

Report:

ISIL Plans to Attack US From Border With Mexico

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) – The ISIL group is “expressing an increased interest” in crossing the US-Mexico border to carry out a terrorist attack on American soil, according to US law enforcement agencies.

Social media postings show terrorists from ISIL, also known as ISIS, are attempting to exploit the porous US-Mexico border and seeking ways to covertly cross it, warns a Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) bulletin obtained by FoxNews.com.

“A review of ISIS social media messaging during the week ending August 26 shows that terrorists are expressing an increased interest in the notion that they could clandestinely infiltrate the southwest border of US, for terror attack,” the bulletin said.

“Social media account holders believed to be ISIS terrorists and propagandists have called for unspecified border operations, or they have sought to raise awareness that illegal entry through Mexico is a viable option,” states the law enforcement bulletin.

The three-page bulletin, entitled “ISIS Interest on the US Southwest Border” and dated August 28 was released on Thursday.

About 32 Twitter and Facebook posts monitored by Texas law enforcement over one recent week reflected interest in the southern border, according to the bulletin.

“The identities of persons operating these accounts cannot be independently verified; however the accounts were selected for monitoring based on several indications that they have been used by actual ISIS terrorists for propaganda purposes and collectively reach tens of thousands of followers,” the bulletin said. “One account was verified as belonging to an individual located in Mosul, Iraq.”

In addition, Judicial Watch, a conservative government watchdog group, said Friday that ISIL operatives are in Juarez, Mexico, just across the border from Texas, and are planning to attack the United States with car bombs.

“Agents across a number of Homeland Security, Justice and Defense agencies have all been placed on alert and instructed to aggressively work all possible leads and sources concerning this imminent terrorist threat,” Judicial Watch said on its website.

The Texas DPS bulletin comes one week after a DHS bulletin dated Au-



The US-Mexico border

gust 22, a copy of which was also obtained by FoxNews.com. That bulletin, entitled “Online Reaction but No Known Credible Homeland Threats from ISIL and Its Supporters Following US Air Strikes,” addresses potential threats in response to recent US airstrikes on ISIL targets in Iraq.

ISIL has taken control of large parts of Syria’s northern territory. The savage group sent its fighters into neighboring Iraq in June, quickly seizing large swaths of ter-

ritory straddling the border between the two countries.

US military officials say the brutal terrorist group is growing in strength and is much more capable than the one US forces faced when the group was called “al-Qaeda-Iraq” during the US war in Iraq.

Senior American officials say the ISIL terror network has been successful in attracting more American and European fighters to Syria in recent months, The New York Times reported on Thursday.

Pentagon:

Iraq Operations Costing \$7.5m Per Day



US soldiers wait for the end of a Detainee Release Ceremony in which 38 detainees were released back into the population in the town of Baharia, Al Anbar Province, Iraq.

WASHINGTON (Press TV) – The Pentagon on Friday said American military operations in Iraq are costing an average of \$7.5 million

per day. “Roughly right now, it’s about \$7.5 million per day,” said Pentagon press secretary Rear Adm. John Kirby during a press briefing.

“That’s based on the snapshot of the operations that have occurred on the 26th of this month,” he said.

President Obama has authorized the deployment of 775 US troops to Iraq since June 16. As of Thursday, there were 768 US troops in and around Baghdad and at a joint operations center in Erbil.

The US military has conducted at least 106 airstrikes in Iraq since Aug. 8, using fighter jets, attack helicopters, a bomber, and armed drones.

The military has also conducted a humanitarian mission to air drop

food, water and medical supplies to Iraqis who were stranded on Mt. Sinjar earlier in the month. US cargo planes dropped at least 108 bundles of supplies.

Kirby said the \$7.5 million being spent per day in Iraq was the average since mid-June, though the day-to-day costs have varied. He said the costs are being covered by the Overseas Contingency Operations budget, more commonly known as the war fund.

“We think we’ve got it covered in terms of 2014,” he said. “We’re well within the limits.”

