

SINC SIGNIFICANT INCIDENT SUMMARY 040

Security Information Network Centre (SINC)

06 – 13 February 2009

Reporting Period: 061559hrs – 131559hrs Feb 09

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INTRODUCTION¹

This aim of this study to provide weekly snapshots of activity, key dates, threats and significant incidents that impact on the security-operating environment. This document will develop over time to highlight how trends develop in the various categories of activity.

KEY DATES 2009

DATE	EVENT	IMPACT
09 Feb 09	Dateline given by PENGASSAN to embark on an industrial action and shut down crude oil exports from RVS.	The union is asking the FGN to improve the security situation in the oil rich region or face a withdrawal of members from all upstream facilities. This threat comes in the wake of the killing of an 11-year-old girl and kidnap of her 8-year-old brother, children of an SPDC employee, by unidentified gunmen. Previous threats by PENGASSAN over insecurity were withdrawn after negotiations with the FGN and representatives of oil companies. Such an industrial action would impact crude oil delivery and could worsen the economy, as the implementation of the 2009 is dependent on crude oil prices on the international market.
09 Feb – 27 April 09	Shell Trial Date in the United States.	Shell has been taken to court over accusations of complicity in the death of Ken Saro-Wiwa. Although there is no intelligence to suggest this will trigger hostile activity, the actions and movement of his supporters and Ogoni groups, in particular MOSOP will be monitored closely at this time.
11 Feb 09	DPR staff threaten industrial action.	FGN's engagement of the services of a foreign firm, Cobalt Services Nigeria Ltd. to take over the duties played by the DPR has incited the regulatory body and the workers threaten to shut all crude oil terminals on 11 Feb 09 if the FGN fails to disengage the services of Cobalt. It remains to be seen if the FGN will acquiesce to these demands. DPR as a regulatory body determines the quantity of crude that can be loaded at the country's terminals. A stop work action by them would impact highly on the ability of companies to dispense their product effectively.

¹ A glossary of abbreviations and distribution list are attached at the end of this summary

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<p style="text-align: center;">13 Feb 09</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Henry Okah Next Trial Date</p>	<p>Okah's legal team are asking that the trial of the militant warlord be moved from Jos, Plateau State to a Court in Bayelsa. They base this argument on the fact that majority of the offences with which Okah is charged occurred in the Niger Delta region, and none occurred in the North where he is standing trial. The trial judge has adjourned the case to enable a review of the request. The state of health of Okah remains a controversial subject as his team of lawyers argues that he should be allowed to seek medical attention abroad, whilst the prosecution believes he is fit to stand trial. Any downturn in Okah's health is likely to impact on operations of oil and gas companies in the Delta as the militants will seek to carryout attacks to influence his release.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">14 Feb 09</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Dateline given to oil companies by Ateke Tom to vacate the Niger Delta.</p>	<p>The Niger Delta Vigilante (NDV) and the Patriotic Force (PF) led by Ateke Tom have threatened to cripple oil exploration activities in the Niger Delta region and has issued a 14 Feb 09 deadline to oil majors operating in Nigeria to vacate the region. This threat comes 3 days after MEND calls off its' 21 Sep 08 unilaterally declared cease fire after a week in which a series of attacks were carried out on oil and gas installations and facilities. Companies mentioned in the threat issued online by Tamunokuro Ebitari, spokesman for Ateke include Shell, Agip, Intels, NLNG and ALSCON. Likely targets include isolated installations, pipelines and facilities guarded by GSF. It is assessed if either the GSF or the FGN are unable to intervene and dissuade Ateke from this threat, he will actualize it and the impact on the oil and gas industry is likely to be high as they constitute the primary target of the threat.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">28 Feb 09</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Dead line given to SPDC, DTS and FGN by Urhobo indigenes of Ughievwen Kingdom in Ughelli South LGA to address the alleged mariginalization of the Kingdom.</p>	<p>The community threaten that if the relevant authorities do not address the alleged marginalization of the Kindom in terms of infrastructural development in the 32 towns and villages that make up the Kndongm they will take their own destiny into their hands. Ughievwen Kingdom is a host community to the Utorogun Gas plant. The actualization fo this threat would impact on the supply of gas to major parts of the Country.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">09 Mar, 10 and 13 Apr 09</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Birth of the Prophet Mohammed – Maolu Nabiyyi (To be confirmed nearer the date by FGN), Good Friday and Easter Monday</p>	<p>These are both Moslem and Christian national holidays to mark the birth of the Prophet Mohammed and the date when the Jesus Christ was crucified. It affords nationals the opportunity to visit with friends and the long stretch of holiday may result in a lot of travelling. It is likely to be marred by petty criminal activities as characterised the Christmas period.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">01 May 09</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Workers Day</p>	<p>This day is characterised by workers rallies and the trade unions are likely to make policy statements. It is usually marked in a non violent manner.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">29 May 09</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Democracy Day</p>	<p>This is the yearly anniversary of the successful transition from military rule to civilian rule. This year will be the 10th year anniversary and it is assessed that it will be marked with significant events.</p>

THREAT MATRIX

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This matrix captures all threats, both extant and new. New threats or extant threats that have been identified or reported during the reporting period are highlighted in red.

Date	Threat Details	SINC Comment
12 Feb 09	<p>The Isoko National Youth Movement (INYM) decries an alleged marginalization of the Isoko ethnic nationality in DTS in both Federal and State Government appointments. The National President of the organisation, Zion Hitler Onaemor has called on the relevant authorities to redress these wrongs promptly or face untoward responses from the youth ranging from acts such as kidnaps to burning down oil installations. He alluded to the 1998 incident in which oil flow stations operated by SPDC in Olomoro–Oleh, Oroni (Igbide) Uzere, Ogini and Otor-Owhe were shut down by INYM from 16 Dec 1998 to 19 Jan 1999.</p>	<p>It is assessed that the youth group has the motivation to follow through on this threat. The allusion to the 1998 incident and mentioning that the youth have the ability to resort to kidnapping and arson is indicative of the slant of the actions to be expected if the threat is actualized. The positions being demanded for include federal appointments in the range of ministerial seats, special advisers, special assistants, inclusions in the hierarchy of the NDDC, DESOPADEC and other public or governmental bodies.</p>
11 Feb 09	<p>Media reports disclose the operational details of planned evacuation of expatriate personnel from SPDC field locations in the Niger Delta in a defensive response to Ateke Tom’s threat to unleash Operation Zero Exploration on oil installations in the Niger Delta with effect from 14 Feb 09. A supposedly reliable source within SPDC’s Western Operations in Warri is reported to have told media correspondents that the workers serving in the open fields, especially those at the offshore and swamp locations, would be evacuated latest by 13 Feb 09.</p>	<p>Timings and details of movement of personnel should be kept out of the media, as the potential exists for adversarial elements to exploit the information when planning attacks. Information security was poor in this case.</p>
11 Feb 09	<p>Henry Okah’s legal team led by Femi Falana have asked the FGN to direct the Minister of Health to ensure Henry Okah is taken abroad for medical treatment as a result of a disease that they claim he has contracted in prison. They allege that there is no medical facility in Nigeria with the capability to diagnose or treat the ailment.</p>	<p>This call is seen as a desperate attempt by the defence team to ensure their client is released from prison custody. It is unclear if he will actually be prevailed upon to return to the Country to continue standing trial for the offences he is charged with if he is given a chance to go abroad for medical attention. It is assessed that the likely of FGN releasing him remain slim, however the possibility of there being a breakdown in law and order if health degenerates further remains assessed as high.</p>
11 Feb 09	<p>MEND alleges that the Italian Government through its Foreign Minister, Franco Frattini has made an unsolicited offer of two attack boats to the Nigerian military. MEND further allege that the FGN is waging an unjust war against the people of the Niger Delta and the offer by the Italian Government at a time when groups such as the Coventry Cathedral and others are working towards the path of dialogue, peace and reconciliation, Italy and Britain are proposing to equip and enable the FGN to keep on with hostilities is unacceptable. MEND has issued a threat against AGIP and all Italian companies operating in the Delta. Media reports indicate that the Italian Government is preparing to enter into an MOU with FGN on defense cooperation to cover the areas of training, peacekeeping and arms supply. Specifically, Frattini revealed that the Italian Government is prepared to train policemen posted to troubled areas, invest in agriculture, provide new security technology and also provide a patrol team for the ND Region.</p>	<p>Italian companies have in the past refurbished NAF aircraft. MEND has accused the Italian Government of using the offer of two attack boats as a lever to obtain further supplies contracts from the FGN. The uproar generated by offers of military assistance from the British Prime Minister in 2008 have resulted in the continued hostage status of 2 British citizens abducted on 09 Sep 08 in an attack on a Hydrodive vessel. It is assessed that MEND has both the capability and the motivation to carry out the threat as issued. The possibility of targeting soft targets is assessed as high and the propensity to hold onto hostages to use as bargaining chips remains assessed as high.</p>
11 Feb 09	<p>The House of Representatives mandates the EFCC</p>	<p>The threat of hydrocarbons leaking from the</p>

