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- JAWBREAKER - CIA • BRIDGE OF SPIES • IRAN AND THE CIA NETWORK

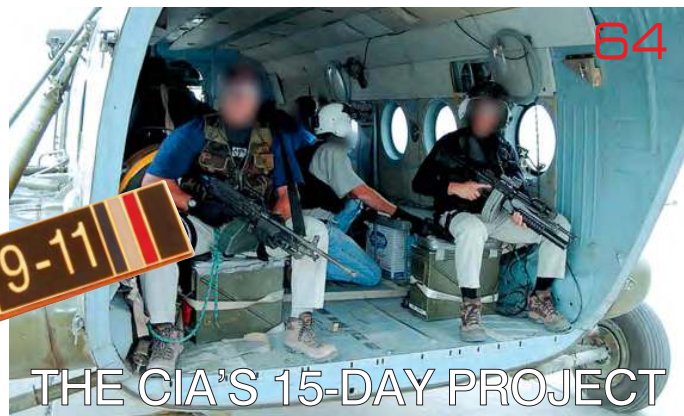
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NSA OVERSEAS FOUNDATIONS

THE MERRY MEN OF MENWITH HILL



THE CIA'S 15-DAY PROJECT

CIA JAWBREAKER



MARITIME CASINO

Intelligence Eyes focus on Iran as its menace continues in Gulf waters



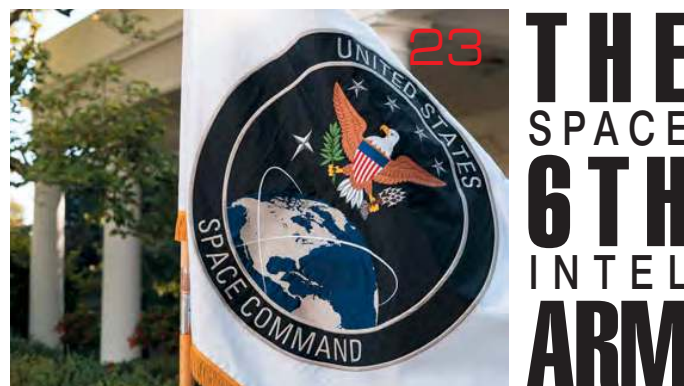
MOSSAD SURVEILLANCE

TRACKING IRANIAN TECHNOLOGY

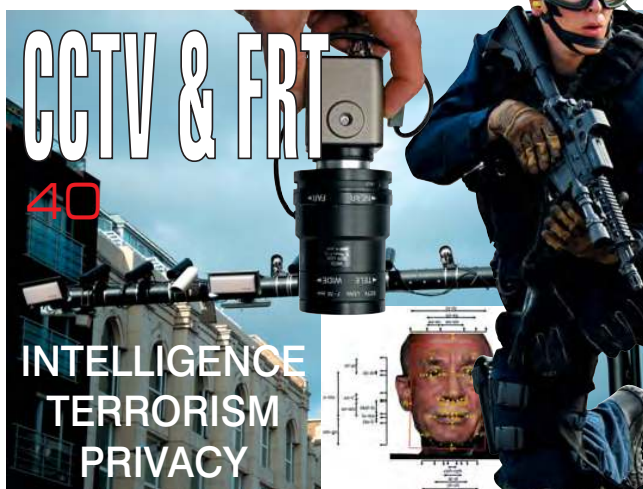


DEEP STATE

KREMLIN'S AGENTS OF INFLUENCE



THE SPACE 6TH INTEL ARM



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INTELLIGENCE TERRORISM PRIVACY



THE RISE OF AL-QAIDA

Al-Qaida emboldened as CIA-Taliban talks stall - this as US Intelligence warns of new attack to coincide with 20th anniversary of 9/11

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"I can tell you that the UK is attributing responsibility with a very high degree of probability to Iran for the Aramco attacks..."



UK PRIME MINISTER BORIS JOHNSON ON ATTACKS ON SAUDI OIL FIELDS

EMBASSY BUGS, CIA PRESSURE AND DEATH THREATS



Following our 'maritime-themed special' in Eye Spy 123, tensions in the Gulf continue to rise, and Iran's vicious attack on two Saudi oil producing plants served only to increase fears of a major conflict. Several spy agencies, including the Mossad, CIA and MI6 have engaged officers across the Middle East, Europe and even the United States, to surveil the activities of front companies and individuals acting on behalf of Iran's burgeoning spy agency MOIS - this as Tehran attempts to circumnavigate tough sanctions. A number of case files are published in this edition.

Away from the Gulf, several notable 'characters' have again been in the news. NSA whistleblower Edward Snowden who illegally secured thousands of classified files, now faces a legal challenge over his book - *Permanent Record* - as Washington attempts to stop him profiting on a work that was not cleared. Glenn Greenwald, once of the *Guardian* newspaper who helped Snowden publish the material, and who now runs *The Intercept* in Brazil, is in dispute with the country's leadership over recent features. Sadly this has resulted in death threats. However, far more intriguing is a report hidden from many intelligence watchers of a story we featured several years ago. This involves an alleged attempt to bug the Embassy of Ecuador in London, where WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange spent the best part of eight years. According to some investigative journalists, the CIA used a civilian security company to install listening devices, including a camera which streamed live images of Assange's meetings with his legal advisors. It is a fascinating story and one no doubt, that we will be hearing much more of in the future.

MARK BIRDSALL, MANAGING EDITOR



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INTELLIGENCE CHOICE

NSA OVERSEAS FOUNDATIONS

Few people in the intelligence world are not familiar with the work conducted at the world's biggest and most technologically advanced spy base - Menwith Hill. However, now in its seventh decade of operations, little is still known of its origins, or the work of its first staffers.

In this engaging feature, we have sourced a number of files from the NSA archives which splendidly and innocently contain the comments and 'adventures' of the first American personnel to be sent to the Field Station - and how their experiences helped shape the development of other international sites.



•52 THE MERRY MEN OF MENWITH HILL



INTELLIGENCE REVIEW • NEWS • DIGEST



PRO-ACTIVE AGENCY LAUNCHED TO CONFRONT AND DISABLE HACKERS

A joint venture between GCHQ and the Ministry of Defence (MOD) to counter cyber espionage is expected to launch within six months. Whitehall insiders said the National Cyber Force (NCF) will be headed by "Britain's top female spy." Her identity is being withheld at the moment on

security grounds. An official told the *London Times*: "The specialist who will be running the National Cyber Force (NCF) is not only the best woman cyber spy in Britain, but the best offensive cyber spy this country has. She is a highly experienced operator who is very well versed in military operations." The newspaper described her as a

ASSANGE EMBASSY SURVEILLANCE

INVESTIGATION LAUNCHED INTO ALLEGED BUGGING OF ECUADOR EMBASSY

It has long been suspected that the Embassy of Ecuador in London was targeted by an external body in an attempt to place bugging devices in the building: this whilst its most famous long-term resident, WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange, remained inside to avoid arrest. There were rumours aplenty that under the guise of contractors, builders, electricians, couriers, telephone engineers and even operatives disguised as

foreign diplomats, the hidden hand of MI5 was in play. None of this was of course ever proven. As for Assange, he regularly commented that the embassy had been outfitted with devices to watch over him and learn of his intentions.

With Assange's exit a few months ago and his incarceration in another room - a cell at Belmarsh Prison - new reports are circulating in the intelligence community that might

throw more light on the covert spy operation within the embassy. According to informed sources, the security company assigned to the building allegedly worked with the CIA - "delivering audio data and visual information" to a Langley contact in London.

This has now led to Spain's judiciary opening an investigation, as the company named is reportedly registered in Spain. The revelations were probed by newspaper *El Pais* who named the company's owner and alleged he himself had made the deal. Indeed, he is said to have asked employees to conceal the CIA liaison, according to investigative journalists probing the affair.

The detail within the report is impressive, leading some intelligence analysts to comment it could only have come from informed sources. For example, listening devices were installed in fire extinguishers and female

toilets where Assange would hold meetings with his legal people. There is also a report a camera was installed providing real-time image streaming to CIA watchers. According to investigators, one clip featured Ecuador's SENAIN (National Intelligence Secretariat) chief Rommy Vallejo discussing a way to get Assange out of the building, while in another sequence, discussions were recorded about providing him with an Ecuadorian passport. According to intelligence sources, the eavesdropping operation was



2012. Assange begins his long self-imposed confinement at the Ecuador Embassy in London



Rommy Vallejo

GCHQ officer and 'Oxbridge' graduate aged around 45.

The new agency, part of Britain's burgeoning cyber prowess, will have a budget of around £250m and will initially be staffed by 500 operatives, which will gradually increase to 3,000 by 2030. The idea behind the agency is to perform proactive and retaliatory attacks against states which have previously been accused of hacking huge data bases and promoting fake news on social media. China, Russia, North Korea and Iran have all been identified as hosting pro-active hacking groups.

The NCF, dubbed by some journalists, "Britain's Special Air Service (SAS) of cyber warfare," will also have the responsibility of closing or deflecting digital platforms used by terrorists and criminals. In 2017, several crucial computer networks were targeted



In September, National Cyber Security Centre Chief Executive Officer Ciaran Martin, was awarded the International Cyber Security Leadership Award at the Billington Cyber Security Summit in Washington DC. Above: Martin is pictured receiving his plaque from Thomas Billington, head of Billington CyberSecurity

by foreign hackers, including the National Health Service. A secret report prepared by senior intelligence figures following the attacks warned that much more should be done to protect the critical infrastructure of Britain.

Informed government sources said the official announcement regarding the NCF initiative is expected shortly.

GCHQ's National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) opened in 2017.

INTEL WATCHER

OTTAWA: Marie Deschamps, a former Supreme Court justice has been named to a panel overseeing the country's intelligence and security agencies. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau says Ms Deschamps will become a member of the National Security and Intelligence Review Agency. Her appointment took effect at the end of September.



Deschamps will be part of a group tasked with ensuring that more than a dozen federal bodies that have national security responsibilities are complying with the law. Among the agencies are the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS); the Communications Security Establishment charged with protecting cyber systems; the Royal Canadian Mounted Police; Global Affairs Canada and the Justice Department.



Ecuador Foreign Minister Ricardo Patino and Julian Assange

enhanced when Lenin Moreno won the presidency.

Analysts also believe the detail within the report suggests it came



from an informed source. And Assange's solicitor, Aitor Martinez acknowledged, "it probably came from an employee at the Firm."

Asked about the timeline of the bugging operation, and the legal probe now being undertaken in Spain, Martinez said: "There is a criminal case under investigation at the National Court but it is being conducted in secret. We cannot say anything about what is being investigated beyond what has been leaked."

The CIA still want to question Assange for his role in the leaking of thousands of US intelligence files illegally leaked to WikiLeaks.

MSS INTEL AGENT CHARGED SPIES IDENTIFIED IN FBI STING OPERATION

Xuehua 'Edward' Peng, 56, a naturalised American, has been charged with acting as an illegal foreign agent following an elaborate four-year-long FBI sting operation targeting Chinese intelligence operatives working in the United States.

According to US Justice Department officials, Peng was caught acting as a courier for the intelligence section of China's Ministry of State Security (MSS) after the FBI launched a "double agent operation" in March 2015. The agent allegedly used dead

letter drops to collect information from two spies and delivered money to other operatives.

A criminal complaint filed in the Northern District of California, states Peng presented himself as a tour guide who ran sight-seeing excursions in San Francisco to Chinese visitors and students.

Peng was arrested at his residence in San Francisco on 27 September and faces up to 10-years in prison for operating in the United States as an agent of a foreign power without registration.



COURTESY: DEPT. OF JUSTICE

THE IJO SURVEILLANCE MAN

US Security Services Arrest Hezbollah Sleeper Operative



Lincoln Memorial, Washington DC. One of a number of alleged targets surveilled

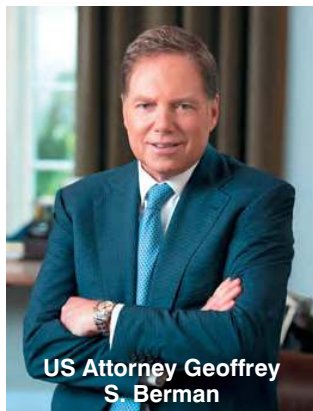
A New Jersey man has been accused of being a secret Hezbollah operative in the United States for more than a decade, surveilling potential attack sites in New York City, Boston and Washington



Alexei Saab

Court documents allege that he later attended explosives training in Lebanon in 2004 and 2005. A line in the indictment reads: 'He received detailed instruction in, among other things, triggering mechanisms, explosive substances, detonators, and the assembly of circuits'.

Prosecutors have charged Alexei Saab, 42, with nine counts associated with terrorism. They included providing material support to a designated foreign terrorist organisation and receiving military-style training from that group the



US Attorney Geoffrey S. Berman

Justice Department said. The court documents also state Saab travelled to Istanbul, Turkey, around 2005 and attempted to murder a person he believed to be an Israeli spy.

"Even though Saab is a naturalised American citizen, his true allegiance was to Hezbollah, the terrorist organisation responsible for decades of terrorist attacks that have killed hundreds, including US citizens and military personnel," US Attorney Geoffrey S. Berman said. "Thankfully, Saab is now in federal custody and faces significant prison time for his alleged crimes."

Saab allegedly joined Hezbollah in 1996, according to the indictment and started training around 1999, learning how to handle firearms and grenades. In 2000 he allegedly became a member of the group's

external operations unit, the Islamic Jihad Organisation (IJO), where he received additional training in tradecraft, weapons and military tactics, including how to construct bombs and other explosive devices.



Target selection: Images found on Saab's electronic devices



INDUSTRIAL ESPIONAGE

MORE LOSS OF TECHNOLOGY SECRETS

ARussian and an Italian have been charged with conspiring and attempting to steal trade secrets from an American aviation company. Alexander Yuryevich Korshunov, 57, a former official in Russia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Maurizio Paolo Bianchi, 59, an Italian aerospace expert, were charged by the US Department of Justice with industrial espionage. Korshunov was arrested on 30 August at Naples International Airport in Italy.

The court filing unsealed in September charges that the two men: 'Conspired and attempted to steal and convey the confidential and proprietary information constituting trade secrets of the Ohio-based Company A'.

The Justice Department said that from 2013 to 2018, Korshunov hired Bianchi, a former Director for GE Aviation's Italian subsidiary, to help with the design of jet engine gearboxes for Aviadvigatel, a subsidiary of Russian state-



An Aviadvigatel PD-14 next generation turbofan engine on display at the MAKS-2017 International Aviation and Space Salon in Zhukovskiy, Moscow

owned aerospace company United Engine Corp.

Bianchi recruited several GE employees to do the work for a smaller engine, after which

Korshunov asked if they could also provide the "know-how" for larger engines suitable for the wide-body aircraft that GE specialises in. In 2018, Bianchi recruited a second team of retired

naturalisation and citizenship fraud, respectively, as well as making false statements.

According to his LinkedIn page, Saab was director of IT for a waste management company in Morristown called Covanta, a position he held for more than two years. Before that, he held a variety of positions as a software engineer, including for Microsoft.

He described his duties as: *'Adjunct Lecturer at Zicklin School of Business, Baruch College, City University of New York (CUNY). Teaching MBA and MS programmes, courses covering IT Strategy for Managers and 'Business and Data Modeling'.* Interestingly, it is the very same school adjunct professor Mikhail Vasenkov, A.k.a Juan Lazaro, taught when was outed as a Russian spy in 2010 by the FBI in Operation Ghost Stories - the dismantlement of a major illegals spy ring on the eastern seaboard.



SVR agent Mikhail Vasenkov, A.k.a Juan Lazaro

GE Aviation engineers to work on gearboxes for a larger engine.

The Justice Department alleged that throughout the work, Bianchi's employees used trade secrets owned by GE Aviation, and that both Korshunov and Bianchi knew that. *'The new group must not know about the previous*



Alexander Korshunov

NOT MY WORLD

EX-MI6 CHIEF TAKES SURPRISING SIDE SWIPE AT SPY AUTHORS

Speaking at a library competition in the UK on 29 September, former Chief of MI6 Sir Richard Dearlove, criticised spy author John Le Carré, suggesting his works exaggerate what really takes place within spy agencies.

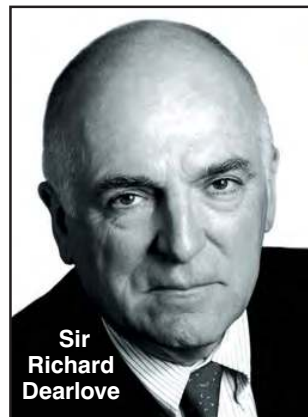
Dearlove, who headed the Service from 1999-2004, told delegates: "His books are exclusively about betrayal. He writes in the tradition of the counterintelligence nihilists. He was only in the Service for three years, and something must have happened to him while he was there to breed this cynicism.

"I rather resent the fact that he is trading on his knowledge and his reputation, and yet the feeling I get is that he intensely dislikes the

Service and what it represents. We've all enjoyed enormously reading the Smiley books... and he does capture some of the essence of what it was like in the Cold War. Nonetheless, he's so corrosive in his view of MI6 that the majority of skilled SIS officers are fairly offended with him. Intelligence organisations are based mostly on belief between colleagues. That's how they function."

Sir Richard also said that Le Carré had exaggerated on what really goes on within the intelligence world, calling him "obsessed" and initiating "myths" about Britain's spies.

Sir Richard later told the *London Times* that he would have objected to the 007 scene in the picture



Sir Richard Dearlove

Skyfall where a terrorist bomb detonates inside MI6's headquarters in Vauxhall. He then took a sideswipe at former MI5 Director-General Dame Stella Rimington, and her hugely popular memoir published in 2001- *Open Secret*. He described Britain's first female MI5 head as "extremely badly behaved," and "it made a lot of her colleagues both in MI5 and MI6 extremely angry."

Dame Stella has published a dozen-or-so novels since.



John Le Carré



Stella Rimington at her desk in Thames House - MI5 HQ

UNSPECIFIED INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION UN CUBAN DIPLOMATS EXPELLED

WASHINGTON: The United States has ordered the immediate expulsion of two Cuban diplomats accused of participating in what it called "influence operations" against the country. A State Department official said: "The United States requires the imminent departure of two members of Cuba's Permanent Mission to the United Nations for abusing their privileges of residence. This is due to their attempts to conduct influence operations against the United States."

Though not specific in its accusations, intelligence sources believe the men's removal is connected to intelligence collection and recruiting sources for purposes of espionage. Cuba's UN mission has widely been regarded as a key intelligence-gathering operation for the island's government.

The administration also restricted the movement of the rest of the Cuban mission to the island of Manhattan. Protests at the UN followed and Cuban diplomats and supporters disrupted a meeting - banging on tables and shouting in Spanish "Cuba Yes, US Blockade No!"

THE IRANIAN INSIDER

German Translator in Afghanistan Charged with Passing Secrets

An Afghan-German translator who operated in the troubled country on behalf of around 1,300 German troops (Bundeswehr) within NATO's Operation Resolute Support, was detained in January. At the time officials said this was

based on "suspicion" that he passed classified information and state secrets to Iran. In late August, 'Abdul Hamid S', 50, was formally charged. Prosecutors said he provided intelligence to MOIS for several years on "sensitive information on

[Coalition] locations and troop numbers." His trial is expected to start later this year.

At the height of German support of the NATO coalition force in Afghanistan, Berlin deployed some 5,000 troops. Around 60



soldiers from the Deutsches Heer have been killed since 2003.

Germany's domestic intelligence service, BfV, has been active against a number of alleged Iranian spy cells in recent years, and has repeatedly accused Tehran of "espionage attempts."

Besides Iran, Russia, China and Turkey were also referenced by the BfV as the "main actors in intelligence collection in the country."



2018. German Army 4th Company of Mechanized Infantry Battalion troops in Mazar-e-Sharif, Afghanistan

Russia's Hunter NEW STEALTH UAV UNVEILED

Russia's Ministry of Defence has released new film footage of the country's Sukhoi Okhotnik (Hunter) UAV, which completed its maiden flight in mid-August. The aircraft performed various manoeuvres, including rapid climbs for around 20-minutes before landing at an undisclosed military airfield.

A press release was released to the media following the test: 'Under the test programme, a long-duration flight time UCAV Okhotnik has performed its first

flight. The aerial vehicle flown by the operator made several circles around the airfield at an altitude of 600 metres and then landed successfully'.

Few details about the supersonic stealth project, which was deemed 'secret', have been released, but aviation specialists believe the aircraft has a take-off weight of around 20-25 tonnes, a wing span around 60ft, and a top speed of 870mph. Its maximum range is said to be around 3,000 nautical miles. Two bays beneath the aircraft are said to house



Sukhoi Okhotnik UAV

advanced surveillance equipment. Other advanced UAVs are also under development.

Intelligence analysts believe the UAV, which is said to have been inspired by America's B-2 stealth bomber, also looks remarkably similar to America's unmanned X-

47B which was first flown in 2011.

The Hunter is Russia's first fighter-sized UAV in its arsenal, and sources say it will be used as an attack aircraft alongside conventional fighters.



Northrop Grumman X-47B maiden flight at Edwards AFB in 2011



Silhouette of the Okhotnik (top) and America's B-2 Stealth bomber

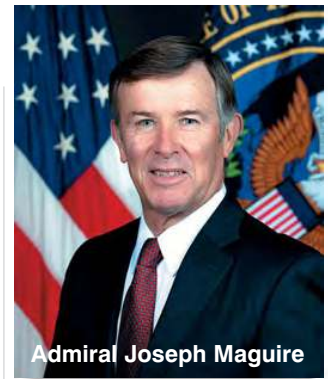
CENTRAL EXCHANGE

US INTELLIGENCE AGENCY LIAISON CHIEFS STEPS DOWN

© MARK WARNER



**Dan Coats with
Director CIA
Gina Haspel**



Admiral Joseph Maguire

of the ODNI. He assumed the job on 16 August - the same day Deputy Susan Gordon departed office. President Trump tweeted: 'Admiral Maguire has a long and distinguished career in the military, retiring from the US Navy in 2010'.

Many assumed Gordon would have been promoted to lead the ODNI, and the President was criticised by some for not

America's Director of National Intelligence (DNI), Dan Coats, has resigned after months of speculation about his position. It is just another twist in the strange relationship between President Trump's White House and the US Intelligence Community (USIC), and follows the protracted saga about alleged Russian support for Trump and supposed Kremlin liaisons with key members of his team. Also departed is Deputy Director Susan Gordon, another experienced intelligence officer.

Washington insiders say Coats and Trump had differing opinions on several topics, including the out-reach programme with North Korea. In this case over its nuclear weapons ambitions. Other officials



**Deputy Director
Susan Gordon**

have accused the President of "politicising" and "interfering" in the work of US intelligence agencies, sometimes publicly dismissing commentary from intelligence heads and representatives. All such incidents, be they minor or major are channelled through the ODNI, and commentators believe Coats, a former



John Ratcliffe with President Trump

politician himself, had reached the conclusion his position was being undermined. Eighteen months ago Coats also said White House staff with no security clearance, should be "limited" in their handling of classified materials. This too did not go do well with the administration.

An early favourite to assume office was John Ratcliffe; intelligence sources believe he supported many of the President's policies and ambitions and would steer agencies to produce estimates and reports favoured by Trump. However, Ratcliffe quietly withdrew his name from a shortlist being considered. Within a week of his decision, Trump named the widely respected Director of the National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC), Joseph Maguire as Acting Director

following "tradition." The most outspoken was former Director CIA John Brennan. He said the loss of Coats and Gordon "basically decapitates the intelligence community."

Critics warn agencies should be left unhindered in such tasks - relying solely on intelligence and objective analysis. Former CIA officer Lindsay Moran summed up the general view of many intelligence officials over the role of the ODNI: "The head of US Intelligence has to be non-partisan." She was joined by other associates who fear the "politicisation of intelligence" by those who have little understanding of the subject.

Coats assumed the position of DNI from James Clapper in January 2017.



2017. Dan Coats is sworn-in as Director of National Intelligence



NEW CYBER PROTECTION DIVISION LAUNCHED

NSA Director General Paul Nakasone, has revealed the creation of a new Cybersecurity Directorate to deter and protect the country's intelligence, assets and communications' networks from foreign-based hackers. The division, which began operations on 1 October, "integrates various NSA elements including defence," according to officials. Announcing the move Nakasone said: "The Cybersecurity Directorate redefines NSA's cyber mission. What I'm trying to get to in a

space like cyberspace is speed, agility and unity of effort."

Head of the new Directorate is Anne Neuberger, 43, a ten-year career officer who has worked as NSA's Chief Risk Officer, Deputy Director of Operations and head of the Agency's Russia Small Group. The latter was a combined NSA US Cyber Command initiative formed to counter any Russian cyber interference in the 2018 mid-term US Elections. Neuberger will become the highest ranking female NSA officer since Deputy

Director Ann Caracristi in 1980, and will report directly to Nakasone. The experienced Neuberger said: "You need to assess the risk of doing and the risk of not doing, if you only assess the risk of not doing, you end up behind the bunkers and not engaging in the fight."

An NSA statement on the new cyber division read: *'The Cybersecurity Directorate will reinvigorate our white hat mission opening the door to partners and customers on a wide variety of*

cybersecurity efforts. It will also build on our past successes such as Russia Small Group to operationalise our threat intelligence, vulnerability assessments, and cyber defense expertise to defeat our adversaries in cyberspace.

'This new approach to cybersecurity will better position NSA to collaborate with key partners across the US government like US Cyber Command, Department of Homeland Security, and Federal Bureau of Investigation. It will also enable us to better share information with



Anne Neuberger



Holding a press card should afford the user with some degree of security, but not always. For the best part of a century intelligence agencies have often used journalistic cover to hide the identity and role of an officer or agent. Similarly, reporters who have access to areas deemed too dangerous for agent deployment or where information is

difficult to source, have been targeted by specialist recruiters. These individuals fall within the so-called 'Fourth Estate'. In some cases, entire media houses used as fronts for intelligence collection have been created. Indeed, there are countless instances and episodes where the media and intelligence world collide.

One spy agency fully conversant with this liaison is ASIO - Australian Security Intelligence Organisation. It has recently requested that journalists should not be given "exemption to laws which impinge on press freedoms," primarily because the agency believes this would provide legitimate cover and a gateway for their recruitment as spies. The submission was made just prior to the inquest held to discuss and investigate the Australian Federal Police raids on News Corp journalist Annika Smethurst and

headquarters of the ABC earlier this year.

ASIO's request, which it hoped would remain secret, echoes similar concerns made last year by its Director General Duncan Lewis, just as its Parliament was debating espionage laws to afford some protection to journalists. In this case Lewis too raised the spectre of recruitment by foreign spy agencies.

INTELLIGENCE WARNING

In the latest move, and in a written submission, ASIO warned: *'In Australia today, journalism is being used as cover by hostile intelligence actors. There are many similarities between the activities of journalists and foreign intelligence officers that make journalism a suitable cover for hiding intelligence activity. For example. Both occupations are inquisitive, both require access to people, places and sensitive information,*



Annika Smethurst



NSA Director General Paul Nakasone

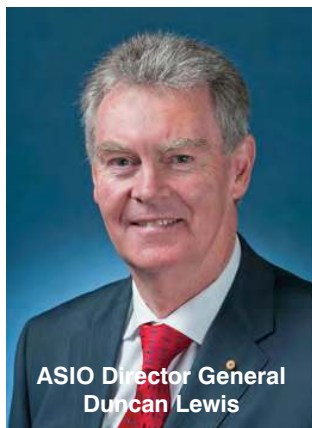
our customers, so they are equipped to defend against malicious cyber activity'.

The Directorate, along with US Cyber Command will also issue alerts to the private sector. In June, for example, companies were notified by the NSA of possible Iranian hacking attempts.

The move follows President Trump's signing of an Executive Order which effectively bans US Government agencies using foreign telecoms systems, fearful of compromise. The order aims to "protect America from foreign

adversaries who are actively and increasingly creating and exploiting vulnerabilities in information and communications technology infrastructure and services," a White House spokesman said. And of course, whilst not naming any specific company or country, China's Huawei has also been mentioned.

The NSA initiative precedes a probable ban on any US firm engaging in business deals with Huawei, despite the company's assurance that its technology cannot be exploited by China's intelligence services.



ASIO Director General Duncan Lewis

and both involve analysis of issue of interest to the public.

