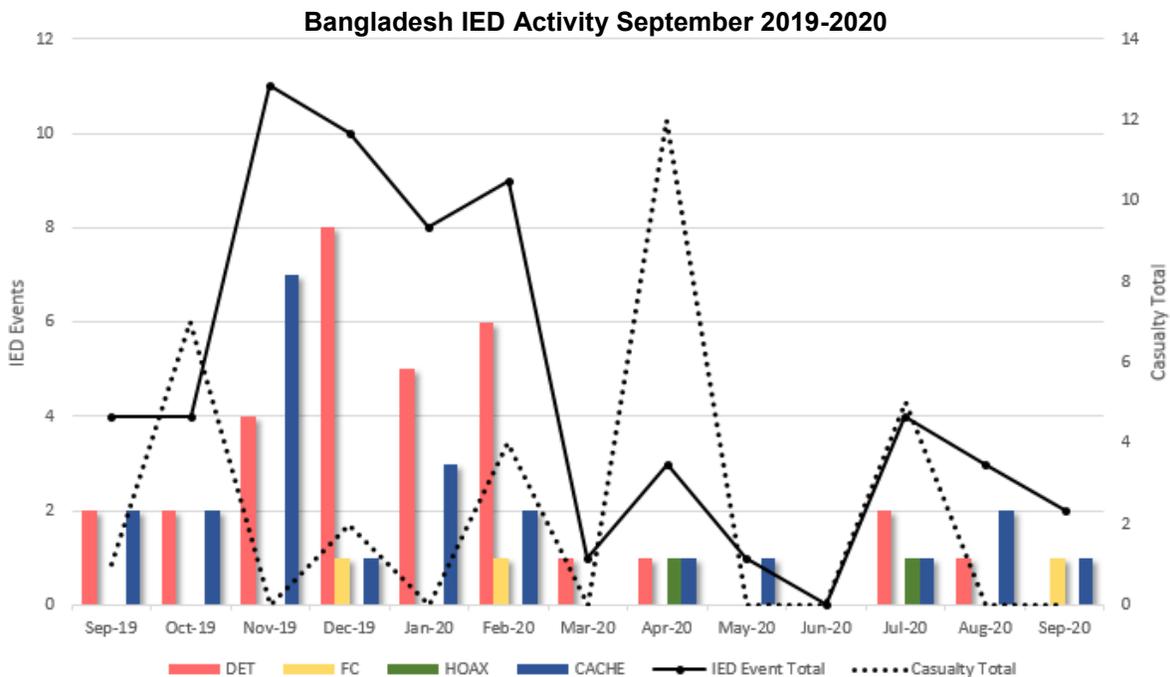
① 16 September - Security forces found and cleared a RCIED in the possession of a man who was detained for attempting to rob a private bank in in Gazipur District, Dhaka Division. The cleared RCIED was hidden in a black school bag and consisted of a pipe container connected to a mobile phone switch. The individual threatened to detonate the IED using his mobile phone but was detained by security forces before he was able to do so. The IED was successfully defused by the Bomb Disposal Unit of the Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit. Security forces do not believe this event to be tied to any militant groups. The CTTC stated that the detained individual learned to make IED's by watching tutorials on YouTube. **The Daily Star (9/17/20) Vaaju (9/16/20)**



The RCIED and backpack that was found and cleared on 16 Sep from Gazipur District.

② 24 September - Police detained eight members of the Sagar-Ramadan gang and recovered a cache from their possession in Jashore Town, Khulna Division. The cache contained 10 crude bombs, 60 Yaba tablets and one sharp weapon. Yaba is a drug produced in Southeast and East Asia, sold in tablet form and contains a combination of methamphetamine and caffeine. Security forces stated that the eight detained gang members have previously been implicated in other illegal activities such as murder, theft, robbery, and mugging. **The Daily Star (9/24/20)**

APCFC Comment: IED events in Bangladesh in September remained at consistent levels from the previous month. Significant events this month included one found and cleared RCIED and one cache recovery linked to gang activity. VEO activity in September was low; security forces attributed the RCIED event that took place on 16 September to a lone actor with no ties to militant group and the cache recovery that took place on 24 September to criminal activity. Bangladesh continues to be hit hard by COVID-19; the countrywide pandemic lockdown imposed in Bangladesh is likely contributing to the low levels of IED activity seen thus far in 2020, comparable to past years.