The budget picture for 2015 is less clear, since the president is expected to expand military assistance to Iraq after its new government is established, though he has not outlined any decisions so far.

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cargo to “Iran’s clients in the Levant” -- the region of Lebanon, Syria and Occupied Palestine.

Iran’s efforts to avoid sanctions on oil sales also were targeted, with designations including Faylaca Petroleum and Nefertiti Shipping.

The State Department separately announced sanctions targeting those linked to Iran’s energy sector.

Among the targets were Goldentex FZE, a company based in United Arab Emirates, for its support of Iran’s energy and shipping sectors, and Italy-based Dettin, for helping Iran evade oil sanctions.

The sanctions freeze any assets in the U.S. and prohibit transactions with U.S. persons.

Treasury, State and other U.S. officials have traveled the world to say that Iran sanctions relief is “narrow and targeted”, said a senior administration official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

“We will ensure that the sanctions that remain in place will be robustly enforced.”

The most notable of the new penalties is against the Organization of Defensive Innovation and Research, created three and a half years ago by Mohsen Fakhri-zadeh, described by American media as the father of Iran’s nuclear research efforts in the 1990s and through the last decade.

“He left Malek-Ashtar University of Technology in 2011 to create the new organization, one of several reconfigurations of the Iranian nuclear infrastructure,” the New York Times wrote.

Fakhri-zadeh, a former professor, has long been on United Nations’ lists of officials subject to sanctions.

The American media cited Iran’s refusal to allow inspectors in Parchin, a site they last visited years ago. A Monday deadline for turning over data to the International Atomic Energy Agency passed, though Iran has said it is working on answering many of the inspectors’ questions. That process is expected to take months or years, long after the deadline for negotiations expires, according to senior officials of the agency.

Iran has also declared that it is speeding ahead with the manufacture of a new generation of centrifuges that could enrich uranium up to 24 times faster than those now installed at the country’s two main enrichment sites.

“Manufacturing and production of new centrifuges is our right,” the head of Iran’s atomic energy agency, Ali Akbar Salehi, told Iranian news organizations this week. But the Iranian reports indicated that only mechanical testing of the new centrifuges had been conducted.

Salehi, in separate comments, has also indicated that Iran is redesigning its nuclear reactor near the town of Arak so that it will produce less plutonium, a change that could slow the inauguration of the new reactor by up to three years, he said.

Nonetheless, the State Department sanctions are also aimed at the Arak reactor. It designated for sanctions Iran’s Nuclear Science and Technology Research Institute, which it said was helping build the reactor that, “as presently designed, would provide Iran the capability to produce plutonium from the reactor’s spent fuel that could be used in nuclear weapons”.

Moreover, there is debate about whether the Western-led sanctions are having much effect in Iran. During a visit this summer, Payam Mohseni, who runs the Iran Project at the Harvard Kennedy School, concluded that the sanctions had little effect on Iran’s elite, and made many of them richer as they traded in scarce goods.

We Should ... (Continued From Page One)

sanctions are against commitments

made by the United States under the Geneva deal.”

Senior Iranian negotiator Majid Takht-Ravanchi described new Iran sanctions as “cruel and unfair”, saying they contradict U.S. claim of goodwill in talks.

“In our view the international sanctions, particularly those imposed by the U.S., are unfair and cruel, and our people will not be affected by such measures,” he said.

“U.S. dual-track policy is not acceptable at all...We consider the leverage (of U.S. sanctions) as not only failed, but also basically ineffective,” he said.

On Friday, Iran’s Foreign Minister Muhammad Javad Zarif said sanctions are an illegal pressure tactic to attempt to influence policy, but they will not affect the people of Iran and Russia.

“If at the beginning of the sanctions Iran had 200 centrifuges, now we have 20,000,” the Iranian foreign minister told the press after a meeting with his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov in Moscow.

“They can exert pressure on a country’s people, but nothing more than that. I think, that the people of Russia are ready to take this pressure to protect their lawful rights, as well,” Zarif said.