'ASIO considers that additional legal exemptions or carve-outs for journalists or the work of the media, would provide more opportunities for potential exploitation by hostile actors and could present an increased challenge for ASIO in performing its functions to protect Australia from threats to National Security'.

The spy agency did thank the media for the way in which it had reported on recent intelligence matters, including Chinese Intelligence interference in elections, and the admission by some journalists that they had been approached by foreign agents. However, ASIO warned: *'There is a risk that not all approaches will be reported or rejected'.*

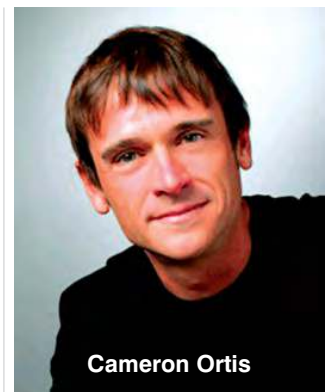
Also discussed was the long-debated argument regarding the media's ability to determine and assess if intelligence-related material should be made available to the public. Referencing the wider problems associated with the release of secret or classified information, including betraying national assets (agents) and sources, an ASIO spokesperson said: "The sensitivity relates to the method by which the underlying intelligence was collected, not to the content of the document itself."



FIVE EYES CONCERN

Senior Canadian Official Arrested on Espionage Charges

Cameron Ortis, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police's Director General of National Intelligence Coordination, has been charged with allegedly obtaining, storing and processing sensitive information with the intent to share the materials with unauthorised parties. RCMP Commissioner Brenda Lucki told reporters that the agency was working with the FBI on a separate case when it uncovered documents that led to an internal investigation and ultimately Ortis's arrest.



Cameron Ortis

That investigation involved an alleged high-profile Russian money-laundering scheme and drug distribution. Ortis had access to secrets collected domestically and by Canada's foreign allies - among them members of the Five Eyes intelligence alliance, which includes the United States, UK, Australia and New Zealand. "I definitely imagine that there is concern among the Five Eyes community," Lucki said. "The organisation is aware of the potential risk to operations of partner agencies in Canada and abroad, and if the allegations are proven true, they are extremely unsettling."

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau assured Five Eyes members that he is "taking the situation very seriously."



RCMP Commissioner Brenda Lucki

Interestingly, one of the cases Ortis handled was the Canadian portion of an alleged \$230 million Russian tax scam, which originated with accusations made by now-deceased Russian solicitor and tax advisor Sergei Magnitsky.

His arrest in Moscow in 2008 and subsequent death after eleven months in police custody generated international media attention and triggered both official and unofficial inquiries into allegations of fraud, theft and human rights violations in Russia.

The primary allegation of course, is that Magnitsky was a name on the so-called 'Russian List' and assassinated.



Sergei Magnitsky

UNWILLING DEPARTURES

National Security Advisor John Bolton Departs as Former Acting FBI Director Files Lawsuit

John Bolton, America's tough-talking National Security Advisor, has departed following an alleged disagreement with President Trump over Iran.

According to Washington sources, Trump discussed with Bolton the possibility of easing some sanctions previously imposed on Iran, to try and initiate new talks with Tehran on its nuclear programme.

Bolton, who has held the position since April 2017, has repeatedly insisted America withdraw from the Iran nuclear deal. Hours later, White House officials said Bolton was no longer in office.



There then followed much confusion as the President said he "sacked Bolton," who duly responded by tweeting: *'I offered to resign'*.

Eight days after Bolton's departure, President Trump announced Robert O'Brien, the State Department's top hostage affairs official, will become Trump's fourth national security advisor, following the departures of Bolton and retired Army General Michael Flynn and H.R. McMaster.

While O'Brien's recent work primarily dealt with matters



Moscow 2018. John Bolton with Russia's Defence Minister Sergey Shoygu

involving US hostages, he was also a partner in a law firm focusing on high-stakes trials and appeals, and was a foreign policy advisor to Mitt Romney during the

persons not "politically loyal to the President."

Andrew McCabe, Acting Director of the Bureau and a 23-year career officer, was effectively fired in March 2018, just days before he was due to officially retire. This cost the intelligence man significant retirement benefits. His legal team have now asked a federal judge to deem his termination "legal nullity" which means his departure was essentially retirement.

McCabe's termination followed a Justice Department Inspector General's report that he had made an undisclosed comment to the media and then lied to investigators about his action.

Utah senator's presidential run against then-President Barack Obama in 2012. In selecting O'Brien, Trump said: "I have worked long and hard with Robert. He will do a great job!"

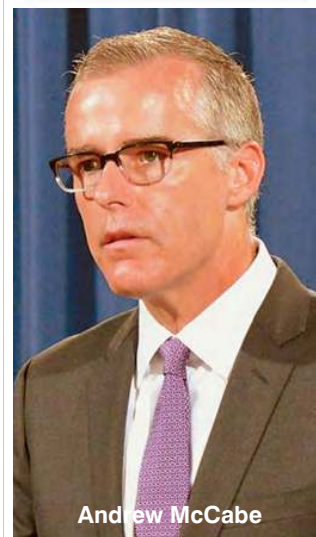
ANDREW MCCABE

The man who green-lighted the investigative probe into alleged ties between President Trump and the Kremlin, has filed a lawsuit against the FBI and Justice Department (DOJ), claiming he was illegally demoted and sacked as part of a wider conspiracy by the White House to remove



Robert O'Brien

Part of the lawsuit alleges: *'It was Trump's unconstitutional plan and scheme to discredit and remove DOJ and FBI employees who were deemed to be his partisan'*



Andrew McCabe



Robert O'Brien is sworn-in as new National Security Advisor



Peter Strzok

opponents because they were not politically loyal to him. The firing was a critical element of Trump's plan and scheme'.

After McCabe departed the FBI he wrote a book - *The Threat: How the FBI Protects America in the Age of Terror and Trump* - which detailed his life and service with the FBI, and of course, included the uncomfortable period surrounding the Russian probe and his departure.

PETER STRZOK

Also in early August, another agent who played a central role in the investigation of Russian interference in the 2016 US General Election, decided to take legal action. Peter Strzok, who was fired in August 2018, argues he was "unfairly terminated" for criticising President Trump. Strzok, head of the Bureau's Counter-espionage Section reportedly sent anti-Trump text messages, which, according to FBI Deputy Director David Bowdich, questioned the investigation. Strzok was also lead investigator in the Hillary Clinton e-mail affair.



FBI Deputy Director David Bowdich

TRUMP DOSSIER

EX-MI6 OFFICER UNDER FIRE

Former MI6 officer Christopher Steele's infamous 'Trump Dossier' is still making ripples across the intelligence world. Now the campaign manager of Donald Trump's election bid, Carter Page, who himself was caught up in the affair has launched a blistering attack on the ex-spy.

Speaking to host Afshin Rattansi of 'Going Underground' on RT in Moscow, Page again insisted that there was no

liaison or collusion between Trump and the Kremlin, and that Steele had "pumped myths into the US criminal justice system," which sparked the two-year probe. "The Steele dossier was just a complete myth, complete lies that were misleading the American public," he said.



Carter Page



Christopher Steele

The dossier was used by the FBI to secure a warrant to investigate Page after references to his alleged meetings with Russians. Page said: "I have never met senior Russians in my entire life."

Page accused Steele of "profiting on misinformation," and hoped that when the full truth outs on Robert Mueller's investigation, relations between the United States, UK and Russia, would improve.

SAS & SBS ADVERT

Special Forces Communicator

For the first time ever, UK Special Forces have advertised for recruits to a new 450-strong support unit based in Hereford next to SAS barracks. The Special Air Service (SAS) and Special Boat Service (SBS) are in need of operatives for the new Special Forces Communicator role established in April, and will involve fighting alongside soldiers, giving counter-cyber and signals assistance in the field.

The full-page advert placed in the Army's *Soldier* magazine, states that male and female applicants will be 'selected for their technical acumen, tactical abilities and physical robustness'.

The applicant is required to successfully pass a 5-day Briefing Course and then successfully complete a 25-week UK Special Forces Communicators Course (UKSFCC) to become a Special Forces Communicator (SFC). Prior to attempting the UKSFCC, applicants have the option of



attending a three week SFC Preparation Course. Successful applicants will receive the Special Forces Communicator (SFC) title and parachute wings and would be sent to frontline missions in the Middle East and central parts of Africa. Sources say other recruits could join MI5's Joint Terrorism Analysis Centre or work with New Scotland Yard's Counter Terrorism Command.

A senior source said: "This advert goes a long way to show how necessary it is for Special Forces to add to their numbers, particularly in the field of communications and counter cyber operations. Apart from giving the SF increased capabilities in vital cyber fields, it will also help to alleviate this pressure."





BOND 25



MI6 Chief Visited Set of 25th 007 Production

Several UK media houses carried a report that MI6 Chief Sir Alex Younger, accompanied by senior associates, paid a visit to Pinewood Studios, Buckinghamshire, where the latest James Bond picture, *'No Time To*

Die' is being filmed. During his time there he reportedly met the cast's senior actors including '007' (Daniel Craig), who is starring in his fifth Bond film, *'Moneypenny'* (Naomie Harris) and his fictional counterpart - 'M' - Ralph Fiennes. The film is set for release in 2020.

Bond films, all Britain's spy services see a rise in job applications.

As for Sir Alex's visit to the set, neither the Foreign Office nor MI6 confirmed or denied the story.

ASTON MARTIN SALE

The lore and fascination of the fictitious spy was evident again,

MI6 Chief Sir Alex Younger

as one person paid \$6.4 million for one of two 1965 Aston Martin's used to help promote the movie *'Thunderball'* in the United States. And though the vehicle did not actually feature in the picture, it has all the gadgets used in the film, including a 'nail spreader', 'smoke screen' and a release mechanism which lays a trail of



Cary Joji Fukunaga,
Director of *'No Time To Die'*

Journalist Sebastian Shakespeare who sourced the story said: "Sir Alex and other senior MI6 figures came down and met Fiennes as well as other stars of the film... it was an absolutely fascinating meeting of real-life spies and their on-screen equivalents."

MI6 has long tried to downplay the role of its agents portrayed in the franchise, but even Sir Alex, who said it was "misleading," acknowledges that it is a useful promotion tool. Eye Spy was told that following the release of new



RM AUCTIONS

FROM REAL SPY TO SCREEN SPY

Valerie Plame: Cinematic Campaign for Congress

Valerie Plame, who in 2003 was famously outed as an operational CIA officer during the Bush administration, has announced a congressional bid for a US House seat in New Mexico in a video that is reminiscent of an action movie.

As she drives expertly at speed and backwards down a dusty desert road, Plame, a staunch Trump critic, says: "I was an undercover CIA operative... my assignment was preventing rogue states and terrorists from getting nuclear weapons."

Plame also reflects on the political scandal attacking Dick Cheney, Lewis 'Scooter' Libby and the President. She recounts how Libby leaked her name out of revenge against her husband,



Valerie Plame



Lewis 'Scooter' Libby

former Ambassador Joseph Wilson,* who wrote an article for *The New York Times* raising doubts about the justification for the 2003 invasion of Iraq. This was linked to the infamous Niger Yellowcake Uranium affair. Plame's identity was revealed in a *Washington Post* article that cited



oil. Other notable accessories including the famous rotating number plates displaying British, Swiss and French registration and concealed weapons behind the rear indicators. Though the guns do not fire real ammunition, an internal device using oxygen and acetylene do make a loud “bang,” according to the sellers.

The anonymous purchaser secured the vehicle at a classic car auction in Monterey, Califor-



Daniel Craig



In the 2019 Queen’s Birthday Honour’s list, the Chief of the Secret Intelligence Service, Alex Younger CMG, was of course awarded a Knight Commander of The Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and St George (KCMG) for services to national security



Aston Martin Valhalla

nia, held by RM Auctions. And in keeping with use of the iconic vehicle brand, an Aston Martin Valhalla features in ‘No Time To Die’. In another US auction held on 26 September, a ‘moon rover’

driven by the fictitious agent (played by Sean Connery) in the 1971 picture ‘Diamonds Are Forever’, sold for \$510,000. In the scene Bond speeds across the Nevada Desert.



unnamed administration officials. Libby was eventually convicted on perjury and obstruction of justice charges in 2007.

In the video, Plame asks: “Guess who pardoned him last year?” as a fist-pumping President Donald



Trump appears. “You name a hot spot... I’ve lived it,” she said. “Now I’m running for Congress because we’re going backwards on national security, health care and women’s rights,” she continues.

The video ends with the car skidding to a halt after a dusty 360-degree turn. Plame rips off her black sunglasses and approaches the camera in slow

motion, hair flying in the wind. “We need to turn our country around,” she says. “And, yes, the CIA really does teach us to drive like this. You’ve probably heard my name... and Mr President, I have a few scores to settle.”

Plame’s memoir detailing her life in the CIA and the events which led to her leaving Langley, was of course turned into a biographical political drama in the 2010 picture



Joseph Wilson

- ‘Fair Game’ starring Naomi Watts and Sean Penn as her husband.

* Joseph Wilson passed away on 27 September 2019, aged 69. Plame, who separated from Wilson two years ago called him a “true American hero.”

SNOWDEN

US Government Sues Former CIA and NSA Intelligence Man

NON-DISCLOSURE

NO HIDING PLACE

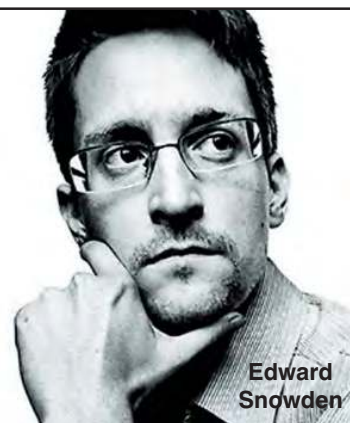
Separate from the criminal charges he faces for espionage, former US intelligence man Edward Snowden is now being sued by the US Department of Justice for publishing his memoirs - *Permanent Record* - in express violation of the non-disclosure agreements (NDAs) he signed with both the CIA and the NSA. Snowden was as a CIA employee and subcontractor when he leaked tens of thousands of secret documents exposing covert NSA surveillance programmes.

The civil action alleges that Snowden published his book without submitting it to the

CIA and NSA for pre-publication review. The suit also alleges that Snowden has given public speeches on intelligence-related matters, also in violation of his NDAs.

"Had Mr Snowden believed that the government would review his book in good faith, he would have submitted it," said Snowden's ACLU solicitor Ben Wizner. US officials are unconvinced by this line of defence noting book review protocol as an "intelligence norm."

The US Government is not seeking to stop or restrict the publication or distribution of the book, rather, it wants to seize any money Snowden makes from book sales. Zachary Terwilliger, US Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia where the suit was filed said: "Intelligence



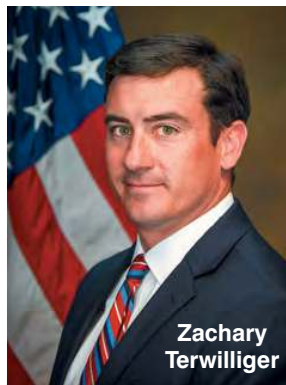
Edward
Snowden

information should protect our nation, not provide personal profit. This lawsuit will ensure that Edward Snowden receives no monetary benefits from breaching the trust placed in him." Assistant Attorney General Jody Hunt of the Department of Justice's Civil Division added: "Edward Snowden has violated an obligation he undertook to the United States when he signed agreements as part of his employment by the CIA and as an NSA contractor.

"The United States' ability to protect sensitive national security information depends on employees' and contractors' compliance with their non-disclosure agreements, including their pre-publication review obligations. This lawsuit demonstrates that the Department of Justice does not tolerate these breaches of the public's trust. We will not permit individuals to



Ben Wizner



Zachary
Terwilliger



enrich themselves, at the expense of the United States, without complying with their pre-publication review obligations."

Also named in the suit are the book's publishers, Macmillan Publishers Inc., Macmillan Publishing Group LLC (as Henry Holt and Company), and



Holtzbrinck Publishers LLC. In its press release, the US Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Virginia said that it is suing the publishers just to make sure that they

don't pay anything to Snowden while the court resolves the government's claims.

Snowden has been living in Russia to escape prosecution since 2013, but Eye Spy is



2019. Washington DC. French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian with US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo

reliably informed he is willing to return to the United States "if he is assured of a fair trial."

Hours after the US decision to sue Snowden, France's Justice Minister Nicole Belloubet, said if it was possible she would offer him asylum, "if he made another request for asylum via the media." In an interview broadcast on 16 September Snowden said he would like French President Emmanuel Macron to grant him the right to live in France.

Unfortunately for him, France's Élysée Presidential Palace promptly issued a statement stressing that Belloubet had spoken in a "private capacity."

French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian said: "He asked for asylum in France - and also elsewhere - in 2013. At that time, France believed it was not appropriate and I don't see anything that has changed today, either from a political point of view or a legal one."

OSINT

UK Chief of Defence Intelligence and New Challenges

At the Defence & Security Equipment International (DSEI) conference in London, Chief of Defence Intelligence (CDI), Lieutenant-General James Hockenhull - who was commissioned into the British Army's Intelligence Corps in 1986 and assumed the post last year - described the potential for Open-Source Intelligence (OSINT) to transform how his organisation operates.

"Publicly available data is the future backbone of situational awareness," said Hockenhull, describing data as crucial to understanding what is happening in an increasingly confused and fast-moving world. He said that the world was "transparent" and pointed to how commercial



satellite data had transformed Defence Intelligence's understanding of world events.

"We need significant change in the way we do business," he said, explaining why existing methods of operating from the Cold War and counter-terrorism operations were no longer applicable to modern challenges. "I am the first career intelligence officer to be CDI," he declared. "We are professionalising what we do - this is no longer a sport for gifted amateurs."

Defence Intelligence, an integral element of the Ministry of Defence

with a staff of around 4,000, is looking to build new types of partnership with OSINT providers in industry and academia, with Hockenhull talking about his



Lieutenant-General James Hockenhull

organisation working on an enterprise basis with the UK armed services, civilian intelligence agencies, the Five Eyes collaboration (Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and the United States), the collection industry, and academia.

Concluding his fascinating overview, Hockenhull reiterated the out-sourcing of some of Defence Intelligence's functions was needed to meet the demands of the future.



Defence Intelligence HQ at RAF Wyton, Cambridgeshire



CIA and MI6 amongst a number of agencies providing support to counter Russian influence in the Baltics

SPY HUNT

Lithuanian troops pictured during a NATO exercise in the Baltics

TRI-NATION SEARCH FOR RUSSIAN SPIES AS TENSIONS MOUNT

As NATO continues to develop its intelligence prowess in Europe with the creation of a number of dedicated intelligence centres, three small, but strategically important nations have joined to coordinate efforts in identifying Russian sleeper and operational agents. Former USSR states Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, supported by US and British agencies, have launched an initiative to counter efforts by Russia's FSB, GRU and SVR, to create a network of assets which would become active in the event of conflict or even rising tensions. This follows new CIA and MI6 assessments that Baltic States would be targeted first.

The move follows several recent court cases in which dozens of people have been charged with espionage and support of Russia.

Lithuania has already convicted around 70-persons of Russia, Belarusian and Ukrainian nationality of spying on behalf of Moscow. In April a Russian-born sailor received a prison sentence for supplying classified information about the country's port infrastructure. And in July, Nikolai Filipchenko, a Russian security official, was found guilty of attempting to recruit a number of locals who would be tasked with bugging the home of Lithuanian President Dalia Grybauskaitė.

Lithuania is also pursuing an espionage-related charge against diplomat Algirdas Paleckis who opposes the country's NATO membership. And though the exact circumstances of the case are not fully understood, one analyst believed "it involved a ring of agents of Russian influence." Paleckis was detained in 2018.



Algirdas Paleckis

A spokesman for Estonia's Foreign Intelligence Service - EFIS, warned that the primary threat to security remains Russia, and that its spy activity is at the highest level since the country departed the Soviet Union. Earlier this year former Estonian Army Major Deniss Metsavas and his father were found guilty of treason and espionage for selling classified military papers to Russia's GRU. During the court case, details of Deniss Metsavas' recruitment were revealed. In a nightclub in Smolensk he met a female and spent the night with her in a hotel. The next day Metsavas was approached by 'police' who said the woman claimed he had raped her. Thereafter he was blackmailed into helping the GRU. In September, a court in Tallinn sentenced another Russian national to five-years in prison for espionage. Identified only as 'A. A.', EFIS said it was not naming the



Lithuanian President Dalia Grybauskaitė and Chief of Defence Arvidas Pocius. An attempt was allegedly made by Moscow to 'bug' her office



2019. L-R: Latvian Defence Minister Artis Pabriks, Acting US Defense Secretary Patrick Shanahan and NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg



Air Chief Marshal Stephen Hillier

In August, Latvian banks were involved in a cyber exercise that simulated what to expect in a growing crisis - all as a result of Russian spy, military activity and subversion. "The financial sector's ability to work during hybrid warfare is an essential part of the comprehensive national defence system," said Latvian Defence Minister Artis Pabriks. The tests were overseen by cyber specialists from a number of external agencies, including the NSA and GCHQ, according to intelligence sources.



Deniss Metsavas

individual because it is still engaged with other related cases. With the jailing of 'A. A.', this brings the number of convicted Russia spies to 15 in the last three years, and does not include several convicted spies who were exchanged.

EFIS Director Mikk Marran, has repeated his warning that Russia is intent on "influence" in the region, and that it is probable such activity goes beyond the Baltic countries, citing Britain, France and Germany as targets.

EFIS also identified several covert cyber units under GRU and FSB control, which are prominent in attacks on the West. Besides the known group APT28, Sandworm and SNAKE APT were referenced.



EFIS Director Mikk Marran

In Latvia, several spy cases are ongoing, including one involving a person who allegedly supplied film footage of NATO military movements. In this case, Aleksandrs Krasnopjorovs is appealing his conviction.

CRIMEA RIPPLES

Despite the surge in Russian espionage and military activities, the actual origins of the Baltics counter-intelligence effort stem from Russia's annexation of Crimea

from the Ukraine five years ago. Fearful of a repeat of Moscow's action and burgeoning military presence in the border regions, a special 'fusion cell' will become

operational by early 2020. This will not only focus on existing espionage threats, but will seek to identify persons sympathetic to Russia and in a position to sabotage and destabilise various aspects of each nations communication, banking and military infrastructure. Other tasks will also include the monitoring of persons intent on external political influence, and the prospect of cyber attacks.



Aleksandrs Krasnopjorovs

Britain's RAF as part of NATO's air-policing mission, has recently reported an increase in Russian air activity over the Baltics. Since arriving in April 2019, RAF Eurofighter Typhoons have been launched several times to monitor Russian warplanes. Air Chief Marshal Stephen Hillier, who recently stepped down as Chief of the Air Staff, said: "For anyone that had any doubt about the levels of activity we are facing since arriving in Estonia, our Typhoons have already scrambled 13-times in response to Russian activity over the Baltic Sea - many more times than in the whole of our last deployment there in 2016."

NATO's Baltic readiness mission follows the end of Russian Operation Ocean Shield, a military exercise in the Baltic Sea which ran from 1 to 9 August and involved around 50 warships and 10,000 personnel. A month later, NATO launched Operation Engineer Thunder 2019 led by the organisation's Forward Presence Battlegroup in Lithuania.



2019. Russian warships participate in Operation Ocean Shield

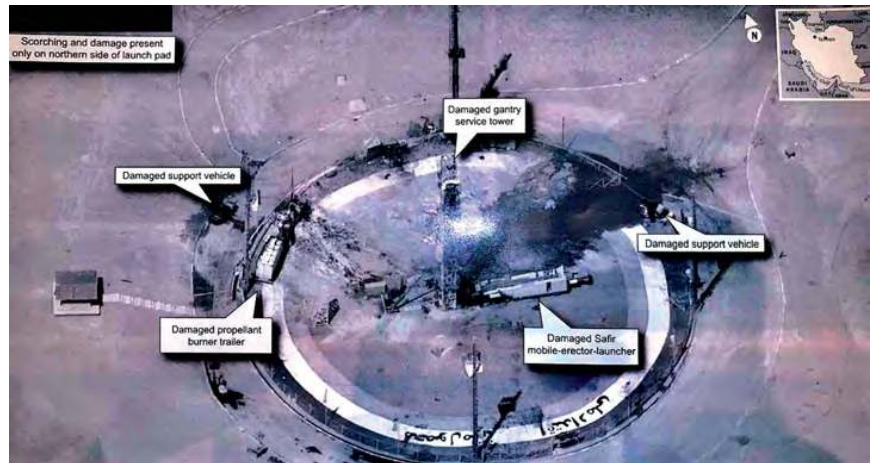
AN INTEL TWEET TOO FAR?

Iran Rocket Imagery Release Prompts Intelligence Concerns

For well over a decade the US has collected intelligence on Iran's space and rocket research industries. Some of the information has been shared with the security services of Middle East allies and agencies such as the Mossad. Confidence is 'high' at Langley that aspects of the programme are cover for work on its ballistic missile rocket and nuclear programmes. The intelligence is highly classified and insightful. What then did intelligence people make of the public release of an image taken by an advanced US spy satellite by President Trump?

Three former senior US intelligence officials, James Clapper (ODNI), James Comey (FBI Director) and John Brennan (Director CIA), were not impressed. All joined to criticise the President following his 'tweet' and the uploading of a high-definition US intelligence photo of a supposed 'accident' at the Iranian Iman Khomeini Space Centre and rocket launch site in the north of the country. The photograph, almost certainly stamped 'classified' or higher, showed a burning rocket on the platform - the third failed attempt to launch a rocket into space in 2019.

On 30 August, the President tweeted: *'The United States was not involved in the catastrophic accident during launch preparations for the Safir SLV Launch at Semnan*



The image of the failed Iranian rocket launch 'tweeted' by the President

Launch Site One in Iran. I wish Iran best wishes and good luck in determining what happened at Site One'. The less-than-impressed Comey, Clapper and Brennan, all of whom have had disputes with the President in recent months, were joined by other senior intelligence figures in their criticism. Many believe the information reveals the capabilities and extent of US space surveillance prowess.

INTELLIGENCE COMMENTS

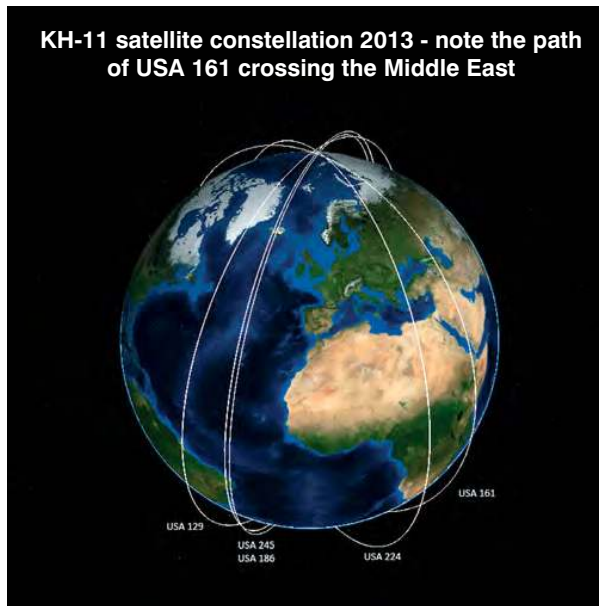
A US Defense Department official said the image (one of an assumed several), was provided at an intelligence briefing. Former CIA

officer John Sipher said the image is "consistent with a standard classified product." Other photographic analysts and interpreters were uncomfortable with the high definition of the image. Former CIA and NSA solicitor Robert Deitz was similarly outspoken: "It identifies for the world the methods we have attained in collecting imagery intelligence. One doesn't use intel for the purpose of taunting. The Russians and the Chinese will be very happy to study this." Joshua Pollack, a nuclear proliferation expert warned: "This will have global repercussions... the utter carelessness of it all, so reckless." Alex Stomos, an adjunct professor at Stanford University's Center for

James Clapper



KH-11 satellite constellation 2013 - note the path of USA 161 crossing the Middle East



James Comey





MAXAR Technologies WorldView-2 satellite image taken on 30 August 2019. Detail shows Iranian rocket launch pad at the Imam Khomeini Space Centre. Debris and a plume of smoke can be seen on the platform



International Security and Cooperation was a little more specific. He said there will be "lots of analysts counting pixels in Beijing and Moscow today."

