



Date: January 7, 2020

To: Thomas B. Modica, Acting City Manager *T.M.*

From: Reginald Harrison, Director of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Communications *R.H.*

For: Mayor and Members of the City Council

Subject: **Situational Awareness of United States-Iran Conflict**

In recent days, there have been many inquiries regarding the increasing tension between the United States and Iran, and its effect on the City of Long Beach. Further, given today's breaking news on the escalated conflict between the two countries, please review the attached summary of the current situation and what City departments are doing in response.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact me at (562) 570-9460.

ATTACHMENTS

SITUATIONAL AWARENESS FOR US-IRAN CONFLICT
NATIONAL TERRORISM ADVISORY SYSTEM BULLETIN

CC: CHARLES PARKIN, CITY ATTORNEY
DOUGLAS HAUBERT, CITY PROSECUTOR
LAURA L. DOUD, CITY AUDITOR
REBECCA GARNER, ACTING ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER
KEVIN JACKSON, DEPUTY CITY MANAGER
TERESA CHANDLER, INTERIM DEPUTY CITY MANAGER
AJAY KOLLURI, ACTING ADMINISTRATIVE DEPUTY TO THE CITY MANAGER
DEPARTMENT HEADS

Situational Awareness of United States-Iran Conflict

On January 2, 2020, a United States (U.S.) airstrike targeted a convoy near Baghdad International Airport, killing Major General Qassem Soleimani, leader of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps-Quds Force. Soleimani was believed to be the mastermind behind the deaths of hundreds of American troops in Iraq and the architect of Iran's regional military alliances, responsible for forging close ties to militant groups and political factions throughout the Middle East. The Defense Department in a statement said it killed Soleimani because he "was actively developing plans to attack American diplomats and service members in Iraq and throughout the region."

The killing of Soleimani has escalated tensions between Iran and the United States. Following the strike, the U.S. State Department issued an alert early Friday morning urging U.S. citizens to leave Iraq and to avoid the U.S. embassy in Baghdad. Iran has vowed "harsh retaliation" for the U.S. airstrike, and President Donald Trump tweeted Saturday that America is prepared with targeted strikes of its own and has deployed additional military troops to the Middle East.

On Sunday, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) issued the attached National Terrorism Advisory System (NTAS) Bulletin which states, in part, "At this time we have no information indicating a specific, credible threat to the Homeland."

Monitoring the Situation

Our Police Department maintains communication with state, local, and federal partners regarding any relevant information or intelligence in order to assess potential concerns in our area of responsibility.

The LBPD is aware of the military situation overseas. While there is no known connection to the City of Long Beach, the LBPD will continue to provide increased patrols and visibility, while monitoring the national and regional threat picture. Should a significant issue related to homeland security arise, the LBPD will distribute a Chief's Alert to City Councilmembers.

Similarly, our Airport is engaged with the region in monitoring the situation with the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), DHS and Long Beach Police for airport security. Our Port continues to work closely with the Coast Guard, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, FBI, Port of Los Angeles, LBPD and others to ensure the appropriate physical and cyber security measures are in place. They will let us know if their security posture or that of the traveling community should change.

The Technology and Innovation Department (TID) is monitoring overall cyber security intelligence from the California Cybersecurity Integration Center (CAL-CSIC), the Department of Justice/FBI Cyberhood Watch Team, and the Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center (MS-ISAC). As part of its critical needs programs, TID has completed several critical infrastructure upgrades and improved cyber monitoring tools/services, and has several ongoing projects to improve the City's cyber security awareness and preparedness.

Communications with Elected Officials

The City Manager's Emergency Contact Book outlines the process to communicate the specific circumstances of the activation of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) or a substantial increase in the DHS advisory status. The Mayor and City Council will be notified and briefed by the City Manager to ensure they are kept informed of the situation and needs during a major incident or EOC activation. The City Council may be asked to report to the Council Chamber, or their field office if City Hall is not available for a briefing.

During an activation of the EOC, the process to prepare press releases, social media posts and other communications is guided through the implementation of our Crisis Communications Plan. This plan provides policies, procedures, and guidelines for the coordination of communications when multiple departments are affected within the City of Long Beach and between the City and its regional stakeholders to ensure that messages communicated with the public are in the form of "one voice, one message."

