

EYE SPY

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A BRIEF REVIEW

Your Gateway to the Secret World of
Espionage and Intelligence

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EYE SPY WEB EDITORIAL

FROM THE EDITOR - MARK BIRDSALL



ISIS INTEL ASSESSMENTS OFF THE MARK

Government officials around the world are asking how could a group such as ISIS form so quickly under the noses of the worldwide intelligence community. The answer is complex and multi-faceted, but in truth, the war theatres of Iraq and Syria and the instability in north Africa provided the perfect platform. To this, add President Obama's puzzling response and inaction to many events in the region, and the near complete withdrawal of US troops from Iraq. A vacuum was created that al-Qaida, the terror group which spawned ISIS, simply filled.

Events in Syria have not helped, as a plethora of groups and terror outfits fight to topple President Assad and now fight themselves. No one knows who is fighting or what is really taking place in the towns and cities. There is no coherent policy, direction or opposition. Huge areas have become the playground for ISIS, and weapons and money are aplenty. It is truly a dangerous situation as ISIS fighters are becoming battle-hardened and its leaders now have ambitions to commit terrorist crimes around the world. To ignore what is happening in this part of the Middle East is no longer an option.

That the intelligence world is struggling to provide accurate assessments on the group can be seen in the late summer Estimate of the Situation released by the CIA on the strength of ISIS (operative numbers). In June it was 10,000, by late July this was raised to over 30,000. That is a staggering recalculation which I have to say, was most surprising and unexpected.

Some 60 nations have come together and formed an Alliance to confront ISIS. There is good air support and attacks on the terror group have undoubtedly damaged its outposts. However, there is no way in the world that air power alone will defeat this most brutal of terror groups. Interestingly, Eye Spy learned of a secret meeting held in London attended by military and intelligence officials from a number of nations. After all the new assessments were discussed and examined, and the implications for simply using warplanes and UAVs to hit ISIS targets, those in attendance concluded that if a military force of note was deployed, ISIS could be destroyed as a fighting force in six to twelve months.

In January this year, President Obama compared ISIS to an amateur basketball team trying to be professional. Two years ago current CIA Director John Brennan dismissed any possibility that al-Qaida would form a caliphate (region) in the Middle East. "Fantasy," he said. Now Mr Obama is blaming his intel chiefs for underestimating ISIS and not supplying good enough intelligence. That's an easy out, but since in power, the president has attended just 42% of his daily person-to-person intelligence briefings. The White House says he reads them, but a document can't answer back or respond with a qualified suggestion, nor does it always contain options.

This edition of Eye Spy Intelligence Magazine examines the latest happenings concerning ISIS, and its warped ideology - join or support us - or die. There are also a number of exclusive features, including a look inside China's super-secret spy agencies known as the '12 Bureaus'. We have a terrific article on several spy and intelligence movies and dramas set for release in the coming months, plus a fantastic new series on the history and changing face of surveillance. And then there is an MI5 spy code-named FIFI. We examined some 3,000 intel documents released by the National Archives on the agent, and decided to retrace her movements identifying some very interesting buildings on the way - these appear in our shortly-to-be-released book - 500 Spy Sites of London. And an exclusive here too - the number of locations associated to the world of espionage and intelligence in our book has already topped 600 so the title could yet be changed!

A brief overview of Eye Spy 93 follows.

THE ALLIANCE

PRELUDE TO ATTACKS

HUNTING ISIS FROM THE SKY



THE ISIS PROPAGANDA MACHINE IS INTENT ON DRAWING THE UNITED STATES AND ITS ALLIES INTO A GROUND CONFRONTATION - AND THIS HAS WIDESPREAD IMPLICATIONS. THEY ARE ALSO SEEKING OPPORTUNITIES TO MAKE CONTACT WITH POLITICAL FIGURES IN AN EFFORT TO SECURE CREDIBILITY AND LEGITIMACY

NOTES

DECONSTRUCTING

JIHADI JOHN

UK and US Intelligence launch major search for the British ISIS 'security cell' responsible for the appalling murders of innocent hostages abducted in Syria and Iraq



NEW CHIEF OF MI6

Foreign Secretary announces Alex Younger as the next Chief of the Secret Intelligence Service.

Eye Spy explains why he was chosen to lead this most powerful organisation





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SURVEILLANCE

TRADECRAFT SPECIAL



ASIO DERRAIL ISIS PLOT



Described as the biggest counter-terrorist operation ever conducted in Australia, security services dismantle an ISIS terrorist cell in Sydney. This pivotal event proves the group's intention to add an international dimension to its ever growing menace. Eye Spy examines the background of this disturbing event and its implications for international security



RISE OF THE DRAGON

INSIDE CHINA'S SUPER SECRET SPY AGENCIES

MSS - Ministry of State Security or Guojia Anquan Bu



THE KHORASAN GROUP

INSIDE THE UNKNOWN OR KNOWN AL-QAIDA FRANCHISE?



A SPY CALLED FIFI

The Secret Life of an Agent Provocateur

Eye Spy examines documents released by the National Archives on an extraordinary British spy and reveals some of the secret locations associated with an MI5 spy code-named FIFI...



MOSSAD AND YAMAM OPERATIONS



World of Intelligence and Spies

SPIES AND FILM

COMING SOON



Eye Spy provides a fascinating insight into some of the latest film and television productions associated with the world of espionage and intelligence playing, due or shortly to be released...



BENGHAZI STAND DOWN

A CONCEALMENT OF FACTS AND DOCUMENTS



Evidence begins to emerge that information related to the attack on the US mission in Benghazi could have been destroyed to protect political and government figures

THE HANDGUN

AS A WEAPON OF DEFENCE

Eye Spy Security Editor Mike Finn continues his series on the discipline of:

ENCOUNTER CONTROL IN THE INTELLIGENCE CYCLE



This article is written from the perspective of gun defence, rather than gun use. No one can stop a bullet; however, there are some circumstances where an individual can defend themselves against a handgun



ALLIANCE STRIKE ISIS



Sixty Alliance nations confront ISIS positions in a war which could last years. The fight to destroy the world's most dangerous terrorist group has begun...

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DID YOU KNOW?

NEW SERIES BY EYE SPY CANADIAN EDITOR LYNN HODGSON

Facts, information and numerous surprises on people and places with hidden intelligence links



MAJOR INTEL DIGESTS

REVIEWS AND BREAKING NEWS FROM THE INTEL WORLD



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