

FRANCE A: BLUF #1

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Summary:

Based on our current intelligence, we suspect that an attack on the United States is being planned. This attack will likely be in some way connected to a major event, referred to as a “grand festival”. The proposed attack was hinted to be inspired by the bombing of the USS Cole, nine years prior. This information is deemed to be accurate, as it was disseminated by Adam Gahadhn, a Muslim cleric who has been connected to the 9/11 bombings, Fort Hood Shootings, and various other terrorists plots. Also, based on some intercepted phone calls, we suspect the plan may involve attempts to obtain and either re-engineer or use Western technology against the United States and its citizens.

Analysis:

Due to information retrieved from an intercepted telephone call (in Arabic) between mobile phones on March 8th, it is evident that the desires of the propagandist leaders to obtain and use Western technology against the targeted nations is a goal of the attackers. Based on our information we can indicate there is a recruiter known as “The Green Island” who actively recruits people who may have important roles in the “grand festival” that is being planned. Based on an intercepted phone call from March 21st one such role is that of a man under the alias “Al-Shaer Abdullah” who we suspect to be famed terrorist financial expert Ramadan Abdullah Mohammad Shallah. His role, based on the transcriptions, is to obtain a large amount of money that will likely be used to commit the attack.

Also, we have reason to believe this may be a case of state-sponsored terrorism, as we have someone who is being referred to as an “Emir”. This title is that of a very highly ranking Muslim official and may mean there is government aid being provided to the terrorists. Also, the locations of suspects from the intercepted information are Southern Lebanon and the Damascus area of Syria. Syria, which has been considered a state sponsor of terrorism by the United States since 1979 may be involved in the plot. Given this information, it seems that the border of these two countries, as well as the Southern area of Lebanon, is where at least one senior member is residing.

The members and affiliates we have currently encountered have come from Lebanon, Egypt, and Russia based on their recorded accents. The main actors in the

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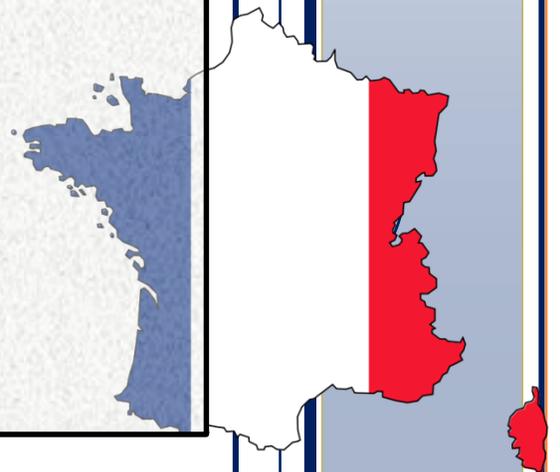


plot from our given information are: “Al-Shaer Abdullah”, “The Green Island”, a group known as the Ustaz, “The Great One”, “LONER”, “Fahim”, “Zakaria Amara” and several other unidentified persons.

In conjunction with Canada and Italy, we were also able to gain some clues based on our allies collections of intelligence. The Canadian reports make reference to “Zach”, who is skeptical of the upcoming attack and seems to think it should be scaled back. Also, the Canadians provided us with information about a call between two suspected terrorists, “LONER” and “Fahim, they discussed a meeting on April 2nd and talked about revenge and something they could all play a part in. This conversation also revealed a European accent which hints at the transnational nature of the terrorist group working on the attack. Our Italian allies also provided information to us that hints at cyber warfare, something unseen in any of our findings. We will continue to pursue this more and see if they plan to use this kind of attack or one of more traditional means.

With help from our allies and more information from our own intelligence teams, we hope to foil this plan and make sure the “Grand Festival” never gets carried out. We will release another report when we have more information and can tie together more of the loose ends currently presented to us.

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