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Director, Counterintelligence

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No Active Alerts

TYPES OF ADVISORIES

Bulletin

Describes current developments or general trends regarding threats of terrorism.

Elevated Alert

Warns of a credible terrorism threat against the United States.

Imminent Alert

Warns of a credible, specific and impending terrorism threat against the United States.

NASA CI/CT MONTHLY NEWS UPDATE – May 2016

This monthly newsletter is published to increase NASA personnel awareness of significant current issues related to counterintelligence, counterterrorism, and counterintelligence cyber matters. To learn more about CI/CT awareness, or to schedule a CI/CT presentation, please contact the CI POC located on the last page.

Significant Counterterrorism (CT) Issues:

ISIS SUSPECT PLOTTED TO BRING SYRIAN JIHADI'S TO US VIA MEXICO



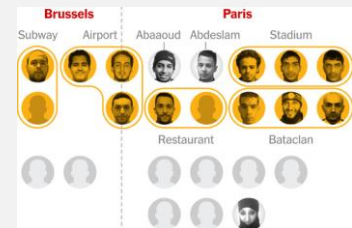
Prosecutors said one defendant, Guled Ali Omar, talked about establishing a route from the U.S. to Syria through Mexico, then telling the Islamic State group about the route so it could be used to send fighters into America to carry out attacks.

<https://www.clarionproject.org/news/isis-suspect-plotted-bring-syrian-jihadis-us-thru-mexico>

IN PHOTOS, ISIS SHOWS HOW BRUSSELS TERROR ORIGINATED IN SYRIA

Both the Brussels bomber and the Paris plotters posed for carefully choreographed scenes, showing the atrocities they committed in Syria and Iraq. The purpose is clear: to show the West that the attackers really were sent from the heart of the group's terror machinery.

http://www.nytimes.com/2016/04/14/world/middleeast/in-online-magazine-isis-paints-a-portrait-of-brussels-attackers.html?_r=2



Significant Counterintelligence Issues:

FORMER INTELLIGENCE CHAIRMAN: MORE FOREIGN SPIES IN US THAN EVER



There are currently more foreign intelligence operatives in the United States than at any point in the country's history, the former head of the House Intelligence Committee claimed recently. "There are more spies in the United States today from foreign nation states that at any time in our history — including the Cold War," said former Rep. Mike Rogers.

<http://thehill.com/policy/national-security/274704-former-intel-chairman-more-foreign-spies-in-us-than-ever-before>

RASH OF CHINESE SPY CASES SHOWS A SILENT NATIONAL EMERGENCY

There have been four cases of Chinese espionage against the United States in just the last three weeks. These haven't been the run-of-the-mill cyber spies either; these are Cold War-style cases of individuals allegedly caught spying on behalf of a communist regime.



<http://www.theepochtimes.com/n3/2038850-china-security-rash-of-chinese-spy-cases-shows-a-silent-national-emergency/>



Significant Cyber Issues:

FORMER DOE WORKER SENTENCED IN EMAIL ‘SPEAR-PHISHING’ ATTEMPT



A former Energy Department employee was sentenced to 18 months in prison after offering to help a foreign government infiltrate the agency's computer system to steal nuclear secrets and then attempting an email "spear-phishing" attack in an FBI sting operation.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/former-energy-department-worker-sentenced-in-email-spear-phishing-attempt/2016/04/11/92e32e06-0004-11e6-b823-707c79ce3504_story.html

NORTH KOREAN CYBER CAPABILITY AMONG WORLD'S BEST, SAYS U.S. ARMY GENERAL

North Korea's asymmetric warfare potential is being bolstered by one of the world's best and most organized cyber-attack capabilities, according to the Army general nominated to command US forces in South Korea.



<http://www.todayonline.com/world/asia/north-korean-cyber-capability-among-worlds-best-says-us-army-general>

Analyst Notes – Items to Watch:

The latest ISIS attacks in Europe and the subsequent arrests of terrorist supporters across Europe show that ISIS still has reach. Although ISIS has suffered some defeats on the battlefield and a loss of territory, ISIS as an organization has proven to be resilient. ISIS has shifted large numbers of fighters and leadership cadre to Libya and is expanding its reach in Afghanistan and South East Asia. Al-Qaeda's (AQ) military operations in Yemen and Syria (through AQAP and Jabhat Al-Nusra) continue to show success, as well as expanded operations in West Africa. ISIS and AQ plotting/recruiting continues, despite travel to Syria becoming extremely difficult. Chinese espionage is dominating the news, with a particular emphasis on traditional espionage agents. North Korean cyber capabilities have now surpassed Iran and pose a significant threat towards the United States and South Korea. The NASA CI/CT division continues to monitor these threats and any others that have the potential to harm NASA or its equities.

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