BETTER THE DEVIL YOU KNOW

Intelligence analysts note the image could expose America's control and movement of spy satellites - as well photographic capabilities. The angle of the image has already led some specialists to determine just which satellite it was - USA 224/NROL-49 - a



NRO Director Dr Christopher J. Scolese



NRO signals specialists. Below: KH-11 mission patch with Latin phrase 'Better the Devil You Know'

National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) optical spy platform launched in 2011 to replace USA 161. Eye Spy sources note the trajectory or path of USA 161 would have taken it over Iran.

USA 224 is one of a number attached to the ultra secret KH-11 (Keyhole) programme; the original mission patch carried the Latin phrase - 'Better the Devil You Know'.

Astronomical experts have also joined the debate, with some pinpointing the satellite's exact distance from the Iran launch pad - 237 miles. Others have said the satellite was equipped with a 2.4 metre mirror - "comparable to the capabilities of the Hubble Telescope which can produce the sharpest images of the Earth's surface." ➡



Alex Stomos

"...lots of analysts counting pixels in Beijing and Moscow today."



Reconnaissance photograph taken by a KH-11 spy satellite of a Chinese Xian H-6 warplane

Photo experts are divided if the image tweeted by Trump was an original computer file (EPS, TIF, JPEG), or if he had taken or been handed a snapshot of a print out. Similarly, some analysts believe the image may have been taken by a surveillance UAV - though this seems a secondary option.

President Trump dismissed intelligence concerns: "We had a photo and I released it, which I have the absolute right to do. Being scolded by failed former intelligence officials like James Clapper, on my condolences to Iran on their failed rocket launch... guys like him and the even dumber John Brennan, don't have a clue." Such criticism and terminology will hardly have improved relations between the White House and the US Intelligence Community (USIC).

IRAN CLAIMS SATELLITE NOT DAMAGED

Iran meanwhile was dismissive of the entire affair, and just hours after the image was released, Mohammad Javad Azari Jahromi, the country's Information and Communications Technology Minister, tweeted a photo of



Dr Christopher J. Scolese is sworn in as Director of the NRO by Joseph Kernan, Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence

The President's strange action came just weeks after Dr Christopher J. Scolese was sworn in as the 19th Director of the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) on 5 August 2019, at the Agency's headquarters in Chantilly, Virginia. He previously served as the Director of the NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center until 31 July 2019.

"I am truly honoured to have this opportunity to serve the nation as Director of the NRO," said Scolese. "I am looking forward to fulfilling the great responsibility ahead of me and helping the NRO accomplish its mission to provide innovative overhead intelligence systems that help keep our nation safe and secure."

The Director of the NRO provides direction, guidance, and supervision over all matters pertaining to the NRO and executes other authorities specifically delegated by the Secretary of Defense and the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI).

himself standing next to a Nahid-1, a telecommunications satellite which was to be carried by the rocket. Nevertheless, officials in Tehran have acknowledged there was an explosion at the launch site, but said the Safir satellite was

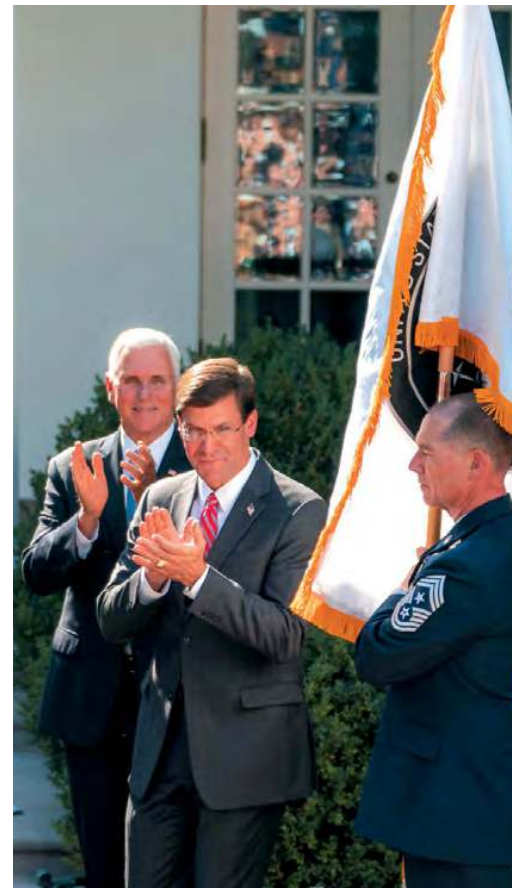
not destroyed. Nahid-1 is Iran's latest venture into space and follows quickly on the heels of Fajr (Dawn) - a satellite launched in 2015, which has the capability of capturing and transmitting high-quality photographs.

As for the President's tweet, it reached an estimated 64 million people.



Iran's Information and Communications Technology Minister Mohammad Javad Azari Jahromi, pictured with the Nahid-1 telecommunications satellite

EDITOR'S NOTE: The NRO is responsible for developing, launching, and operating America's signals, imagery, and communications intelligence satellites. It has several ground stations around the world, including one at the super-secret NSA base - RAF Menwith Hill in England (See page 52). The Organisation has released in excess of 300,000 satellite photographs taken by the US Intelligence Community (USIC) between 1960 and 1972. All are widely available to the public. Thousands more images, some quite recent, have been released to the media to support US investigative bodies and as evidence. The photograph taken by USA 224 and its subsequent release was not commented upon by the NRO nor its new Director - Dr Christopher J. Scolese.



THE SIXTH ARM

New US Defence and Intelligence Organisations

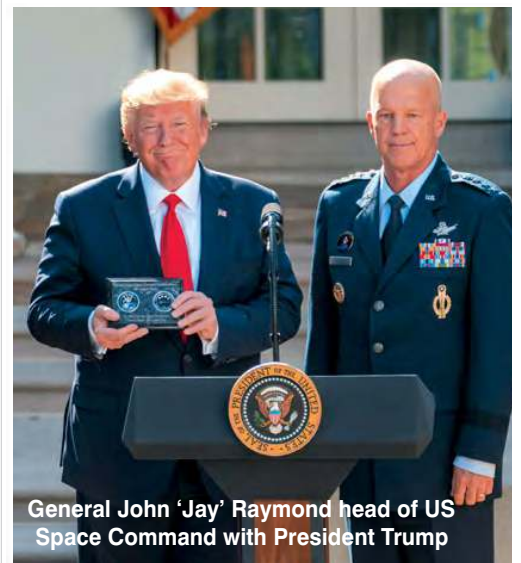
On 29 August, President Trump hosted a White House ceremony marking the creation of Space Command (USSPACECOM), saying the organisation, which will draw expertise from all sectors of the US defence and intelligence community, "is a big deal." First reference to the new defence arm was made last December, but some intelligence and security watchers were sceptical in respect of its creation. One observer de-

scribed the venture as a "new space bureaucracy," noting that in 2018, the Pentagon spent \$7.2 billion on "space procurement and R & D funding." Another said the "Pentagon need not spend like drunken cosmonauts."

Such objections were dismissed by military and intelligence officials. And noting that space will almost certainly be the next domain used by the country's adversaries, the President said: "The dangers to our country

constantly evolve and so must we. Now, those who wish to harm the United States - to seek to challenge us in the ultimate high ground of space... it's going to be a different ball game."

The organisation, which effectively ceased operating nearly 20-years ago, will be multi-faceted and involve numerous space, air and ground bases involved with communication and satellite operations. It will also be linked to early warning sites and have the ability to ➤



General John 'Jay' Raymond head of US Space Command with President Trump



General John Raymond Commander of USSPACECOM addresses delegates and service personnel at Peterson AFB

counter disruptive attacks (including cyber) by satellite-based weaponry. Some analysts believe it will ultimately support covert space-based satellites which could be deployed in an offensive mode should the need ever arise.

“SpaceCom will soon be followed by the establishment of the United States Space Force as the sixth branch of the armed forces,” said Trump. “The Space Force will organise, train and equip SpaceCom’s mission.”

The short ceremony was attended by various political, military and intelligence figures, including General John ‘Jay’ Raymond, who will head US Space Command. He is the current chief of Air Force Space Command, which is responsible for most of the country’s military space-based operations. “The creation of a US Space Force will be critical to ensure we maintain superiority in space,” said Raymond. “We think it is absolutely necessary to elevate space to its own separate force.”

Four critical areas of operations were identified; to deter aggressors and avoid conflict, defend US and Allied freedom of action, deliver space combat power for the Joint/Combined force, and develop joint warfighters to advance US and Allied interests in, from, and through the space domain.

NEW HEADQUARTERS SELECTED

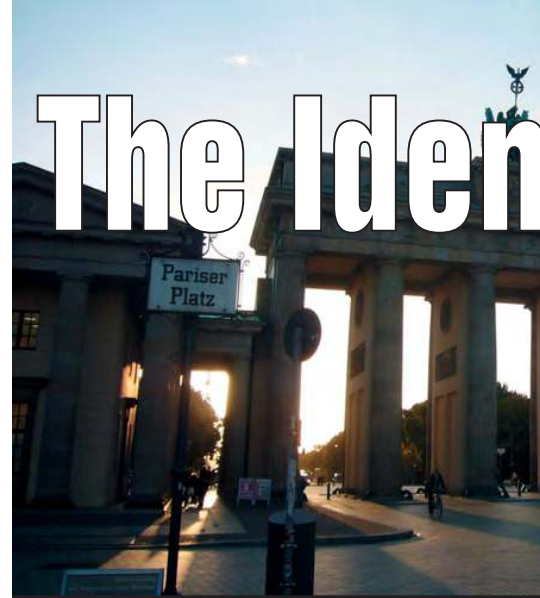
On 9 September, another ceremony was held at Peterson AFB in Colorado which will be Space Command’s initial headquarters. Various space-related operations involving nearly 90 units are already performed at the Base, including Air Early Warning. The event was attended by Raymond and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Joseph Dunford. Dunford told delegates: “In my view, it’s not an over-statement to say that we are at another ‘Sputnik’ moment,” a reference to the first launch of a satellite into space by Russia. “You could argue that the stakes are much higher than they were in the late 1950s and early 1960s.”

Dunford referenced the activities of Russia and China as well as Iran and North Korea. “I learned early in my career the value of seizing the high ground in a fight,” he said. “We will develop ready and lethal space forces... and take our existing space warfighting culture established by the original US Space Command honed in the Cold War and adapt it to today’s strategic environment.”

As the ceremony at Peterson AFB concluded, General Raymond said: “We can no longer take our access to space for granted.”



President Trump, Vice President Pence and General John Raymond Commander of USSPACECOM, stand with Secretary of Defense Mark Esper as he displays the signed document for the establishment of US Space Command (USSPACECOM)



BERLIN S

Zelimkhan Khangoshvili, 40, a Georgian national and field commander who fought against Russia in the early 2000s Chechen war, was shot dead in Berlin on 23 August. The shooting immediately raised fears that the incident was politically motivated and some drew comparisons to the attempted assassination of MI6 agent Sergei Skripal in Salisbury, England last year. Within days, German media commentators were referencing Russia’s intelligence services as possible suspects.

ASSASSINATION

As Khangoshvili walked towards a mosque for Friday prayers, a gunman appeared from behind a bush on an electric bicycle and approached him in the city’s Kleiner Tiergarten park. He then calmly shot him twice in the head at close range with a 9mm Glock 26 (silencer attached) before making off. However, two witnesses noticed him despatch

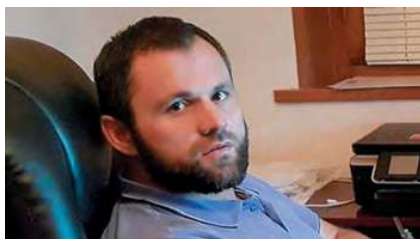


COURTESY: BELLINGCAT

Identity Man

Tri-Media House Probe Links New Assassination to Russian Intelligence

SANCTION



Zelimkhan Khangoshvili

his bike, a wig and a firearm into the River Spree. They duly informed the police. Just as the assassin was making his way to mingle with crowds of tourists, police detained him - this despite the fact that his appearance had changed.

At the police station, the suspect presented visa entry documents that carried the name Vadim Andreevich Sokolov, a 49-year-old Russian living in St Petersburg. However, investigators from *Der Spiegel*, *The Insider* and *Bellingcat*, probed the name and soon discovered it did not exist in the country's national passport and driving registers; nor did



Police investigators and forensic experts at the site of the shooting. Inset: 9mm Glock 26 firearm - the type used in the assassination

it feature in a hotel identified in the entry visa issued by French authorities. His home address in St Petersburg was also allegedly bogus.

A few days after the incident, prosecutors revealed they had also found a "return ticket to Russia" on his person. Unconfirmed reports suggest German Intelligence "strongly" suspects the attack was sponsored by Russia.

Sokolov, who is referred to by German authorities as 'Vadim S', has since asked that he be allowed to meet with Russian consulate officials.

IDENTITY PROBE

Perhaps more revealing, his passport number was the type issued by the Russian Interior Ministry to specialist units of the GRU intelligence service. That organisation was identified by British Intelligence as being responsible for the failed Skripal attack. Here also the two GRU men at the centre of the affair used false identities.

Bellingcat suggest the suspect, described as a 'ghost', is not a government (intelligence) officer, but could have been recruited by an agency, noting "it is not unprecedented for the Russian security services to resort to using



Zelimkhan Khangoshvili pictured with Chechen leader Aslan Maskhadov in 2005

freelancers... as assassins." It's a theory supported by Russia specialist Mark Galeotti from the London-based think tank - Royal United Services Institute (RUSI). "The FSB has form hiring gangsters to kill Chechens, he said." Eye Spy was informed the primary reason 'Vadim S' is not thought to be a Russian intelligence officer is because he has tattoos - something which is 'taboo' in the services. The tri-media house probe also learned that Khangoshvili had been the victim of two earlier assassination attempts.

At the time of his murder, Khangoshvili was awaiting the outcome of an appeal hearing to avoid deportation from Germany. He had arrived in the country in 2015, via the Ukraine.

It should also be noted that some reports suggest the shooting is linked to the criminal underworld.

Khangoshvili's death coincided with an official visit to Moscow by Germany's Foreign Minister Heiko Maas, which prompted a Kremlin reaction. "I categorically reject any link between this murder and official Russia," said President Putin's spokesman Dmitry Peskov.



Kleiner Tiergarten Park, Berlin

THE DARK AND SILENT

London Hotel Blocks Blue Plaque Honouring Spy

© CLASSIFIED: THE INSIDER'S GUIDE TO 500 SPY SITES IN LONDON



Krystyna Skarbek A.k.a. Christine Granville

A London hotel continues to block English Heritage attempts to honour Krystyna Skarbek - perhaps better known in spylore as Christine Granville - "Churchill's favourite spy." The agent is credited with saving countless lives...

Born in 1908, Warsaw, Poland, Krystyna Skarbek was married to a Count. When war broke out in 1939, she escaped to Britain and through a contact and friend of German-born British journalist Frederick Augustus Voigt, offered her services to MI6. Officials were initially sceptical because of her foreign, half-Jewish background. But in the end she succeeded in her quest and joined the Special Operations Executive (SOE) in 1941 using the operational name Christine Granville.

Active throughout WWII, the spy used all manner of tradecraft as she skied across mountains hiding secrets in her gloves, repeatedly talked her way out of prisons and even persuaded German troops to defect. She could ride horses, use firearms and spoke several languages, and was much skilled in the use of and creation of smuggling routes.

As D-Day approached, her work in Nazi-occupied France became even more important to the Allies.



Krystyna Skarbek

THE CICHOCIEMNI

Her efforts were also a decisive factor in the SOE's recruitment of more females operatives and the establishment of a Polish unit code-named *Cichociemni* or *The Dark and Silent*. Indeed, spy watchers believe SOE and MI6 training papers included aspects of her self-taught tradecraft, which included faking illness in interrogation by biting the tongue and causing blood to fill the mouth.

Not all were convinced of her derring do, Britain's Ambassador in Hungary once communicated with London that Skarbek had a "pathological love of danger," but this did not lessen Churchill's, nor SOE's belief in the agent. He reportedly told his daughter Sarah, that "Skarbek was his favourite spy."



Frederick Augustus Voigt



As Britain's longest-serving wartime female agent she became a UK citizen, and for her endeavours was awarded the George Medal appointed an OBE and received France's Croix de Guerre.

SPY SITE OBJECTIONS

After the war Skarbek applied unsuccessfully for military jobs, thus made a living as a hat-check girl in Harrods, a waitress and a toilet cleaner on passenger ships.

By 1952 she was living in a room at the Shellbourne, a guest house used by Polish immigrants. Sadly, on 14 June of that year, after rejecting the advances of Dennis Muldowney, a porter at the well known Reform



Arkady Jozef Rzegocki, Polish Ambassador to the UK



The Polish SOE unit - The Dark and Silent - which had several hundred agents, was based at Audley End House, (SOE Station 43, or Secret Training Station 43), just outside Saffron Walden in Essex, close to London. Over 500 agents passed through Station 43 - a memorial to the 108 Polish SOE agents who didn't return - now stands in its grounds.

Club, Muldowney took revenge by stabbing her to death in the lobby of the Shellbourne. A few months later he was executed by hanging. His final words were: "To kill is the final possession."

The new owners of the former Shellbourne at 1 Lexham Gardens, have for three years objected to English Heritage efforts to honour the spy with a blue plaque, this despite an appeal from Polish Ambassador, Arkady Jozef Rzegocki. "Skarbek's contribution to the Allied effort in the Second World War is undeniable," Rzegocki said.

Historian Howard Spencer of English Heritage, said: "Her undercover skills as a spy meant that this brilliant and brave woman left no trace of previous addresses the only possible place is the hotel."

Skarbek is buried at St Mary's Catholic Cemetery, Kensal Green, London, supposedly

Station 43 memorial to fallen Polish SOE agents



under a layer of Polish soil smuggled by friends out of the former Communist country.

The Reform Club, London, was a popular haunt for MI6 and MI5 officers



MARITIME CASINO

UK and USA Intelligence Play Game of Chance with Iran



Released Oil Cargo Ship Circumnavigates Plethora of Restrictions to Finally Reach its Original Destination

Following months of tensions in Gulf waters involving traversing cargo vessels and watching warships from a variety of nations, in Gibraltar, a judge ordered that the seized Iranian tanker *Grace 1* be released. The decision to free the oil carrier after 43-days in detention, baffled the intelligence world as statements issued from Washington revealed US officials opposed the move. Intelligence sources believe this was more “protocol,” than a request. Since then, despite the threat of more sanctions, direct action and surveillance by both US and British Intelligence, the ‘rogue’ vessel has successfully delivered its two million tonne oil cargo to Syria - its original destination.

Royal Marines board *Grace 1*



BACKGROUND

Grace 1 of course, was boarded on 4 July by Royal Marines as it made its way to Syria to deliver the outlawed cargo of oil. Authorities said its destination and intention violated European Sanctions on oil shipments to Syria.

The incident followed a summer of Iranian deception operations, which included cyber infringements on control and guidance systems used to lure vessels beyond international waters. Thereafter Iranian proxies controlled by the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps - Quds Force (ISRG-QF) placed explosives on several ships disabling them. In another incident, a US Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) was shot down.

Iran also responded by seizing two oil carriers, including the British-flagged *Stena Impero* supposedly protected by Western and Gulf interests. Since then, Royal Navy and US Navy warships have provided a protective gateway through the Strait of Hormuz.

At the time of *Grace 1*'s release, Gibraltar's Chief Minister Fabian Picardo said he had “received written assurances from Iran,” that if released, the vessel would not seek to enter any port under EU sanctions. “This has the effect of ensuring that we have deprived the Assad regime of Syria of more than one hundred and forty million dollars of valuable crude oil,” said Picardo. The crew of the tanker were released and will not face legal



Gibraltar Chief Minister Fabian Picardo

action. Picardo's words would fall on deaf ears in Tehran as a game of ‘maritime casino’ was played out.

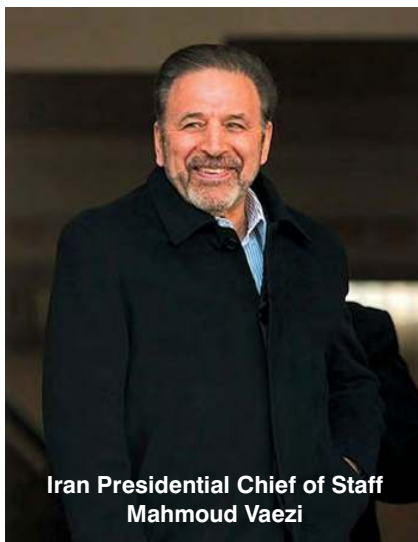
FINANCIAL INCENTIVE

Amidst the furore, it transpired, that a senior US official, Brian Hook, attempted to gain the cooperation of the ship's captain, Akhilesh Kumar, with the promise of several million dollars. Hook, from the Iran Desk of the Department of State, sent a communication to the captain advising he was acting on behalf of US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo. As it transpired, the signal was ignored.

On 18 August the *Grace 1* was renamed *Adrian Darya-1* and a new Iranian crew despatched by Tehran. Within hours the crew hosted an Iranian flag - this as it began its journey out of UK territorial waters. The US then imposed new sanctions on Kumar and blacked-listed the ship. There was also much talk of a second interception.



US Special Representative for Iran and Senior Advisor to the Secretary of State, Brian Hook (right), pictured with Nathan Sales, Coordinator for Counterterrorism



Iran Presidential Chief of Staff Mahmoud Vaezi

Iran's Presidential Chief of Staff Mahmoud Vaezi, described the ship's release as a "diplomatic victory," whilst Foreign Ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi again insisted the tanker's destination was not Syria. "Even if it was it did not concern anyone else," he said. The *Tehran Times* carried a front page header titled 'Legal Victory'.

Gibraltar officials said the move was in part made to "ease tensions," but intelligence watchers believed it was the start of an even more covert game, and less than 48-hours later they were proven right - as new intelligence reports suggested the ship, with its tracking devices now disabled, was indeed heading towards Syrian territorial waters.

US law officials from the Justice Department duly issued a warrant to detain the ship again. Part of the

warrant states: 'All petroleum aboard it and \$995,000.00 are subject to forfeiture based on violations of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA), bank fraud statute, and money laundering statute, as well as separately the terrorism forfeiture statute'.

COVERT ACTION

For the past five years, and perhaps a little longer, the CIA and FBI have investigated several front companies created by Iran's intelligence services and the terrorist-designated Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) to circumnavigate global restrictions on its distribution and sales of oil. Some individuals are undoubtedly controlled by MOIS (Ministry of Intelligence and Security). One operation was actually based in Europe which had threads to bogus companies in America.

The US warrant references the networks: 'Multiple parties affiliated with the IRGC used voyages like that of *Grace 1* to support illegal activities... a network of front companies laundered millions of dollars through these



Grace 1 has been renamed Adrian Darya-1



Iran Ambassador to the UK, Hamid Baeidinejad, was summoned by Downing Street after the oil was delivered to Syria

shipments'. Just as interesting, the \$995,000.00 referenced in the warrant is the exact amount held in an alleged US bank account. The Justice Department described its holder as having an association with a 'shell company' [front company] linked to businesses which act on behalf of the IRGC. And this is just one, amongst several, that are being investigated by the US Justice Department.

Iran's Ambassador to the UK, Hamid Baeidinejad responded to the US warrant by tweeting: 'The US in a last minute attempt made a futile effort to block the release of the tanker and were faced with humiliating defeat. With recent attempts, all necessary preparations and technical issues to release the tanker to an open sea have been arranged and the ship will leave Gibraltar soon'.

DECEPTION AND WEB OF LIES

To augment Iran's chance of recovering the released ship, Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Mousavi said: "Iran has given necessary warnings to American officials through official channels. Do not make the mistake [engaging the tanker] because it would have grave consequences." Tehran also threatened to send warships to the British outpost to



Iran Foreign Minister Abbas Mousavi



Maxar satellite images of the *Adrian Darya-1* near the Port of Tartus



provide protection to the tanker. On 19 August *Adrian Darya-1* finally departed the scene without incident - its destination was rumoured to be Greece. However, with possible political pressure pending from the White House, Greek Deputy Foreign Minister Miltiadis Varvitsiotis said, "Greece was not prepared to help Iran by facilitating the course of the tanker... this is a message we have made very clear."

After nearly three weeks of traversing waters, on 9 September, Iran claimed *Adrian Darya-1* had "off-loaded the oil" in Syria to a "private consortium." Despite the clever wording, this contradicts the written assurances made to the UK, that the oil would not be sold to the Assad regime.



Deputy Foreign Minister of Greece
Miltiadis Varvitsiotis

Intelligence analysts last reported the tanker's location just a mile from the Port of Tartus in Syria - home to a major Russian naval element. The location was specifically chosen because of the Russian presence. Maxar satellite imaging supported its position.

Departed US National Security Advisor John Bolton, on learning of the intelligence, tweeted: *'Anyone who said the Adrian Darya-1 wasn't headed to Syria is in denial... we can talk, but Iran's not getting any sanctions relief until it stops lying and spreading terror'*. He then described the voyage as a "deception" and "web of lies." And on 13 September US Department of State spokeswoman Morgan Ortagus said: "The Iranian regime delivered oil to Syria... that fuel goes straight into the tanks of troops that are slaughtering innocent Syrians." Ortagus said the United States has evidence of the oil transfer - no doubt secured by CIA watchers.

The UK summoned Iran's Ambassador Baeidinejad in London for an explanation. This was followed by a statement by Sigal Mandelker, United States Under Secretary for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence: "Vessels like *Adrian Darya-1* enable the IRGC-QF to ship and transfer large volumes of oil, which they attempt to mask and sell illicitly to fund



Iran has now off-loaded the crucial oil cargo in Syria

the regime's malign activities and propagate terrorism. And US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo issued a stark warning: "The US will not idly watch the Assad regime use Iranian oil to terrorise its own people."



Sigal Mandelker, United States
Under Secretary for Terrorism and
Financial Intelligence



US sailors on the USS
McFaul monitor shipping
on the Strait of Hormuz



Iran displayed fragments of the US RQ-4 Global Hawk UAV shot down during a summer of tension in the Gulf



US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo

INTELLIGENCE SHARING

The UK has joined with the United States and other nations in the creation of a 'Coalition of Protection' maritime force which would assist and protect oil tankers and cargo carrying freighters pass through Gulf Waters. Iran opposed the move and has further warned that if Israel joins the force it is likely to increase tensions. This followed comments by Israeli Foreign Minister Israel Katz (right), who revealed his country had participated in 'closed door' talks on intelligence sharing with the Coalition. Iran's Foreign Ministry responded by claiming the move is a "clear threat to Iran's national security and it has a right to confront that threat."



In late August, the Ministry of Defence said it was sending its third warship to the Gulf - HMS *Defender*. ➤



HMS *Defender*

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INTERNATIONAL MARITIME SECURITY CONSTRUCT (IMSC)



US Vice Admiral Jim Malloy, commander of US Naval forces Central Command, speaks at the opening ceremony of International Maritime Security Construct (IMSC), aboard the Royal Navy warship HMS *Cardigan Bay*. The IMSC is headquartered in Bahrain

The United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia are the latest countries to join the International Maritime Security Construct (IMSC) providing protection to shipping in the Arabian Gulf and Strait of Hormuz. Announcing his country's move, the UAE's Director of International Security Cooperation Department, Salem Mohammed al-Zaabi said: "The UAE accession to the alliance comes in support of regional and international efforts to deter threats to maritime navigation and global trade. This is in order to secure the flow of energy supplies to the global economy and contribute to maintaining peace and security."

US General Kenneth McKenzie, Commander US Central Command (US CENTCOM), welcomed the move by the two Gulf countries. "I appreciate the UAE and Saudi decision to join the IMSC and in taking an active role in securing the freedom of navigation for ships transiting the region and in contributing to maintaining security and stability in the region."

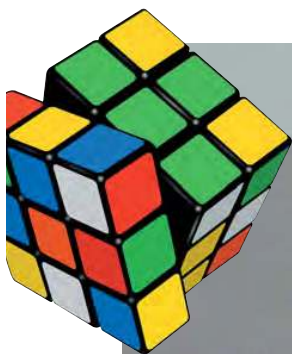
The alliance force, led by the United States Central Command (CENTCOM), is now supported by the UK, Australia, UAE, Saudi Arabia and Bahrain. And whilst some European nations support the concept of a protection force, other than Britain, none have yet shown any willingness to send maritime protection vessels to the area.