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	<p>& NNPC to evacuate laden vessels impounded by the JTF as the continued detention of these vessels in the Nations ports and waterways constitutes an environmental hazard as well as a security risk.</p>	<p>impounded vessels due to corrosion and the risk of a fire outbreak in the event of exchange of fire in the course of any JTF offensive or defensive operation are assessed as high. The resultant impact on SPDC facilities is however assessed as medium, except in locations where such vessels are moored close to SPDC assets in which event the risk is assessed as high.</p>
11 Feb 09	<p>MEND rejects directive by IYC to all militants to close up camp and cease hostilities forthwith. Describes IYC as merely one of several ethnic groups whilst it (MEND) is a conglomerate of several ethnic groups. Alluding to a supposed superior status, MEND's spokesman, Jomo Gbomo says the IYC lacks the powers to issue such a directive and appears to be deluded in thinking that a non-combative stance can achieve the necessary changes in the FGN's stance. MEND has vowed that they will build more camps and continue to wage armed war against the FGN until Henry Okah is released and "<i>true federalism enthroned</i>".</p>	<p>The ability of community leaders or ethnic pressure groups such as IYC to curtail the excesses of criminal and militant groups in the Region appears to have significantly been corroded. The traditional communal values, which could have served to curb the incessant criminal activities, and are vital to an effective policing and enforcement of law and order in the Region are assessed to be absent presently. It is assessed that the proliferation of militant camps will continue unabated by communal influence.</p>
11 Feb 09	<p>Urhobo youths have recommended that an inland security committee be set up to guard against a reoccurrence of the 07 Feb 09 militant attack on Utorogu Gas Plant.</p>	<p>It is assessed that this drive is meant to compliment the work of the DTS Waterways Security Committee. Media reports have consistently accused the DTS Government of manning the security apparatus with former militants and youth activist. Some complaints have been lodged against this group who have been accused of deliberately generating crisis in the State to secure Government's continued patronage. It is assessed that the primary motivation for the call at this time may be pecuniary. The ability of the group to be accepted by all parties in the State remains assessed as medium as the factionalism in the various militant camps from which the members of the committee are drawn will affect their ability to be impartial. Other States that have tried to operate local policing such as Anambra State with the Bakassi Boys saga of 1999 through to 2002 and Lagos State with Odua Peoples' Congress (OPC), which is still ongoing, have not had a huge success rate, as the propensity for such groups to be hijacked by politicians or criminals remains high.</p>
10 Feb	<p>A group of GSF personnel on board 2 Mantra and 2 Defender boats deployed to secure 24 barges seized from petroleum product thieves located on a minor creek in the Chanomi Creek area are attacked by gunmen on board 3 boats. GSF successfully repel the attackers. Several hours later, this GSF team engaged in exchange of fire with friendly forces deployed from Warri as reinforcement. Two Naval personnel wounded in the incident.</p>	<p>SINC source revealed that contrary to the media release that the 24 barges were intercepted while the JTF Commander, Brig. Gen Rintip was on patrol of some field locations, the barges had been seized over a period and were being held by the GSF in the area with fire cover from a JTF team from CNL Escravos base. Unconfirmed information indicates that the 3 speedboats were from Tompolo's Okerenkoko camp, and the attempted attack may be connected to the seizure of 2 barges by the JTF earlier same day. It is assessed that the holding area chosen by the GSF may have appeared confrontational by virtue of its proximity to Camp 5. The heightened state of alertness engendered by the 3-boat attack and a lack of</p>

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	SINC Inforep 182 dated 11 Feb 09 refers.	adequate communication is assessed to be the driver behind the exchange of friendly fire. It is assessed that in the event the barges are brought into Forcados Terminal for evacuation, their presence will possibly trigger an escalation of the threat to the facility. Immediate evacuation and removal/destruction of the emptied barges would mitigate this threat.
09 and 10 Feb 09	A small cargo vessel of about 150 tons has been observed in threatening activities with an actual attack recorded on a marine vessel at the Brass Terminal Area offshore Pennington. On 09 Feb, MV Africa observe the vessel with a speedboat onboard the aft deck attempt to overtake by increasing her speed to about 7 knots. On 10 Feb 09, MV Aramis was attacked by a speedboat. A vessel was noticed in the background during the attack and subsequently, the same vessel called MV Aramis on VHF Channel 16 pretending to offer assistance and tried to overtake the MV Aramis with speeds of about 11knots.	It is assessed that the marine vessel is a mother ship for pirates operating in the Brass/Pennington area. Its' presence explains the ability of the militants to move further offshore to carryout attacks. The propensity for vessels to be deceived by the mother vessels' offer of help after an attempted attack is assessed to be medium though. The likelihood of more frequent attacks being launched further offshore is assessed to be high.
09 Feb 09	The Total Zonal Branch of PENGASSAN went ahead with a three day warning strike over the state of insecurity in the Niger Delta. However, the National arm of PENGASSAN has entered into negotiations with FGN and has called for a hold on the industrial actions. The unions have now agreed to give the FGN a three week period within which to the issued raised will be looked at.	It is assessed that the action of the Total branch of the union is indicative of the divide between the National and Zonal branches. The large number of Total personnel who have been victims of abductions recently particularly aggrieves the Total branch and may be responsible for the three-day industrial action. It is assessed that a successful industrial action from the National body may not be carried out as earlier scheduled, however the potential of local branches toeing the lines of Total branch is likely. The impact on the industry is assessed to be relatively low if the national chapter does not join in the industrial action. However, if at the end of the three week period of deferment given, FGN is seen not to be actively pursuing a viable solution to the insecurity in the Region, the likely of an all out action by the unions is assessed to be high. The impact of such an industrial action on exploration and production activities is assessed to be high.
09 Feb 09	Governor Amaechi discloses that the RVSHA is considering a Bill that will make the crime of kidnapping a capital offence punishable with the death sentence. Revealed that the withdrawal of armed GSF checkpoints from the road was based on the erroneous impression that the hold up being generated could be mitigated by removal of checkpoints and the decision was made based on a seeming reduction in incidents of kidnaps at the end of 2008.	The Nigerian Bar Association has cautioned Governor Amaechi against making kidnapping a capital offence and portends that rather than deter the abductors, it would rather harden their hearts and make the crime much more prone to violence. It is assessed that the stance of the NBA may be tenable as the incidents of armed robbery in the country increased and got more violent despite the enactment of more stringent laws particularly execution by firing squad. The attendant likely of abductees being at risk of losing their lives is assessed to be high if the criminals throw all caution to the wind in the face of a death sentence being the inevitable consequences of their actions.
09 Feb 09	MOSOP says they are poised to resist attempts by the FGN to re-negotiate the re-entry of SPDC to oil facilities in Ogoni land. Decries the alleged new accord between the FGN and Shell, which it says is	It is assessed that though MOSOP's threat is qualified as non-violent, the propensity for communal agitations to turn violent is high. The resultant damage to reputation is assessed

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	based on compromise, which casts doubts on FGN's sincerity in resolving the Ogoni crisis amicably.	as high.
07 Feb 09	At about 0415 hours, a group of approximately 40-armed youth attacked the Utorogu FLB and Gas Plant. Property were vandalised, but the JTF successfully repelled the attack. Six of the invaders were killed and several arrests have been made. MEND claimed that the invasion was carried out by its fighters and warned that many more attacks would still be carried out. MEND taunted that the location was chosen to dispel the alleged myth being claimed by the DTS Governor that there is peace and security in the State and is a message to oil companies that all the pipelines recently repaired in the Western Delta will soon be damaged.	It is assessed that MEND is claiming the attack as part of its threatened Hurricane Obama/Operation Delete/Operation Zero Exploration, but may not have been the actual mastermind behind the planning or the attack. Indicators tend to support the attack was a community affair.
03 Feb 09	JTF has warned Ateke Tom of deadly repercussions if he actualises his threat to commence attacks on oil companies and facilities with effect from 14 Feb 09. JTF seeks to assure oil companies and law-abiding citizens that there is "no cause for security alarm", adding that its troops were on stand by to repel any attack.	The GSF seek to assure that the militants are no match for the task force's troops, however, it is assessed that the collateral damage occasioned in the Sep 08 attacks by militants on oil facilities and installation if repeated could impact negatively on oil exploration and production activities in the region.
03 Feb 09	Ateke Tom, leader of the Niger Delta Vigilante (NDV) and the Patriotic Force has threatened to cripple oil exploration activities in the Niger Delta Region. He issued a 14 Feb 09 deadline to oil majors and multinationals operating in Nigeria to vacate the Region. The militant warlord speaking through Tamunokuro Ebitari said the operation to be known as 'Operation Zero Exploration' is a direct result of the alleged 03 Jan JTF attack on Ateke's camp, and will target Shell, Agip, Intels, NLNG and ALSCON, which are accused of supporting and aiding the military to carry out the attacks on militant camps in the region. He accused the FGN of failing to adopt a dialogue approach to resolving the ND crisis,	Ateke's statement is indicative of intent to target facilities and not personnel of oil companies. Further reporting claims that Ateke captured a JTF gunboat in the incident. Though JTF has denied such, it is assessed that if true, the gunboat could be used as a Trojan horse to gain close proximity to targets by the militants. It is assessed that the choice of 14 Feb 09 is a deliberate attempt at launching this attack on a significant date. In 2008, Ateke launched a series of attacks in PHC on 01 Jan 08, new year's day. The JTF has denied launching an attack on Ateke's camp. They claim rather to have been on a crew change when they were ambushed by militants who fired at them from the surrounding mangrove forest. JTF claims the soldiers responded in self defence and may have injured/killed some militants in the process. On 30 Jan 09, MEND called off its' ceasefire, claiming JTF undertook a massive aerial and waterborne attack on several camps and the camp of Ateke, who is a signatory to the MEND unilateral ceasefire of 21 Sep 09, was the most heavily impacted. Despite JTF's denials, a SINC source insists that there were plans underway by the GSF to carryout raids and in the usual fashion of such plans being leaked to the militant camps, Ateke may have been aware of a planned attack and launched the ambush. It is assessed that JTF may be managing information hence the denials of the attack being planned and of a gunboat being seized by Ateke.
02 Feb 09	A coalition of militants comprising elements from Rueben Wilson and Boylof's camps have concluded plans to attack the NAOC location at Ogboninbiri between 03 – 08 Feb 09. Commander Pius (FNU) from Egbema – Angalabiri, Southern Ijaw LGA has been designated as leader of the team. Pius reportedly boasted that during the planned attack,	Boylof is the MEND commander in BYS and has gained a formidable reputation following the 19 Jun 08 attack on Bonga field. He is believed to command a large number of militants who have access to well maintained and powerful arms and equipment. Though not much is known of Reuben Wilson, SINC

