

Homeland
Security

REFERENCE AID

15 July 2019

(U) Counterterrorism Mission Center

(U//FOUO) Worldwide Terrorist Operations Linked to Lebanese Hizballah or Iran: Observed Behaviors and Key Indicators of Suspicious Activities

(U//FOUO) Scope. This *Reference Aid* examines tactics and targets garnered from a review of attacks or disrupted terrorist operations from 2012-2018 linked to either Lebanese Hizballah (LH) or Iran. It identifies behaviors and indicators that may rise to the level for suspicious activity reporting in areas such as recruitment, acquisition of expertise, materiel and weapons storage, target type, and operational security measures, which could assist federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial government counterterrorism agencies, law enforcement officials, and private sector partners in detecting, preventing, preempting, and disrupting potential terrorist activity in the Homeland. This *Reference Aid* does not imply these indicators would necessarily be observed or detected in every situation or that LH and Iran necessarily use the same tactics or demonstrate the same indicators. Some of these detection opportunities may come during the course of normal investigations into illegal activities in the United States such as illicit travel or smuggling of drugs, weapons, or cash, and lead to the discovery of pre-operational activity. A version of this *Reference Aid's* infographic was also included as an appendix to a previously published Intelligence Assessment. Information in this *Reference Aid* is current as of 16 May 2019.

(U//FOUO) Prepared by the DHS Intelligence Enterprise (DHS IE) Counterterrorism Mission Center (CTMC). Coordinated with CBP, CISA/OBP, ICE, NSI, TSA, USCG, CIA, DEA, DIA, FBI, NCTC, NGA, NORAD-NORTHCOM, NSA, and the Department of the Treasury.

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(U//FOUO) Worldwide Terrorist Operations Linked to Lebanese Hizballah or Iran: Observed Behaviors and Key Indicators of Suspicious Activities

(U//FOUO) A review of disrupted terrorist operations or attacks linked to Lebanese Hizballah or Iran from 2012-2018 highlights observed behaviors and indicators for suspicious activity reporting in areas such as recruitment, acquisition of expertise, material and weapons storage, target type, and operational security measures. These indicators could assist federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial government counterterrorism agencies and law enforcement officials in detecting, preventing, preempting and disrupting potential terrorist activity in the Homeland. The review examines 63 incidents across 26 countries disclosed in publicly available US Government and press reporting. Information is current as of 16 May 2019.

(U) Select Attack Methods

- Suicide bombing
- Shooting attacks against specific targets
- Create/use 4-wheel drive as VBIED
- Blow up vehicles, buses using magnetic IEDs

(U//FOUO) Select Suspicious Activity Reporting (SAR) Indicators Observed in Hizballah- or Iran-linked Operations*

- Misrepresentation** – Presenting false information, documents and/or identification
- Testing/probing of security** – Deliberate interactions/challenges to test security capabilities or response times
- Photography** – Taking pictures or video of persons, facilities, or infrastructure in surreptitious manner
- Materials Acquisition/Storage** – Unusual quantities of cell phones, pagers, triggering devices, or precursor material
- Weapons Collection/Discovery** – Unusual amounts or types of weapons, grenades, or destructive material, possibly hidden in unusual manner
- Eliciting Information** – Questioning individuals at a level beyond mere curiosity about events, infrastructure, or security practices
- Recruiting/Financing** – Recruiting individuals or providing direct financial support to illicit operations
- Observation/Surveillance** – Unusual or prolonged interest in individuals, facilities, or infrastructure
- Acquisition of Expertise** – Attempts to obtain or evidence of skilled training/knowledge in weapons, tactics, or explosives handling