Some intelligence analysts believed President Trump would use the recent United Nations General Assembly meeting as a platform to diffuse tensions with Iran, instead he branded the country, "the world's number-one state sponsor of terrorism."



US General Kenneth McKenzie





Glenn Greenwald



Justice Minister Sergio Moro

INTERCEPTION

Former Snowden Contact Man Threatened with Imprisonment Receives Legal Boost

Brazil's President Jair Bolsonaro launched an astonishing attack on Glenn Greenwald, the US journalist who was a central figure in the US documents leaks affair involving NSA contractor Edward Snowden. Following that episode Greenwald moved to Brazil and opened the investigative website-based magazine *The Intercept*. And recent reports published by the site upset the President who called his publication "aligned with criminals."

The material in question, which included transcripts of alleged hacked phonecalls made by Justice Minister Sergio Moro and senior officials, led to questions being raised if Moro had "improperly" consulted with prosecutors when he was a judge controlling Operation Car Wash. That initiative investigated widespread corruption. The minister is a key associate of the President and regarded as something of a beacon of respect in Brazil - this following his

probe. Several articles have since appeared in *The Intercept* which focus on stories linked to corruption.

Bolsonaro was asked if the publication of the material could lead to Greenwald's deportation. This follows new laws brought into force giving the authorities the right to fast-track deportation of any foreigner who is designated 'dangerous' or has acted against the country's national security interests and constitution. The President responded by saying Greenwald is a resident and married to a Brazilian national and "maybe he will be imprisoned in Brazil." He also called Greenwald a "trickster" in respect of his marriage and adoption of children.

For its part, *The Intercept* "strongly condemned" the Bolsonaro's statement. Greenwald himself responded on Twitter: '*Contrary to what the president says, he is not (yet) a dictator. He doesn't have the power to order people to stop.*

To detain someone, you need to present evidence to a court showing that a crime was committed. That evidence does not exist'.

Bolsonaro's attempt to derail further publication of the leaks and target Greenwald, came unstuck in August when Gilmar Mendes, a member of Brazil's Supreme Court, ruled that it was improper to for the President to investigate the *Intercept* and Greenwald. In a widely distributed letter, Mendes wrote: '*The constitutional secrecy of the journalistic source makes it impossible for the State to use coercive measures to constrain professional performance and to impede the form of reception and transmission of what is brought to public knowledge*'. Greenwald responded: "The Brazilian Constitution robustly and expressly protects the work we're doing, and I'm grateful that the Court has applied those guarantees against the repressive, retaliatory acts threatened by the Bolsonaro government against us. The crucial precedent ensures that not only we, but all Brazilian journalists can do our jobs even in the Bolsonaro era without fear of retaliation from the state."

Greenwald is supported by the Brazilian Association of Investigative Journalism. "By threatening a journalist who publishes information that he dislikes, the President promotes and instigates serious attacks on freedom of expression," a spokesperson said. "Without free journalism, the other freedoms will also die." However, following publication, Greenwald has received death threats from some of the President's most ardent supporters. "I don't feel completely safe," he said. And in an interview with French journalists he caused more consternation by admitting his investigation into the Brazil Government is just at the beginning, describing some of the unpublished material "extremely important and explosive."

As a *Guardian* newspaper journalist in 2013, Greenwald famously made contact with Snowden who used spy tradecraft, in this case a rubic cube to signal his presence outside a Hong Kong restaurant. Interviews followed and the rest is history...

President of Brazil Jair Bolsonaro. Inset: Glenn Greenwald



Ministry of Education and Science HQ



SOURCING SECRETS

Kremlin's Unpopular Spy Warnings

Scientists and technology specialists have voiced concern over new Kremlin guidelines warning of potential industrial espionage and inadvertent contact with foreign spies. Details of the order, which were issued by Russia's Science and Higher Education Ministry, has been approved by minister Mikhail Kotyukov (below). The ministry, formed in 2018, oversees scientific institu-

tions and regulates contact between Russian and foreign academics.

Though the instruction, or 'decree' as it is called in Russia was made

earlier this year, it has only recently surfaced, and states workers should remain vigilant in the protection of secrets. A clause insists government and contracted scientists should advise their superiors five days prior to any

forthcoming meeting or contact with foreign-based scientists... and then duly report back on what was discussed at the meeting.

COUNTER-MEASURES

The lengthy order, which has been analysed by intelligence analysts from the West, also notes that before any foreign representative meets with their Russian counterpart, they should be stripped of all mechanical and electronic devices, cell phones, recorders and watches.

Many Russian scientists have criticised the ruling saying it is "unworkable" and will damage their ability to perform certain tasks. Others say their foreign counterparts will be wary to impart guidance or share technology information - fearful of being entrapped. In an open letter, Alexander Fradkov, a scientist at Saint Petersburg State University, wrote:

'Such ridiculous and impossible orders will not improve the security of our country, but will only lead to an increase in isolation from developed countries and discredit the government.'

'Creative and personal contacts with the world's scientific community should be treated with care. They strengthen global stability and mutual understanding between the countries and, ultimately, our country's security'.



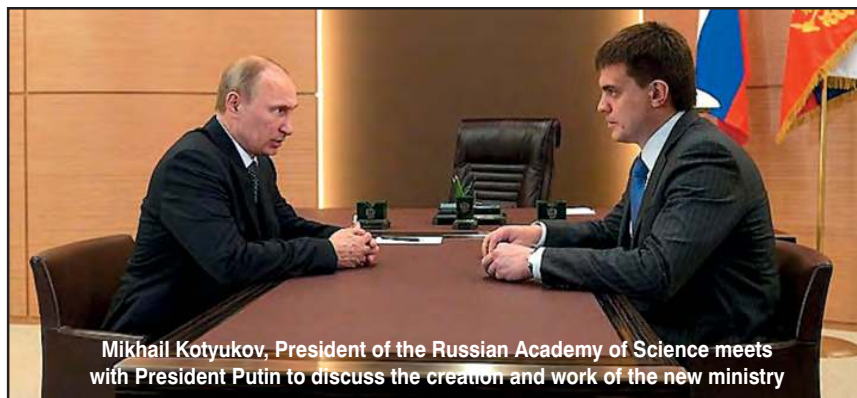
Alexander Fradkov

Fradkov, who believes the order must have been written in the pre-Internet era and sourced from an old Soviet KGB rule book, asked that the Kremlin dismantle it post-haste. However, when asked about the affair, Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said that although he had not digested the instruction properly, he said it was important for everyone to be wary of foreign espionage attempts. "Of course we need to adopt a certain vigilance because foreign intelligence services are not dozing and, nobody has cancelled industrial espionage," said Peskov. "It happens 24-hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week, and is directed against our scientists, particularly young scientists." Describing the rules as "stringent," Peskov said the scientific community should not get "too carried away" and the 'contact ruling' "merely a recommendation."

In the last decade or so, President Putin has embarked on a major programme to elevate Russian technology institutes and educational places to match those in the West. This he hopes will safeguard the country's defence and military prowess, whilst offering opportunities for its younger population. However, a number of scientists have fallen foul of espionage rules, and some have been jailed after meeting associates from outside Russia. Only last year, rocket and missile scientist Viktor Kudryavtsev, was jailed for treason while working on behalf of a Belgian company. This research was funded by the European Union and was deemed non-sensitive at the time of his involvement. However, in time, work progressed where 'classified' was attached to aspects of the programme.

Moscow also revealed around 220,000 foreign students are currently studying in Russia academies or attached to companies on learning programmes.

When the Soviet Union collapsed in the early 1990s, over 20,000 scientists moved out of the country, and double that many engineers and technology experts departed.



Mikhail Kotyukov, President of the Russian Academy of Science meets with President Putin to discuss the creation and work of the new ministry

THE RISE OF AL-QAIDA

INTELLIGENCE FOCUS: AL-QAIDA, ISIS AND THE TALIBAN

Al-Qaida emboldened as CIA-Taliban talks stall - this as US Intelligence warns of new attack to coincide with 20th anniversary of 9/11

A new report published by the United Nations Analytical Support and Sanctions Team (ASST), gives credence to the general intelligence overview, that al-Qaida and ISIS as operational and inspirational terrorist bodies remain strong. This coincides with similar views held by US and British Intelligence.

In its 24th report submitted to the UN Security Council's Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee, analysts from the ASST warn that al-Qaida remains resilient whilst continuing to forge dangerous links with other terrorist groups throughout the world, in particular in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Syria, Somalia and West Africa. It also coincides with a major CIA effort

to convince the Taliban to sever ties with the group. This relationship has enabled al-Qaida to use Afghanistan as a base for recruitment and organisation, whilst continuing to expand elsewhere.

DEATH OF HAMZA BIN-LADEN

Interestingly a paragraph in the report notes: *'The health and longevity of its leader Aiman Muhammed al-Zawahiri, and how the succession will work out are in doubt'*. For the last eighteen months or so, US and UK intelligence agencies were fairly confident that Hamza bin-Laden, 30, one of 23 sons of Osama, has taken control of much of the group's activities - all under the watchful eye of the ailing al-Zawahiri. All of this is now in



Aiman Muhammed al-Zawahiri

question following CIA action which reportedly resulted in the death of Hamza bin-Laden as early as December 2017.

The man dubbed 'al-Qaida's leader in waiting'* by the CIA, has reportedly been 'killed' several times prior to the latest report, the earliest being in the raid which saw US SEAL teams eliminate his father in Abbottabad, Pakistan on 2 May 2011. However, in January 2019, following the FBI's announcement of a \$1 million dollar reward for information on his whereabouts, the debate on Hamza was reignited. Now three intelligence officials speaking on the condition of anonymity have spoken to media contacts in Washington DC, claiming the US is confident the 'heir' to al-Qaida's throne is dead.

The sources believe he was reportedly identified at a safe site situated along the Afghanistan-Pakistan border, though the

Hamza bin-Laden (centre)





Afghan Army commandos



Hamza bin-Laden was almost certainly killed by the CIA in 2017

intelligence was not "100 per cent." Nevertheless, the CIA using an armed UAV targeted the location resulting in Hamza's death. "Our intelligence showed Hamza was here, but we didn't know for sure," said Governor of Want Waigal, Mohammad Ismail,

who oversees the mountainous district in Eastern Afghanistan. To compound matters, all the sources believe he was killed prior to the FBI reward being issued. And of course, Langley would neither confirm or reject the stories of his death. Eye Spy was informed the NSA intercepted a pre-recorded message from Hamza in March 2018, calling on al-Qaida supporters to "wage war in Syria."

Some intelligence watchers believe no statement was issued by the terror group on his death primarily because its commanders believed it would impact on its recruitment and financing.

ACTION CAPABILITY

Whilst there is little commentary on the ISIS-al-Qaida relationship, analysts believe both groups are intent of dominating the terrorist theatre in Afghanistan and elsewhere. Pentagon and US State Department officials, have recently issued commentary based on various intelligence estimates, that al-Qaida and its affiliates remain "as strong as ever" and pose a "legitimate threat" to the country and elsewhere. Interestingly, many analysts, including some operating within MI6, note that al-Qaida has purposely avoided conflict areas where ISIS has been most prominent, thus allowing the demise of the group in theatres such as Iraq, Syria and elsewhere.

Nathan Sales, US State Department's Coordinator for Counterterrorism, said: "Al-Qaida has been strategic and patient over the past several years. It has let ISIS absorb the brunt of the world's counterterrorism efforts whilst patiently reconstituting itself. What we see today is an al-Qaida that is as strong as it's ever been. No one should mistake the period of silence from al-Qaida as an indication that they have gotten out of the business."

NEW '9/11' HORIZON THREAT

Just as worrying, some CIA sources believe that the withdrawal of US military forces from Afghanistan, including its major intelligence presence, could inspire al-Qaida to attempt to launch another major attack on America - this as the 20th anniversary of 9/11 approaches. Already in many major cities, special desks within the FBI and other agencies have been created to combat any potential looming threat. This coincides with the expected departure of CIA officers and its many contractors; however, a complete withdrawal has been rejected by informed sources.

Langley is heavily involved with the training of government-aligned proxy forces, such as the Khost Protection Force (KPF), described as a "shadow CIA unit." In this case the CIA funds the 6,500 paramilitary unit of mostly Afghanistan soldiers. Eye Spy was told, "the CIA has no plans to leave Afghanistan any time soon, and whatever happens, its footprint is guaranteed by the KPF."

As for ISIS, Langley notes that whilst it has been defeated as a military force, its supporters remain intent on establishing pockets and franchises in numerous countries - from Africa to the Far East, and even in South America. This was aptly displayed on 17 August when the terrorist group attacked a wedding party in the capital Kabul. Sixty three



Nathan Sales, US State Department Coordinator for Counterterrorism

people perished and nearly 200 were injured. A suicide bomber detonated his body-worn explosives, and when emergency services arrived, another device in a vehicle outside the building exploded. Interestingly, Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid condemned the attack, describing it as "barbaric."

FINANCIAL PROWESS

UN analysts report that ISIS has managed to retain its financial prowess, media profile and

The US has around 15,000 US troops in Afghanistan. Had the Taliban talks proven successful, some 5,400 US military personnel would have been withdrawn within 20 weeks. Washington wanted a guarantee from the group that the country would not be used as a platform for terrorism



US Special Representative Zalmay Khalilzad (centre)



SNAPSHOT: ANALYSIS

Terrorist attacks continue apace in Afghanistan. In July 2019, five major incidents occurred:

- **01 JULY:** A Taliban car bomb followed by a gun assault in Kabul killed 45 people.
- **07 JULY:** Vehicle suicide bombers aligned with the Taliban detonated explosives in Ghazni killing 15 people.
- **15 JULY:** Around 25 Afghan Special Forces members were killed in Taliban ambush in Badghis.
- **18 JULY:** Two Taliban suicide car bombings and an attack on a police station in Kandahar killed 12 people.
- **19 JULY:** Eight people perished when a bomb exploded at Kabul University. No group claimed responsibility.



UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres

combat and terrorist expertise, this despite its defeat in the Middle East. The ASST report concludes: *'It remains the more immediate threat to global security'*.

Analysts warn it continues to evolve from a 'pseudo-state to a global network and retains its ability to inspire and direct terrorism'. The assessment was supported by a new UN report published on 12 August, and presented to the Security Council in which it was estimated that ISIS has around \$300



President Ashraf Ghani with US Embassy officials in Panjshir Province, Afghanistan



Intelligence sources believe as many as 17 CIA officers have been killed in Afghanistan since 9/11. This number is dwarfed by agent deaths



Weapons confiscated - former child soldiers are released in South Sudan

CHILDREN AND CONFLICT: The UN has also published a report on the number of children caught up in armed conflict. Analysing data from 20 conflict theatres, around 12,000 child combatants and non-combatants were killed or injured in 2018. Somalia, Mali, Nigeria, Syria and Afghanistan were the worst-affected areas.



Troops survey the scene near the US Embassy in Kabul

to attend prayers. No group has claimed responsibility.

Far more damaging to the talks, overseen by US Special Representative Zalmay Khalilzad, was an incident in early September when a car bomb detonated near the US Embassy and NATO headquarters in Kabul killing US soldier Sergeant Elis Barreto Ortiz and a Romanian trooper - both assigned to NATO. Ten civilians also perished. This prompted Afghanistan's President Ashraf Ghani to dismiss the USA-Taliban liaisons. "Peace with a group that is still killing innocent people is meaningless." And on 8 September, US President Donald Trump announced he had called off a meeting with Taliban and Afghanistan officials at Camp David. President Ghani was also due to attend. Few in the intelligence and political world knew of the meeting, which drew criticism from some.



A Taliban car bomb exploded near the US Embassy in Kabul killing 12 people, including US trooper Sergeant Elis Barreto Ortiz (right)



million in various secret accounts, and perhaps more worryingly, the lull in attacks by the group may be temporary. "The threats posed in the short term by adult detainees and in the medium to long-term by minors who are often traumatised and may become increasingly radicalised have the potential to grow more serious," said UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres. He too did not rule out terrorist attacks in the future as between 24-30,000 fighters return home to their countries of birth.

A recent US Defense Intelligence assessment also noted ISIS is focussing on Kabul's premier places of learning in an effort to recruit highly educated students - many who could ultimately find employment outside the country.

CIA-TALIBAN TALKS STALL

As back-channel talks between the CIA and Taliban progressed, the group continued to menace the country. On 7 August an explosion outside a Kabul police station killed 14 people. Days later the group itself was targeted when the brother of Taliban leader Hibatullah Akhundzada, Hafiz, died following an



Hibatullah Akhundzada

explosion at a mosque near the Pakistan city of Quetta. The CIA believe Hibatullah was the intended target as he was also due



It is unclear if talks between Taliban and US officials in Qatar have yielded a breakthrough



US SERVICE DEATHS: US Green Beret Sergeant Dustin Ard, 31, (right) was the fifteenth US service member to be killed in Afghanistan in 2019, from injuries sustained during operations in Zabul Province. Ard, from Idaho, was part of the 1st Special Forces Group, operating alongside Afghan Army commandos. His wife Mary, was expecting their second child. The US Department of Defense have issued no further details. Two other US troopers were killed in the country: Master Sgt. Louis DeLeon-Figueroa, 31, and Master Sgt. Jose Gonzalez, 35.

Pentagon statistics show around 2,400 US military service personnel have been killed and 20,000 injured in action since 9/11.





Taliban weaponry recovered by a joint US-Afghan Army operation in Marawara District

Trump tweeted: 'What kind of people would kill so many in order to seemingly strengthen their bargaining position. If they cannot agree to a ceasefire during these very important peace talks, and would even kill 12 innocent people, then they probably don't have the power to negotiate a meaningful agreement anyway'.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid criticised the decision and countered by saying US forces were still attacking Taliban positions. He warned: "This will lead to more losses to the United States. Its credibility will be affected, its anti-peace stance will be exposed to the world, losses to lives and assets will increase."

Suhail Shaheen, another Taliban representative in Doha, Qatar, where negotiations have been taking place, said a deal had already been "finalised and would be announced." He also said the White House move was "unbelievable" and "damaged the president's credibility."

Former Director CIA and current Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, who helped broker the talks, said: "If the Taliban don't behave, if they don't deliver, the President of the United States is not going to reduce the pressure." He said various agreements had been reached with the Taliban, including severing the group's links with al-Qaida. However, he insisted if "the conditions are not met... we are not going to enter into any deal." Despite this, Pompeo is quietly confident an agreement can be reached.



US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo



PHOENIX ODYSSEY

US AND UK MILITARY INTELLIGENCE LIAISON

US Marines with 2nd Intelligence Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force continued to build a strong relationship with British Army Reserve soldiers with 5th Military Intelligence (5MI) Battalion, during Exercise Phoenix Odyssey held at Camp Lejeune in North Carolina from 11-19 September.

The exercise originated in 2014 to improve interoperability by increasing cohesion between British and US military intelligence units. The week-long training placed the two units inside the 'Infantry Immersion Trainer' (IIT) on MCB Camp Lejeune.

Inside the IIT, service personnel conducted detaining operations, handling prisoners of war and improvised explosive devices (IEDs) detection. The urban setting of the IIT provided personnel with realistic training, and interactive role players gave the combined force of intelligence operatives a realistic setting to apply their skills.

"It's important to train together," said Lance Cpl. Alexander Pino, a patrol leader with 2nd Intelligence Battalion. "On deployments we work with other countries, so the more time and training we get with them, the better we will work with them."

The training affords Marines and British soldiers the opportunity to share intelligence operations capabilities with one another,



expanding their mutual capabilities to work as NATO allies in the event of real-world operations. "These exercises are not only great in what they achieve for learning objectives, but also just how we can iron out creases so when we deploy we can work shoulder to shoulder," said Lieutenant Colonel Angel Sedgwick, commanding officer of 5MI Battalion.

"We train together to learn how to work with one another in the intelligence operations centre in the event we have to deploy, it's important we understand how to do the same processes," said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Tevis Lang, a master analyst with 2nd Intelligence Battalion. "If we understand each other, we can work together anywhere."

NOTES: CCTV & FRT

**INTELLIGENCE
COUNTER-TERRORISM
PRIVACY**

CAUGHT ON CAMERA

Eye Spy examines the growing use of close circuit television and emerging imagery technology in the fight against terrorism, this as critics continue to voice concerns over privacy

Global statistics on the number of operational CCTV systems vary dramatically. Some estimates state over 20-million 'professional' cameras are installed every year. Britain holds a high percentage of these with a recorded number of around four million. According to new research, the number of security cameras in London alone is set to reach 627,000 by the end of 2019, and could top one million by 2025. With one camera for every 14-people, this means a Londoner could be caught on camera 300-times a day.

The United Kingdom has more CCTV activity than any other European country per capita:



West Midlands, UK police surveillance system

with 15,516 cameras operating on the London Underground alone. The city's Wandsworth Borough has more CCTV cameras than Boston, Dublin, Johannesburg and San Francisco combined.

Such is the outreach and burgeoning use of CCTV and facial recognition technology, the UK now has a dedicated Surveillance Camera Commissioner in the person of Tony Porter.

TECHNOLOGY

Video surveillance plays a key role in fighting crime and protecting public spaces. Urban space CCTV was designed in the early 1990s and implemented before the West's so-called 'war on terror'. Its primary use by public bodies, councils and the police is in combating comparatively minor but nonetheless prolific crimes such as anti-social behaviour,



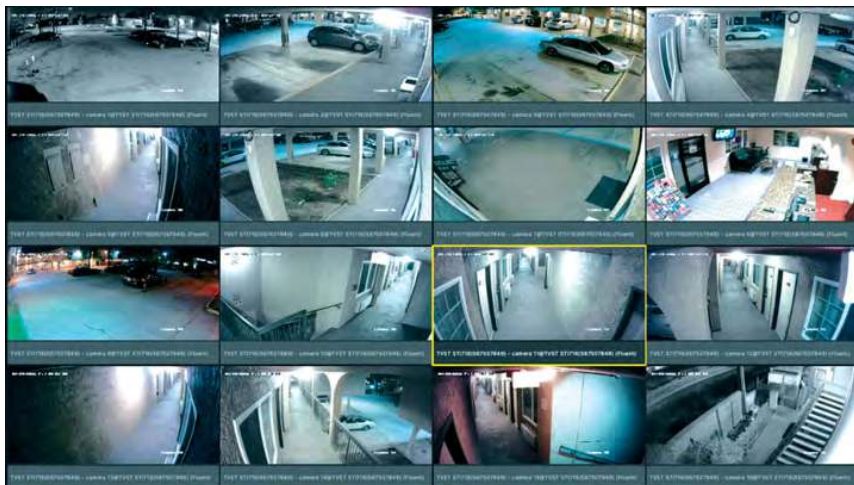
UK Independent Surveillance Camera Commissioner Tony Porter

assault and theft, etc. However, this feature focuses on the wider international threats, with some intelligence analysts questioning whether the systems are “up to the counter-terrorism task” in the current security climate.

With many fighters from ISIS returning home, new threats from al-Qaida and a global increase in terrorist incidents by both home grown activists, extremists and international groups, counter-terrorism efforts would undoubtedly be aided by a well-designed video surveillance system and operational strategy to enable the assessment of a potential incident. Post-event, its use lies in evidence gathering and forensic analysis and placing a suspect in a specific location.

COORDINATION

The deployment and use of CCTV has grown steadily in the UK, USA and elsewhere in the world, but no-one really knows where all the cameras are located, who they belong to or their operational prowess. In ‘places of interest’ - airports, government buildings, communication and transportation hubs, military sites etc., Britain’s security organisations, both government and private,



High-definition images from a car park surveillance system in California

have recognised that live-streaming is also beneficial to pre-empt possible terrorist strikes. Numerous command centres have been created, many now operated by forces linked to the counter-terrorism world. And of course, secured information is often shared with the wider intelligence world.

Another consideration not thought out properly and a legacy of the 1980s and 1990s CCTV programme is imaging quality. Whilst modern technology has enabled new systems to capture images of exceptional detail, far too many cameras still exist where quite often the data is of little or no use. And in a court room environment it can be questioned.

Early systems did not address practical requirements such as whether or not it was designed to deter, prevent, detect or prosecute, if it was proactive, reactive or both, continually manned or unmanned, and used only after an incident is reported to provide post-incident information and evidence.

Varying degrees of skill and experience of a system’s technical designer were used



Central Whitehall, London, has a high concentration of CCTV cameras and a dedicated counter-terrorism unit

affecting the interpretation of the operational requirement into equipment: cameras, storage, display, processing and transmission mediums which fit together forming a complete working video surveillance system.

POST AND PRE-EVENT USE

The swift identification of the 21 July 2005 London al-Qaida bombers would suggest CCTV is certainly effective post-event, but analysts ask if it was more luck than judgement. In this case bombers were caught on various transport cameras after they fled the scene. New Scotland Yard released imagery of the suspects 24-hours later and by 29 July all had been arrested. Unfortunately an innocent civilian was killed as a result of mistaken identity. In the hunt for the suspects, and based on CCTV images one of the bombers - Hussain Osman - counter-terrorism



Quality still from a surveillance camera in Tokyo, Japan



Stockwell Tube Station



The failed 21/7 2005 London terrorists caught on various transport CCTV as they make good their escape, including Hussain Osman (bottom right). Sadly Brazilian Jean Charles De Menezes was misidentified in the hunt for Osman and shot dead at Stockwell Tube Station



Hussain Osman and Jean Charles De Menezes

officers shot dead Brazilian Jean Charles De Menezes at Stockwell Tube Station.

The attack was aimed at replicating the 7/7 bombing of various targets in the city just days earlier which resulted in the deaths of 52-people. In this case, New Scotland Yard secured pre-event CCTV footage that revealed the bombers carried out a 'dry run' on the London Underground network nine days before their attacks. Three of the four

terrorists, Mohammad Sidique Khan, 30, Shehzad Tanweer, 24, and Jermaine Lindsay, 19, were captured by CCTV cameras travelling to King's Cross Station on 28 June. Police subsequently scrutinised 80,000 pieces of footage from security cameras to discover how the three terrorists spent almost four hours in the capital performing reconnaissance.



The 7/7 London terrorists caught on CCTV at Luton train station north of the city, just hours before they attacked



This led to questions: "Could the incident have been avoided" - or the "perpetrators detected earlier" if CCTV cameras had been better sited. All were dismissed by security officials.

LOCATION

Over the years, Britain's Home Office and the CCTV User Group have addressed problems including improving the design of CCTV systems and producing operational requirement documents which set out what the systems are expected to achieve and also enhancing the training of operators and their use of the technology involved.

Experience has resulted in better system design

RECONNAISSANCE

Three of the 7/7 London terrorists caught on transport CCTV nine days before they killed 52 people

and just as important, camera positioning; the question asked by intelligence analysts is whether or not cameras located to combat general crime represent the best location for anti-terrorist use. Excluding London and specific threat areas such as sea ports and airports, little work has been carried out with respect to the location of cameras - specifically for counter-terrorism use in urban surveillance situations.

Allied to CCTV, the use of ANPR (Automatic Number Plate Recognition) systems around the world is growing. It too can play a very useful role in counter-terrorism and surveillance. Knowing the whereabouts and route of a 'vehicle of interest' (VOI) enables the security services to monitor a suspect's journey, and can sometimes even help analysts determine a terrorist's target. Similarly, it can provide information on associates and purchases.

DATA VOLUME

The sheer volume of video content often produced makes identifying, assembling and delivering actionable intelligence - from



ANPR cameras sited on New York's iconic Brooklyn Bridge

multiple sources and across thousands of hours of footage - a habitually long and laborious process. This process handicaps security organisations, meaning that reacting to events, rather than preventing them, is often the only possible course of action.

Defense and intelligence agencies have spent significant resources attempting to address the problem, leveraging artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning to automatically identify video objects of interest, but it can take an entire team 24-hours to interpret only a fraction of one camera's data.