	<p>the militants would subdue all JTF personnel stationed at the location.</p> <p>SINC EWRep 118 dated 03 Feb 09 refers.</p>	<p>records indict that he may be the militant known as Pastor Rueben who has been implicated in several attacks. It is assessed that this threat forms a part of MEND's threatened "Hurricane Obama/Operation Delete/Operation Zero Exploration". The potential of the parties mentioned to carry out the threat is assessed as high. The collateral damage to SPDC facilities from an actualization of this threat is assessed as low as there are no SPDC assets in the immediate vicinity, however, the impact of the entire campaign on SPDC facilities is assessed as high as the operations are targeted at all oil companies and multinational organizations which engage the services of GSF to protect their facilities.</p>
<p>01 Feb 09</p>	<p>Sunny Opuambe, the leader of the Bush Boy militant group is assassinated at a drinking spot along Abuloma in PHC. The Bush Boys is a factional warring youth group in the Wakirike Kingdom of RVS that has held sway in Okirika. The group is the youth wing of the Tobonuju, a group that was chased out of Okirika by Ateke Tom's Niger Delta Vigilante Group (NDVG). Further on 04 Feb, Agili (FNU) another militant who had been a member of Bush Boys but cross carpeted to Ateke Tom's camp was also assassinated. Earlier on 30 Jan 09, Theophilus Tador aka G1, the leader of the Greenlanders is shot dead by JTF when a Naval gunboat encounters a group of militants on a speedboat on the New Calabar River in an incident which Ateke Tom claims was an attack on his camp.</p>	<p>Some time in 2006, there had been rival cult wars between the Greenlanders (Ateke's group) and the Bush Boys. Bush Boys laid down their arms when it was obvious that the firepower of the Ateke camp was superior and both groups entered into a peace accord. Sunny Opuama has been reputed to be a Government agent as he related well with RVS Government. There had been contest for the position of Niger Delta Youth Leader and a credible SINC source reports that Sunny was slated to be inaugurated as the Youth Leader on 05 Feb 09. He was assassinated 4 days earlier. Source reports that Ateke has been interested in the role of Youth Leader and saw Sunny as both a threat to his operations by virtue of the Government relations and as too small to hold the title. On the other hand, source revealed that Agili was not assassinated by Bush Boys, but rather by the Greenlanders (Ateke's Boys). This is allegedly because Ateke feels that Agili's loyalties to the Bush Boys may be a factor to reckon with following the murder of Sunny. Though Agili constantly swore he had left the Bush Boys behind, Ateke is reported to have remained uncomfortable with his presence in the camp. Both of these assassinations on the behest of Ateke Tom are assessed to be a fallout from the 30 Jan 09 JTF operation in which the leader of the Greenlanders, Tador was killed. It is assessed that Ateke's order of a hit on Sunny and Agili may be predicated on his suspicions that the JTF were given details of his camp location by either of the two. The potential of a full scale cult war escalating out of these killings remains assessed as high. The fallout of such a crisis it is assessed would impact negatively on the movement of personnel to and from work as evidenced by the cult wars that ravaged PHC in Aug 2007. It is assessed that the driver behind these crisis remains a supremacy battle for control of Okirika by the rival cult/militant groups.</p>
<p>30 Jan 09</p>	<p>Commander Ogunbos, militant leader who has been engaged in a supremacy war with Commander</p>	<p>It is assessed that though the relocation was stampeded to avoid a planned attack from</p>

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	Africa, has relocated from his Diebu Creek camp to Etebu Creek in Ogbia LGA. In the course of the relocation, one of his speed boats reportedly collided with a commercial boat leaving one pax dead.	Africa's camp, the possibility of Africa going up to Etebu Creek to carryout any planned attack remains high. In the event that such a reprisal attack is carried out, it is assessed that the collateral damage to any SPDC facility is low as the facility nearest to Etebu Creek is Kolo Creek and it is a considerable distance away.
03 Jan 09	Reports indicate that Chief James Jephthah has been cultivating the cooperation of Charles Kurobo, a militant who has threatened to disrupt the pipe-laying project being undertaken by Saipem in Apoi. The chief has allegedly sent a cash sum of N300,000.00 and some food items to Kurobo's camp and has also hired a speedboat from Kurobo for the sum of N300,000.00 monthly rentals. The youth of the community have however risen up in protest to Kurobo benefiting in such a manner. They have also threatened to disrupt the pipelaying work themselves if Dhief's contract with Kurobo is not terminated.	It is assessed that the situation has the potential of degenerating into a crisis that could impact negatively on the Saipem pipe laying project, as the community youth have the potential to disrupt the project. The monetary considerations being given by Chief to Kurobo may appear large to the youth who themselves are not on the receiving end of such largesse.
30 Jan 09	MEND calls off its unilaterally declared cease-fire claiming that the Nigerian armed forces carried out an unprovoked attack on Ateke Tom's camp at 1130hrs date. MEND alleges that though there was a massive aerial and marine assault, the militants successfully repelled the military. They allege that this attack is an indication that the FGN has consistently taken advantage of the ceasefire to make military inroads by arresting and killing militants instead of pursuing a genuine peace and reconciliation agenda. Consequently, MEND warns that the oil industry should brace itself for Hurricane Obama, ' <i>a sweeping assault starting from Rivers state that will change the face of oil and gas exports from Nigeria</i> ' The JTF have denied attacking any camp and allege that the only incident that involved a JTF/Militant encounter was an attack on JTF stationed at Cawthorne Channel. SINC Sources indicated that the clash occurred as a result of militant suspicions that routine JTF roulement of troops in field locations was actually an attempt to build up forces for an attack on Ateke's camps in the Alakiri-Dawes Island axis. It is reported that the militants ambushed troops who were moving to relieve colleagues at a field location. Latest information reveals that Ateke Tom's group has successfully seized a JTF gunboat.	This is not the first time in the last couple of weeks the MEND has called off the ceasefire. However, it is assessed that this may be a genuine call as there have been repeated threats that if any camp of any militant warlord is attacked by the JTF, there will be reprisal attacks. It is assessed that there will be ease in the manner of coalitions that will be formed by the various factions of militants to fight a perceived common enemy. There have been reports of mass trainings of youth in militant camps in Ondo and other areas. It is assessed that the sightings of Victor Ben Ebikabowei in Farah's camp in Buguma on 18 Jan 09 and the sighting on 30 Jan 09 in Cawthorne Channel axis are both indicative of the alignments that may emerge in this new militant offensive. It is assessed that there may in fact have been no JTF attack on Ateke's camp. Source report indicates that the JTF/Militant encounter at Cawthorne channel was with boys from the Ateke camp. This may have been viewed by the militants as an ideal opportunity to engage in reprisal attacks for which they have been strategizing and preparing for some time now. It is assessed that the Militants may have gauged the strength of the military and decided that they will only gain strength henceforth, hence the urgency to mount a new campaign.
30 Jan 09	Victor Ben Ebikabowei aka Boylof is sighted in the Cawthorne Channel area.	It is assessed that the threat posed by realignments in the militant strata is being played out by these frequent sightings of the acclaimed leader of the BYS faction of MEND in the volatile and JTF patrolled region of RVS. Indicators are that a major MEND/Militant attack is in the offing and the major targets are assessed to be oil and gas industry facilities, workers particularly expatriate, and GSF units in isolated locations.
24 Jan 09	Media reports reveal that MEND has threatened GSF with 'Operation Delete'. They threaten to erase names of soldiers from the armed forces register by	It is assessed that soldiers deployed to isolated oil and gas installations in the creeks may come under attack in line with this MEND

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	<p>killing them off in random covert attacks.</p>	<p>threat. The creeks have been identified as the natural habitat of the militants. It is assessed that the advantage lies with the militants as they know the terrain and can launch predawn attacks at moments of least resistance.</p>
23 Jan 09	<p>MOSOP warns that the attempt by SPDC to clean up polluted sites at Kegbara Dere in Ogoniland may lead to fresh crisis in the area. They allege that SPDC officials, contractors and heavily armed security operatives stormed a spill site on 20 Jan 09 and this is provocative, as the FGN has directed that effective 31 December 08, SPDC operations in the area cease.</p>	<p>It is assessed that MOSOP is attempting to stir up sentiments as they have alleged severally that SPDC has failed to clean up spill, even when such attempts to clean up are made and rebuffed by the community. The media war is likely to continue.</p>
21 Jan 09	<p>The Urhobo Volunteer Force (UVF), a previously unknown militant group has emerged. They warn Urhobo politicians and elders to change their alleged dubious ways of selling out or face the wrath of the group.</p>	<p>Age long rivalries in DTS particularly and in the ND in general are assessed as the principal drivers behind this new group's birth. The Itsekiris and Ijaws have already established militant groups that have held sway in the region. The adoption of militancy amongst the various groups in the Delta may increase hostilities among the tribes as the gangs seek to protect their interest. It is assessed that other tribes such as the Isoko, the Kwale and the Ika-Igbos may not be far behind in the emerging trend.</p>
21 Jan 09	<p>There is a threat of escalating tensions between communities in Zarama. Akumoni community have threatened to attack the Ayamabele and Kabala communities on 21 Jan 09.</p>	<p>The reason for this community disruption remains unclear, however efforts are reportedly underway to resolve the issues. The communities are located in the vicinity of the Zarama Community, one of the three main community clusters hosting the Gbaran Ubie Integrated Oil and Gas Project (GUIOGP). Though SPDC is not directly threatened, it is assessed that operations at the project site could be disrupted by a sever community clash in the region.</p>
18 Jan 09	<p>Victor Ben Ebikabowei (aka Boylof) was sighted at a camp run by Farah Dagogo in Buguma, RVS. Up to 10 militant speedboats were also seen near the mouth of the New Calabar River.</p>	<p>These boats are assessed to be those previously reported as having transited from Boylof's camp at Ezetu. It is assessed that these sightings may be indicative of the quest by the militant groups in the Region to engage in renewed and coordinated campaign which could be linked to the threatened Operation Hurricane Obama with a commencement dateline of 20 Jan 09 or soon thereafter. The presence of a key BYS based militant element in RVS is assessed to be indicative of a significant shift in the relationship dynamics between the key militant leaders in the Region. It is assessed that Boylof may be meeting with other militants possibly to plan the actualisation of the reprisal attacks which MEND threatened as revenge for the recent killing and arrest of core MEND commanders in RVS.</p>
17 Jan 09	<p>Media reports indicate that rival factions of criminal gangs masquerading as political youth groups in Nembe community have been embroiled in a bitter conflict over local government council elections and oil money is alleged to be at the root of the crisis. Over 13 people have been killed in the crisis in the last six months as the struggle to highjack the petrodollars the council gets from oil companies rages. The State Governor, Timipre Sylva who described</p>	<p>Observers believe a jostle for relevance after the tenure of the female caretaker chairmen may have led to the fresh outbreak of violence in the LGA. The tensions however are dated as far back as 2002. Militant warlord Abraham Awokegha aka Okitikata has been engaged in an ongoing supremacy turf battle with militants loyal to Victor Ben Ebikabowei (Boylof). It is assessed that although Okitikata is unlikely to</p>