IED reporting and casualty statistics derived from open sources are not confirmed; statistics should be considered approximations.



Philippines IED Activity

Total IED Events: 21 Total Casualties: 11

 (0) KIA
 (1) WIA

 (1) KIA
 (9) WIA

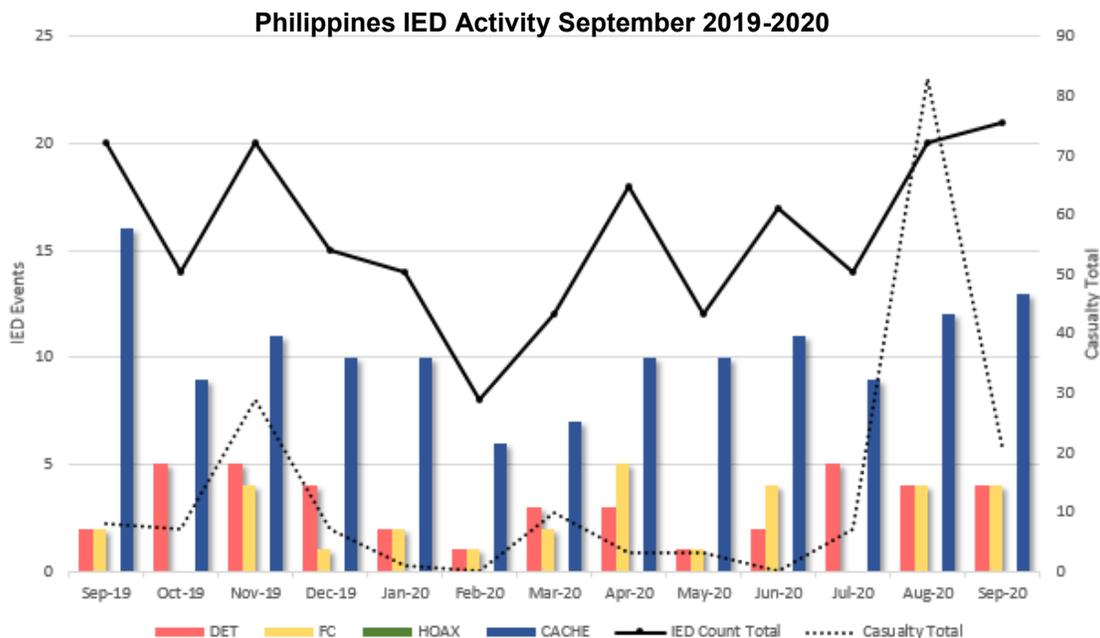
 (0) KIA
 (0) WIA



- ① 18 September - Suspected Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) militants detonated an IED targeting a truck carrying Philippine Marines in Maguindanao Province on Mindanao Island. One marine was killed while four others were injured. **Manila Bulletin (9/19/20)**
- ② 24 September - Three soldiers were injured when suspected BIFF militants detonated an IED targeting them while they were conducting clearing operations in Maguindanao Province, Mindanao Island. **Inquirer.net (9/24/20)**
- ③ 28 September - Two police officers were injured when three IEDs exploded near their patrol vehicle in Albay Province, Luzon Island. The officers subsequently came under fire from unidentified perpetrators using M203 grenade launchers. **Inquirer (9/28/20)**
- ④ 23 September - A farmer was injured when IED detonated in a field in Maguindanao Province, Mindanao Island. A second IED was subsequently discovered a few meters away. **Inquirer (9/23/20)**
- ⑤ 22 September - Philippine Army personnel found and cleared several IEDs during a search of a BIFF encampment in Maguindanao Province on Mindanao Island. The unit also recovered an IED cache consisting of an unspecified number of IEDs, explosives, and additional bomb-making components. **Philippine News Agency (9/25/20)**

Icons depict events for September 2020; heat map depicts event density from September 2019-2020