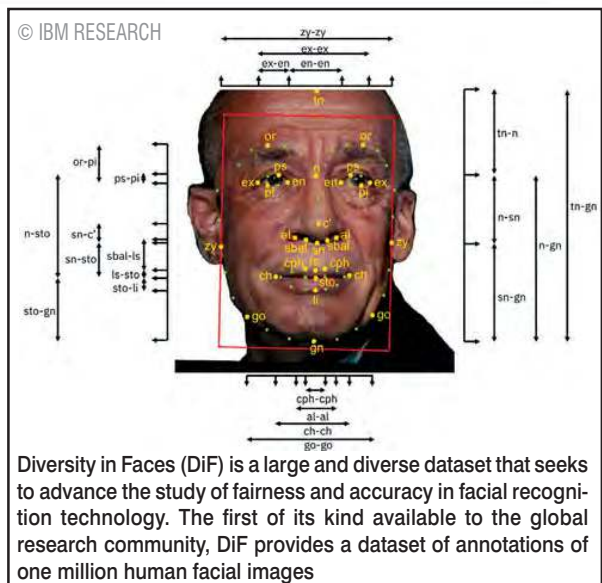
Many security and intelligence officials believe a secure, but easily accessible database of all cameras containing detailed mapping of where each camera is located and the operator is the preferred option. Combining emerging

concepts with existing AI technology, law enforcement and intelligence agencies could programmatically search across and splice together multiple video surveillance streams from disparate sources such as UAVs, security cameras, archives and even satellite



PRIVACY

In 2016, New Scotland Yard implemented special cameras to scan the structure of faces in a crowd of people and compare the result against police data bases which can include suspects, missing people and persons of interest. The facial recognition system is called NeoFace and if a match is found, officers at the scene where cameras are positioned, can be alerted. Other facial recognition systems are being tested around the world, and some are already operational in major transport hubs. And on 16 September,





FRT is now in use at departure gates in Gatwick Airport, London

officials at Gatwick Airport, London, confirmed plans to permanently use FRT that allows passengers to pass through gates without being checked by security officials. The announcement follows months of trials, and Heathrow Airport is set to roll out similar technology in the next 12-months.

Opponents recently challenged facial recognition technology in a UK court. In May of this year, a resident of Cardiff, was represented by civil rights group Liberty at the High Court in London as he sought to ban its use by South Wales Police. In September a judge dismissed the case and ruled the technology did not breach human rights or data protection laws. In San Francisco, however, city officials recently voted to ban facial FRT systems as some campaigners branded it "Big Brother technology," and an unlawful violation of privacy. A member of 'Big Brother Watch', a privacy and civil liberty group, said: "The notion of live facial recognition turning citizens into walking ID cards is chilling."



Former head of the UK's National Counter Terrorism Security Office (NaCTSO) Chris

Phillips (above), said if people have done nothing wrong, they have nothing to fear. "We had the same argument with CCTV," he said. "We're all submitting our data through the likes of Facebook. What is more important - not being recognised or stopping a terrorist attack?" Mr Phillips agreed that the

technology needed to be regulated, but said in the current climate police have a "pretty much impossible task" when it comes to counter-terrorism.

INTERNATIONAL USE

One American city which has embraced CCTV and security imaging systems is New York. And since 9/11 more and more strategically placed cameras monitored by specialists 24-hours-a-day, have been installed - around 6,000. From key bridges, to iconic buildings and places where tourists gather, NYPD has both human and electronic watchers. Developed in 2012, its surveillance platform is called Domain Awareness System. Another



2008 Mumbai terrorist Mohammed Amir Kasab caught on CCTV. He was part of a terror cell which killed 72 people

associated programme was only recently revealed by NYPD that has been operational since 2016. Called Patternizr, the system can help analysts search through a mass of data and case files more quickly.

Other high-end programmes are emerging all the time, and in conjunction with advanced and strategically placed cameras, these will undoubtedly help counter-terrorism forces thwart those intent on illegal acts.

COUNTER-INTELLIGENCE

CCTV imagery has been useful in identifying other participants working in the intelligence game. In 2010, UAE Intelligence quickly identified a Mossad team who had been despatched to Dubai to eliminate key Hamas operative Mahmoud Al-Mabhouh. Footage secured by cameras at the airport and in the hotel where the attack took place, left no doubt who was behind the operation. It soon became clear all the team had used bogus identification papers. And



Surveillance cameras in Stockholm, Sweden

more recently, CCTV played a vital role in identifying the prime suspects behind the likely GRU-sponsored assassination of a former colleague turned MI6 agent in Salisbury. Dozens of other examples can be found.

World Governments today are faced with a difficult decision as they seek to fulfil their responsibilities to protect and defend their national security interests and the human rights of their citizens. Michael Chertoff, who served under President George W. Bush as the nation's second Secretary of Homeland Security, and now runs a risk management and security consulting firm said: "To me, the most frustrating thing is when people treat privacy and security as if they are trade-offs. You can't have privacy without security, but



2010. Dubai, UAE. Mossad agents caught on CCTV



Dutch police surveillance centre



Mahmoud Al-Mabhouh

you can have security without privacy. There's a delicate balance between security and privacy."

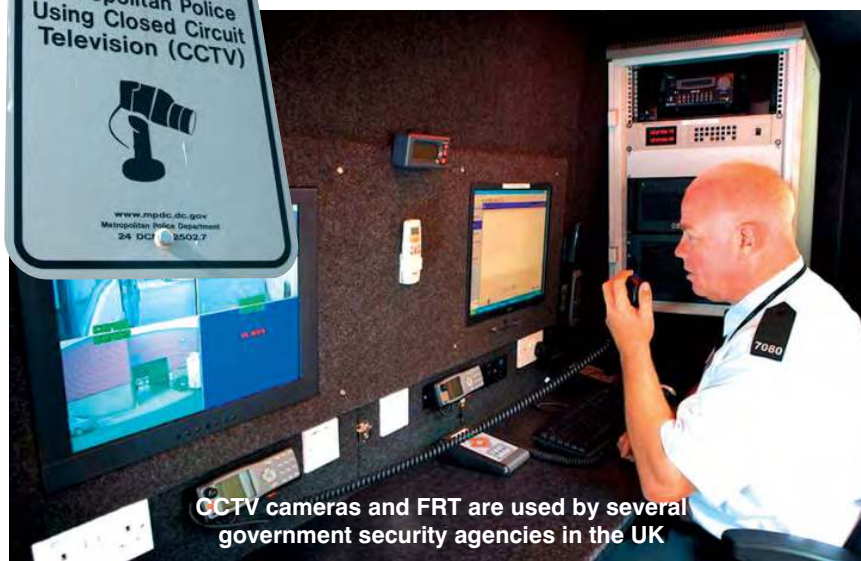
Robert Schukai, global head of Thomson Reuters said: "We're going to have to make this fundamental trade-off between

how much do we value national security and protection, versus how much do we want to behave in a free society."

Few doubt that video will continue to be a valuable tool in the 'arsenal' of law enforcement, anti-terrorism organisations and the intelligence services. The debate over its use will also continue long into the future. From AI and machine learning to data processing and video virtualisation, the security services can work together to shape efforts to proactively counter crime and terrorism globally. However, the use of CCTV will continue to be a complex and controversial subject.



Michael Chertoff with President Bush



CCTV cameras and FRT are used by several government security agencies in the UK

MOSSAD SURVEILLANCE

Agents Track Iranian UAV Technology Leading to IDF Strike

Israel surprisingly acknowledges its involvement in penetrating an Iranian network intent on supplying its adversaries with advanced weaponry and UAV technology

For several months a number of key Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) Quds Force commanders have overseen an operation to move part of its burgeoning UAV and precision-missile programme to Syria - close to the border with Israel. Israel Defence Force (IDF) officials named the Iranian commander controlling the operation as IRGC Brigadier General Muhammad Hussein-Zada Hejazi, an intelligence specialist and advisor to Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei. Iran's support of Hezbollah and weapons supply is said to have begun in 2013, but in 2016, Tehran decided to enhance the programme with more accurate weapons and armed MUAV (Miniature Unmanned Aerial Vehicles). "Iran's ultimate objective was to help Hezbollah produce missiles capable of striking targets in Israel



Hassan Yousef Zabeb, 23, left, and Yasser Ahmad Daher, 22, two Hezbollah members killed in an Israeli airstrike in Syria. It is unclear from whence these images were sourced or taken. Israeli sources state the men are pictured enroute from Lebanon to Iran



IRGC Brigadier General Muhammad Hussein-Zada Hejazi

with deadly accuracy," US intelligence sources claim.

Since then, and all under the watchful eye of the Mossad, the covert Quds Force unit, headed by IRGC Colonel Majid Nuab has trained several Lebanese Hezbollah operatives to install explosives on MUAVs, and use precision-guided missiles which were to be launched against targets in Israel. However, Mossad agents penetrated the cell and learned

of the primary location in Syria which was to be used to launch the offensive.

HUMINT

At some point in August, Quds Force members began moving the deadly cargo from Iran to Damascus International Airport; thereafter in darkness the materials, including precision-guided weaponry, explosives and guidance systems were off-loaded onto a number of



Iranian 'smart bomb'. Image released by the Iranian Defence Ministry in August 2019



Hezbollah' Commander
Hassan Nasrallah

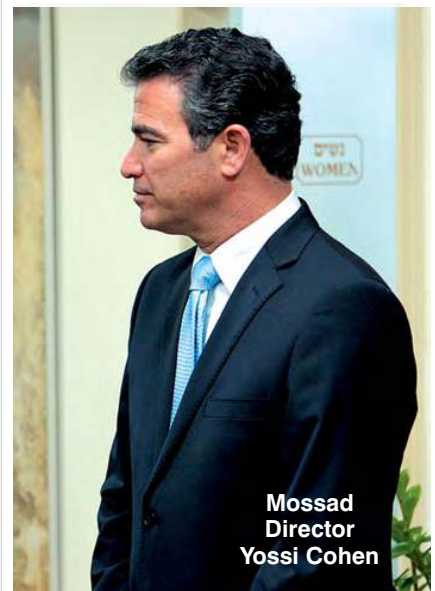


Israeli Intelligence composed
graphic of Quds Force unit IRGC
Colonel Majid Nuab



Hezbollah missile launch on the
Syrian-Lebanese border

Just hours after the preventative strike, Hezbollah's commander Hassan Nasrallah, said: "It is known we have a clear obligation,



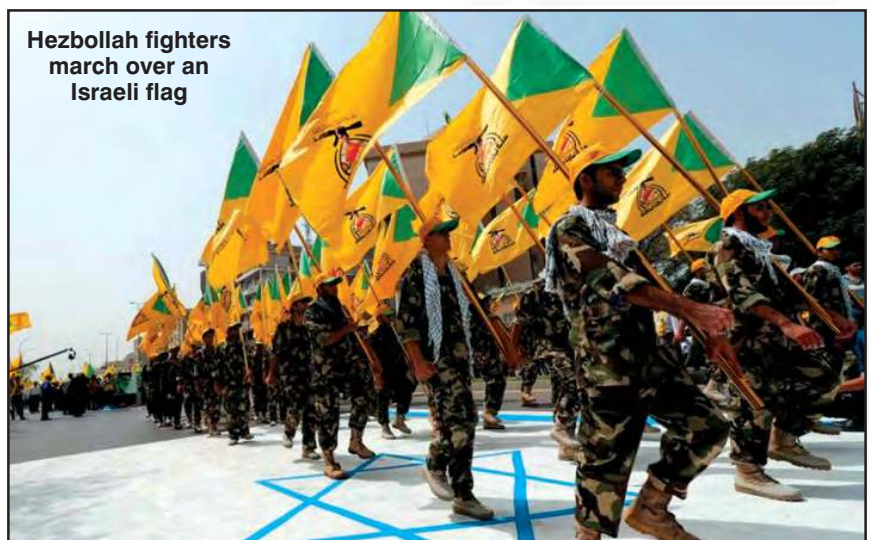
Mossad
Director
Yossi Cohen

waiting trucks. Israel named the man responsible for transportation of the cargo as IRGC Brigadier Colonel Ali Asrar Nuruzi. Mossad monitored the operation using a ground surveillance team and a spy satellite which tracked the convoy's route to an IRGC controlled base in Aqrabah, Syria, close to the southern Syrian and Lebanese borders with Israel. Another surveillance operation had reported upon the arrival of a specialist Iranian training crew a few days earlier.

Thereafter, once the trucks arrived at the base, warplanes from Israel's Air Force flew two missions on 24 August destroying the vehicles and killing several key personnel. A day later, an armed UAV, believed to have been flown and controlled by the IDF, targeted a site in Lebanon's capital Beirut, also linked to the joint Iranian-Hezbollah project. Mossad sources said the attack was enabled because surveillance intelligence suggested a missile launch on Israel was "imminent."



22 August 2019. Surveillance photo
showing Hezbollah operatives
launching a MUAV carrying
explosives from a Syrian border
town into northern Israel



Hezbollah fighters
march over an
Israeli flag



IDF spokesman Lt. Colonel Jonathan Conricus

and I'll come back and remind the whole world of this obligation - if [Israel] kills our brothers in Syria, then we will respond to these deaths from Lebanon. I tell the Israeli army on the border, be prepared and wait for us."

Mossad sources believe hardline Iranian officials are intent on dragging Lebanon into a war with Israel. "Iran is endangering Lebanon by trying to produce the advanced weaponry on Lebanese soil, using Lebanese as human shields," said IDF spokesman Lt. Colonel Jonathan Conricus.

Intelligence watchers were surprised by the release of certain aspects of the operation, which also included an image of two Hezbollah operatives, named as Hassem Yussuf Zabib and Yasser Ahmed Tzahr, boarding an aeroplane to Iran to receive training at a Quds base. Unbeknown to them, they were befriended by a Mossad agent attached to the surveillance programme, who reported on their training in Iran. "By penetrating Hezbollah and its involvement in the Iranian action, the secret Iranian mission began to fall apart," an Israeli military source told Eye Spy. Amongst four people killed in the air strike were the two Hezbollah operatives tracked by the Mossad. This was confirmed



Iranian Shahed 171 Simorgh (Phoenix) UAV. A reconnaissance platform based on a US RQ-170 which crashed in Iran

by Hezbollah chief Nasrallah, who hailed the men as "martyrs."

MOST WANTED

According to the IDF, the Hezbollah unit involved with the programme, is headed by Fuad Shukr. Shukr has long been wanted by the CIA for his involvement in the 1983 bombing of a US military compound in Beirut. "He is responsible for everything related to the precision-missile project, the development of missiles as well as preparations to use them," Conricus said. The 1983 attack resulted in the deaths of 220 US Marines and 21 other personnel. Iran and Syrian elements are also thought to have played a part in the attack -



Director IDF General Aviv Kochavi



In 2014, Mossad agents provided intelligence to the IDF which led to the interception of Iranian arms destined for an overseas terrorist group



the deadliest against US Marines since the battle of Iwo Jima in 1945.

Commenting on release of the counter-intelligence action, Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said: "We will not stand to the side and allow our enemies to acquire deadly weapons to be used against us.... watch out." Interestingly, in 2018, when Netanyahu spoke of Iran's nuclear weapons programme at the United Nations, he also referenced three "precision missile sites in Beirut."

As for the covert arming and training of Hezbollah operatives, Iran denied Israel's accusation. However, two weeks after the IDF strike, Iran's prowess in the arming of MUAVs and precision bombing of distant targets was evidenced by the strike on Saudi oil facilities (See page 70).



Fuad Shukr



Abadeh Nuclear Weapons Development Site

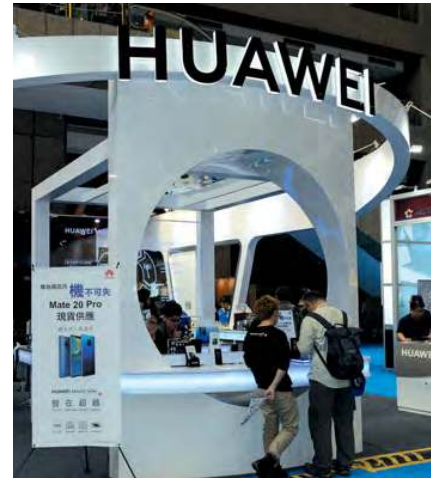
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September 2019. Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu addresses the media and points to secret Iranian nuclear sites. He is adamant Iran is now supplying weapons and guidance to several terrorist groups outside the country, including Hezbollah (inset)

Late June 2019

Late July 2019

The Hidden Spies



Huawei Caught Up in New International Spy Allegations

Investigative journalists from the *Wall Street Journal* have reportedly sourced further incriminating evidence on the Chinese communications giant, claiming some of its employees helped a number of African government officials monitor and intercept encrypted cell phone calls and messages made by political opponents. Other covert monitoring involved the tracking of social media accounts. However, as a caveat to the reports, the WSJ said senior Huawei officials appeared oblivious to the intercepts and it found no direct evidence of Chinese Intelligence involvement.

Two instances referenced occurred in Zambia and Uganda. In Zambia, Huawei technicians allegedly assisted officials access opposition cell phones and Facebook pages and media platforms that criticised President Edgar Lungu.

In Uganda, a government cyber unit requested assistance to access encrypted messages of an account belonging to politician, activist and singer Bobi Wine. This revealed his plans to hold street rallies - which allegedly led to his detention. However, a Ugandan official denied the allegations calling them false. Nevertheless, the case seems to support a 2015 report that Uganda had secured external assistance



Presidents Edgar Lungu and Vladimir Putin

and technology used to surveil opponents electronically, in some cases leading to blackmail.

Uganda's police security and intelligence divisions had been using technology and equipment supplied by an Israeli company, but this did not allow them to probe and access encrypted platforms, thus allegedly they sought the assistance of Huawei.

As for Wine, he still intends to run against President Yoweri Museveni in 2021.

French newspaper *Le Monde*, which carried out a similar investigation into Huawei, also alleges that China has been using technology to actively monitor government heads of various African nations since at least 2012.

A Huawei spokesman rejected the stories: "Our internal investiga-

tion shows clearly that Huawei and its employees have not been engaged in any of the activities alleged. We have neither the contracts nor the capabilities to do so."

Huawei is also involved in a much wider dispute over the launch of its 5G networks and the ban of its technology by the US Government. Senior US intelligence officials continue to warn its global partners that they too should avoid its use, in some cases hinting that intelligence sharing may be affected. Huawei founder and Chief Executive Ren Zhengfei, has embarked on a international quest to convince governments that using its technology is safe. In Britain, security officials remain unconvinced by his assurances. Interestingly, he believes it will be allowed, despite the UK's National Security Council blocking its application to critical parts of the network.

Mr Zhengfei said: "The UK has a very important decision to make. I don't think they will say no to us as long as they go through rigorous tests and look at it in a serious manner. I think if they say no, it won't be to us."

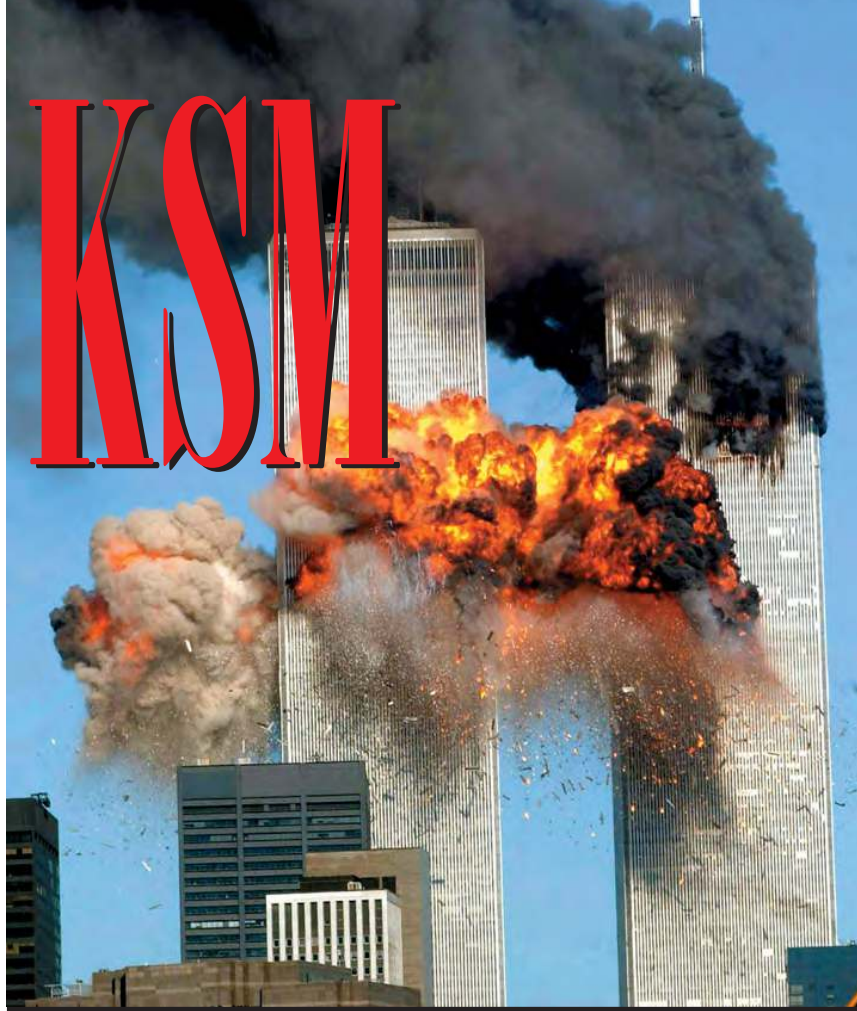


Ren Zhengfei

President Trump and Prime Minister Boris Johnson have already engaged by telephone on the subject of Huawei 5G. Recently departed National Security Advisor John Bolton, who spearheaded the campaign against the use of Huawei systems said Britain's position on the company will be resolved after Brexit.



Former US Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel and President Yoweri Museveni



Mohammed will appear alongside four other co-defendants - his nephew, Ammar al-Baluchi, Walid bin Attash, Mustafa al Hawsawi and of course, Ramzi bin al Shibh. All are charged with various offences, including terrorism, hijacking, and the murder of 2,976 people. Other charges include involvement in planning the attack and providing logistical support. Prosecutors allege Mohammed was "the mastermind" behind 9/11 and "controlled the 19 hijackers who arrived in the United States and ultimately gained control of four commercial airliners." The aircraft were of course used to bring down the World Trade Center towers in New York and crash into the Pentagon building in Washington DC. A fourth aircraft downed in a field in Shanksville, Pennsylvania, was allegedly intended to strike the White House.

THE 9/11 MASTERMIND

Court Date Set at Guantanamo Bay

The US Office of Military Commissions has announced the trial of 9/11 mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, 55, will begin on 11 January 2021, at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. In *'The 9/11 Commission Report'* released over a decade ago, its authors, contributors and investigators all named him as the "principal architect of the 9/11 attacks."

Mohammad, born in Pakistan in 1964, was a close confidant of al-Qaida leader Osama bin-Laden and the terror group's premier attack plotter. He was arrested in Rawalpindi, Pakistan, in 2003, along with Ramzi bin al Shibh, following a combined CIA-ISI (Inter-Services Intelligence Agency) operation. Thereafter he was held at various secret locations, and eventually arrived at Guantanamo Bay prison camp in Cuba in 2006. In the years that followed numerous accusations have been made regarding his confession, including coercion by torture (waterboarding) at various CIA Black Sites around the world. In interrogations with CIA interrogators, he admitted, "I was responsible

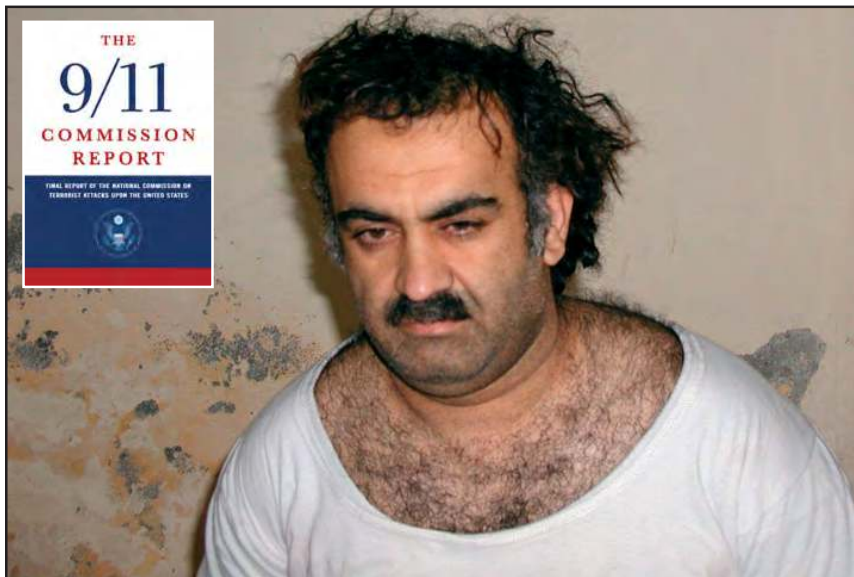
for the 9/11 operation from A to Z." And whilst this can't be used in court because of the waterboarding, prosecutors state he also admitted his role to the FBI.

Mohammed, known as 'KSM' in intelligence circles, and the four defendants' defence teams have argued that following their arrest, the men were tortured by the CIA, thus any charges should be dismissed. Mohammed was subjected to 183 counts of waterboarding, according to Justice Department data.

KSM is also linked to various other terror plots, including the 1998 bombings of US Embassies in Kenya and Tanzania; the attack



Hijacked American Airlines Flight 77 struck the Pentagon building killing 125 staffers and military personnel. Sixty four people also died on the aircraft



2003. Khalid Sheikh Mohammed pictured shortly after his arrest in Rawalpindi, Pakistan following a joint CIA-ISI operation. Inset: *The 9/11 Commission Report*

on the USS Cole in 2000 in Yemen's Aden harbour; the 2002 Bali nightclub bombing and the murder of US journalist Daniel Pearl. He has also been linked to the attempt by shoe bomber Richard Reid to blow up an airliner enroute from Paris to Miami in 2001.

President George Bush wanted to try Mohammed at a military court in 2007 during his tenure in the White House. However, legal issues derailed that attempt and numerous other issues have plagued the case ever since delaying the trial year after year.



9/11 survivors in New York



USAF Colonel W. Shane Cohen



Changing Faces: KSM the most destructive and dangerous member of Osama bin-Laden's 'high council'. The first image is an FBI composite; the latter how he probably appears today whilst under detention at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba



KSM is linked to the brutal beheading of *Wall Street Journal* journalist Daniel Pearl in 2002 in Pakistan

USAF Colonel W. Shane Cohen, the Commission judge who made the court date announcement, said the trial "will face a host of administrative and logistics challenges." Cohen added the 2021 date - which is just short of the 20th anniversary of the attack, was selected to "ensure a fair and expeditious processing of the case."

Eye Spy was told KSM's lead legal defence man will probably be Gary Sowards. He represented Theodore Kaczynski - better known as the infamous 'Unabomber'.

Commentators believe the trial date affords some comfort and closure to those who lost loved ones in the world's worst ever terrorist attack. Numerous hearings have already taken place where relatives of the victims were in the same room as KSM. At one such hearing, the terrorist calmly wrote the flight numbers down on a sheet of paper which he then duly folded to make an aeroplane and floated it towards them. However, despite the defen-

dants facing the death penalty if found guilty, if an initial appeal is launched, legal experts believe this could take five years; thereafter a circuit court appeal could take a further three to four years, and a similar amount of time will pass if a final appeal is made to the Supreme Court. "KSM will likely die in jail long before the legal process has ever ended," a US intelligence official said.

- Of around 800 suspected terrorists detained at Guantanamo Bay (Camp X-ray and Delta), around 40 remain. Eight prisoners have died in captivity.



NSA OVERSEAS FOUNDATIONS



The Merry Men of Menwith Hill



Field Station Menwith Hill in Yorkshire is the NSA's most important overseas base. With its array of radomes and communications towers, this most advanced facility supports the Agency in countless ways - it is known as "the base that never sleeps."

Yet what of its origins? Eye Spy has sourced various formerly secret documents providing a personal and unique insight into the lives and work of the very first US intelligence personnel and civilians who travelled to the UK to lay the foundations blocks of what would evolve into the biggest spy base in the world...



Whilst its public name is RAF Menwith Hill, owned entirely by the Ministry of Defence and leased to US Intelligence, this massive 600-acre site situated a few miles west of Harrogate in North Yorkshire, England, is more commonly associated with the secret work of the National Security Agency (NSA) and its allies in the Five Eyes collaboration.

This vast Field Station has for decades been a centre of controversy. From telephone intercepts, satellite management, nuclear missile defence, to the control of covert operations, the location and the ultra secret work conducted by around 3,000 civilian and defence staffers, including large elements from various groups and agencies including GCHQ, Menwith Hill is rarely out of the news.

