CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

31 AUGUST 2016

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Placerville—Local 'Tax Defiers' Cheated IRS Out of Millions, Prosecutors Say
(U) A Placerville business that represents tax defiers—people who question the legitimacy of the US revenue collection system—is at the center of a tax-fraud scheme that IRS officials began investigating in the fall of 2008, according to federal prosecutors. The scheme involved sovereign citizens who issued financial instruments through their own common-law court towards officials and prosecutors who found themselves bombarded with multimillion-dollar liens allegedly filed by the people under investigation. The loss is estimated to be close to $9 million and involves districts from all over the country, says Assistant US Attorney Matthew Segal.
SOURCE: 30 August 2016, Sacramento Bee

(U) NATIONAL

(U) District of Columbia—Feds to Distribute $53 Million to States to Curb Opioid Abuse
(U) Washington— The US Department of Health and Human Services announced $53 million in funding to 44 States, four tribes and the District of Columbia to improve access to treatment for opioid use disorders, reduce opioid related deaths, and strengthen drug misuse prevention efforts. Administered by Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (AMHSA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the funding supports six programs, of which California is a recipient. The administration is also calling on Congress to provide $1.1 billion in additional funding.
SOURCE: 30 August 2016, WPMT Fox 43 and 31 August 2016, Associated Press

(U) Florida—Three New Cases of Local Zika Transmission; US Funding for Fighting Zika Nearly Spent
(U) Miami-Dade County—Florida health officials yesterday said they were investigating three new Zika virus cases likely stemming from local mosquito bites in Miami-Dade County, including two cases outside of the known areas of active transmission. Meanwhile, the director of the CDC warned that federal funds of $222 million to fight the Zika virus were nearly exhausted. About $35 million of the $194 million spent on Zika had been allocated to Florida, which has used a majority of it on mosquito eradication. The new infections bring the state's total of non-travel-related cases to 46, according to the Florida Department of Health.
SOURCE: 30 August 2016, New York Times

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Afghanistan—American Hostage of Taliban Appears in New Video
(U) Kabul—A Pennsylvania woman held by the Taliban since 2012 appeared in a new video posted online yesterday, looking dazed but healthy with her Canadian husband and saying their captors will kill the couple if the Afghanistan government doesn't stop executing militant prisoners. Caitlan Coleman, 30, has been suspected of being in the custody of the Afghan Taliban's Haqqani network, which has fought US forces in an insurgency along the border with Pakistan while also operating a lucrative kidnapping for ransom business in both countries. It is the first glimpse of the couple since 2012.

SOURCE: 30 August 2016, ABC News

(U) Belgium—SWIFT Discloses More Cyber Thefts
(U) Brussels—SWIFT, the global financial messaging system, disclosed new hacking attacks on its member banks today as it pressured them to comply with recently-instituted security procedures. In a private letter to clients, SWIFT said that new cyber-theft attempts—some of them successful—have surfaced since June, when it last updated customers on a string of attacks discovered after the $81 million cyber heist on the Bangladesh central bank. A SWIFT spokeswoman declined to elaborate on the recently uncovered incidents or the security issues detailed in the letter.
SOURCE: 31 August 2016, Reuters

(U) France—Cocaine Worth 50 Million Euros Discovered at Coca-Cola Plant
(U) Signes—Cocaine with a street value of up to 50 million euros was discovered by workers at a Coca-Cola plant in France, a French prosecutor said. Employees of the plant alerted authorities after finding sacks containing 815 pounds of cocaine hidden in a shipping container holding orange juice from Costa Rica. The prosecutor office said that it has opened an investigation into the trafficking and importing of illegal drugs, but have ruled out any involvement of Coca-Cola employees.
SOURCE: 31 August 2016, BBC and Associated Press

(U) Syria—Key ISIL Deputy and Spokesman Killed in Aleppo
(U) Aleppo—Mohammad al-Adnani, the official spokesman of ISIL and one of its most senior members, has died in Syria, the terror group said in a rare public statement. A statement from ISIL's Amaq news agency said yesterday al-Adnani died while inspecting military operations in the area of Aleppo, Syria. The group has not revealed his cause of death and said it was "determined to seek revenge" for the killing. Coalition forces have not confirmed his death but the Pentagon acknowledged that he was targeted in a precision strike on Tuesday near Al-Bab. Russia is also claiming responsibility for the spokesman's death.
SOURCE: 31 August 2016, CNN

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

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