	<p>the situation as ‘a show of shame’ has intervened and set up a peace forum headed by the traditional ruler of the Nembe, HRH Amanayabo Ralph Iwowari after the crisis degenerated over the New Year. The State Government has also appointed female caretaker committee chairmen for all the councils and has postponed the elections indefinitely. The peace forum took a two week adjournment to allow the feuding factions prepare memoranda on the crisis, and reconvened on 21 Jan 09.</p> <p>SINC InfoReps Ser 088 and 089 both dated 07 Apr 08 refer.</p>	<p>be able to square up to Boylof on an equal level, the possibilities of other militant leaders conniving with Okitikata against Boylof cannot be ruled out. Such an alliance it is assessed will lead to reprisal attacks. It is assessed that though the conflict in Nembe is not directed at SPDC, inter militant or political or communal fighting in the region has the potential of impacting negatively on operations.</p>
<p>16, 17 & 18 Jan 09</p>	<p>JTF elements attack and destroy militant camps located at Ajakaja, Udungama and Okukpor in Andoni LGA (SG BC 026) of RVS. JTF said the attacks were based on intelligence reports which indicated that one of the militant leaders in the area, George Adumu, an ally of Soboma George involved in kidnappings, sea piracy, armed robbery and other hostile acts was in the area. At the time Adumu’s camp was raided, JTF claims it was deserted, and reports indicate that the militants may have had fore knowledge of the operation and had fled to Okukpor. MEND claims that the JTF attack was based on faulty intelligence in search of two British hostages still held in captivity by MEND as political prisoners and alleges that numerous civilians were killed. According to MEND, the hostages have now been separated and moved further into the swamps to prevent a successful rescue operation.</p> <p>SINC Inforep 175 dated 18 Jan 09, EWRReps 141, 142 & 143 refer.</p>	<p>MEND’s statement is indicative of the robust anti-government and anti-JTF propaganda campaign expected to continue as the militant body seeks a means to retaliate against the GSF operations that have resulted in the death of 3 militant commanders and the arrest of 2 others in the last month. It is assessed that militants may resume targeting of strategic oil facilities and key Government installations in line with the threat traffic recently. It is unlikely however that the JTF will cease their operations as the recent change in senior military appointments is also indicative of the higher echelons’ intentions to maintain a robust stance against militancy. The accuracy of recent information available to JTF is indicative of the willingness of communities to cooperate with the GSF through provision of high grade intelligence with the aim of eradicating the menace of criminality which is now impacting negatively not only oil and gas companies, but also on the communities.</p>
<p>17 Jan 09</p>	<p>Navy declares fresh war on militants. Acquires 4 Mantra, 7 Seaward defence boats and 2 Augusta Helicopters to boost operations in the Niger Delta. The 4 Mantra class seaward defence boats are 17 metres in length, can run 50 knots and carry a crew of up to 13 heavily armed combat personnel. These will be deployed in the region covering Bonny to Escravos, while the other seven seaward defence boats are deployed to PHC to cover RVS, BYS and Lagos.</p>	<p>It is assessed that recent efforts by men of the Navy to curtail illegal bunkering, kidnapping, piracy and hostage taking in the ND Region will be enhanced by the newly acquired and deployed equipment.</p>
<p>13 & 14 Jan 09</p>	<p>The JTF in a raid at Bakana, arrest Tubotamuno Angolia (aka Boy Titi, Boy Chiki, Point One), a notorious militant aligned to Farah Dagogo’s militant group. He was shot dead by the JTF when he tried to escape their lawful custody. In addition, on 14 Jan, JTF arrested Barikpoa Nwinam (aka Ecomog or Lekara Baridon), a protégée of and close ally of Ateke Tom. He was arrested in the company of Clifford Kpamana, an employee of Reynold Construction Company (RCC) and Dadum Abane from Kaani community. MEND responded to the fresh onslaught on the militants by calling off the self declared cease fire of Sept 08. MEND has vowed to launch an attack on operatives of the JTF, stating that every soldier in uniform inside the ND Region is a fair target in reprisal attacks.</p>	<p>It is assessed that MEND’s threats are likely to be executed by smaller criminal elements affiliated to it. JTF intelligence reports have confirmed that MEND intends to to attack oil and gas installations, engage in kidnapping of oil workers and some key government and security officials in the ND by way of reprisals. The JTF’s response to the threat includes adopting precautionary measures by deploying additional troupes in the coastal areas of the ND is assessed as a good move as the presence of more GSF may be serve as a deterrent so some of the criminal elements. It is assessed that this recent upsurge in raids by JTF which has resulted in arrests of several prominent militants makes the likelihood of further militant offensives more imminent.</p>
<p>13 Jan 09</p>	<p>A reliable source disclosed that tension is high</p>	<p>It is assessed that the JTF may be planning to</p>

	<p>among militants loyal to Government Ekpomoupolo (Tompolo) over rumours of a planned JTF offensive to destroy Camp 5 in Okerenkoko area of Gbaramatu Kingdom, Warri South West LHA, DTS. MEND in BYS led by Boylof have indicated a readiness to engage JTF if any form of aggression is displayed towards Tompolo. Militants accuse Goodluck Jonathan, Vice President of failing to inform them of the plans and declared that any attack on Camp 5 will foreclose all forms of negotiations and understanding in the ND region.</p>	<p>destroy as many camps as possible in an attempt to flush out the militants and Camp 5 may be one of the earmarked camps. Camp 5 is assessed to be a main militant stronghold acting as more of an HQ location. However, this is not the first time the militants are alleging such a plan. It is assessed that militants are adequately equipped with manpower and arms to carry out their threats of defensive/reprisal attacks. Reports indicate that Tompolo had earlier decentralized his weapons, ammunition and manpower to neighbouring camps and other safe hideouts away from Camp 5. It is assessed that in the event of an attack on Camp 5 by JTF, the damage to Tompolo may be limited, however, the reprisal attacks may stretch the ability of JTF severely.</p>
<p>12 Jan 09</p>	<p>MEND has released pictures of two British nationals abducted from the Hydro Dive vessel on 09 Sep 08. The two, Messrs. Robin Barry Hughes and Matthew Hohn Maguire are being held by MEND to arm twist the FGN to release MEND's presumed leader, Henry Okah who is standing secret trial for gun-running and treason. MEND warns that their policy on kidnapping high value oil workers from Western Europe and North America remains unchanged and will continue to form an integral part of the pressure strategy for 2009.</p>	<p>MEND has been holding these two hostages as leverage and now warns that if anything happens to Henry Okah who is reported in media to be gravely ill from a kidney condition, the fate of the two hostages may be unpleasant. It is assessed that the trend of holding unto kidnapped victims as hostages may be adopted more randomly by MEND to drive home it's message to the FGN and the international community. The attendant risk to the health of captives is huge as being kept in the unsanitary conditions that prevail in the militant camps could have an adverse effect on the health and mental stability of the hostages. It is assessed that British citizens would stand most at risk of this trend of hostage taking not for pecuniary reward but to serve as bargaining chips. The willingness of FGN to dialogue with the militants is assessed as remote, with a risk of prolonged captivity for the hostages.</p>
<p>10 Jan 09</p>	<p>Militants made an attempt to attack the CLP at Bonny. Four speedboats filled with several heavily armed men took part in the attack. The Nigerian Naval Personnel successfully repelled the attack. Though gunfire was exchanged, no casualties were recorded.</p>	<p>Bonny remains a strategic target for militants hoping to disrupt oil & gas operations in the Niger Delta. The convergence of key militants in Adoni/Opobo axis close to Bonny lately is a likely pointer to this renewed determination by militants to target Bonny in a concerted effort to cripple the oil and gas sector as part of their war against the JTF. Presently, the key players in the axis are reported to be Ateke Tom, Soboma George and Benard (FNU). Another newly emerging militant Busta Rhymes, who recently broke away from Farah is also reported to be behind a series of recent pirate attacks in the axis. Investigations are ongoing to determine the relationship between Busta Rhymes and Benard, as speculations are rife that they are one and the same man. Benard is known to be in alliance with Ateke Tom and Soboma. The Okoloma Ikpangi, is another militant group that plays a dominant role in this particular axis. This group is reported to also have ties with all the characters aforementioned. Unconfirmed information indicates that Ateke Tom and Soboma George appear to be directing affairs in the whole area at the moment.</p>

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10 Jan 09	The Urhobo people of Ughievwen Kingdom in Ughelli South LGA of DTS have given SPDC, the Federal Government and DTS up to 28 Feb 09 to address the alleged marginalization of the Kingdom in terms of infrastructural development in the 32 towns and villages that make up the Kingdom. They have threatened to take their destiny into their own hands if their issues are not resolved in their favour. Ughievwen Kingdom is a host community to the Utorogun Gas plant that supplies gas to major parts of the Country.	It is assessed that this threat is coming based on the knowledge the community has of the importance of the Utorogu Gas Plant to the Nation. The possibility of rogue elements hijacking the situation to perpetrate acts of criminality cannot be ruled out.
09 Jan 09	The JTF have claimed that they have still not been fully paid for the provision of security services for the BNAG well testing exercise during the end of 2008.	It is likely that the JTF will be unlikely to undertake any other security service engagements during 2009, until complete payment has been made. The potential for vulnerabilities to emerge as result of a poorly paid and unmotivated JTF is extremely High and the refusal to provide security where urgently required could expose SPDC's assets significantly. It is assessed that militants, criminals and aggrieved community members are currently seeking to identify gaps in the security posture in order to achieve their own personal agendas.
08 Jan 09	<p>The following threat warning (as received) was sent to Corporate Security.</p> <p>(1) Give ur policemen @ ur company gate bomb detectors to check cars coming into ur company because a car is planned to explode in ur company.</p> <p>(2) And some of my boys that escort people to one of your pipe @ Rukpokwu last nite said fire will catch there soon.</p>	This warning is unedited and from a highly dependable source. Every car entering any of the SPDC locations in PH from tomorrow is to be scanned and checked. The alert level is to be raised and car parks to be swept and patrols intensified. In the absence of corroboration, this threat is assessed to be credible and precautionary measures should be strictly enforced. The previous VBIED attack against the RA also received a short notice warning. A single, reliable SINC source reported in late 2008 that foreign (white) trainers were then in Bayelsa state to deliver training in the construction, deployment and initiation of Improvised Explosive Devices (SINC EWRep 100 dated 18 November refers). The training was reportedly being delivered to Ateke Tom and Sogboma George groups as well as to a group led by one Bernard (NFDK) at Ateke's Opuama Camp.
29 Dec 08	On December 29, a letter was received from three communities namely the Iwhrekan, Otujeremi and Otor –Udu communities (SG – AK-036) under the umbrella of Federation of Host Communities demanding for an indigenous contractor to handle the catering and the house keeping job at Utorogu FLB. They have threatened to shutdown the gas plant if their request is not granted by 31 Dec 2008.	Security operatives have been placed on high alert to forestall any shutdown while the CRO has scheduled a meeting for Monday, January 05, 2009 with the community executives.
28 Dec 08	SINC sources reported that at approximately 2025hrs on 28 Dec 2008, a notorious militant leader, by the name of Sobomabo JACKREE a.k.a. Egberipapa was arrested in Buguma Asari Toru LGA of Rivers State by JTF troops of Sector 5, as part of Operation Flush Out 3. He was arrested in the presence of some notable Buguma Chiefs during a purported peace meeting, which he attended with Alhaji Asari Dokubo. Egberipapa was not injured.	Egberipapa is a known crude oil and condensate thief, charged with running operations along the Soku-Abonema axis. In addition, he masterminded and led the kidnapping of Chief Lulu Briggs wife at her residence on 06 Feb 2008. This incident will undoubtedly provoke high-level political talks and manoeuvrings in an attempt to work out a possible solution to the situation. There has been a serious and widespread reaction across

