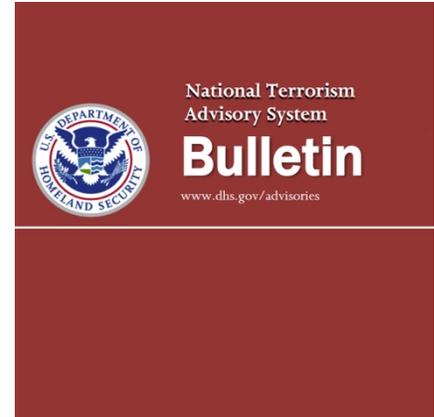


FNBT Employee Dashboard

January 7, 2019



ALERT:

Terrorism gets help from unwitting computer users

Following last week's airstrike that killed a prominent Middle East terrorist, Americans are encouraged to be extra careful, federal officials said today.

FNBT has received a bulletin from the National Terrorism Advisory System. It warns that Americans should be vigilant in avoiding cyber crimes since some terror networks have worked their way into the computers of unwitting citizens around the world. Having gained access to "innocent computers" using worms or bots, the terror network then uses the computing power of these machines to run software for their operations.

Most people who are victimized in schemes like this are unaware, says FNBT President and CEO John Gorton. "All of us need to be careful, using the same cautions that we learn in information security trainings: don't open uninvited attachments or email links, and avoid sharing data over the internet whenever possible."

The U.S. Bulletin received by the bank contained this explanation:

"The United States designated Iran a 'State Sponsor of Terrorism' in 1984 and since then, Iran has actively engaged in or directed an array of violent and deadly acts against the United States and its citizens globally. The United States designated Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) a Foreign Terrorist Organization on April 15, 2019, for its direct involvement in terrorist plotting. On January 2, 2020, the United States carried out a lethal strike in Iraq killing Iranian IRGC-Quds Force commander Qassem Soleimani while Soleimani was in Iraq. Iranian leadership and several affiliated violent extremist organizations publicly stated they intend to retaliate against the United States."

A "bulletin" is the lowest threat-level for announcements of this kind. If the threat of cyber crimes by terror cells increases, the U.S. Government may issue additional advisories marked "elevated alert" or "imminent threat."