Some of the work conducted at Menwith Hill, or the 'Hill', as it is referred to by many staffers, is Beyond Top Secret. Littered with radomes and guarded by a highly efficient MOD security detail, the base is undoubtedly Fort Meade's 'gem' in its overseas cluster of stations. Few would argue with the description that it is the world's biggest electronic

communications base. Access to the site is strictly limited, and despite civilian roads skirting the base and protests by a dwindling number of people who oppose aspects of its secretive work, few major security incidents have been reported since it opened in the mid-1960s.

Eye Spy has carried numerous features on Menwith Hill, including its origins and security work, but unbeknown to many, there was a time when some locals, for a few hours every year at least, were allowed access to parts of the base - 4 July - America's Independence Day. "I remember in 1969 or 1970, as a youngster, we were invited to the celebrations, primarily because the father of my American cousins, a USAF pilot, worked at the base," said Eye Spy Editor Mark Birdsall. "There was a civilian street, complete with a few shops,





Ministry of Defence security detail at the gates of Menwith Hill

bars and small food outlets and even a couple of entertainment buildings for the workers. On the corner staffers served drinks, hot dogs and American ice cream. It was all very exciting and engaging and the Americans made everyone feel welcome. But of course, no-one knew of its emerging importance, future role or indeed, how in a matter of years, it would become an invaluable defence component in the Cold War."

MENWITH HILL 2019

Today it is very different of course and so too much of the work performed by staffers who serve a set period of time, which can of course be extended due to a variety of



1967. A United Airline Douglas DC-6B at Friendship International Airport, now Baltimore-Washington International Airport



circumstances. Its emergence as a 'listening site', communications base and important support element of the West's early warning structure, have been well documented over the years, though not all reports are accurate. However, Eye Spy is aware what's visible

Hastily erected staff buildings which were used to accommodate early arrivals at the onset of the base's construction and development

above ground is secondary compared to the activities performed below.

Yet how did Menwith Hill emerge as the world's greatest spy base? And what of its late 1950s origins and the people first assigned to help in its construction and development? Part of the answer lies in formerly Secret documents found in the NSA archive. And what follows is nearly entirely based on that material...

TRADING PLACES

The decision to change the 13th United States Army Security Agency Field Station - familiarly known as Harrogate - from a military operation to a civilian one was taken in late 1965 by the Department of Defense. The idea being to fill positions by civilians instead of military men and women, saving the latter for more purely military work. ➤



Over the years Menwith Hill has been targeted by civil rights' protesters. Many are oblivious to the important work carried out by several thousand US and UK staffers



When the details were worked out in early 1966, they were presented to all prospective employees of the Station and their families. Wives and children by the score were brought in to the Agency and briefed.

Then, after medical shots, packing, etc., on 14 July, the first chartered aircraft left Friendship Airport (Baltimore-Washington International Airport), referred to as such because much of the land was purchased from the Friendship Methodist Church in 1946. In sweltering conditions, men, women and children boarded an aircraft bound for RAF Mildenhall in Suffolk (US Air Force Base). Also on board was a large hair-dryer which had to be strapped into a seat just like a passenger because there was no other place for it. Its owner obviously thought she'd need it immediately on arrival and she was correct.

The flight and the five-hour drive north to Harrogate were uneventful except for those who had dressed for the heat of Baltimore on departure and not the cool of England on arrival. The change amounted to about 35 degrees and was described as "traumatic" by some staffers!

THE GRAND LIFE - REFLECTIONS

As families and single people arrived in Harrogate they were assigned rooms in the

town's Grand Hotel (now Windsor House). Some considered themselves fortunate enough to be relocated after only a short stay to government quarters in Menwith Hill, the local name for the station, as they were vacated by the departing military. However, only 85-or-so apartments were available on the Station, so the majority were obliged to stay at the Grand for several weeks. Some remained for five months, until they either found economy housing or were given flats in buildings leased by the Defense Department. The latter were in various suburbs of Leeds and a few were in Harrogate. The months between August 1966 and May 1967 were trying ones for many families.



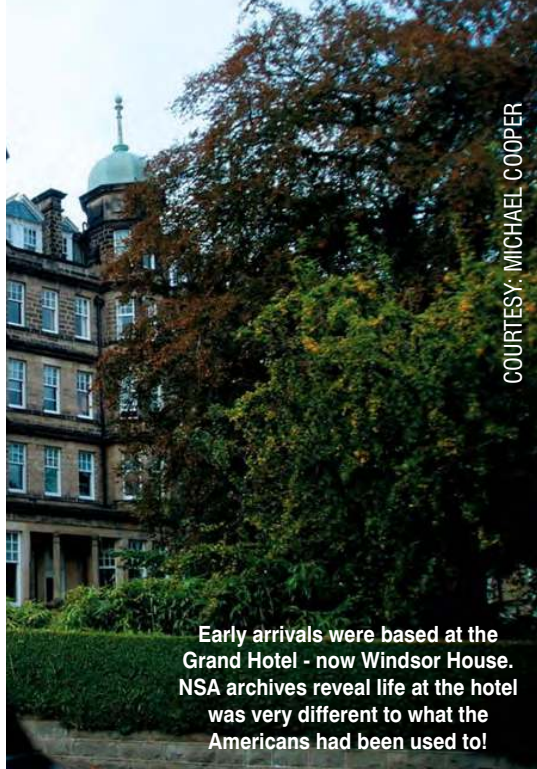
Documents reveal when the buses pulled up to the imposing entrance of the Grand Hotel at four o'clock that Saturday afternoon, staffers were so numb from the cold, lack of sleep, and nearly constant motion for almost sixteen hours that they failed to appreciate their new surroundings. On Sunday the impact of the palatial accommodations hit home - the hotel had not operated as a hotel for some 20 years. During its recent past it had been used solely as a place to host a toy trade exhibition once a year, in mid-December. Lighting was virtually non-existent in the corridors and staircases. The Americans were soon introduced to the smell of English heating gas, which was deliberately made malodorous so that leaks did not go unnoticed. It seeped from a disused fireplace in the lobby and permeated the whole building and some 200 bedrooms!

Gradually the housing problem was solved. Too gradually for those most affected, but fortunately the grimmest memories faded and the few humorous incidents of life at the Grand were remembered fondly. No one from

USAF C-47 carrying US personnel destined for Menwith Hill arrives at nearby Leeds Bradford Airport in the early 1970s



COURTESY: MICHAEL COOPER

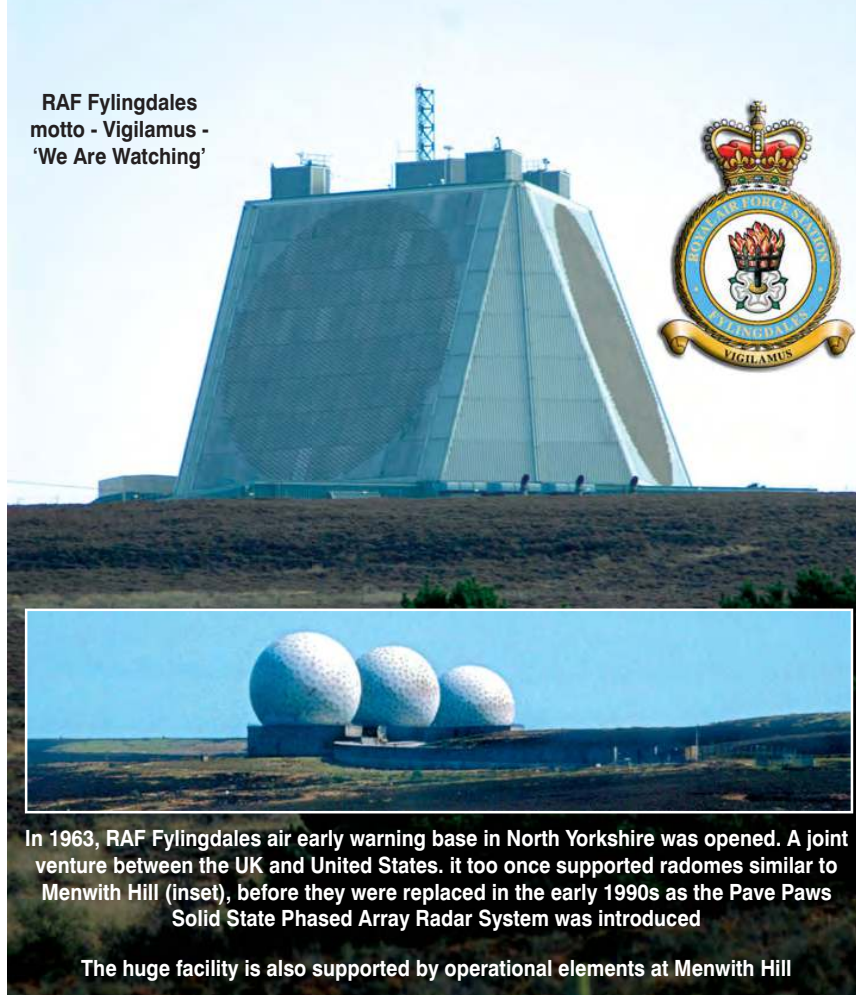


Early arrivals were based at the Grand Hotel - now Windsor House. NSA archives reveal life at the hotel was very different to what the Americans had been used to!

those days will forget going through the halls turning off the lights to save on the electric bill and one of them following at 20 paces turning them back on. Or the Sunday dinner when someone stopped at one table, decided on another and thereby missed-by a few seconds-being served 20-square feet of ceiling plaster which descended on the table! (The dining room was evacuated after that.) The consternation of visiting natives who stopped in at the hotel bar for a pint found only 'Yanks' drinking tax-free potables that couldn't be sold to the locals; the hours spent freeing unsuspecting newcomers from the eccentric elevator - and the times the refrigerator installed for babies' formulas was too full of six-packs of beer to hold milk.

The staffers did have some good things to say about Harrogate. A really good steak dinner cost about \$2.25, shop clerks who called the visitors "Luv," the 200-acre park known as the

RAF Fylingdales
motto - Vigilamus -
'We Are Watching'



In 1963, RAF Fylingdales air early warning base in North Yorkshire was opened. A joint venture between the UK and United States. it too once supported radomes similar to Menwith Hill (inset), before they were replaced in the early 1990s as the Pave Paws Solid State Phased Array Radar System was introduced

The huge facility is also supported by operational elements at Menwith Hill

Stray, with its gardens and flowers, good local-talent at the Opera House where the seats were priced from 60 cents to \$1.80, and the small independent food shops for meats and vegetables at which two pounds of real lamb chops - cost about \$1.30 and would be enough for five or six people.

The Station AFEX (Air Force Exchange), naturally enough, was well stocked for young single men. If one needed uniform brass, stripes, beer, or khaki clothes, they were in luck. But ladies' stockings, infants' clothes, shirts and slacks other than in waist size 28-

30 were available only at an Air Force base 175 miles south toward London. Of course the commissary was also out of step because of the lead-time required for orders to arrive.

BUILDING MENWITH

Meanwhile at Menwith Hall Station great changes were taking place in the Operations Building. They had inherited a standard ASA-designed building. When it was first built it contained eight rooms and two others were added later. Each of these measured 50 by 20 feet. In addition there were office spaces, a small communications centre, an incinerator, a maintenance workshop, and a generator room for emergency power.

One Friday night the surgical team assembled for what became known as the 'operation'. At about nine o'clock sledgehammers started flying. Some 30 volunteers, including nearly every senior member of the Station staff as well as operators and maintenance men, made up the crew. Havoc was wreaked by one man and his 16-pound sledge hammer who became an NSA legend in one night.

By early Saturday afternoon, 130ft of reinforced concrete and cinderblock walls had been knocked down, 3,000 square feet of ceiling removed, the rubble hauled away, the floors scrubbed, and the mission taken





RAF Menwith Hill is surrounded by cattle and sheep farms

back with all equipment running. In the succeeding weeks fluorescent lights and a new ceiling were installed throughout the building, paint and acoustic tiles were applied to the walls, floor tiles were replaced, and a combination training and conference room was created from the old maintenance workshop.

By the end of the Station's first year the Operations Building was virtually rebuilt and probably would have been unrecognisable by its previous DOD tenants.



Lt. General Marshall Carter, NSA Director 1965-1969

The original work force was a multi-talented group - ex-electricians, ex-plumbers and ex-welders. "You name the skill and they had it," said one staffer. From these came an unending stream of ideas of how to do various jobs more easily or efficiently. One thing they didn't have was a GSA (General Acquisition Workforce) team. You can guess who cleaned the floors. Once a week the ops building floors were thoroughly scrubbed and waxed by operators working overtime.

There was another unusual feature of the operations force. On day shift, virtually every man except those in the maintenance crews, wore a necktie and jacket or coat, regardless of the position he worked. They not only worked like professionals, they looked like professionals. Another point on note is that a large part of the work was performed by a volunteer labour force.

'Turpin's Lair' close to Menwith Hill



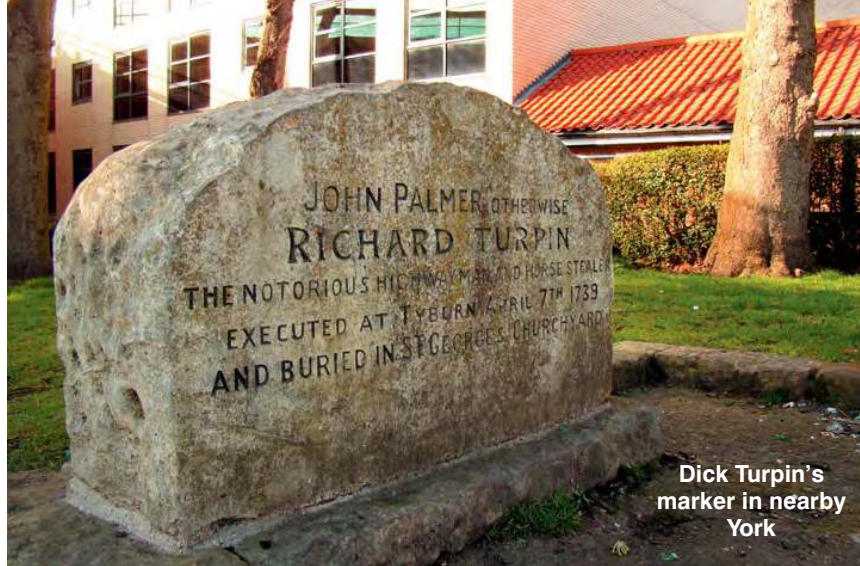
FIELD STATION TEMPLATE

Harrogate (Menwith Hill) was able to provide 'shirtsleeve' assistance in equipment maintenance to other US Stations in Europe. US defence officials deemed Harrogate a site for major experimentation on community problems. With their assumption of its administrative, logistical and operational control, they established a live model which others could follow, with a better understanding of all aspects of the functioning of a major Field Station.



Highwayman Dick Turpin became a talking point for early NSA staffers at Menwith Hill





Dick Turpin's marker in nearby York

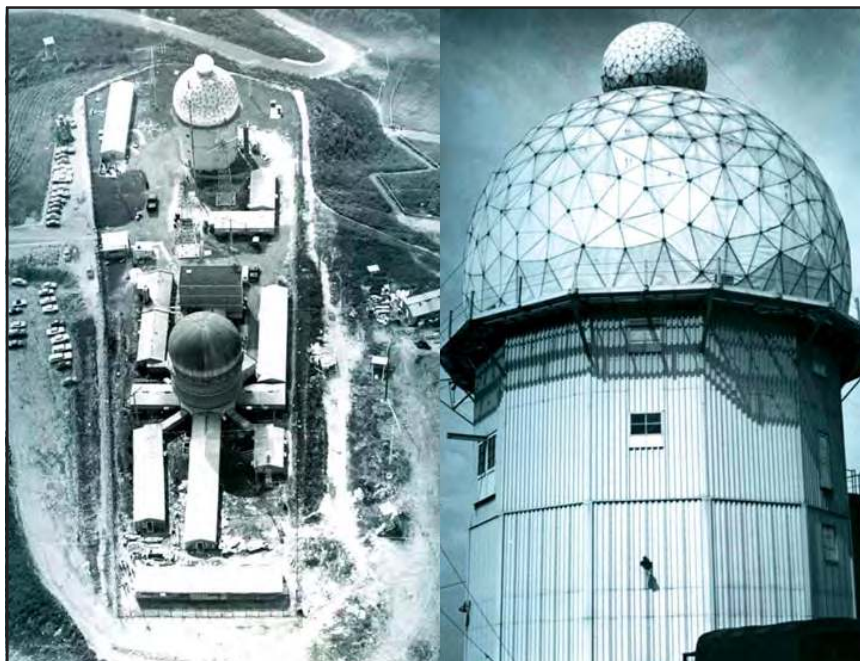
Harrogate became an extension of other bases. Almost every major element had in a small way a part of itself at Harrogate: Production, logistics, personnel management, security, communications and finance were all represented. The aspirations for Harrogate are ones they had for a long time without the opportunity to realise them - providing technical leadership to other US Field Stations. It wasn't just a job, it was an obligation.

When it was first established in 1956, Harrogate was designated the 13th United States Army Security Agency Field Station, but locally in Yorkshire it was called Menwith Hill Camp because it is located on Menwith Hill on Blubberhouses Moor. Regardless of its name, the Station is eight miles west of Harrogate, famous as a spa town in Victorian times, and fifteen miles north of the city of Leeds. It is actually the geographic balance point of Great Britain, being equidistant from the Irish and

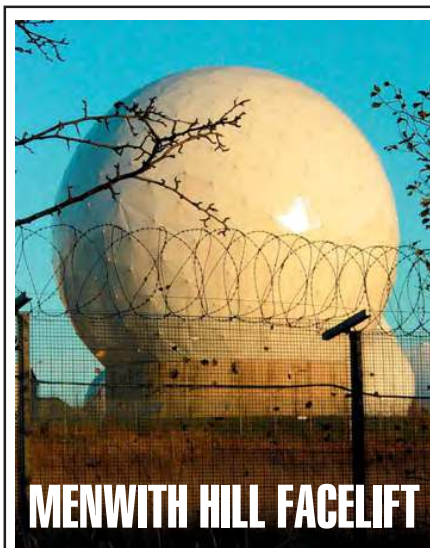
North Seas and midway between Land's End, Cornwall and John O'Groats, Scotland.

Arriving NSA staffers were taught about local traditions. For example: Yorkshire being the largest county or shire of England - so large in fact that in Anglo-Saxon times it was divided into three administrative districts called Thirdings or Thridings. Time eroded the pronunciation and spelling to Riding.

The A59 road from Harrogate to the station gate passes a farmhouse about three hundred yards from the station entrance. It is marked on local maps as 'Turpin's Lair' and is reputed to have been the hideout of England's infamous highwayman, Dick Turpin. His ghost is still supposed to haunt the farm and be evident to folks living in Station quarters just across the road from the farmhouse. During its early development, one base employee said: "What more can a person ask when



1960s. Menwith Hill sister site at Teufelsberg, Berlin (now defunct). By coincidence, NSA staffers here also nicknamed the facility 'The Hill' because of its placement on a hill



MENWITH HILL FACELIFT

INTEL INSIDE

The Ministry of Defence (MOD) has applied for an extensive overhaul of the entrance to RAF Menwith Hill saying security improvements are much needed. Application documents submitted state it does not meet the security standards required by the US and UK armed forces as military operations have 'tightened considerably'.

The overhauled main entrance will include a new visitor centre, registration office and gatehouse, as well as new security barriers, roads and car parks. A plan for extra radar shelters, or radomes, has recently been approved bringing the number of domes at the base to 37.



Protesters at the gates of Menwith Hill

posted in England than to have a resident ghost?"

EDITOR'S NOTE: Eye Spy is grateful for use of the material which provides a unique insight into the life of staffers at Menwith Hill. Their early endeavours in an 'alien' landscape laid the foundation blocks for the building of the world's most important and largest communications' base. And today, when US staffers are posted at the base for the very first time, many still receive guidance on the lifestyle and customs of locals who still reside and work the land in the area.

SPY CENTRAL

THE ILLEGALS



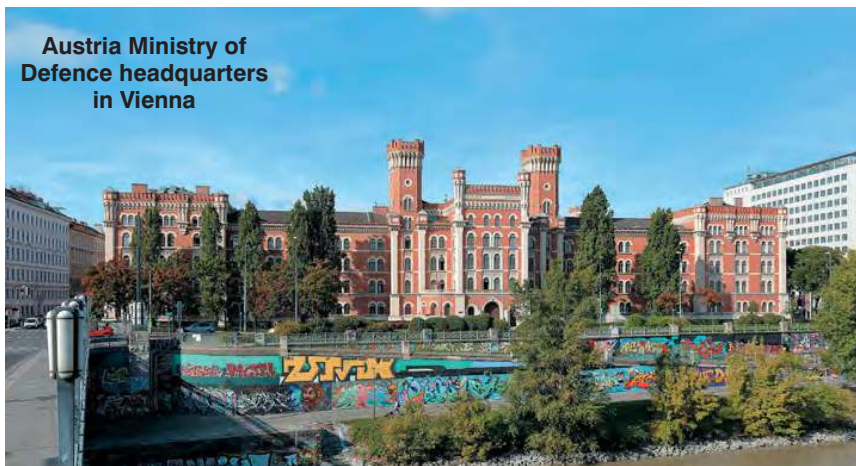
Night-time in Vienna

More Russian Spy Activity Exposed in Vienna and Bern

Austrian Government officials have released details of a Russian intelligence officer, Vienna claims operated a spy ring in the country for more than three decades. An international arrest warrant has been issued for Igor Egorovich Zaytsev, 65, a suspected GRU officer who recruited a well-placed Austrian defence official who had access to government secrets.

According to state documents, the unidentified agent who worked in Army headquarters,

handed a plethora of state secrets to Zaytsev related to the country's military systems used by the army and air force, this in return for hundreds of thousands of euros. An Austrian Interior Ministry official said: "The GRU handler is suspected of inducing a retired 70-year-old colonel of the Austrian Army to carry out an intelligence operation to the detriment of Austria, to reveal state secrets and to deliberately give up military secrets." Contact was conducted through a "sophisticated system," a police spokesman added, but refused to give more details.



Austria Ministry of Defence headquarters in Vienna



Egorovich Zaytsev

Last November, counter-intelligence officers detained an Army colonel in the Austrian Defence Ministry, referred to as 'Martin M' on espionage charges. He is alleged to have been recruited by the GRU, and some suspect Zaytsev operated as his handler from 1992 to 2018. The incident led to a major spat between Russia and Austria, with both countries summoning their respective ambassadors for questioning. The country has always seen itself as a 'bridge' between the intelligence services of the West and Russia, but considerable damage to relations was caused after Martin M was exposed.

MI6 INVOLVEMENT?

Media houses in both Austria and Russia have carried stories claiming MI6 'outed' the spy and Zaytsev to sour relations between the two countries - this in response to the attempted assassination of one of its former agents -



Austrian Defence Minister Mario Kunasek



BVT Director Peter Gridling

GRU officer Sergei Skripal. When asked about the ‘third party liaison’, Austrian Defence Minister Mario Kunasek refused to confirm the story, but did acknowledge the spy case had “come to light thanks to the help of another European intelligence agency.”

Vienna of course, has been dubbed the ‘spy capital of Europe’, and among an array of notable incidents, was the exchange of Sergei Skripal in 2010.

In 2018, in its annual report, the Austrian Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution and Counterterrorism (BVT - domestic intelligence agency), stated the country is a ‘favoured area of operations for foreign spies’ and that the number operating in the country is ‘high’. BVT chief Peter Gridling, when asked about just how many foreign agents are in Austria, he said the “[spy] community consisted of hundreds of people.”

ILLEGALS IN SWITZERLAND

Another nearby neighbour, Switzerland, has also been cited as a “hub of Russian spy activity,” by former KGB and SVR officer Sergei Jirnov. He says that President Putin has increased intelligence collection in the country considerably under his watch - primarily because Switzerland is an “international hub” for business and government happenings. He described the activity as “aggressive, direct and insulting to the country.”

Jirnov claims dozens of Russian spies - ‘illegals’ - are operating under false identities provided by Moscow, and that spy activities are three to four times higher than during the Cold War. Of the spies new Cover and Legend, Jirnov said: “Of course you have the same physical appearance, you stay the same man or the same woman, but everything else changes... your nationality, name, origins. You change the whole story around you.” Many of the agents have allegedly taken British, United States and French identities to conceal their role.

Earlier this year, Switzerland’s Federal Intelligence Agency, FIS, in its annual report, stated: ‘*Russian spying activity in Switzerland continues at a high level*’. The organisation



1998. Sergei Jirnov pictured with the former KGB Directorate S head - General Yuri Drozdov in Moscow



Sergei Jirnov

© RTS-SWI

referenced several attempts by Russian Intelligence to launch operations, including a cyber plot to secure data from a laboratory that tests nerve agents, such as Novichok used by the GRU in its attempt to assassinate MI6 agent Skripal.

Russia’s Foreign Ministry dismissed Jirnov’s allegations, calling them “pure fantasy.”

As for the former spy himself, he authored the book *Chased by the KGB: The Birth of a Spy*, and now lives in France after being granted refugee

status. Interestingly, he acknowledged that he carried out covert operations in Paris.



Viola Amherd - Swiss Minister responsible for the FIS

OPERATION GHOST STORIES SVR ILLEGAL REVEALS ROLE



One of around eleven Russian spies outed by the FBI in 2010 (Operation Ghost Stories - see Eye Spy 76), Elena Vavilova, who used the cover name ‘Tracey Foley’, has given a rare insight into the work of a Russian illegal. Speaking to the *Guardian*, she referenced her 20-year deployment living as a Canadian national living in Boston, with her ‘husband’, Andrei Bezrukov, another spy.

Vavilova has written a novel of her time spent as an operative called *The Woman Who Can Keep Secrets*. Some of her writings concern the illegals programme established decades ago by the KGB, which continues to this day. All manner of tradecraft training was referenced, including anti-surveillance, codes and how to replicate accents.



The Kremlin's Agents of Influence

BBC and Foreign Media Houses Warned as UK Sanctions Russian Reporting House

Russia's communications regulator Roskomnadzor has announced it will "respond in kind" following the decision by its UK counterpart, Ofcom, to fine the Kremlin-sponsored media house RT, over its "outwardly biased" reporting and commentary of the poisoning of MI6 agent Sergei Skripal in Salisbury, Wiltshire, last year. UK laws rule that broadcasters must present and report on news stories and events in an impartial

manner, and include viewpoints from both sides or parties if the subject is contentious or controversial.*

Late last year after months of highly influenced intelligence Kremlin reporting, Ofcom determined that RT had broadcast biased material. Much of the copy mocked the British Government's official assessment that the Skripal sanction was state-sponsored. In late July, Ofcom fined the Russian broadcaster



£200,000 (\$225,000) and asked that it broadcast a summary of its findings to RT viewers.

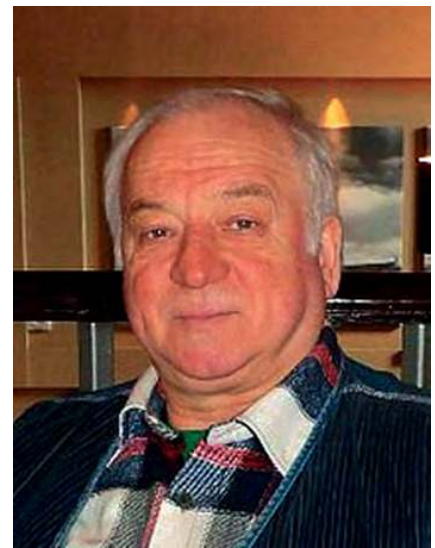
In a Internet statement, the regulator said: *'Our investigation found that RT failed to preserve impartiality in seven news and current affairs between 17 March and 26 April 2018 [the height of reporting of the Skripal incident]. Taken together, these breaches represented serious and repeated failures of compliance with our rules. We were particularly concerned by the frequency of RT's rule-breaking over a relatively short period of time.*

'The programmes were mostly in relation to major matters of political controversy and current public policy - namely the UK Government's response to the events in Salisbury and the Syrian conflict'.

Various programmes and current RT news features downplayed significant evidence of a professional assassination operation, and the



Head of Roskomnadzor Alexander Zharov with President Putin



RT reporting of the shootdown of Malaysian Airlines MH17 and former GRU intelligence man Sergei Skripal were cited by Ofcom



TIT FOR TAT

The UK Foreign Office, perhaps informed by assessments made by MI6's Station Chief in Moscow, expected a Kremlin response. And in early August it duly came. Roskomnadzor, undoubtedly guided by external officials, some



clear role played by two GRU officers, who were in Salisbury at the time of the incident. RT of course, were not the only Russian media house to back the Kremlin's stance - this of total ignorance and denial. Indeed, from newspapers, to radio and television stations, there was total condemnation of Britain's accusing 'finger'.

