Office of Protective Services

NASA CI/CT MONTHLY NEWS UPDATE – June 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:

TOP U.S. INTEL OFFICIAL: ISIS CAN STAGE EUROPE-STYLE ATTACKS IN U.S.

ISIS has the capability to stage a Paris-style attack in the U.S. using local cells to strike in multiple locations and inflict dozens of casualties, according to the Obama administration's top U.S. intelligence official.

http://www.cnn.com/2016/05/04/middleeast/obama-clapper-isis-attack-u-s-soil/

ISLAMIC STATE GROUP LEADER URGES ATTACKS IN EUROPE/U.S.

An Islamic State group spokesman has urged sympathizers in Europe and the U.S. to launch attacks on civilians there if they are unable to travel to the group's self-declared caliphate in Syria and Iraq.

http://bigstory.ap.org/article/0da4bd9d78cc441c87fd00f5a77ae764/islamic-state-group-leader-urges-attacks-europe-and-us

TERROR THREAT FACED ACROSS EUROPE 'HIGHLY COMPLEX'

The head of Germany's domestic intelligence agency has said the deadly attacks in Paris and Brussels show the "highly complex" nature of the terrorism threat facing Europe.


Significant Counterintelligence Issues:

NAVY LT. CMDR. LIN PLEADS NOT GUILTY TO SPYING CHARGES

In newly un-redacted charge sheets released recently, it was learned that Lin’s espionage charges revolve around incidents in Washington, D.C. Between September 2012 and May 2014, Lin gave information classified as “secret” with “intent or reason to believe it would be used to the advantage of a foreign nation.”

FBI HEAD: UNIQUE CASE ILLUSTRATES DANGERS OF ECONOMIC ESPIONAGE

China, Russia and Iran are only too happy to steal American technological and trade secrets if it will help them save money and boost their own military capabilities, according to the FBI’s special agent in charge of the Knoxville office. The US, in turn, suffers when countries engage in such economic espionage, said SAC Reinhold.


CYBER’S HOT, BUT LOW-TECH SPIES ARE STILL A THREAT

U.S. Navy Lt Cmdr. Lin’s recent arrest is a stark reminder that traditional espionage is ongoing. Despite such a global focus on securing computer systems in the wake of (alleged) Chinese hacking of the Office of Personnel Management, Edward Snowden’s theft of National Security Agency data, Bradley Manning’s release of classified information to the website WikiLeaks and several others, we must continue and renew the focus on countering all of the foreign intelligence methods used to obtain U.S. information.


Analyst Notes – Items to Watch:

Despite battlefield setbacks and the loss of territory in Iraq and Syria, ISIS is spreading across Libya, Yemen, the Sinai as well as the Far East. In addition, the ISIS “brand” has attracted a number of other terrorist groups to rally to the ISIS banner. Both Europe and the United States have been publically threatened by ISIS leadership and are on heightened alert. Al-Qaeda’s (AQ) military operations in Yemen and Syria continue to be successful, including expanded influence in Western Africa. Recent espionage arrests show that conventional espionage efforts by other nations have not diminished in any way. The NASA CI/CT division continues to monitor these threats and any others that have the potential to harm NASA or its equities.

NASA CI Offices:

Ames Research Center: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Armstrong Flight Research Center: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Glenn Research Center: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Goddard Space Flight Center: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Jet Propulsion Laboratory: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Johnson Space Center: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Kennedy Space Center: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Langley Research Center: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Marshall Space Flight Center: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
NASA Headquarters: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Stennis Space Center: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
NASA Headquarters Cyber: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
NCIJTF Cyber: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)