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**Current Terrorist
Threat Condition**
No Active Alerts

NASA CI/CT MONTHLY NEWS UPDATE – December 2015

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:

TERRORISM: DEATH & ECONOMIC TOLL SET NEW RECORDS

The rise of Islamic State and Boko Haram brought the economic and human cost of terrorism to their worst levels in 2014, according to new statistics. <http://www.cnbc.com/2015/11/17/terrorism-death-and-economic-toll-set-new-records.html>



U.S. INVESTIGATORS STRUGGLE TO TRACK HOMEGROWN ISIS SUSPECTS



At least three dozen people in the United States suspected of ties to the Islamic State were under heavy electronic or physical surveillance even before the Paris attacks, senior American officials say. But unlike the attackers in France, the officials say, the majority of those under investigation here never traveled to Syria to fight alongside the Islamic State or receive training from it.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/11/20/us/us-investigators-struggle-to-track-homegrown-isis-suspects.html? r=2>

Significant Counterintelligence Issues:

IN AN ERA OF HIGH-TECH SPYING, OLD-SCHOOL ESPIONAGE IS ON THE RISE

As dependence on technology permeates Western society, so does electronic espionage as state and non-state agents spy, steal and sabotage secure networks, hence the return to less high-tech spying. In spy parlance, the return to old-school tradecraft means HUMINT, or human intelligence.



<http://www.foxnews.com/tech/2015/11/05/in-era-high-tech-spying-old-school-espionage-is-on-rise.html#>

ECONOMIC ESPIONAGE: THE GLOBAL WORKFORCE & THE INSIDER THREAT



It isn't natural to think of your colleagues, be they in the next cubicle or across the globe, as a threat — and most aren't. Sadly, a good deal of industrial, corporate or economic espionage is made possible or conducted by these colleagues, or as they are referred to today, insiders.

<https://securityintelligence.com/economic-espionage-the-global-workforce-and-the-insider-threat/>



Significant Cyber Issues:

U.S. COUNTERINTELLIGENCE CHIEF SKEPTICAL THAT CHINA HAS CURBED SPYING ON U.S.

The U.S. counterintelligence chief said recently that he was skeptical China had followed through on recent promises to curb spying on the United States. The chief said that a briefing that he had been given showed "no indication" from the U.S. private sector "that anything has changed" in the extent of Chinese espionage on the United States.



<http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/11/19/us-usa-cybersecurity-idUSKCN0T72XG20151119#iLDp1oBmzSCPOeiZ.97>

IRAN MILITARY HACKERS TARGET OBAMA ADMINISTRATION ACCOUNTS



Iran's Revolutionary Guards stepped up hacking of email and social media accounts of Obama administration officials in recent weeks, in cyber-attacks believed linked to the arrest of an Iranian-American businessman in Tehran.

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/nov/05/iran-revolutionary-guard-hacking-obama-administration>

[obama-administration](http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/nov/05/iran-revolutionary-guard-hacking-obama-administration)

Analyst Notes – Items to Watch:

The downing of a Russian airliner, suicide attacks in Lebanon and the horrific slaughter in Paris all point to an increasingly sophisticated ISIS threat, not just in the Middle East, but worldwide. In addition, the recent hotel assault in Mali shows that Al Qaeda affiliates are in direct competition with ISIS for headlines. It is obvious that the threat to the United States is considerable and extra vigilance is called for. The number of ISIS plots in the United States continues to rise and both the FBI and DHS expect more "lone wolf" type attacks to be forthcoming. Conventional espionage and the insider threats continue unabated, despite signed international agreements. Iran and China continue their espionage offensives against the United States and other Western countries, often with spectacular success (Example: the OPM hack). 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)

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NASA Headquarters: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

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