The City of Long Beach utilizes several tools, systems and processes for alerting the public before, during and post disasters to include Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT), Search and Rescue (SAR) Teams, Long Beach Police and Fire Department and Deaf Link (for hard of hearing and sight impaired residents). However, our primary mass notification system is Alert Long Beach. This mass notification system allows residents, who sign-up, to receive alert notifications via phone, text and email.

Our Residents Should be Vigilant

While there are currently no specific or credible threats against the homeland, DHS is cautioning Americans to remain vigilant in public, at home and abroad. The DHS is also advising the public to be wary of cyber disruptions. Citizens are urged to watch out for suspicious emails and network delays and are encouraged to implement multi-factor authentication on electronic devices.

And, finally, we encourage residents to "See Something, Say Something." Report suspicious or criminal activity by calling (562) 435-6711 or 9-1-1 for emergencies."

If you have questions or require additional information, please contact Reggie Harrison, Director, Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Communications, at (562) 570-9460.



National Terrorism Advisory System

Bulletin

www.dhs.gov/advisories

January 4, 2020

SUMMARY OF TERRORISM THREAT TO THE U.S. HOMELAND

- The United States designated Iran a "State Sponsor of Terrorism" in 1984 and since then, Iran has actively engaged in or directed an array of violent and deadly acts against the United States and its citizens globally. The United States designated Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) a Foreign Terrorist Organization on April 15, 2019 for its direct involvement in terrorist plotting.
- On January 2, 2020, the United States carried out a lethal strike in Iraq killing Iranian IRGC-Quds Force commander Qassem Soleimani while Soleimani was in Iraq.
- Iranian leadership and several affiliated violent extremist organizations publicly stated they intend to retaliate against the United States.
- At this time we have no information indicating a specific, credible threat to the Homeland. Iran and its partners, such as Hizballah, have demonstrated the intent and capability to conduct operations in the United States.
- Previous homeland-based plots have included, among other things, scouting and planning against infrastructure targets and cyber enabled attacks against a range of U.S.-based targets.
- Iran maintains a robust cyber program and can execute cyber attacks against the United States. Iran is capable, at a minimum, of carrying out attacks with temporary disruptive effects against critical infrastructure in the United States.
- Iran likely views terrorist activities as an option to deter or retaliate against its perceived adversaries. In many instances, Iran has targeted United States interests through its partners such as Hizballah.
- Homegrown Violent Extremists could capitalize on the heightened tensions to launch individual attacks.
- An attack in the homeland may come with little or no warning.
- The Department of Homeland Security is working closely with our federal, state, local, and private sector partners to detect and defend against threats to the Homeland, and will enhance security measures as necessary.

DURATION

This Bulletin will expire on or before
January 18, 2020
 at 1:00 PM EST

TYPES OF ADVISORIES

Bulletin

Describes current developments or general trends regarding threats of terrorism.

Elevated Alert

Warns of a credible terrorism threat against the United States.

Imminent Alert

Warns of a credible, specific and impending terrorism threat against the United States.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Report suspicious activity to local law enforcement who are best to offer specific details on terroristic indicators.
- Report suspicious activity or information about a threat, including online activity, to fusion centers and the FBI's Field Offices - part of the Nationwide Suspicious Activity Reporting Initiative.
- Learn [how to recognize signs of pre-operational planning](#) associated with terrorism or other criminal activity.

BE PREPARED

- Be prepared for cyber disruptions, suspicious emails, and network delays.
- Be responsible for your personal safety. Know where emergency exits and security personnel are located. Carry emergency contact and special needs information with you.
- Implement basic cyber hygiene practices such as effecting data backups and employing multi-factor authentication. For more information visit [CISA.gov](#).
- [Connect, Plan, Train, and Report](#) to prepare businesses & employees. Security tools/resources can be accessed through the DHS's [Hometown Security Campaign](#).

STAY INFORMED

- The U.S. Government will provide additional information about any emerging threat as additional information is identified. The public is encouraged to listen to local law enforcement and public safety officials.
- We urge Americans to continue to travel, attend public events, and freely associate with others but remain vigilant and aware of surroundings.
- The Department of State issues [international travel alerts and warnings](#).
- For additional information visit [Ready](#).

If You See Something, Say SomethingSM. Report suspicious activity to local law enforcement or call 911.

The National Terrorism Advisory System provides information on homeland security issues and threats. It is distributed by the Department of Homeland Security. More information is available at: [www.dhs.gov/advisories](#). To receive mobile updates: [www.twitter.com/dhsgov](#)

If You See Something Say SomethingSM used with permission of the NY Metropolitan Transportation Authority.