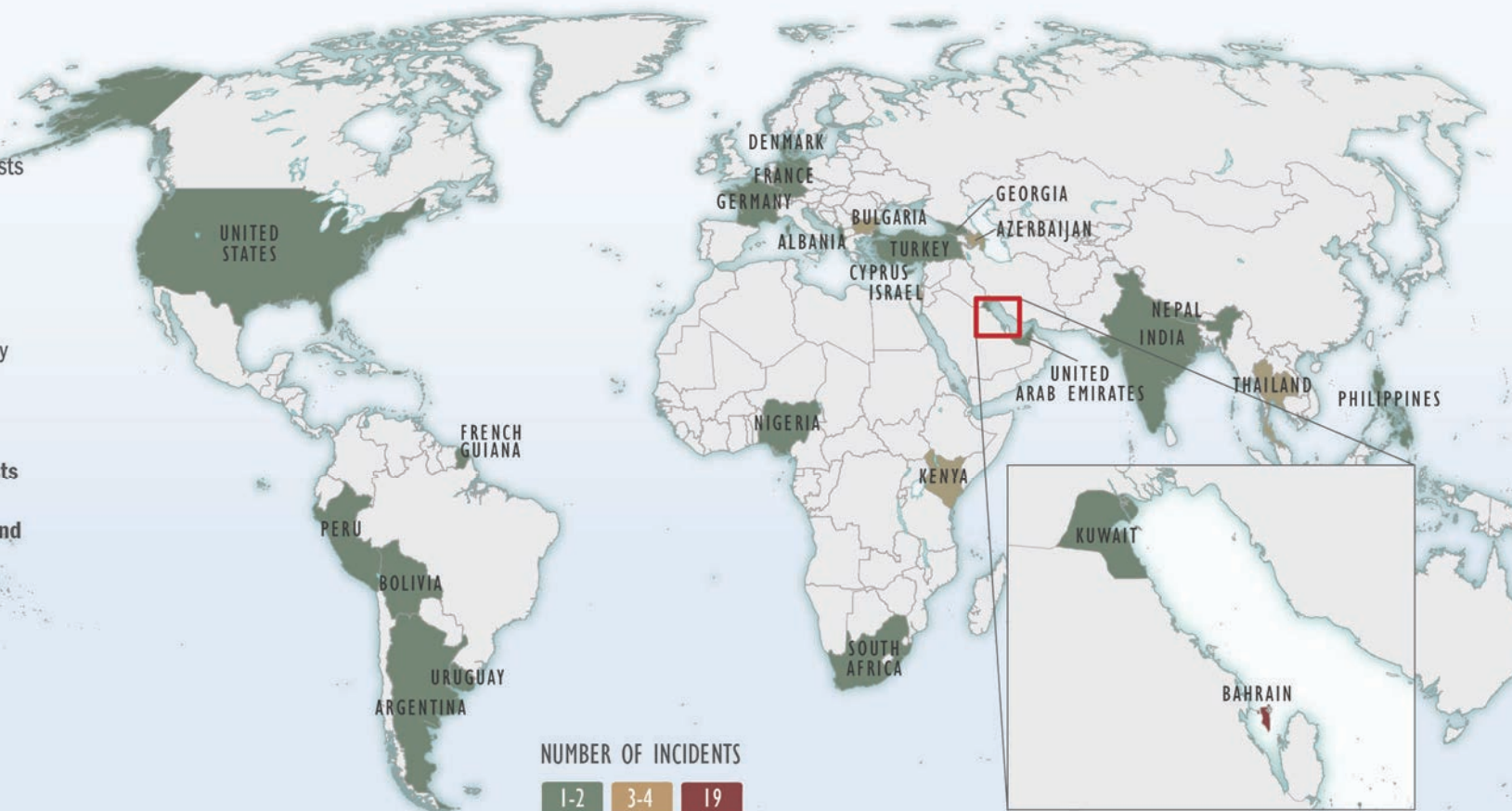
(U) Recruitment



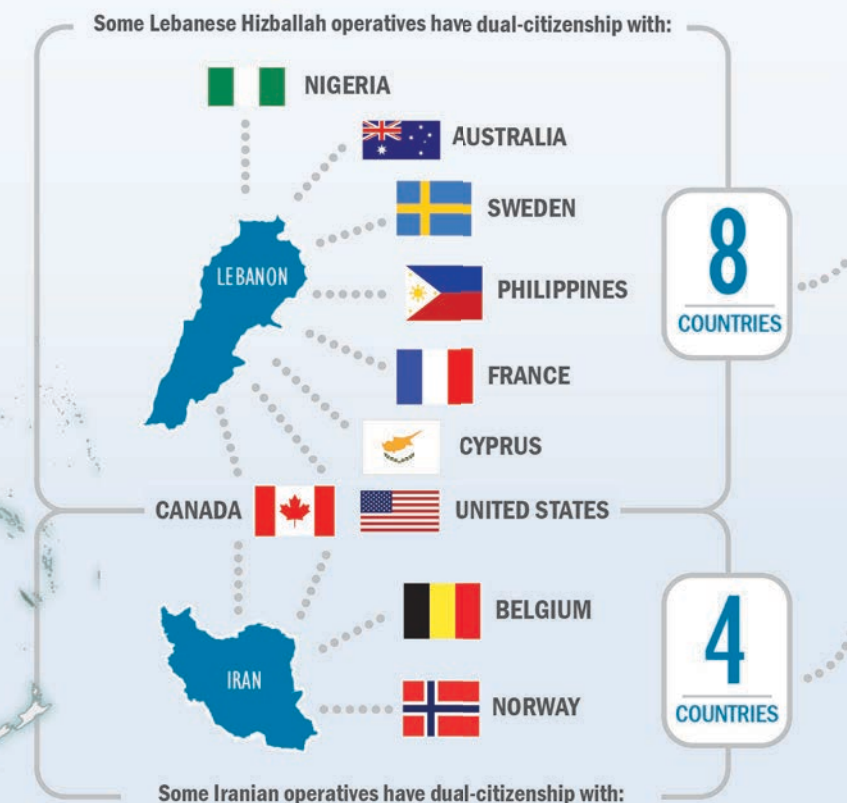
(U) Key Target Types

- Government**
 - Embassies, diplomatic centers, and vehicles
 - Military bases and Intelligence outposts
 - Law Enforcement
- Pro-Israel/Jewish**
 - Israeli-owned businesses
 - Israeli tourists and Israeli military
- Pro-Western**
 - Hotels frequented by Western tourists and diplomats
 - Pro-Western Government officials and academics
- Miscellaneous**
 - Oil pipelines
 - Airport terminals and baggage screening areas

(U) Attacks and Disrupted Operations Linked to Hizballah or Iran from 2012-2018



(U) Dual-Citizenship



*(U//FOUO) For a complete list of SAR indicators, including those not necessarily observed in LH- or Iran-linked operations, see <https://nsi.ncirc.gov/> or si.ncirc.gov/documents/SAR_Indicators_One-Pager.pdf.

(U) Report Suspicious Activity

(U) To report suspicious activity, law enforcement, Fire-EMS, private security personnel, and emergency managers should follow established protocols; all other personnel should call 911 or contact local law enforcement.

Suspicious activity reports (SARs) will be forwarded to the appropriate fusion center and FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force for further action. For more information on the Nationwide SAR Initiative, visit <http://nsi.ncirc.gov/resources.aspx>.

(U) Tracked by: HSEC-8.1, HSEC-8.2, HSEC-8.3, HSEC-8.5, HSEC-8.6.2.17, HSEC-8.8

(U) Source Summary Statement

(U//FOUO) This *Reference Aid* is based primarily on open source media reporting, DOJ press reporting, and criminal complaints. We have **medium confidence** in the information obtained from the media reporting, as it is generally reliable, but may contain biases or unintentional inaccuracies. We have **high confidence** in the information obtained from government reporting, which is largely reliable and based on law enforcement investigations.

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