CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

2 NOVEMBER 2016

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) San Diego – Thieves Drove Stolen Cars to Mexico
(U) A grand jury has indicted three men who authorities say operated a US-to-Mexico stolen car ring in San Diego. At least 81 vehicles were stolen by the trio and driven across the border, according to the indictment filed on 19 October in San Diego federal court. The investigation began in June 2016, as a Border Patrol agent was compiling a list of stolen vehicles. Investigators from the Border Patrol and Regional Auto Theft Task Force used tracking devices and surveillance to continue the investigation.
SOURCE: 1 November 2016, San Diego Tribune

(U) NATIONAL

(U) Illinois – Hacker Sentenced for Destructive Cyberattack
(U) Chicago – A Tennessee man was sentenced yesterday, to nearly four years in prison for his role in a notorious group of cybercriminals responsible for a destructive hacking spree on dozens of businesses, nonprofits and government entities. In 2011 the FBI raided the home of Timothy Justen French and seized his computer as part of a separate investigation into computer hacking. French, who was 17 at the time, was not charged in that case, but was arrested less than three years later for a large-scale campaign of hacking connected to the hacking group NullCrew. According to his plea declaration, French and other NullCrew hackers stole user names and passwords of more than 12,000 customers using a server based in Naperville, Illinois.
SOURCE: 2 November 2016, Chicago Tribune

(U) Iowa – Two Officers Killed in Ambush-Style Attacks
(U) Des Moines – Authorities have apprehended a man suspected in the killings of two Des Moines area police officers who were shot to death today in what authorities described as separate ambush-style attacks. Officers from the Dallas County Sheriff's Office and Iowa State Patrol took 46-year-old Scott Michael Greene into custody and were taking him to Des Moines, police said. His arrest came about eight hours after the killings of the two officers.
SOURCE: 2 November 2016, Associated Press

(U) New York – Six Facing Sex Trafficking Charges Arrested in US and Mexico
(U) Manhattan – Six of seven people facing international sex trafficking charges have been arrested in the United States and Mexico, authorities announced yesterday. US Attorney General Loretta E. Lynch and Manhattan US Attorney Preet Bharara said in a joint release that an indictment returned in September 2016 was unsealed last week revealing charges against members of a sex trafficking ring that operated largely as a family business from 2000 until 2016. The indictment said it exploited adults and children in Mexico and the US through threats, false romantic promises, and physical and sexual violence.
SOURCE: 1 November 2016, Yahoo News

(U) Washington – Microsoft Says Russia-Linked Hackers Exploiting Windows Flaw

(U) Redmond – Microsoft said yesterday that a hacking group previously linked to the Russian government and US political hacks was behind recent cyber-attacks that exploited a newly discovered Windows security flaw. The software maker said in an advisory on its website there had been a small number of attacks using "spear phishing" emails from a hacking group known Strontium. Microsoft's disclosure of the new attacks and the link to Russia came after Washington accused Moscow of launching an unprecedented hacking campaign aimed at disrupting and discrediting the upcoming US election. Microsoft said a patch to protect Windows users against the newly discovered threat will be released on 8 November, which is Election Day. It was not clear whether the Windows vulnerability had been used in any of the recent US political hacks.
SOURCE: 1 November2016, Reuters

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) India – US Issues Travel Advisory for India amid Fears of ISIL Attacks
(U) New Deli – The US embassy in New Delhi issued a security message to American citizens in India yesterday to be vigilant following reports that the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) may be planning to attack targets there. "Recent Indian media reports indicate ISIL's desire to attack targets in India," the advisory said, warning of an increased threat to places frequented by Westerners such as religious sites, markets and festival venues. Officials from the National Investigation Agency, India's counter-terrorism unit, has been quoted as saying that an Indian man arrested last month in Tamil Nadu and charged with terrorism offences had been an active member of ISIL.
SOURCE: 1 November 2016, Reuters

(U) Kazakhstan – Man Sentenced to Death for Police and Prostitute Shooting
(U) Almaty – A Kazakh man was sentenced to death today for killing 10 people, mostly policemen, in a July 2016 shooting spree, to avenge what he called the suffering of Muslims at the hands of police. Authorities at the time described Ruslan Kulekbayev's attack on a police station and security office in Kazakhstan's financial capital Almaty as an extremist assault. The 26-year-old pleaded guilty to the shooting, and admitted killing a woman working as a prostitute the night before, saying he saw her occupation as sinful. A month before Kulekbayev's attacks, two dozen men attacked two firearms stores and a National Guard facility in the city of Aktobe, killing seven people.
SOURCE: 2 November 2016, Reuters

(U) Switzerland – Police Arrest Imam, Four Suspects after Raid on Mosque
(U) Zurich – Swiss authorities have arrested four people on suspicion of inciting violence and crime after a raid on a mosque in the northern city of Winterthur, the Zurich chief prosecutor's office said today. According to local media, the mosque is suspected of links to extremist groups and several young men who used to frequent it have reportedly gone to join ISIL. The raids followed reports to police that an Ethiopian imam called in a sermon last month for the murder of Muslims who refused to join communal prayers in the mosque. The imam was also said to have urged the congregation to denounce any Muslims who shunned the communal prayers.
SOURCE: 2 November 2016, Reuters

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

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