	SINC EW Report – 109, dated 30 Dec refers.	militant networks, in response to Egberipapa's arrest. On 30 Dec 08, MEND further announced that it will conduct an "all out war" against what it describes as a display of government insincerity over its promises to resolve the issues that have led to the Niger Delta crisis peacefully. On 31 Dec 08, credible SPDC sources that militants have threatened a 'massive' attack against oil and gas installations in the Niger Delta within the next two weeks in retaliation against the arrest. This threat is deemed credible and centres on the allegation that the NFG have failed to keep their promise following the end of the MEND ceasefire, which ended on 21 Dec 08. Members of the pipelines department have also received threatening sms' messages from an unknown number, warning of a likely intention to cause destruction to SPDC assets. The situation requires close monitoring.
20 Dec 08	Six militants associated with the Soboma George arrived Lagos on route to the Republic of Togo to purchase arms and ammunition.	Large scale bank robberies, especially those accessible by water, have been reported of late. Banks opening after the Christmas period are assessed to be vulnerable. The proliferation of arms, ammunition and training has been widely reported to be undertaken by a number of key militant leaders, including Boyloaf and Government Ekpemupolo. This type of activity could indicate a precursor to future militant activity and caution is therefore advised.
18 Dec 08	Reporting indicates that the relationship between Ateke and Soboma George has become tense following last weeks' arrest of three females and a boat driver from Ateke Toms' camp by operatives of the JTF. Ateke has claimed that the only person who had and could have given out information of the movement of the ladies was Soboma. Ateke has vowed to deal decisively with Soboma.	Credible SINC sources indicate that there is likely to be a clash between Ateke and Soboma in the near future. It is assessed from available information that Soboma has made enemies of the key and influential militant leaders. Soboma and Farah are currently at loggerheads, which has forced Soboma to carve allegiance to Ateke. This recent impasse may lead to a new wave of cult wars, as new territories may need to be delineated by Soboma's supporters.
13 Dec 08	MEND has demanded conditions for talks with the FGN on disarmament as recommended by the Niger Delta Technical Committee (NTDC). The crux of the demands are that Henry Okah must be released to lead the negotiations. Reiterates that MEND will only cooperate if United Nations mediators are involved in the negotiations. Vows to resist all attempts at dismantling militant camps in the region even if the JTF is made to withdraw from the region. They are rejecting all suggestions that the FGN should rehabilitate the militants insisting rather that the JTF needs the rehabilitation and militants should be employed by Govt to assist in developing a coast and creek guard force.	It is assessed that the statements of MEND are indicative of a resolve to enter into negotiations with numerous preconditions that may hamper the ability of both the FGN and the Militants to reach an amicable decision.
10 Dec 08	Tompolo has commenced the training of between 400 -1000 newly recruited supporters at Arugbo Camp in Ondo State. This training is reportedly in preparation to resume attacks on oil and gas installations in the early part of 2009. 13 commanders in Tompolo's camp are conducting the training under the leadership of Mosco Jonny of	It is assessed that the militants are actively preparing for a possible resumption of attacks in the new year. The use of a training ground outside DTS is assessed to be an attempt to avoid the tight control the JTF has imposed on DTS. There is significant support from petroleum product thieves for the training and

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	<p>Camp 5, Tebela (FNU) of Iroko Camp, Ebi Ikoro of Owongbene Camp, Jacob Odili & Commander Bibo aka Shoot at Sight of Arugbo Camp. Lt.-Col. Rabe Abubakar, said that the training was being funded by oil thieves, who are angered by the military's stepped up campaign to stop oil bunkering. He said the new recruits were being trained "in long range shooting, handling of various sophisticated weapons and the use of explosives."</p>	<p>planned hostilities. Tompolo wields tremendous influence over DTS militant activities as well as the trade in stolen petroleum products. The hard line stance adopted by the JTF is not favourable to his activities and from all indications; he is preparing to take decisive and violent action against the JTF. Community inhabitants have denied these allegations and have demanded proof of such activity. Failure to provide this could result in tensions and anti-military tensions.</p>
03 Dec 08	<p>Intelligence reports at the disposal of GSA corroborated by confessional statements made by a group of militants recently arrested in the region indicate that militants have started rebuilding camps destroyed by the JTF, recruiting new gang members and acquiring more weapons for a renewed campaign against GSF and Oil & Gas companies in the Delta. Defence Headquarters has ordered that JTF Commanders in the Delta should tighten security.</p>	<p>It is assessed that the majority of threats issued have been by aggrieved oil thieves and their militant collaborators due to JTF continued clampdown on their activities.</p>
26 Nov 08	<p>Ateke Tom has been observed in activities that indicate continuation of guerrilla-style attacks and other disruptive activities. He has been engaged in recruitment of new fighters from DTS & BYS, purchase of arms and military uniforms and constant surveillance on Naval Gunboat movements. The group has further purchased Toyota Hilux jeeps to aid movement within PHC with the intent of appearing to be escort teams for expat movement as a cover. Possible routes for the militant movement include Ndoki, Abuloma, Abonema, Eagle Island waterfronts, Saipem Yard, NAFCON Gas station, Ikpokiri, Iwofe & Njemanze watersides. He has threatened to attack key and vulnerable places within PHC starting from 08 Dec 08.</p>	<p>The upward swing in militant attacks on GSF which are aimed at mopping up weapons, and the number of incidents in which arms and ammunition have been seized by GSF indicates plans by militants to engage in/continue to perpetuate disruptive activities. It is assessed that Ateke Tom has the capability and willingness to engage in acts of lawlessness which could impact negatively both on SPDC personnel and facilities. The 31 Dec 07 series of attacks on Presidential Hotel PHC and Borokiri Police Station are indicators of the level of damage Ateke can inflict.</p>
24 Nov 08	<p>Inter communal crisis looms in DTS as the Urhobos and Itsekiris are at loggerheads over allegations levelled by Itsekiris from Obontie community against Urhobos from Ugbukurusu and Ikersan communities that the latter are conducting kidnappings and militancy. Obontie community is said to have protested to the JTF who engineered the signing of an MOU. But this MOU was allegedly breached in 2006 when armed men from the Urhobo communities invaded Obontie with sophisticated weapons, burning and carting away food items. The Obontie community has issued a two-week ultimatum to the aggressors to produce a Mr. Ejueyitsi Eyito who was allegedly kidnapped and shot dead on 12 Jan 07</p>	<p>Between 1999 and 2001, there was intensive community unrest in DTS involving several tribes. The issues in contention centred round delineation of the boundaries of the Warri LGA. The hostilities of the period impacted negatively on SPDC operations in the area, as there was an absolute break down of law and order. It is assessed that if this problem is allowed to degenerate further, SPDC personnel and facilities stand at risk of collateral damage.</p>
20 Nov 08	<p>JTF reportedly attacked Boylof's camp at Ezetu. (NFD) Militants claim to have shot a helicopter and damaged it. (Remains TBC). Boylof is reported to have survived the attack. Separate reports indicate Boylof's juju priest was shot dead by JTF. Whilst in transit to bury the priest on 21 Nov 08, there was a shoot out between JTF and Boylof's gang at Lobia, Southern Ijaw, BYS.</p>	<p>Whilst there has been no specific threat reporting to confirm, these two incidents, it is highly likely they will have angered Boylof and it is assessed that reprisal attacks may take place. It is assessed that these attacks will be predominantly targeted against the JTF, although the scale of any reprisals has not yet been determined.</p>
18 Nov 08	<p>SINC sources have disclosed that Victor Ben Ebikabowei (aka Boylof) and Commander Africa Ukparasia have concluded plans to significantly</p>	<p>The primary driver behind this intent is financial. Illegal bunkering is also assessed to be responsible for the majority of inter-militant</p>

	<p>increase their operations in theft of crude oil from major oil wells and pipelines in BYS. This may have been triggered by increasing pressure from their loyalists who have complained that their monthly salary from the BYS Govt is too irregular and insufficient to sustain them. The likely target areas, which may witness an increase in illegal bunkering activities, are assessed to be EA Field, NAOC Clough Creek Flow Station in Southern Ijaw LGA and SPDC Agge Flow Station in Ekeremor LGA. Arrangements are said to be underway for barges/vessels to be used to evacuate the products out of the country for sale.</p> <p>SINC EW REP 099, dated 18 Nov 08 refers.</p>	<p>conflicts, driven by the need for territorial control and local dominance in order to secure access to assets offering lucrative opportunities from large-scale theft. Two large-scale crude oil theft operations were recently disrupted by the JTF this year. Most recently on 16 Nov 08, MT Akuada was impounded by the JTF. On board were 22 Filipinos assessed to have been working in collaboration with Government Ekpemupolo. Although it is unlikely that the JTF will be able or is indeed motivated to eradicate oil theft and illegal bunkering completely, it is assessed that efforts will be stepped up to counter the threat posed by crude oil thieves. This may lead to a backlash against the GSF.</p>
<p>11 Nov 08</p>	<p>Boylof threatens renewed attacks against Oil and Gas Assets and the JTF in the Niger Delta.</p> <p>On 10 November 08, media reporting indicated that the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) warned that it might launch "another oil war" code-named "Hurricane Obama" with the aim to target the oil industry in an unprecedented manner, if the JTF carries out an alleged plan to attack two of its major camps located in Bayelsa and Delta states (NFDK).</p> <p>SINC EW REPS 087, 093, 094, 095 & 096 refer.</p>	<p>On 11 Nov 08, it was announced that the LGA primaries were to be postponed until further notice following a body of threat traffic, indicating that as a result of the precarious security situation in BYS State currently unfolding, the elections are likely to be targeted by Boylof. Boylof has threatened to target the JTF and the oil and gas industry if any military operations are mounted against him. Vulnerable areas are currently assessed to be EA Field, Facilities at Tunu, Opukushi, Benisede, Brass Creek, Ogbotobo, Nun River and Diebu Creek.</p>
<p>25 Sep 2008</p>	<p>Arising from the alleged incessant JTF attack on militants in the Niger Delta, representatives of some reconciled militant leaders including those of Asari Dokubo, Farah Dagogo, Ateke Tom, Boylof, Africa, Young Shall Grow, John Togo, met in Benin, Edo State on 24 Sep 08. The initial aim of the meeting was to set up a Joint Emergency Response Squad (ERS) that could be called up at short notice to challenge/confront the JTF, whenever an attack is launched on any camp or community. Indications are that the reconciled militant leaders considered setting up a Joint ERS (that will be made up of tried/tested foot soldiers) as an effective operational strategy to strengthen their war with the JTF.</p>	<p>In order to curb and threat, it is reported that Boylof requested Chief E.K Clark to confirm NFG's position as a result of recent investigations. Clark was quoted to have counselled the militant leaders against further hostilities in the region. He allegedly assured them of fruitful negotiation with the Presidency and enjoined the various camps to sustain the cease-fire. He warned that any attack on oil installations/facilities might compel FG to read the riot act. Upon Clark's advice, the meeting resolved among others to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Suspend the ESR plan. - Sustained the cease-fire. - Advise militants to exercise wisdom and caution in their activities. <p>Should Government fail to keep faith with terms of the negotiation after three months, there are likely to be renewed hostilities.</p>

STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

The following series of graphs provide statistical analysis of incident rates and trends in the various operational areas. The analysis is strictly caveated by the fact that it is based solely on the number of incidents and data available to SINC at the time. The graphics and analysis are as accurate as possible, but should not be considered as completely authoritative.