APCFC Comment: Philippines IED event rates were comparable with last month, however, there was a substantial decrease in the number of IED-related casualties. Following last month's twin PBIED attack in Jolo, security forces ramped up counter-terrorism operations against the ASG and other Islamic State of Iraq and Syria-Philippines (ISIS-P) groups throughout the country's southern region. Many ISIS-P leaders and members were either killed, detained, or surrendered during the course of September. In the coming months, Philippine security forces are expected to continue their offensive against ISIS-P. The VEO group will likely attempt to carry out a retaliatory large-scale attack to garner support from



IED reporting and casualty statistics derived from open sources are not confirmed; statistics should be considered approximations.

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Burma

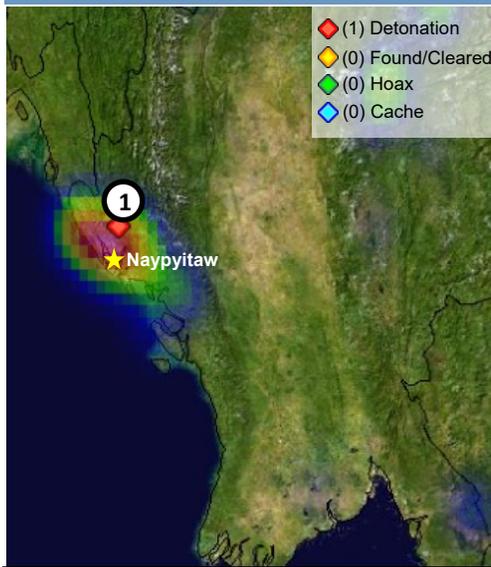
IED Activity

Total IED Events: 1 Total Casualties: 2

(0) KIA
 (0) WIA

(0) KIA
 (2) WIA

(0) KIA
 (0) WIA

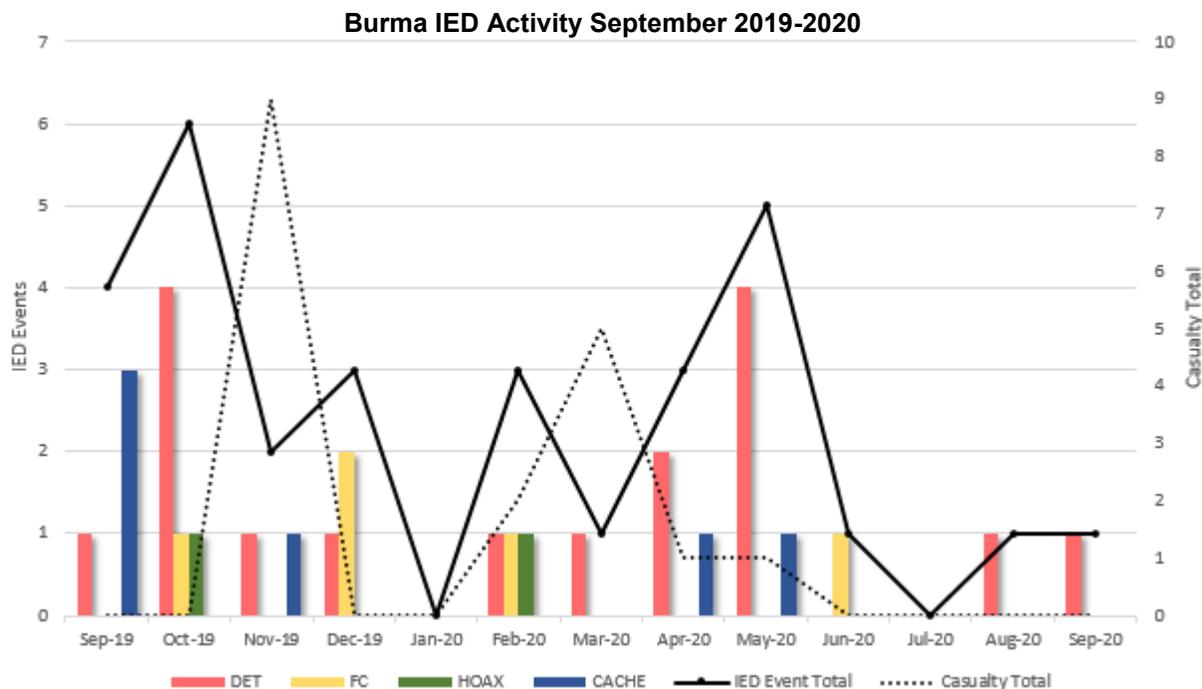


- ◆ (1) Detonation
- ◆ (0) Found/Cleared
- ◆ (0) Hoax
- ◆ (0) Cache

① 3 September - Suspected Arakan Army insurgents detonated a RCIED targeting a police vehicle in Phayapaung Village, Rakhine State. The detonation injured two police officers. The bodies of two villagers were subsequently found near the village along with a firearm. **The Irrawaddy (9/4/2020)**

Icons depict events for September 2020; heat map depicts event density from September 2019-2020

APCFC Comment: In the build-up to Burma's 8 November national election, peace remains elusive in Rakhine state. The AA has had running battles with the Burmese military over the summer which has forced the relocation of 5,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Rakhine. The IDPs face tough conditions and cases of COVID-19 is rising in the camps. Despite the government's calls for a ceasefire, ethnic armed organizations and Burmese military forces continue to clash. The AA has been labeled as a terrorist group, a designation that prevented a dialogue between them and the government at the Burma's 4th annual peace conference in August. Without an avenue for dialogue, conflict is expected to continue.



