CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

1 FEBRUARY 2017

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) San Diego—Hoax Bomb Threats Target Jewish Centers in La Jolla, Nation
(U) Hoax bomb threats prompted the evacuation of the Jewish Community Center in La Jolla and at centers across the country yesterday, the third wave of threats this month to Jewish centers nationwide. Yesterday's bomb threats were made against 14 Jewish community centers in 10 states and in Ontario, Canada, according to the JCC Association of North America. The centers were given the all-clear from law enforcement officials and most had resumed regular operations, though security was heightened. The FBI is actively investigating the calls.
SOURCE: 31 January 2017, San Diego Union-Tribune

(U) San Diego—More Than 400 Arrested in Statewide Human Trafficking Sweep
(U) More than 400 people were arrested in a three-day statewide sweep aimed at stopping the sexual exploitation of young women and girls, law enforcement authorities in San Diego and other jurisdictions announced yesterday. "Operation Reclaim and Rebuild" resulted in the recovery of 28 sexually exploited children and 27 women, according to the San Diego Human Trafficking Task Force. In addition, 142 male suspects were arrested on suspicion of solicitation, 238 suspects on suspicion of prostitution and 36 male suspects on suspicion of pimping. The operation involved more than 160 personnel from 18 different law enforcement agencies in San Diego County alone.
SOURCE: 31 January 2017, CBS 8 San Diego

(U) NATIONAL

(U) Florida—Man Convicted in ISIL-Inspired Bomb Plot in Florida Keys
(U) Miami—A federal jury convicted a man yesterday of a plot to detonate a nail-filled backpack bomb on a Florida Keys beach that prosecutors said was inspired by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). Harlem Suarez, 25, was arrested in 2015 after taking possession of an inert explosive device provided by an FBI informant, and was intending to bury it on a Key West beach and detonate it. Suarez was convicted of the attempted use of a weapon of mass destruction and providing material support to a terrorist organization, and faces a maximum of life in prison at his sentencing set for April.
SOURCE: 31 January 2017, Associated Press

(U) Oklahoma—Cocaine Found in Nose of American Airlines Plane
(U) Tulsa—Seven bricks of cocaine with a street value of at least $200,000 were discovered in the nose of an American Airlines plane that flew from Colombia to Oklahoma, according to the Tulsa County Sheriff's Office. The drugs were discovered by a technician in the nose gear's electronic bay after the Boeing 757, which first flew from Bogotá, was flagged for maintenance. The approximate 31 pounds of cocaine were found wrapped in bricks covered in wheel grease. Authorities believe it is cartel-related due to the sophistication of the operation.
SOURCE: 31 January 2017, CNN

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Austria—Hackers Hold Entire Hotel for Ransom, Locking Guests Out of Rooms

(U) Turrach—A luxury hotel in Austria recently had to pay hackers a ransom after they managed to access its electronic key system and lock the hotel out of its own computer system. The management of Romantik Seehotel Jaegerwirt, in the Austrian Alps, said yesterday that they've been repeatedly targeted by cybercriminals, with one recent infection with ransom software resulting in a complete shutdown of hotel computers. The infection resulted in new guests being unable to get keys to their rooms, and the system was restored only after the owners paid the ransom of nearly $1,600 in bitcoin.
SOURCE: 31 January 2017, Associated Press, and 30 January 2017, New York Times

(U) Czech Republic—Foreign State Seen Behind Hack into Czech Foreign Ministry Email

(U) Prague—Hackers have breached dozens of email accounts at the Czech Foreign Ministry in an attack resembling one against the US Democratic Party that the former Obama administration blamed on Russia, Foreign Minister Lubomir Zaoralek stated yesterday. According to experts, the character and sophistication of the attack was such that it was likely conducted by a foreign state. Zaoralek said the ministry's internal communication system was not affected and no confidential material was compromised, though an extensive amount of data was stolen.
SOURCE: 31 January 2017, Reuters

(U) Germany—Key Tunisian Among 16 Arrested in Raids on Jihadist Suspects

(U) Frankfurt—A 36-year-old Tunisian man suspected of recruiting for ISIL has been detained during multiple raids in Germany. The unnamed man was one of 16 people arrested across the central state of Hesse, as 1,100 police searched flats, businesses and mosques early this morning. Authorities in Frankfurt said the operation was the result of a four-month investigation, and had evidence extremists were preparing an attack, but described the planning as in its early stages.
SOURCE: 1 February 2017, BBC

(U) Netherlands—Organized Cybercrime Gang Members Arrested After ATM Attacks

(U) The Hague—Five members of an international organized cybercrime group have been arrested and three of them convicted so far as a result of an investigation by law enforcement agencies from Europe and Asia. The group used a variety of different cyberattacks to infect ATMs and force them to dispense money, causing losses to banks estimated to be around 3 million Euros. The arrests were made by agencies in Taiwan, Romania, and Belarus, with support of Europol's European Cybercrime Center.
SOURCE: 27 January 2017, ZD Net

(U) SOUTHWEST BORDER

(U) Texas—Drug Smugglers Use Road Spikes to Escape Border Patrol

(U) Rio Grande City—Drug smugglers were able to escape from Border Patrol vehicles last week after makeshift road spikes called "caltrops" were deployed. On 27 January, Border Patrol agents responded to an area near Rio Grande City after receiving information regarding a vehicle picking up narcotics. As agents attempted to intercept the vehicle returning to the Rio Grande River, the smugglers deployed the caltrops, disabling two Border Patrol vehicles. No injuries were reported and no arrests were made.
SOURCE: 31 January 2017, CBS Austin

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

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