Executive Summary:

- Militant Attack on Utorogu FLB and Gas Plant
- Activities of NUPENG & PENGASSAN
- East Overview
- West Overview

Short Term Assessment:

1. **Militant Attack on Utorogu FLB and Gas Plant.** On 07 Feb 09, the Utorogu FLB and Gas Plant was attacked by approximately 40 armed youth. They succeeded in gaining access to the control room at the Gas Plant where a letter written by Ughievwen Youth Bodies Fighters to the Chairman, Ughelli South LGA was later discovered. The JTF on site successfully repelled the attack and no damage was occasioned on the FLB or Gas Plant. MEND subsequently claimed that the attack was part of its' threatened program and advised that more such attacks would be carried out. It is assessed that the attack may actually have been carried out not by MEND fighters as claimed but by aggrieved member of a community. This attack prompted the Urhobo Youths under the aegis of Urhobo Development and Monitoring Group and some members of the Delta State Waterways Security Committee (DSWSC) to meet with DTS. They recommended the setting up of an Inland Security outfit to compliment the efforts of the DSWSC. It is assessed that the public outcry generated by the attack and the commitment shown by the community to safeguarding the facility may avert future community youth attacks. However, the claim by MEND introduces an element of militancy that cannot be discountenanced.

2. **Activities of NUPENG and PENGASSAN.** The industrial action threatened by the two main oil industry trade unions was deferred by three weeks after the unions entered into negotiations with FGN representatives. However, the Total Zonal Branch of PENGASSAN still went ahead with a three day warning strike which commenced on 09 Feb 09. It is assessed that there was some form of communication breakdown between the National body and the Total Branch. This breakdown could be attributed to the aggrieved state of the Total personnel who have been hard hit by the recent upsurge in kidnaps. It is likely that the three-week postponement will be characterised by series of negotiations, however the ability of the FGN to meet up with all the demands of the unions is assessed to be low. It is assessed that the three-week ultimatum may end with some form of industrial action being taken if the threatened MEND Hurricane Obama/Operation Delete/Operation Zero Exploration is actualised.

EAST

3. **Overview.** The State Government responded to the heightened insecurity in PHC by refocusing GSF attention on the City Centre and away from the creeks and waterways. Flash points, criminal escape routes, and crime prone areas such as Iwofe, Ada George and Abacha roads have now been placed under surveillance by GSF. Further, the State House of Assembly is presently considering a bill, which seeks to make the offence of kidnap punishable by death sentence as opposed to the maximum 10-year jail sentence applicable prior. Despite these efforts, incidents of criminality such as kidnappings remained high. It is assessed that the gains of the new measure may not be felt immediately, however their efficacy can better be judged at the end of the week in view.