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Appendix A

South Asia

Bangladesh		Detonation	Found/Cleared	Hoax	Cache	Total
Device Count	Month	0	1	0	10	11
	Year	31	5	1	46	83
Event Count	Month	0	1	0	1	2
	Year	16	2	2	10	30
India		Detonation	Found/Cleared	Hoax	Cache	Total
Device Count	Month	15	34	1	32	82
	Year	158	264	4	516	942
Event Count	Month	13	11	1	15	40
	Year	111	54	3	108	276
Nepal		Detonation	Found/Cleared	Hoax	Cache	Total
Device Count	Month	0	0	0	0	0
	Year	8	16	3	17	44
Event Count	Month	0	0	0	0	0
	Year	7	13	2	9	31
Sri Lanka		Detonation	Found/Cleared	Hoax	Cache	Total
Device Count	Month	0	0	0	0	0
	Year	3	0	0	4	7
Event Count	Month	0	0	0	0	0
	Year	3	0	0	17	20
South Asia Total		Detonation	Found/Cleared	Hoax	Cache	Total
Device Count	Month	15	35	1	42	93
	Year	200	285	8	583	1076
Event Count	Month	13	12	1	16	42
	Year	137	69	7	144	357

Southeast Asia

Philippines		Detonation	Found/Cleared	Hoax	Cache	Total
Device Count	Month	6	5	0	15	26
	Year	29	37	0	186	252
Event Count	Month	4	4	0	13	21
	Year	25	23	0	88	136
Thailand		Detonation	Found/Cleared	Hoax	Cache	Total
Device Count	Month	0	0	0	0	0
	Year	11	0	1	8	20
Event Count	Month	0	0	0	0	0
	Year	11	0	1	1	13
Burma		Detonation	Found/Cleared	Hoax	Cache	Total
Device Count	Month	1	0	0	0	1
	Year	15	1	1	0	17
Event Count	Month	1	0	0	0	1
	Year	11	1	1	2	15

Appendix A

Southeast Asia Cont.

Indonesia		Detonation	Found/Cleared	Hoax	Cache	Total
Device Count	Month	0	0	0	0	0
	Year	7	0	5	5	17
Event Count	Month	0	0	0	0	0
	Year	5	0	3	3	11
Malaysia		Detonation	Found/Cleared	Hoax	Cache	Total
Device Count	Month	0	0	0	0	0
	Year	0	0	0	0	0
Event Count	Month	0	0	0	0	0
	Year	0	0	0	0	0
Vietnam		Detonation	Found/Cleared	Hoax	Cache	Total
Device Count	Month	0	0	0	0	0
	Year	0	0	0	0	0
Event Count	Month	0	0	0	0	0
	Year	0	0	0	0	0
Southeast Asia Total		Detonation	Found/Cleared	Hoax	Cache	Total
Device Count	Month	7	5	0	15	27
	Year	62	38	7	199	306
Event Count	Month	5	4	0	13	22
	Year	52	24	5	93	175