“This does not mean we want to fight against the world; we are now making all efforts to solve Iran’s problems at the highest level of politics. But it does not mean that sanctions could influence our countries’ people,” Zarif stressed.

UK...

(Continued From Page One)

are “unaware of any specific, credible threat to the U.S. homeland from ISIL”.

“Plainly, however, violent extremists who support ISIL have demonstrated the intent and capability to target American citizens overseas, and ISIL continues an active and serious threat within the region,” Johnson said.

White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest told reporters today he didn’t anticipate that “at this point... there is a plan to change” America’s current terrorism threat level.

Leading...

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In 2008, Galloway was pelted with a rubber stress ball as he was campaigning in an open-top bus in London. He received medical treatment but was not taken to hospital. A man was arrested and cautioned over the incident.

He has been receiving death threats and hate mail after calling for Bradford to be “declared an Israel-free zone” three weeks ago, according to his spokesman.

He said: “George was posing for pictures with people and this guy just attacked him, leapt on him and started punching him and calling him Hitler.”

“It appears to be connected with his comments about Israel because the guy was shouting about the Holocaust.”

“He has been receiving a huge amount of death threats and hate mail since saying this.”

Galloway, who campaigns in support of Palestine, made the comments at a meeting in Leeds. A clip was later posted on the video-sharing website YouTube.

He told the meeting: “We have declared Bradford an Israel-free zone. We don’t want any Israeli goods; we don’t want any Israeli services; we don’t want any Israeli academics coming to the university or the college. We don’t even want any Israeli tourists to come to Bradford even if any of them had thought of doing so.”

“We reject this illegal, barbarous, savage state that calls itself Israel – and you have to do the same.”

Turkish, German Interior Ministers Discuss Spying Issue

ANKARA (FNA) – Turkish Interior Minister Ekan Ala met with his German counterpart, Thomas de Maiziere, to discuss recent claims that Germany has been spying on Turkey for years.

Ala reiterated Turkey’s stance on the issue, saying that spying between allies is not acceptable. He said the two countries are in close contact and continue to negotiate the spying claims. Maiziere said he understands the concerns of the Turkish government on the issue and added that he believes the intelligence agencies of Turkey and Germany will manage to solve the problem, Today’s Zaman reported Friday.

German magazine Der Spiegel reported last weekend that the German Federal Intelligence Service (BND) has been spying on Turkey since 2009. German Chancellor Angela Merkel has since said that, in the light of increased threats, Germany’s need for the work of intelligence organizations will continue. She added that she expects everyone to understand this need. It is not clear whether her comment means that Germany will continue its eavesdropping on Turkey or not, given the threat of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and the alleged close ties between Turkey and ISIL.

Saudi King Warns of Terror Threat to World

RIYADH (FNA) – Saudi Arabia’s King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz warned that the threat of terrorism will reach Europe and America if the world does not unite to confront it.

The king made the statement during a reception of foreign ambassadors to the kingdom in the coastal city of Jeddah on Friday, Al Arabiya News Channel reported.

Britain on Friday raised the terror threat level to severe, the second-highest level.

The decision was related to developments in Iraq and Syria.

“What we are facing in Iraq now with ISIL is a greater threat to our security than we have seen before,” Prime Minister David Cameron said.

Intelligence and security services now believe around 500 Britons have gone to fight in Syria and potentially Iraq.

Some of the plots are likely to involve fighters who have traveled

from Britain and Europe to take part in fighting in the Middle East, Associated Press reported.

The White House said Friday it has no plans to raise terror alert levels in the United States, despite Britain’s decision to raise its threat level to “severe,” according to AFP.

“I don’t anticipate at this point there is a plan to change that level,” White House Spokesman Josh Earnest said, when asked whether Washington anticipated issuing a

similar warning to Americans over a perceived threat from operatives of ISIL.

The Obama administration dispensed with its previous color coded threat alert level system for terrorist threats introduced after the September 11 attacks in 2001, reasoning it rarely changed and was often unspecific.

Currently, terror threat alerts are issued by the Department of Homeland Security on a case-by-case basis, but there are no current alerts.