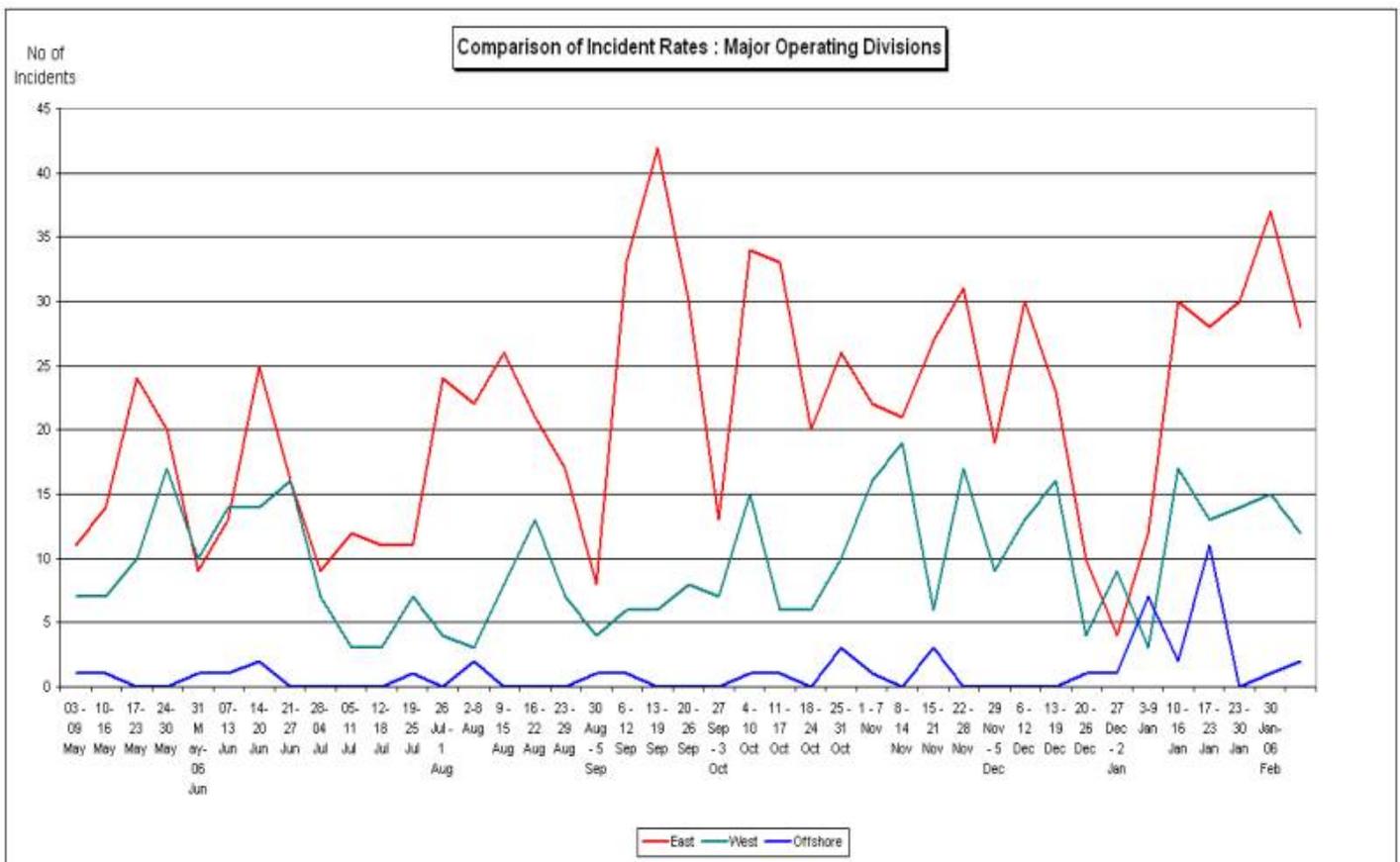
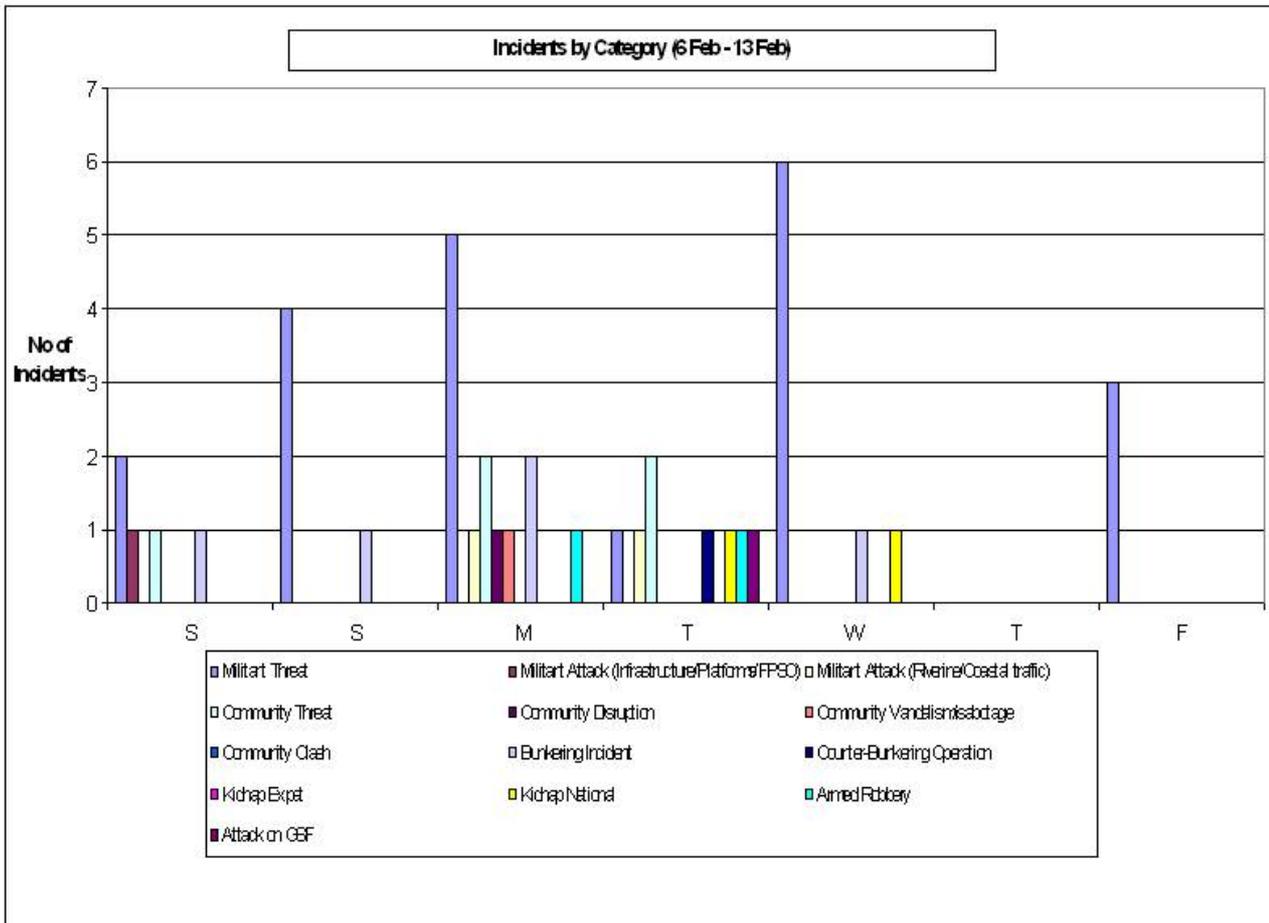
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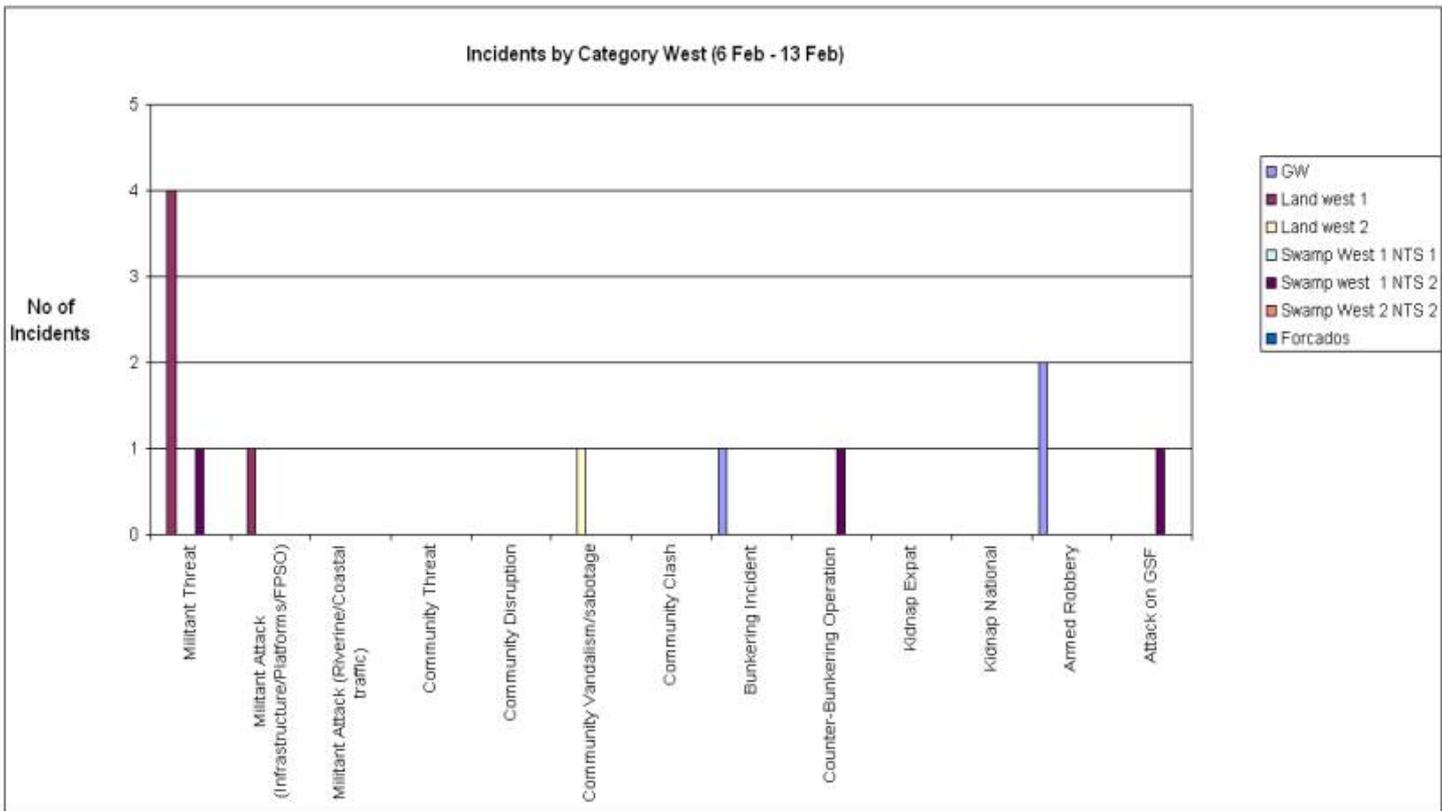
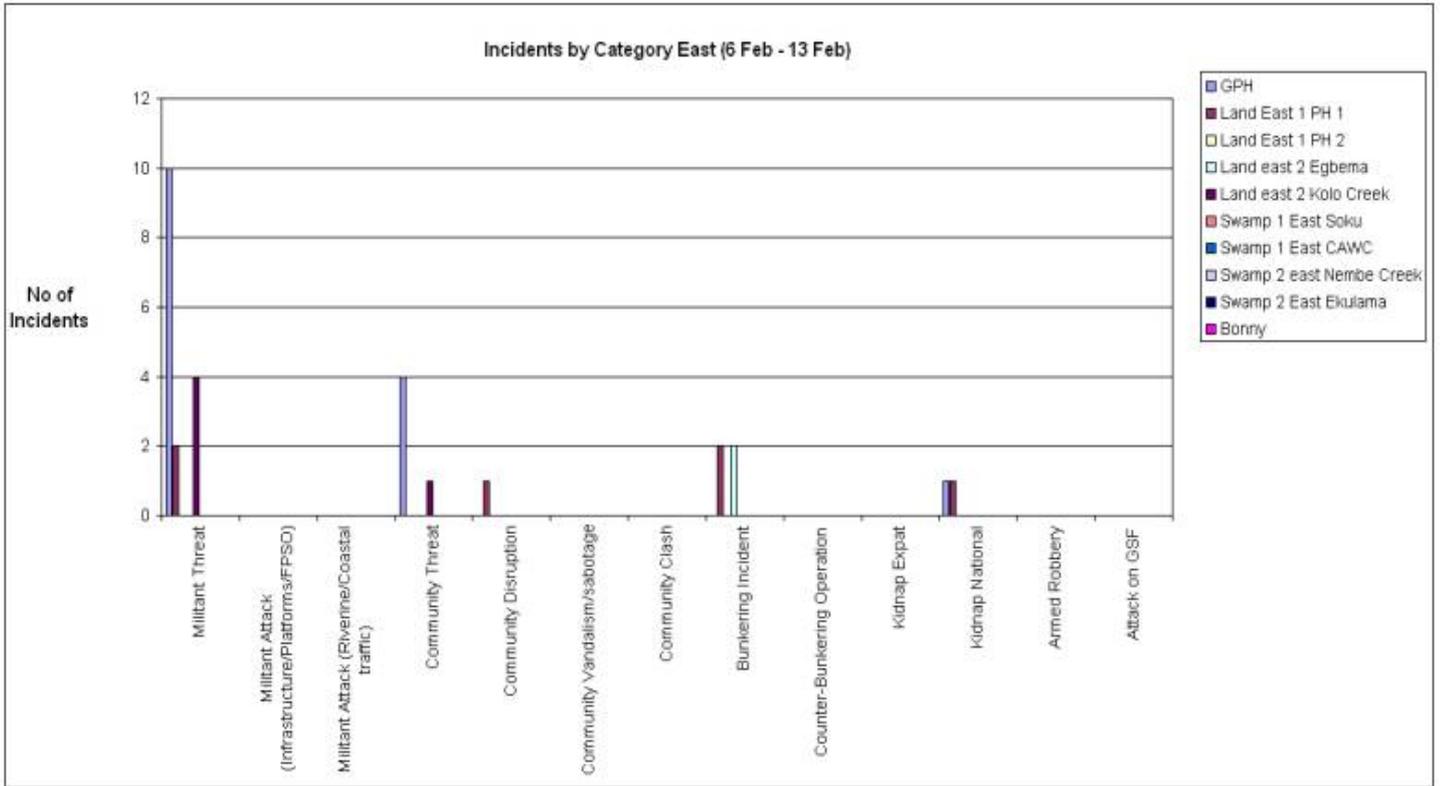
4. **Overview.** The response to the Utorogu attack remains the focal point of security in the West Re-entry project. Minor criminal activities such as armed robbery and community agitations