Northeast Asia

China		Detonation	Found/Cleared	Hoax	Cache	Total
Device Count	Month	0	0	0	0	0
	Year	5	4	0	2	11
Event Count	Month	0	0	0	0	0
	Year	3	2	1	5	11
Japan		Detonation	Found/Cleared	Hoax	Cache	Total
Device Count	Month	0	0	0	0	0
	Year	0	0	0	0	0
Event Count	Month	0	0	0	0	0
	Year	0	0	0	0	0
South Korea		Detonation	Found/Cleared	Hoax	Cache	Total
Device Count	Month	0	0	0	0	0
	Year	0	0	0	0	0
Event Count	Month	0	0	0	0	0
	Year	0	0	0	0	0
Taiwan		Detonation	Found/Cleared	Hoax	Cache	Total
Device Count	Month	0	0	0	0	0
	Year	0	0	0	0	0
Event Count	Month	0	0	0	0	0
	Year	0	0	0	0	0
Northeast Asia Total		Detonation	Found/Cleared	Hoax	Cache	Total
Device Count	Month	0	0	0	0	0
	Year	5	4	0	2	11
Event Count	Month	0	0	0	0	0
	Year	4	2	1	5	12

Common Terms and Acronyms

AN – Ammonium Nitrate
 ANFO – Ammonium Nitrate Fuel Oil
 ARMM – Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao
 CIV – Civilian
 CBRN – Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear
 COIN – Counter-insurgency
 CWIED – Command Wire IED
 DTMF – Dual-Tone Multi-Frequency
 EFP – Explosively Formed Projectile
 EOD – Explosive Ordnance Disposal
 F/C – Found & Cleared
 HME – Homemade Explosives
 IDF – Indirect Fire
 IED – Improvised Explosive Device
 IrW – Irregular Warfare
 KFR – Kidnap for Ransom
 KIA – Killed in Action
 LOC – Line of Communication
 LPG – Liquefied Petroleum Gas
 MSR – Main Supply Routes
 NFI – No Further Information
 NSTR – Nothing Significant To Report
 PBA – Post Blast Analysis
 PBIED – Personnel Borne (Suicide Bomb) IED
 PCB – Printed Circuit Board
 PMG – Police, Military, Government
 PN – Partner Nation
 PPIED – Pressure Plate IED
 QRF – Quick Response Force

RCIED – Radio Controlled IED
 RCP – Route Clearance Patrols
 RPG – Rocket Propelled Grenade
 SA – South Asia
 SAF – Small Arms Fire
 SEA – Southeast Asia
 SVBIED – Suicide Vehicle Borne IED
 TATP – Triacetone Triperoxide
 TNT – Trinitrotoluene (C₇H₅N₃O₆)
 TTP – Tactics, Techniques and Procedures
 UXO – Unexploded Ordnance
 VBIED – Vehicle Borne IED
 VEO – Violent Extremist Organization
 VOIED – Victim Operated IED
 WIA – Wounded in Action

Terms:

Terrorism—the unlawful use of violence or threat of violence to instill fear and coerce governments or societies. Terrorism is often motivated by religious, political, or other ideological beliefs and committed in the pursuit of goals that are usually political.
Insurgency—An organized movement aimed at the overthrow of a constituted government through use of subversion and armed conflict.
Separatism—the desire by a group of people within a country to separate from the rest of the country and form their own government.