An RT spokesman for its news channel said the company is seeking legal options over the sanctions, and identified a number of BBC news items which it claimed contained controversial information. Other Russian commentators also highlighted the BBC's long association with government writers and the use of its services by the intelligence world to broadcast materials supportive of Downing Street policy - Bush House being referenced as a prime example. And in September, China's state broadcaster CGTN also accused the BBC of "exploiting the recent unrest in Hong Kong" and accused the corporation of "out-putting biased and malicious information" on behalf of the British Government.



attached to the intelligence world, threatened to sanction BBC programmes, including its Russian-language World News channel and its Internet sister which features news in both Russian and English. "Roskomnadzor is preparing a mirror response to the biased treatment of Russia media abroad," the regulator said. Alexander Zharov, head of the government body warned that he will "prescribe fines well into the millions."

Russia recently voted through tough new Internet regulations, giving the State wide powers to remove content and fine companies if the material was deemed anti-Russian or too supportive of foreign opinion. A spokesperson for Roskomnadzor said: "We are preparing draft amendments to Russian legislation allowing reciprocal responses to such measures on foreign media in Russia. As Roskomnadzor has repeatedly said, that in the event of Russian media suffering from prejudiced treatment abroad, the principle of reciprocity will apply."



President Putin with RT journalists

"The objective of the amendments is to bring the rules applying to foreign media operating in Russia in line with British standards."

A Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman tweeted: 'We will remind British media working in Russia that they should be ready to face the consequences... the actions of the broadcast watchdog were part of an anti-Russian campaign in Russia'.

Interestingly, the Foreign Office, which oversees MI6, refused to issue accreditation to RT and Sputnik to attend its 2019 Media Freedom Conference held in London. Sources say this was entirely due to both media houses active participation in spreading disinformation and propaganda. An FO spokesperson "urged Russia to respect freedom of the media as a vital component of democracy."

In April this year, the UK Government published a White Paper titled 'Online Harms'. A selected portion relates directly to Russian media reporting and propaganda surrounding significant intelligence events, including the Skripal affair and the MH17 shootdown:

'The Kremlin has used disinformation to obfuscate and confuse audiences around their illegal annexation of Crimea, intervention in eastern Ukraine and the shooting down of



BBC News Centre, London

Malaysian Airlines Flight MH17, which led to the deaths of 298 people including ten UK citizens.

'After the attempted murder of Sergei and Yulia Skripal in Salisbury in March 2018, the Russian state led a concerted disinformation campaign to distract from their culpability.

'This included the use of state media and covert social media accounts to sow over 40 different narratives as to what happened'.

In a separate development linked to the attack on MI6 agent Sergei Skripal, investigators from the Counter Terrorism Policing (CTP) network have revealed a second police officer also suffered Novichok nerve agent poisoning. However, he does not want to be identified and his exposure levels were not as great as Detective Sergeant Nick Bailey. Six persons in total were affected, including civilian Dawn Sturgess who died from the contamination.

*Not a legal requirement for Internet news or print publications

THE PANAMA PAPERS

LONDON: The UK Foreign Affairs Committee has called on Malta to hold an independent public inquiry into the assassination of investigative reporter Daphne Caruana Galizia in 2017. The journalist who was prolific in researching government corruption,* was killed when a bomb exploded in her vehicle. All manner of conspiracy theories have surfaced since.

*See Eye Spy 112 - The Panama Papers



CABLE INT

UK Bans Underseas Technology Sales as Moscow Threat to Cable Communications "Evident"

Following warnings by UK and US intelligence officials increasingly fearful of submarine cable interference by Russia (See Eye Spy 123), Britain has moved to ban the sale of miniature submarines and software technology to Russia. The Department for International Trade (DIT), circulated the notice which effectively disallows companies from future transactions. References to Russia's continuing develop-

Britain's Royal Navy and colleagues in the US Navy have reported increased Russian submarine activity near cables in the Atlantic and English Channel





President Putin is shown a new experimental miniature submarine. In September the Kremlin announced eight more submarines will be added to its fleet and operational by 2020

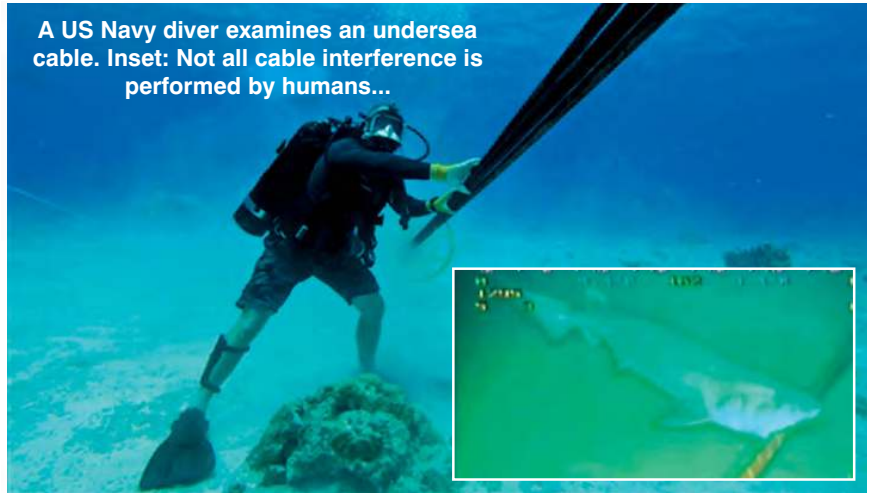
TEL WARS



ment of the technology were included in the order, noting: 'Ability to track, access and disrupt undersea communication cables... these activities represent a risk to our national security and the new control is intended to mitigate this risk'.

A UK Government spokesman said: "We have introduced a new export control that gives us the legal means to prevent the export of equipment which could provide the Russian Government with the capability to access, disrupt or tamper with underwater communication cables."

Carrying around 90 per cent of all the world's communications' traffic, cable technology is particularly vulnerable if covert access can be made. And in recent years the topic has become a primary issue with those charged with protecting the movement and transmission of information. Eye Spy was told by ➤



A US Navy diver examines an undersea cable. Inset: Not all cable interference is performed by humans...



Submarine cable land stations are also vulnerable

informed sources over a decade ago that Russia and China are working on 'penetration systems' which once engaged, "would allow access not only to general traffic, but an array of communication signals issued by government bodies and the military."

STEALTH LIKE BOATS

The move by the DIT, almost certainly guided by British Intelligence, follows reports of increased Russian submarine and naval activity in places where cables have been laid. These include several linking the Americas with Europe.

Royal Navy intelligence analysts have also reported increased Russian submarine activity in British territorial waters. A number of sources claim some of the boats are using new improved technology which gives them "stealth-like qualities." These apparently involve Kilo Class submarines. And of interest, cable detection and tapping has been referenced.

Sceptics of the DIT order do not believe it will impact on Russian operations, noting Moscow's prowess and engineering skills in the field. However, others believe it sends a clear message to Russia's spy services that the West is familiar with such activities and that they are under surveillance.

Interestingly, an inadvertent error by the Russian Ministry of Defence in 2015, led to the release of intelligence that revealed part of its capability in respect of cable tapping. '*Russia can both cut the special communication cables on the ocean floor and scan the signals they carry*'.

The DIT ban also coincides with the loss of fourteen Russian submarine specialists on board the secret nuclear-powered Project 10831 *Losharik* on 1 July (below). The boat can descend to depths which would give it access to most undersea cables. Reports in Moscow state the fire-damaged submarine journeyed to Zvezdochka Ship Repair Centre in Severodvinsk in late August, to be remodelled.

Most, if not all of Russia's spy submarines are operated by the Main Directorate of Deep Sea Research, a major naval intelligence body. *Losharik's* primary role, according to several informed sources, was the recovery of sea-bed objects... and the covert tapping of cables.



CIA JAWBR

THE CIA'S 15-DAY

The CIA has released a number of previously unseen images of its early engagement in Afghanistan, just days after al-Qaida struck in the United States on 11 September 2001.

Dubbed the #15Days Project, the content features a CIA paramilitary team codenamed Jawbreaker on a helicopter destined to make contact with the Northern Alliance who Langley correctly believed would provide support to the US in its fight with al-Qaida. The unit carried \$3 million cash in three



cardboard boxes as an incentive to the NA fighters. More sensitive, the operatives had prepared their personal finances and wills in the event they would not return.



D/CIA George Tenet listens to President Bush following the attack on America



CIA Jawbreaker team guards \$3 million in cash - incentive money for Afghanistan Northern Alliance fighters to support its mission against al-Qaida. Left: 9/11 pin



Reflections: Deputy Director Vaughn Bishop and CIA officials observe a minutes silence on the 18th anniversary of 9/11

REAKER PROJECT

Poignant artefacts and personal moments from the mission were released. One shows a service pin awarded to the Agency's Security Protective Service (SPS) officers who served during the period of heightened tension between 11 September 2001 and 24 March



2002 in recognition of their meritorious service; a New York cap worn by an operative in remembrance of the 3,000 people

who perished on that fateful day is also shown, as well as a hat and scarf used by the communications equipment officer.

And at the Agency's headquarters, exactly 18-years after the photographs were taken showing the CIA's entry into Afghanistan, the Agency commemorated the mission with the dedication of the Mi-17 helicopter that shuttled the Jawbreaker team over the "Hindu Kush and into history." Adorned with the tail number 9-11-01, the fully-restored Mi-17 helicopter is nestled amongst the trees in a large green space to the northeast of CIA's Original Headquarters Building. The rocky landscape on



Saddle obtained from the NA to traverse the rugged countryside by horse

which the helicopter sits was designed to mimic the Afghan landscape in which the helicopter served so well. Hundreds gathered at CIA Headquarters in Langley, Virginia, to see the helicopter in its final home and hear from the Agency officers who played a significant role in the success of the CIA's first response to 9/11.



The first Mi-17 helicopter to be used in Afghanistan is now restored at CIA HQ



All the Langley team were advised to update their personal finances

SKYFALL

An Explosive Mystery



Five Russian Nuclear Scientists Perish as US Claims Advanced Weapons Technology Stolen

Following the deaths of fourteen submariners in the Barents Sea on 1 July, Russia's state-owned nuclear company Rosatom announced an explosion at an Arctic naval test range in Nyonoksa on 8 August, resulted in the deaths of five nuclear scientists. Three other persons were hospitalised.



Vyacheslav Solov'yev

State media houses initially blamed the accident - at Dvinsky Bay - on a liquid propellant rocket engine which had malfunctioned, but this commentary was quickly withdrawn. "We are analysing the whole chain of events to assess both the scale of the accident and to understand its causes," said Vyacheslav Solov'yev Scientific Director of the site.

The top secret complex and range is said to host and test most of the country's naval missiles, including sea-launched intercontinental types. Some Western intelligence sources were more direct in the identification of the missile noting the device could have been a "novel radioisotope thermoelectric generator," or an "experimental reactor" intended for an even more secret missile. However, this is simply speculation.

Shortly after the explosion, authorities in nearby Severodvinsk (30 miles east of the base), said radiation levels increased for a time, but returned to normal soon after. Interestingly, as locals rushed to buy iodine from chemists, officials removed the radiation warning and down-played public fears. Other watchers noted the arrival of a nuclear fuel cargo ship - the *Serebryanka*, to Dvinsky Bay, which some speculate is involved in the recovery of debris from the seabed.

Several Russian medical emergency staff who arrived at the scene were later taken to Arkhangelsk Regional Hospital, and a number have since been transported to Moscow for specialist treatment. Most Russian newspa-

pers reported that Cesium-137, a radioactive isotope and by-product of Uranium-135, was found in the body tissue of at least one doctor.



FSB Director Alexander Bortnikov

Eye Spy was told FSB Director Alexander Bortnikov immediately despatched officers to the scene and all medical staff were ordered to





The dead scientists: L-R. Sergei Pichugin, Evgeny Korotayev, Vyashelslav Yanovsky, Alexei Vyushin and Vyacheslav Lipshev

sign non-disclosure papers about their experience at the site, by FSB officials.

The five scientists who perished were later named as computer specialists Alexei Vyushin and Vyashelslav Yanovsky; Vyacheslav Lipshev, Sergei Pichugin and Evgeny Korotayev, an electrical engineer.

STOLEN UNITED STATES TECHNOLOGY

In the past two years, President Putin has heralded new missile prototypes and innovations which would deter the West and safeguard the country. And intelligence analysts believe the concealment of facts regarding the latest incident is due entirely to the fact that it was one of these new missiles that malfunctioned. CIA sources are confident the weapon that detonated was almost certainly the advanced 9M730 Burevestnik cruise missile, powered by a light weight nuclear-reactor. In 2018, Mr Putin proclaimed the strategic "wonder weapon" which if operational, could reach targets by flying intricate trajectories, and remain airborne for many hours before detonation. NATO call the missile SSC-X-9 Skyfall.

Russian envoy to various international organisations in Vienna, Aleksei Karpov, said the project was linked to weaponry under development and "one of the tit-for-tat measures in the wake of the US withdrawal from the Anti-Ballistic Treaty."

After the funerals of the dead scientists, which were attended by Sergio Kirienko, First Deputy Chief of Staff to Putin, Rosatom head, Alexei Likhachev, said the men had been



Alexei Likhachev



In 2018, President Putin referenced "new cruise missile technology"

working on the "new weapon" at the site for a year, and that their endeavours would continue. Kirienko added: "They are heroes of contemporary Russia," and the deceased would receive posthumous state medals. He also reflected wider intelligence and scientific belief that "no matter how much you prepare developing new products, it is impossible to eliminate risk 100 per cent."

Then US National Security Advisor John Bolton commented on the latest incident, by claiming Russian spies sourced hypersonic cruise missile technology from the United States. "Something obviously has gone very wrong here," he said. "Although Russia's economy is roughly the size of the Netherlands, it is still spending enough on defence to not only modernise its nuclear arsenal, but to build new kinds of delivery weapons, hypersonic glide vehicles, hypersonic cruise missiles largely stolen from American technology."

Mr Bolton's comments were rejected by Russia's Foreign Ministry spokeswoman



USS Missouri launches a BGM-109 Tomahawk cruise missile

Maria Zakharova. Responding to the claim of "stolen property," Zakharova referenced the closure of Russian diplomatic offices in America in 2017 and 2018. These were the Consul General buildings in San Francisco and Seattle, and two diplomatic outposts in Maryland and Washington DC. Part of the action was taken in response to the assassination attempt made by GRU officers in Salisbury, England, last year of former GRU colleague turned-MI6 agent Sergei Skripal.

Not surprisingly, President Trump tweeted about the incident: *'The United States is learning much from the failed missile explosion. We have similar, though more advanced technology'*.

NEW US INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENT

Weeks after the disaster and following an influx of information from various sources, CIA analysts said the accident occurred during an operation to locate and ultimately recover a Skyfall (Burevestnik) missile from the ocean floor. Several missiles had been tested at the site in 2017 and 2018.

US sources believe data from watching satellites indicated the longest flight (22 miles) had lasted just two minutes, before it crashed. Scientists also suggest nuclear components within the missile failed to initiate causing a malfunction.

A new CIA assessment on Russia's cruise missile programme, provided for in mid-September, states: *'Moscow's attempt to build a missile with unlimited range' has been accelerated, and will be operational by 2025.*

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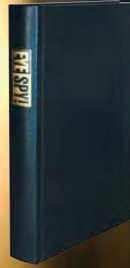


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Tehran Launches Missile/UAV Attack on Oil Sites

BURNING BRIDGES

IRAN STRIKES SAUDI ARABIA



Intelligence analysts believe attacks on Saudi Arabian oil facilities on 14 September which disrupted global oil markets and significantly reduced oil production, served only to heighten tensions between Allied forces and Iran. An estimated 25 aerial attack vehicles including seven Ya Ali cruise missiles which have a 430-mile range, and UAVs (Unmanned Aerial Vehicles), described as “delta-winged” and packed with explosives, were flown into the Abqaiq oil processing plant run by the Saudi state oil company Aramco, and the Khurais oil field.

Yahya Saria, a military spokesman for the Iran-aligned Houthi terrorist group in Yemen, said, “we deployed the ‘drones’ in the attacks.” He also claimed the group was now in possession of new UAVs, some powered by jet engines which can fly hundreds of miles. In a televised speech, Saria referenced the weapons as “Samad 3 and Qassef 3.”

RESPONSIBILITY

According to some sources, including Iraqi Intelligence, the UAVs were manufactured by Iran but launched from Hashd al-Shaabi bases in southern Iraq. The Houthis however, claim the weapons were fired from three of its sites in Yemen. Both suggestions were dismissed by Western analysts and the Saudi Defence Ministry.

At a press conference on 18 September in Riyadh, debris from the weapons, including



Yahya Saria has warned that the terror group will strike other targets in the Gulf region

that of three missiles which failed to reach their target and other evidence was presented. This left little doubt Iran was the manufacturer of the weapons, and almost certainly the main perpetrator of the attack. Saudi Colonel Turki Al-Malki, who hosted the event said: “I will focus on two main parts of our findings regarding the initial investigations with our partners. First, this attack was not carried out from Yemen as the Houthis claimed. Second, this attack originated from the north and

undoubtedly was supported by Iran. All the evidence in our presentation before you, leaves no doubt about the Iranian role in the sabotage.”

A surveillance video was also played that reportedly showed one of the attack objects coming from the north. Yemen is south of Saudi Arabia, while Iran and Iraq lie to the north.

Saudi Arabia’s Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman said the attack on the world’s biggest crude exporter was a “real test of the global will” to confront subversion of international order. After speaking with US Secretary of Defense, Mark Esper, the crown prince said the Iranian threat is not simply directed towards his country, but affects the Middle East and the world. Esper affirmed America’s support for the Saudis.

ANALYSIS

In Washington, Pentagon officials released post-blast satellite images of the two sites and



Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman





Presidents Hassan Rouhani and Vladimir Putin



THE INTELLIGENCE AND EVIDENCE: Saudi Arabian Army Colonel Turki Al-Malki provided ambassadors, government officials, intelligence officers, military figures and journalists, with a detailed overview of the attack at a conference in Riyadh. Besides imagery, mapping and satellite data, on show was the overwhelming physical evidence that the weaponry was manufactured and almost certainly controlled by Iran

say the direction from where the attack vehicles came also casts doubt on Houthi involvement. The imaging reveals extreme precision by the cruise missiles and UAVs which struck the oil facilities. This degree of sophistication is said to be beyond the

capability of Yemen's Houthi rebels, notwithstanding their claim of responsibility.

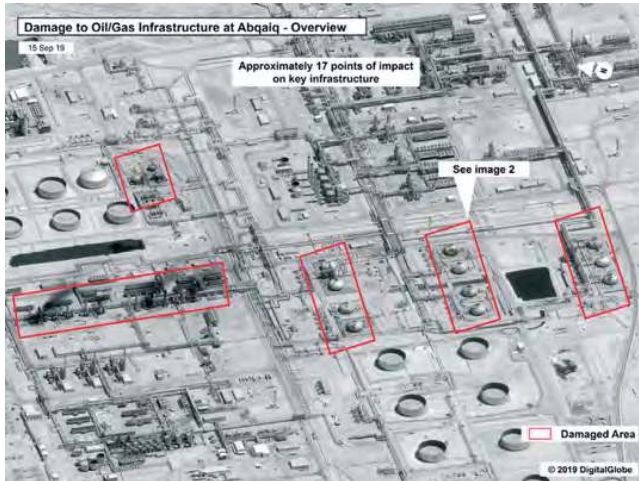
In the UK, Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab said it was not yet clear who was responsible for what he described as a "wanton violation

of international law". However, the intelligence gleaned by Saudi Arabia and shared with allied intelligence services, suggests the prime suspect was indeed Iran.

In Tehran, officials denied involvement. President Hassan Rouhani said: "They want to impose maximum... pressure on Iran through slander." State media in the country accused the United States of being behind a false flag operation intended to cause further instability in the region. "We don't want conflict in the region... but who started the conflict?" Rouhani added, referencing the situation in Yemen. As the possibility of a military response grew, Iranian Foreign Minister Javid Zarif again denied his country was behind the attack and warned: "I am making a very serious statement that we don't want to engage in military confrontation. But we won't blink to defend our territory." ➤



Debris from a 'delta-winged' UAV



Images show infrastructure damage to Saudi Aramco's Khurais oil processing facility in Buqayq

President Donald Trump initially stopped short of directly accusing Iran, but suggested possible military action once the perpetrator was known. Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Marine Corps General Joseph Dunford, said all the signs point to Iran. "Wherever it [the attack] originated from, the most likely threat is either Iran or Iranian-backed proxies," said Dunford. "Our intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities are focused on threats routinely to us. We would not necessarily see everything that goes on in the region." He added US Intelligence does not have an "unblinking eye." However, he did acknowledge both the United States and Saudi Arabia have an intelligence arrangement, thus the convincing evidence secured by the Saudis may further impact on relations with Iran. "We know, based on attacks against Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, that they have not been deterred from attacking those countries," he concluded.

ACT OF WAR

On 18 September, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo met with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman in Jeddah, insisting that Iran was responsible for the attacks.



Debris recovered by the Saudis from a cruise missile and UAVs

Pompeo said that America backs Saudi Arabia's "right to defend itself" and described the assault as an "act of war." He then travelled to the UAE and met with Crown Prince Mohammed bin Zayed in Abu Dhabi. "I think it is abundantly clear, and there is enormous consensus in the region that we know precisely who conducted these attacks... and it is Iran."

The incident is just the latest episode in the long-running proxy war between Saudi Arabia and Iran. Though both Iran and the Houthis deny any association, the CIA and other Middle East intelligence agencies have evidence Tehran continues to supply the



Yemeni-based group with missiles and other military supplies. The United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia have engaged Houthi terrorists for a number of years in Yemen.



US Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Marine Corps General Joseph Dunford. He has presented several options to President Trump regarding possible retaliatory action

Intelligence analysts are confident in their assessment that the targeting of oil facilities is a direct response by Iran to the ongoing situation regarding its export of oil. Restrictions and a new allied maritime protection force has been joined by both Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

The attacks have reignited fears over a wider conflagration in the region, as tensions remain high over Iran's collapsing nuclear deal with world powers.

On 21 September, President Trump said new sanctions at the "highest level" would be imposed, and more US troops would now be

Continued on Page 82



Damage and scorch marks are evident at the Khurais oil field



WASHINGTON SUPPORT: Former Director CIA and current US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo held talks with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman in Jeddah (left), and UAE Crown Prince Mohammed bin Zayed in Abu Dhabi, (right) to discuss the oil attacks

ENTRAPMENT

INTEL FRICTION BETWEEN MOIS AND IRGC

Former accused Mossad assassin reveals how Iran's Ministry of Intelligence and Security (MOIS) fabricated evidence in secret dispute with intelligence officials from the country's rival elite Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps

An exiled Iranian businessman accused of being part of an alleged Mossad assassination unit - deployed to eliminate key scientists involved with the country's nuclear weapons



programme - has revealed how he was tortured into a confession.

Mazyar Ebrahimi was one of a dozen or so people targeted by the Ministry of State Security and Intelligence (MOIS) in 2012, following the assassination of several scientists and the destruction of a specialist weapons research building. This 'attack' resulted in the deaths of a number of scientists and workers.

At the time, MOIS was anxious to implicate Israel's Mossad, but evidence was paltry. Each death was undoubtedly murder, but the perpetrators had left few clues. This in itself was "evidence



Massoud Ali Mohammadi - killed by an IED in 2010

antics of a rival businessman who accused him of espionage. He ➔

enough of the fingerprint" of Mossad, according to Iranian state prosecutors. Ebrahimi was detained, probably due to the





Mazyar Ebrahimi admits to his 'crime' on Iranian state television in 2012

believes MOIS was under enormous political pressure to bring to account those responsible - and opted to implicate anyone to resolve the matter.

Speaking to the BBC from an undisclosed location, Ebrahimi said after 40-days of non-stop torture, he was only too willing to confess. He had been charged with involvement in the explosion at the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) controlled missile factory, and briefed about how he should admit his guilt.

Interestingly, Ebrahimi claims that at the time, the IRGC and MOIS were "fierce competitors" in the counter-terrorism world, and when an IRGC intelligence officer began questioning him months later, discrepancies became obvious, and the MOIS ruse was exposed. Thereafter the torture stopped and even an apology was offered. Eventually he was released in 2015.

Analysts support his account, noting several instances where MOIS fabricated evidence, including identification documents, to bring closure to several intelligence-linked events.

ASSASSINATED SCIENTISTS

As for the assassinated Iranian scientists, at the time, Mossad neither acknowledged or denied involvement. Massoud Ali Mohammadi, a lecturer at Tehran University was killed by a remote controlled IED near his



Memorial to assassinated Iranian scientists

home on 12 January 2010. On 23 July 2011, physics professor Darioush Rezaeinejad was shot dead by two assassins riding a motorbike outside his house in Tehran; his wife was also injured. On 29 November 2011, nuclear scientist Majid Shahriari, an employee of the Atomic Energy Organisation of Iran (AEOI), died when two assassins riding on a motorcycle attached a bomb on his car whilst in motion. On the same day, another nuclear scientist and former head of the AEOI, Fereydoon Davani, survived an assassination attempt. Nuclear scientist and Commerce Deputy at Natanz nuclear power station, Mostafa Ahmadi Roshan, was killed on 11 January 2012 by an explosion initiated by another motorbike assassin.

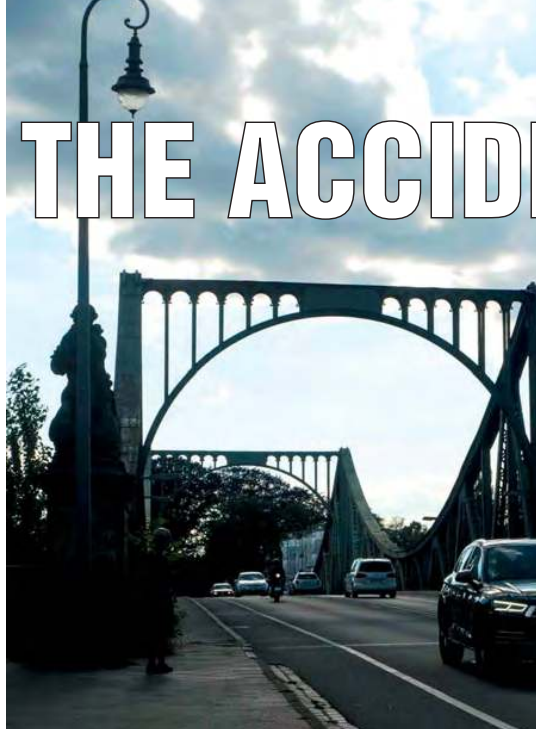
- Eye Spy 78 carries several indepth features on these and other incidents linked to the alleged Mossad operations to stall Iran's nuclear weapons programme.



Head of MOIS Mahmoud Alavi



The wife and children of Darioush Rezaeinejad (right). Though shot, she survived an attack by two alleged Mossad agents. Her husband (left) did not

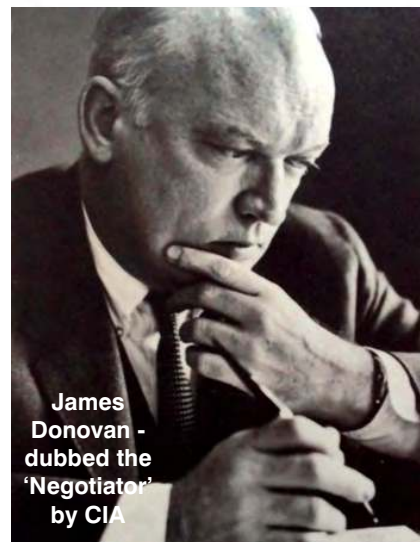


THE ACCIDENT

Bridge of Spies

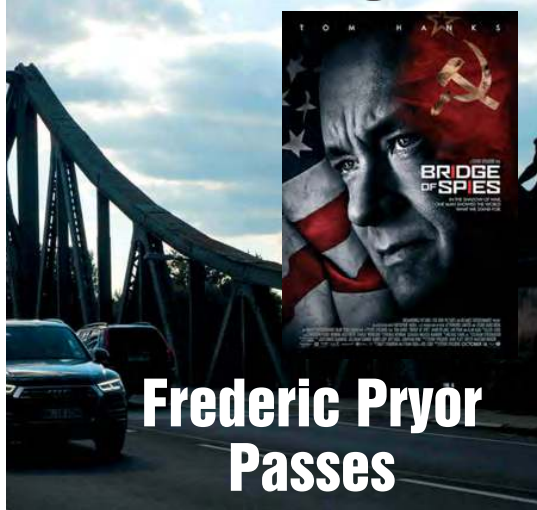
Arrested and jailed on espionage charges in East Berlin in 1961, American economics student Frederic Pryor, became an integral part of a Cold War prisoner exchange featured in Steven Spielberg's haunting spy film 'Bridge of Spies'.