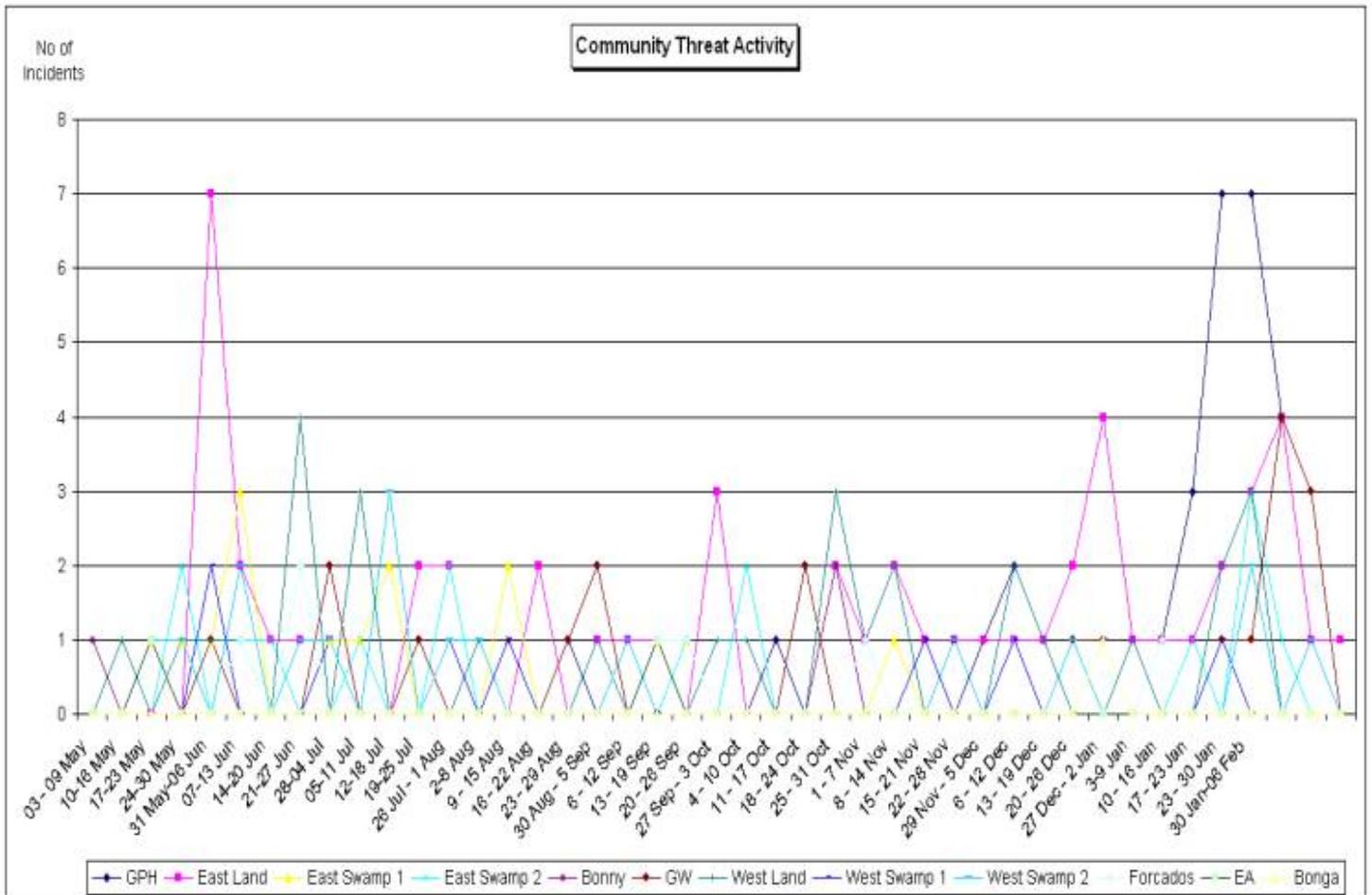
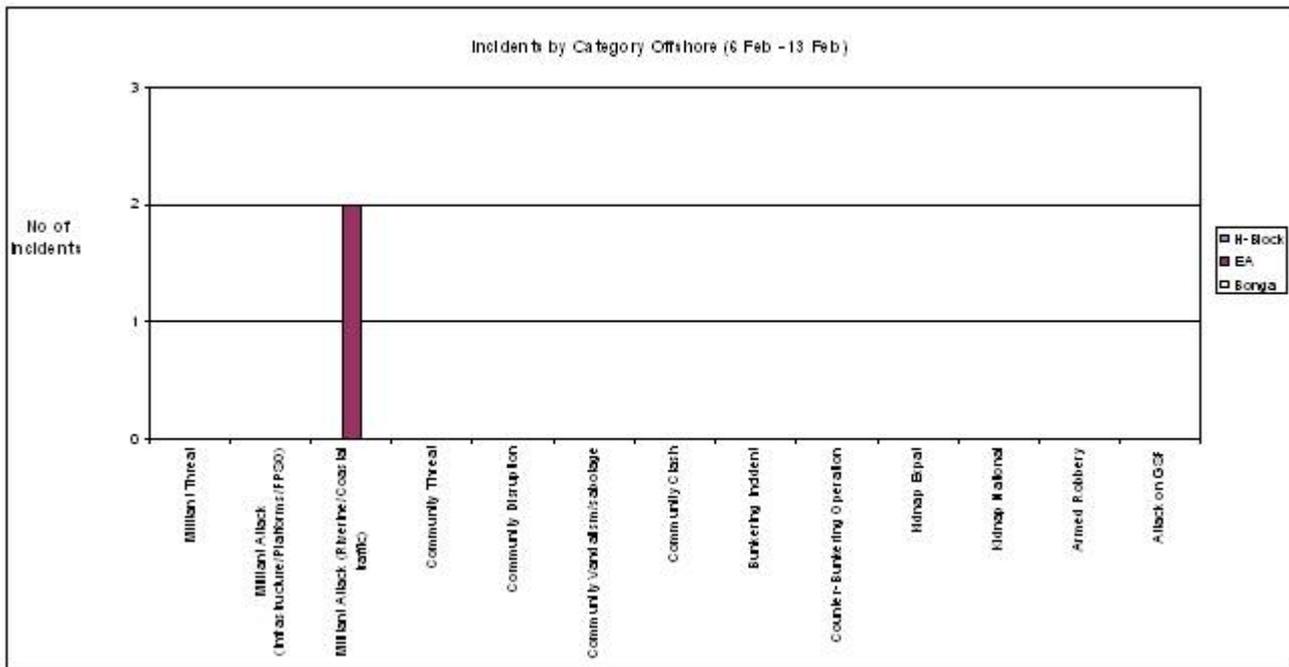
continued through the period. The stance of the DTS Government remains that militant activity will be curbed by use of GSF, and militants have been asked to steer clear of the state. It is assessed that the efforts underway by the DTS Government to engage Urhobo youth and members of the DSWSC may prove to deter further communal based disruptions.

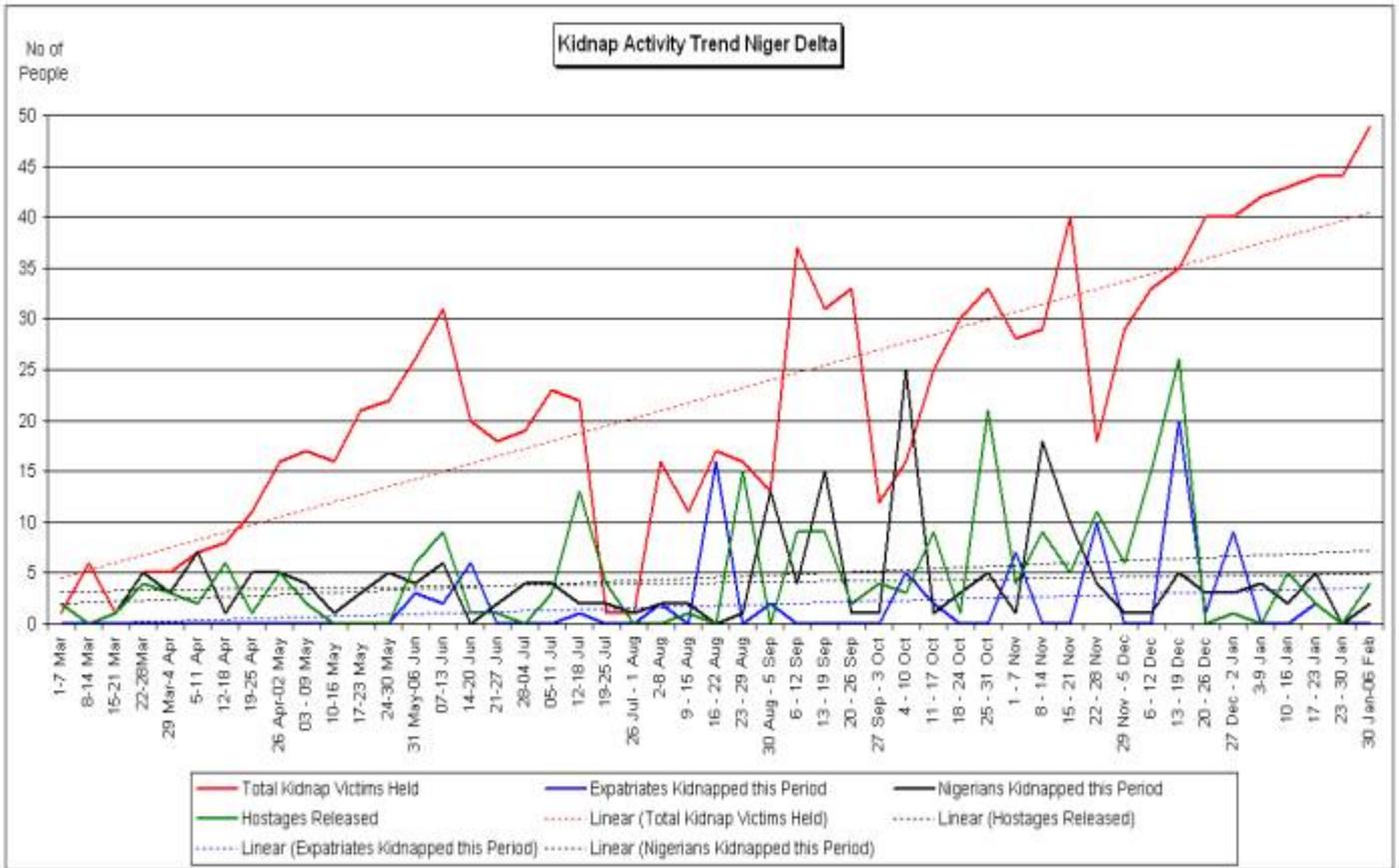
The Weekly Significant Incident Trend Graphs are below:

Significant Incident Graphs









Kidnapping Update:

- Reverend Doctor Mike Ifijeh, the General Overseer of Covenant Faith Assembly, located off Ada George Road, is kidnapped from his residence at Okocha Road, Mbuguoshimini, Rumuolumene at about 1035hrs. A ransom demand of N8m is made.
- 11 Feb 09: Mrs. Grace Kinah, mother of an SPDC staff is abducted at B-Dere..

Releases:

No known releases.

Glossary of Abbreviations:

AO	Area of Operations
BAMOSD	Bakassi Movement for Self-Determination
COMA	Coalition for Militant Action
COOL	Committee Of Organisational Leaders
CR	Community Relations
EFCC	Economic and Financial Crimes Commission
ERT	Emergency Response Team
FEHN	Foundation for Ethnic Harmony in Nigeria
FNDIC	Federated Niger Delta Ijaw Communities
FNU	Forename unknown
GAND	Grand Alliance for the Niger Delta
GPH	Greater Port Harcourt
GSF	Government Security Forces
GW	Greater Warri
IVF	Iduwini Volunteer Force
IYC	Ijaw Youth Council
JRC	Joint Revolutionary Council (Umbrella Organisation for a number of militant groups)
JTF	Joint Task Force
KIA	Killed in action
LGA	Local Government Area
LN	Local National (Nigerian)
LTO	Licence to Operate
MASSOB	Movement for the Actualisation of the Sovereign State of Biafra
MEND	Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (Militant Group)
MONDP	Movement of the Niger Delta People
MOPOL	Mobile Police
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MOSOP	Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People
MOWC	Maritime Organisation of West and Central Africa
NARTO	National Association of Road Transport Organisations
NDDC	Niger Delta Development Commission
NDPVF	Niger Delta Peoples Volunteer Force (Militant Group)
NDV	Niger Delta Vigilantes (Militant Group)
NGO	Non-Government Organisation
NNPC	Nigerian National Petroleum Company
NPA	Nigerian Ports Authority
NPF	Nigerian Police Force
NFDK	No further Details Known
NSTR	Nothing Significant to Report
OCG	Organised Crime Group
OGI	Oil and Gas Industry
OOLA	Ogoni Oilfields Landlords Association
OPC	O'odua Peoples Congress
OYC	Ogoni Youth Council
OS	Open Source
PDP	People's Democratic Party
PENCODEF	Pennington Community Development Front Police Mobile Force (an arm of the Nigerian Police Force designed as an intervention force)
RTA	Road Traffic Accident
SAFA	Small Arms Fire Attack
SCAPO	South Cameroon People's Organisation
SNU	Surname Unknown
SSG	Secretary to the State Government
SSPA	South-South People's Assembly
SSS	State Security Service
TBC	To be confirmed
UI	Unidentified
WEF	With Effect From
WIA	Wounded in action
WNDVF	Western Niger Delta Volunteer Force