Governments, Groups and Organizations

South Asia

India

BSF – Border Security Forces
 CPI-M – Communist Party of India (Maoist)
 CRPF – Central Reserve Police Force
 HM – Hizb-ul-Mujahideen
 IM – Indian Mujahideen
 JeM – Jaish-e-Mohammed
 ULFA – United Liberation Front of Assam

Nepal

CPN-M – Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist)
 JTMM – Janatantrik Terai Mukti Morcha

Bangladesh

BNP – Bangladesh National Party
 HUJI-B – Harakat ul-Jihad-i-Islami Bangladesh
 JIB – Jemaat-e-Islami Bangladesh
 JMB – Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh
 JMJB – Jama'atul Muslim Janta Bangladesh
 RAB – Rapid Action Battalion

Sri Lanka

JMI – Jamathej Millathu Ibraheem
 NTJ – National Thowheed Jama'ath

Southeast Asia

Burma

AA – Arakan Army
 ARSA – Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army
 KIA – Kachin Independence Army
 UWSA – United Wa State Army

Thailand

BRN-C – Barisan Revolusi Nasional-Coordinate
 RKK – Runda Kumpulan Kecil

Philippines

ASG – Abu Sayyaf Group
 BIFF – Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters
 CPP – Communist Party of the Philippines
 MILF – Moro Islamic Liberation Front
 NPA – New People's Army
 PNP – Philippine National Police

Indonesia

JAD – Jamaah Ansharut Daulah
 JAT – Jamaah Ansharout Tauhid
 JI – Jamaah Islamiya
 POLRI – Indonesian National Police

Other Groups/Organizations

ISI – Inter-Services Intelligence (Pakistan)
 ISIS – Islamic State of Iraq ash Sham
 LeT – Lashkar-e Tayyiba

Notable Events Calendar

The IED calendar was established to help our audience maintain awareness of events, such as anniversaries of major attacks, or political, religious or cultural events that often coincide (or can potentially coincide) with a spike in IED events.

	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
<p>1 SEP 2008 (PHL): Extortionist group al-Khobar, detonates an IED in a bus killing seven, injuring 34. 2 SEP 2016 (PHL): Davao City Bombing perpetrated by Abu-Sayaaf sympathizers kills 15 and injures 70 9 SEP 2004 (INDO): Jemmah Islamiyah detonated a VBIED outside the Australian embassy in South Jakarta killing 9 while wounding and additional 150. 18 SEP 2014 (PRC) - 50 killed in a knife attack in Xinjiang . 24-25 SEP 2002 (IND): Two men attacked the Akshardham Temple killing 30, injuring 80. 1 OCT 2005 (INDO) - Jemaah Islamiyah detonate two VBIED at sites in Bali killed 20 and injuring 100, 11 days before the 3rd anniversary of the 2002 Bali bombing. 10-11 OCT 2006 (PHL): Central Mindanao Bombings. A series of three bombings and one attempted bombing kills eight, injuring up to 46. 12 OCT 2002 (INDO) - Bali Bombings - Jemaah Islamiyah and al-Qaeda detonate IED killing 204 while injuring 209. 23 OCT 2005 (PHL): Marawi City re-taken by Armed Forces of the Philippines from ISIS-P 24 OCT 2004 (THA): Tak Bai Incident—84 civilians killed by police amid southern Thai insurgency. 29 OCT 2005 (IND) - 2005 Delhi bombings Lashkar-e-Taiba detonate 3 VBIED killing 70, injuring 210. 30 OCT 2008 (IND) - As many as 18 IED explode in multiple markets in Assam killing 81, injuring 470. 3 NOV (PLW) - National election 21 NOV 2006 (NPL) - Signing of the civil war ending Comprehensive Peace Accord 23 NOV 2009 (PHL) - Maguindanao Massacre 24 NOV 2007 (IND) - Coordinated explosions at 3 courthouses kill 16 and injure 70. 26 NOV 2008 (IND) - Mumbai attack</p> <p>IND – India INDO– Indonesia MMR - Burma MYS - Malaysia NPL - Nepal PHL - Philippines PLW - Palau PRC - China THA - Thailand</p>	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	
	September 2020			PHL	PHL			
		6	7	8	9	10	11	12
		13	14	15	16	17	18	19
		20	21	22	23	24	25	26
October 2020	27	28	29	30	1	2	3	
					INDO			
	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
November 2020	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
					IND	IND		
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
			PLW					
	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21		
						NPL		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28		
	PHL	IND		IND				
29	30	1	2	3	4	5		