During the Berlin Wall's construction, Pryor drove into East Berlin on 25 August 1961, to visit an engineer who had helped him on a previous research project, but when he reached her apartment she was not at home. Unbeknown to him, East Germany's secret police - the Stasi - had been surveilling her



James Donovan - dubbed the 'Negotiator' by CIA

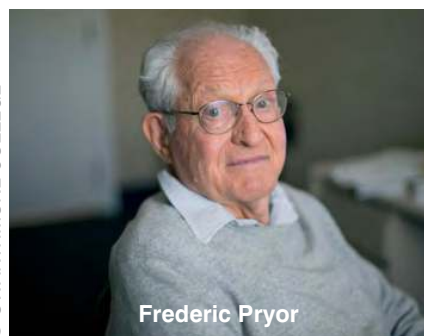
MENTAL SPY



Frederic Pryor Passes

of Spies

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Frederic Pryor

and soon arrested him for aiding her escape to the West. After they found a copy of a political thesis on Soviet trade in his car, they charged him with being a spy.

Confined to a cell that he described as “six paces long by two paces wide,” Pryor was interrogated and informed on by a fellow prisoner who had apparently been planted by the Stasi.

In 2016, a year after the release of Spielberg’s picture, Pryor spoke to journalists: “I wasn’t worried about being brainwashed, and I didn’t think I would be tortured, he said. “Since whatever ‘crime’ they thought I was guilty of wasn’t very important. I accepted my situation and tried to make the best of it.”

COLD WAR SPY EXCHANGE

A larger drama was unfolding of course because a year earlier, USAF pilot Francis Gary Powers, while engaged on a U-2 reconnaissance mission for the CIA, was shot down over the Soviet Union. He was sentenced to 10-years in prison. In the United States, KGB spy Rudolf Abel, was serving a 30-year prison sentence in a federal prison in Atlanta after a New York jury convicted him in 1957 of spying.

After liaisons and covert meetings between US and Russian officials, a spy exchange was orchestrated by solicitor James Donovan, portrayed by Tom Hanks in the movie. As part of the deal, on 10 February 1962, after nearly six months in jail, Pryor was driven to Checkpoint Charlie in Berlin and released. The Powers-for-Abel swap occurred on the Glienicke Bridge, a border crossing between East and West Berlin.

When he returned to the United States, Pryor was wearing the same suit he had been wearing when arrested by the Stasi. But now its buttons were gone and its fabric threadbare. At a news conference, he told reporters he would not criticise East Germany to score propaganda points. “After tomorrow... forget me,” he said.



© SWARTHMORE COLLEGE

Of interest, Pryor wanted to work for the government, but his arrest on an espionage charge made this impossible. At General Motors, where he had been a consultant before his arrest, an official said he would not consider him because of his prison record. Although he was reluctant to teach, he found academia welcoming. Soon after his release from prison, the University of Michigan hired him to teach economics. He stayed until 1964, when he became a staff research economist at Yale. He left for Swarthmore College, Pennsylvania in 1967, where he taught until his retirement in 1998.

Frederic Pryor was 86 when he passed. He is survived by three grandchildren.



Francis Gary Powers after his capture



Russian officials invite the media to examine the debris of the CIA U-2

THE IMAGINARY SPY NETWORKS

MOIS

TARGET SELECTION

Iran Provides Commentary on Alleged CIA and Mossad Spy Infiltration as Further Arrests Made

Mahmoud Alawi, Director of Iran's burgeoning spy service - MOIS (Ministry of Intelligence and Security), has given more details on the disabling of a supposed CIA spy network and the activities of several people with alleged links to Mossad and MI6. This followed the airing of an 18-minute documentary about the dismantling of the spy ring on Iranian television, titled - 'Hunting Spies'.

The first references to Langley's 'network' were made a year ago, but despite on-going attempts by media houses to secure clarification, Alawi has shied away from questions. This served only to fuel suspicion that the story was untrue. However, he has now provided a little more information to the country's Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB). "When we detected the spies in certain places, officials there were very surprised when we advised them of our investigation," he said. Various places of work were visited by MOIS's counter-espionage department, including government bodies involved in nuclear, cyber and military research.



MOIS Director
Mahmoud
Alawi

Despite his commentary, Western intelligence analysts, including many still attached to the CIA, remain highly sceptical. And one comment in particular made by Alawi only increased that suspicion. He told IRIB that the 17 'spies' had no links to each other and all were controlled by a separate CIA handler. This in itself tends to negate the term 'network', and it is highly unlikely so many stand-alone CIA officers would be used in such an operation.

Alawi said each individual had been "specially schooled" and lured to work for the CIA on "promises of US visas." All had received "training by the CIA." As for actual evidence, the spy chief said MOIS had recovered "complicated technical espionage equipment" used to collect intelligence, but again, none was identified or displayed. Also of note, he accused MI6 and other agencies of assisting Langley.

As for the fate of the 'spies', all were now in detention, some have received "lengthy jail sentences" said Alawi, "while a number the death penalty."

CAUGHT IN THE CROSSFIRE

Allied to the spy network story, Alawi and Iran's Justice Department were a little more open to questions about recent court cases and arrests involving alleged espionage.

Aras Amiri, a British Council worker with joint UK-Iran citizenship was given a ten-year sentence for espionage activities. MOIS claims she was controlled by British Intelligence (MI6), and involved with an attempt to



Iran President Hassan Rouhani has instructed officials to use the captives as "bargaining chips" according to Western intelligence sources

undermine and ultimately destabilise the Iranian Government. Judiciary spokesman Gholamhossein Esmaili said she attempted to "infiltrate society."

Ali Johari, an Iranian national, also received a ten-year prison term for alleged links to Israel's Mossad. He supposedly acted as a spy in various cities. "Johari had many espionage links and widespread connections with Mossad," said Esmaili. He also referenced intelligence contacts in India, Laos and Sri Lanka, widening the international conspiracy charges further. Iran said Johari had been attempting to secure "citizenship from this country" [Israel], a reason perhaps for his activities.

Esmaili then said a "third spy has been jailed" in the



Aras Amiri



September 2019. Prime Minister Boris Johnson addresses the UN General Assembly in New York. He reportedly discussed the spy cases with Iranian officials



Kylie Moore-Gilbert

charged with spying for another country," he said. Moore-Gilbert was reported "missing" by her family in September 2018.



Gholamhossein Esmaili

person of Anousheh Ashouri who holds dual British-Iranian nationality. Like Johari and Amiri, she too received a ten-year prison term for having allegedly operated on behalf of the Mossad. Esmaili said she had been "feeding information to Israel for some time and transferred abundant intelligence from our country to the Mossad." Part of the charge relates to alleged surveillance on an Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) base.

drone (MUAV) to film sensitive locations." Travel enthusiasts Joile King, who holds dual UK-Australian citizenship, and Mark Firkin, an Australian construction worker, were camping in an area close to a military facility in Jarood near Tehran, when police confronted them. Iranian law dictates that flying such devices without a licence is illegal. Commenting on the new arrests, Esmali said: "The news is correct, the case involves two people taking photos of military sites." King and Firkin could have received lengthy sentences, but were released on 5 October.

Esmali then discussed the case of another Australian, Kylie Moore-Gilbert, a lecturer at the University of Melbourne who specialises in Middle-Eastern politics. "She has been



Nazanin Zaghari Ratcliffe

All the tourists and unfortunate travellers are being held at Evin prison.

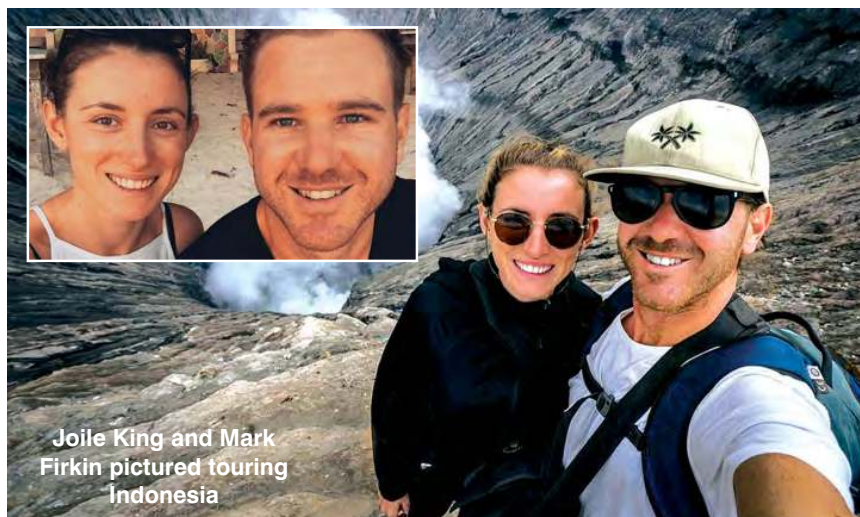
Prime Minister Boris Johnson and UK Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab reportedly raised the cases with Iranian diplomats at the United Nations in September. This of course included the ongoing spy sage involving another Briton held by Iran - Nazanin Zaghari Ratcliffe, who is serving a 10-year sentence after being arrested in 2016.



Australian Foreign Minister Marise Payne

TOURISTS AND TRAVELLERS

In September, Iran arrested two more people on espionage charges for "illegally using a



Joile King and Mark Firkin pictured touring Indonesia

The Australian Government updated its travel advice to those visiting or working in Iran:

'There is a risk that foreigners, including Australians, could be arbitrarily detained or arrested in Iran. We can't guarantee consular access if you are detained or arrested'.

The country's Foreign Minister Marise Payne has met with her Iranian counterpart on several occasions to discuss the arrests

Eye Spy was told that most of those detained will almost certainly be used as "bargaining chips" in future negotiations between the West and Iran. As for the charges, one intelligence analyst familiar with Iranian covert actions described them as "ridiculous."

NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Released UK Intelligence Cold War Case Files



Britain's National Archives has released several important documents related to some of the most dramatic moments in British 'spynore'

KIM PHILBY

Partial extracts from Cambridge spy ring member Kim Philby's official confession dated 11 January 1963, and headed 'Secret', reveal unknown aspects related to his association with the KGB and other British traitors.

"None of the OGPU (Secret Police which merged with NKVD and evolved into KGB) officials with whom I had dealings ever attempted to win my total acceptance on the technical level," Philby told his interrogator - MI6 officer and friend Nicholas Elliott in Beirut. "In short I joined the OGPU as one joined the army. There must have been many British soldiers who obeyed orders at Passchendaele [Britain's most controversial WWI battle] although convinced they were wrongly conceived." Other papers described his rendezvous in a London park, with Arnold Deutsch, the man who would become Philby's

handler. He was simply referred to as 'Otto'. Philby also admitted that one of his first tasks after being recruited was to identify other potential recruits, drawn from a selection of Cambridge University Communists. This of



Philby (right), codenamed 'Stanley' by the KGB, speaks to journalists after being initially cleared of spy charges

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Kim Philby's residence in London



course eventually resulted in the recruitment of Guy Burgess and Donald Maclean. However, he said he had "strong reservations with regard to Guy, on the grounds of his unreliability and indiscretion." All three men would eventually flee the UK to Russia.

The files also reveal that Deutsch attempted to use the connection of his cousin, Oscar Deutsch, the millionaire owner of the Odeon cinema chain, as cover for his KGB work while in the UK.



Arnold Deutsch

PORTLAND SPY RING

Prison letters written between two members of another KGB cell - The Portland Spy Ring, which resulted in one of the most damaging scandals of the Cold War, reveal KGB spy Ethel Gee received large sums of money despite denials she profited from her betrayal. Gee, who worked as a filing clerk at a high-security Royal Navy base (Underwater Weapons Establishment), was jailed in 1961 for espionage along with her lover Harry Houghton, a former sailor and alcoholic who worked at the same facility in Portland, Dorset.

The pair, who were both sentenced to 15-years imprisonment, had variously sought to explain away their actions - Gee by claiming she thought she was helping the Americans to test British security and Houghton who insisted he was being blackmailed by the Polish and Russian intelligence services.

Released documents reveal the pair had clashed in letters and meetings while serving their sentences over Houghton's wish to shorten their prison term by giving MI5 a full confession. Gee stubbornly refused to consider such a move: *'Really darling, I have not a clue what you would like to discuss regarding the Security Services but there is nothing I wish to say to them and under no circumstances would I do any sort of deal with them. I may be in prison but there are*



Harry Houghton

many things I would not stoop to, and to tell them anything is one of them'.

The documents also reveal that Gee, who went on to marry her lover once they eventually left prison in 1970, started receiving large sums of money around the time her relationship with Houghton began. This negates her insistence that she was duped into spying for Moscow.

CHANCE OF EXPOSURE

Embarrassingly for MI5, the files show that at the height of the spying in 1955, Houghton's then wife, Alice, approached the Admiralty on three occasions. She had become increasingly concerned he was working for an adversary. A letter from the Admiralty to the Security Service



in 1956 stated: *'She had alleged that her husband was divulging secret information to people who ought not to get it'.*

However, it added: *'It is considered not impossible that the whole of these allegations may be nothing more than outpourings of a jealous and disgruntled wife'.*

In March 1961, Martin Furnival Jones, who four years later would become MI5's Director-General, wrote: *'It is clear that we ought to have carried out some investigation in 1956'.* Had MI5 investigated, the spy ring could have been disabled four years earlier.

Houghton and Gee would eventually marry and settle in Poole. They died within a few months of each other in 1984 and 1985.



MI5 Director-General Martin Furnival Jones



Classic Cinema in Baker Street used as a dead letter drop by the KGB



Houghton, Gee and their spy handler Konon Molody were arrested outside the Old Vic Theatre in 1961

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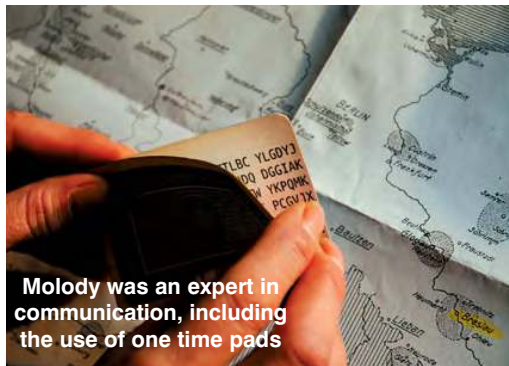
Security Service photographs of KGB spy handler Konon Molody

MORE REVELATIONS

Other released files reveal that whilst in prison, Konon Molody, A.k.a. Canadian businessman Gordon Lonsdale who ran the network, offered to disclose information and even to become a double agent, in return for his release. An MI5 document records: *'He wished... to make a deal with us. Lonsdale's own idea was that he might be exchanged for some British agents held by the Russians, or even that he might be allowed to escape'.*

His offer was dismissed. However, in 1964, Molody was a player in a high-profile Cold War spy exchange with MI6 man Greville Wynne who was being held in Moscow.

Earlier released intelligence files revealed Lonsdale used the toilet cistern in the Classic Cinema in Baker Street to hide covert radio parts and materials used by the spy ring,



including one time pads. In this case they were secreted in water-tight condoms.

On 7 January 1961, Special Branch officers swooped on Lonsdale, Houghton and Gee outside the Old Vic Theatre*, after being signalled by MI5 Watchers.

UNCERTAIN DOCUMENT PLACEMENT

Under a transparency law passed under former Prime Minister David Cameron, all Government files should be sent to the National Archives after 20-years, instead of the previous 30-year ruling. However, media reports suggest the Ministry of Defence is finding it difficult to keep to that timetable.

As a result, some commentators believe the MOD plans to destroy more than 100,000 files. It has earmarked 71,330 'legacy' documents as 'awaiting disposal', plus

another 85,000 records from the mid-1990s. If this is actioned, some 156,330 military files could be shredded, instead of being delivered to the National Archives where the public could be given access.

In a memorandum, the MOD said: *'The MOD is committed to meeting the 30:20-year transition timetable and adherence to each transition year will take precedence over the review of legacy period records. The review of 1993-94 records is complete and review of 1995-96 records is nearing completion'.*

*** A VERY EXPENSIVE POISON:** The Old Vic Theatre in London which has its own place in British spy history, recently played host to Lucy Prebble's play *'A Very Expensive Poison'*, based on the book of the same name by Luke Harding. This tells the story of murdered MI6 agent Alexander Litvinenko and other associates.

The play opened to mixed reviews.



Alexander Litvinenko



CODEBREAKERS AND SPIES

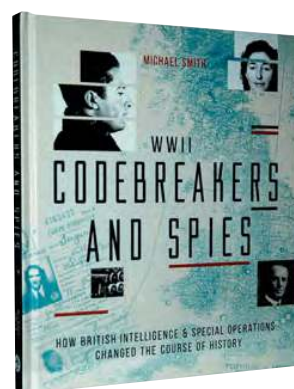
Michael Smith
Andre Deutsch Ltd

Intelligence historian and Eye Spy Associate Editor Michael Smith's *Codebreakers and Spies* tells the astonishing story of how Britain's intelligence operatives, experts and special operations teams contributed to the Allies' victory in the Second World War.

The work of the Bletchley Park codebreakers in breaking the

German Enigma cipher is estimated to have cut the length of the war by around two years, saving countless lives, while the Double Cross system, in which German secret agents were 'turned' by the British to feed their Nazi agent-runners false information, ensured the success of the D-Day landings. The book not only reveals new details about these remarkable operations but also tells the compelling story of how MI6 turned the disaster of lost spy networks across Europe into triumph.

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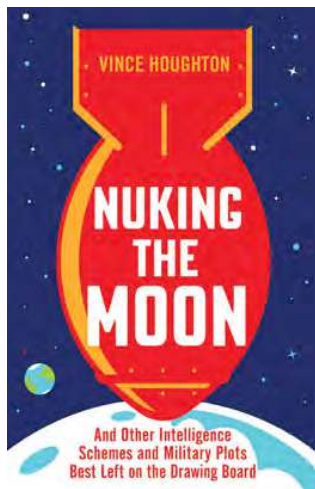
The stories range from extraordinarily courageous to bizarre, with desperation driving the intelligence services to recruit astrologers and even a stage magician to help retrieve intelligence and allied aircrew from of Nazi-occupied Europe. Smith thrillingly recounts the daring and often moving lives of the heroes and heroines who risked their lives for victory. Oversize Hardback 160pp

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NUKING THE MOON: And Other Intelligence Schemes and Military Plots Best Left on the Drawing Board
Vince Houghton
Profile Books Ltd

Bomb-carrying bats. Poisoned flower arrangements. Cigars laced with mind-altering drugs. Listening devices implanted into specially-trained cats. A torpedo-proof aircraft carrier made out of ice and sawdust. And a CIA plan to detonate a nuclear bomb on the moon, just because...

In *Nuking the Moon*, Vince Houghton, Historian and Curator at the International Spy Museum, collects the most inspired, implausible and downright bizarre military intelligence schemes that never quite made it off the drawing board. From the grandly ambitious to the truly devious, they illuminate a new side of warfare, revealing how a combination of desperation and innovation led not only to daring missions and brilliant technological



advances, but to countless plans and experiments that failed spectacularly.

Alternatively terrifying and hilarious, and combining archival research with newly conducted interviews, these twenty-six chapters reveal not only what might have happened, but also what each one tells us about the history and people around it. If 'military intelligence' makes you think of James Bond and ingenious exploding gadgets... get ready for the true story. Paperback 304pp

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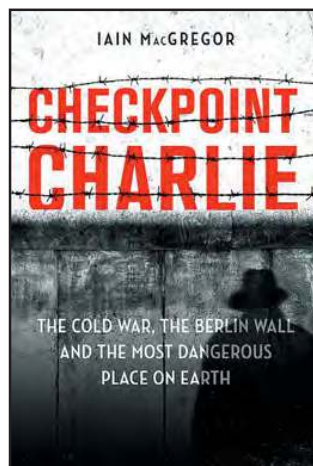
CHECKPOINT CHARLIE: The Cold War, the Berlin Wall and the Most Dangerous Place on Earth

Iain MacGregor
Constable

As the thirtieth anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall approaches in 2019, Iain MacGregor captures the mistrust, oppression, paranoia, and fear that gripped the city throughout this period. *Checkpoint Charlie* is about the nerve-racking confrontation between the West and the Soviet Union that contains never-before-

heard interviews with the men who built and dismantled the Wall; lovers who crossed it; relatives and friends who lost family trying to escape over it; German, British, French, and Russian soldiers who guarded its checkpoints; CIA, MI6 and Stasi operatives who oversaw secret operations across its borders; politicians whose ambitions shaped it; journalists who recorded its story; and many more whose living memories contributed to the full story of Checkpoint Charlie.

A brilliant work of historical journalism, *Checkpoint Charlie* is an invaluable record of this period. Hardback 352pp



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POISONER IN CHIEF

Stephen Kinzer
Henry Holt and Co.

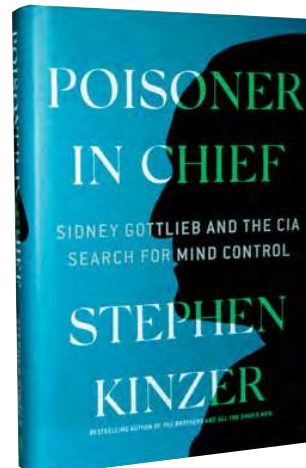
The visionary chemist Sidney Gottlieb was the CIA's master magician and gentle-hearted torturer - the Agency's 'poisoner-in-chief'. As head of the MK-ULTRA mind-control project, he directed



The CIA released this photo of Gottlieb to the author taken shortly before he retired from Langley in 1973

brutal experiments at secret prisons on three continents. He made pills, powders and potions that could kill or maim without a trace - including some intended for Fidel Castro and other foreign leaders. He paid prostitutes to lure clients to CIA-run bordellos, where they were secretly dosed with mind-altering drugs. His experiments spread LSD across the United States, making him a hidden godfather of the 1960s counterculture. For years he was the chief supplier of spy tools used by CIA officers around the world.

Stephen Kinzer draws on new documentary research and original interviews to bring to life one of the most powerful unknown Americans of the twentieth century. Gottlieb's reckless experiments on 'expendable' human subjects destroyed many lives, yet he considered himself deeply spiritual. He lived in a remote cabin without running water, meditated, and rose before dawn to milk his goats. During his twenty-two years at the CIA, Gottlieb worked in deep secrecy. Only since his death has it become possible to piece together his astonishing career at the intersection of extreme science and covert action.



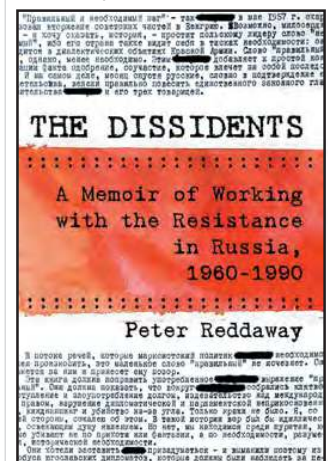
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THE DISSIDENTS

Peter Reddaway
Brookings Institution Press

It has been nearly three decades since the collapse of the Soviet Union, enough time for the role that the courageous dissidents ultimately contributed to the Communist system's collapse to have been largely forgotten, especially in the West. This book brings to life, for contemporary readers, the often underground work of the men and women who opposed the regime and authored dissident texts, known as 'samizdat', that exposed the tyrannies and weaknesses of the Soviet state both inside and outside the country.



Peter Reddaway spent decades studying the Soviet Union and got to know these dissidents and their work, publicising their writings in the West and helping some of them to escape the Soviet Union and settle abroad.

His book describes their courage but also puts their work in the context of the power struggles in the Kremlin, where politicians competed with and even succeeded in ousting one another. Reddaway's book takes readers beyond Moscow, describing politics and dissident work in other major Russian cities as well as in the outlying republics. Hardback 320pp

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9 November 1989. Berliners cross freely at Checkpoint Charlie

BURNING BRIDGES

Continued from Page 73



22 September 2019. Prime Minister Boris Johnson at the United Nations

deployed to Saudi Arabia to counter future aggression. It's not clear how many troops will be deployed, but Iran immediately criticised the decision.

CONCLUSION

As he made his way to speak at the annual gathering of world leaders at the United Nations in New York, and after being briefed by military and intelligence officials, UK Prime



Intelligence: Iranian firm Shahid Bagheri Industries embossment found on a ballistic missile fired at Saudi Arabia in a previous attack

Minister Boris Johnson pointed an accusing finger at Iran. "I can tell you that the UK is attributing responsibility with a very high degree of probability to Iran for the Aramco attacks.

"We think it very likely indeed that Iran was responsible for using both UAVs and cruise missiles." He also said the UK would cooperate with America to help defend allies Saudi Arabia and the UAE.

At the UN, he was joined by French President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Angela Merkel. On 23 September all three leaders issued a joint statement: "It is clear to

us that Iran bears responsibility for this attack. There is no other explanation."

The trio also urged Tehran to be more open about its nuclear intentions and cease its threats to increase uranium enrichment. "The time has come for Iran to accept a long term negotiation framework for its nuclear programme, as well as regional security issues, which include its missile programmes. Iran should choose dialogue over further provocation."

Both President Trump and Prime Minister Johnson support a "wider united diplomatic response" to events in the Gulf.

LAST WORD

REMEMBERING 9/11

Across the United States thousands of memorial services took place to mark the 18th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks. As part of many events held by the CIA, the Agency uploaded a particularly poignant photograph of an object which will forever reflect the demise of the man who ordered the attack - a brick from the Abbottabad compound where the Agency eventually tracked and eliminated terror chief Osama bin-Laden.



Model of the Abbottabad compound



The brick was one of 13 retrieved and is on display at the CIA museum. Then D/CIA Leon Panetta, who authorised the 2011 action received one of the bricks.



Also featured on the web site is an exact model of the compound built by the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency (NGA) to support the covert mission. The original construction, based on satellite intelligence, was called Abbottabad Compound 1 Model.

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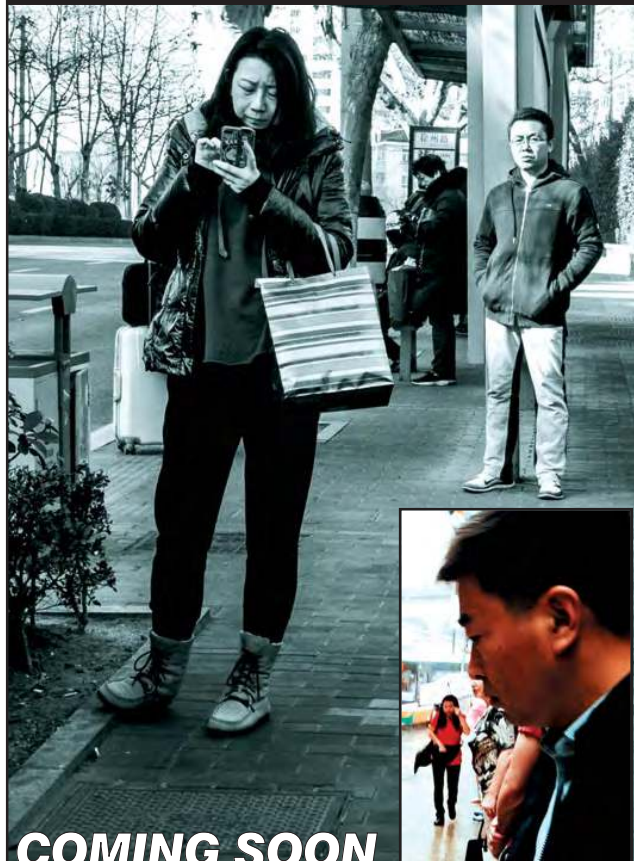


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