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Evidence mounts Islamic State is looking to the US southern border

June 27, 2024 voanews.com reported: "U.S. intelligence and security officials are increasing their focus on the country's southern border, worried the constant flow of migrants has attracted the attention of the Islamic State terror group.

The heightened concern follows the arrests earlier this month of eight men from Tajikistan, all of whom entered the United States via its southern border with Mexico, some making the trip over a year ago.

While the initial background checks came up clean, U.S. law enforcement subsequently turned up information indicating potential ties to the Islamic State group, also known as IS or ISIS.

'It's not lost on us that the people who killed over 150 Russians in that theater were from the same part of the world,' said Ken Wainstein, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's undersecretary for intelligence and analysis, referring to the March attack on a Moscow concert hall, claimed by the terror group's Afghan affiliate..."

Iran liable to join fight if Israel takes on Hezbollah, US warns

June 26, 2024 timesofisrael.com reported: "The top US military officer warned on Sunday that any Israeli military offensive into Lebanon would risk an Iranian response in defense of the powerful Hezbollah terror group there, and that US forces would be challenged to bolster Israel's air defense umbrella.



General Charles Q. Brown

Air Force Gen. Charles Q. Brown, chairman of the United States Joint Chiefs of Staff, said Iran 'would be more inclined to support Hezbollah' than it does the Hamas terror group in Gaza, 'particularly if they felt that Hezbollah was being significantly threatened.'

Brown spoke to reporters as he traveled to Botswana for a meeting of African defense ministers.

Israeli officials have threatened a military offensive in Lebanon if there is no negotiated move to push Hezbollah away from the border, after more than eight months of increasingly intense attack on towns and military posts in northern Israel.

Just days ago, Israel's military said it had 'approved and validated' plans for an offensive in Lebanon, even as the US works to prevent the fighting from spiraling into a full-blown war..."

Historic Chinese lunar probe returns to Earth

June 25, 2024 voanews.com reported: "An uncrewed Chinese spacecraft returned to Earth Tuesday carrying the first soil and rock samples taken from the far side of the moon.

The Chang'e-6 probe landed Monday afternoon in northern China's Inner Mongolia region, ending a historic mission that began in early May when it was launched from a spaceport on the island province of Hainan.

Zhang Kejian, the head of the China National Space Administration, declared the mission 'a complete success' shortly after the probe's landing. President Xi Jinping issued a message calling the Chang'e-6 mission 'a landmark achievement' in China's efforts to become a space and scientific power.

The Chang'e-6 probe landed on the moon's far side on June 2 on the South Pole-Aitken Basin, a wide impact crater that is one of the largest in the solar system. The probe used a drill to collect materials below the surface and placed them in a container in separate part of the spacecraft that blasted off from lunar surface two days later.

The materials collected from the far side could provide clues about the origins of the moon and solar system because its craters have fewer ancient lava flows than the near side..."

4,000 missiles, 72-hour outages: Northern Israeli mayor warns of 'blackout scenario'

June 25, 2024 jpost.com reported: "Concern in Israel has risen regarding the 'blackout scenario'– the scenario in which, during a war in the North, Hezbollah will manage to disrupt Israel's electricity supply for extended periods of time.

Roy Levy, mayor of Nesher and deputy chairman of the Center for Local Government, discussed the issue with Lior Roznefeld on *Radio North 104.5FM*.

'I think the problem lies in the fact that everyone is throwing different information out there and not communicating with the citizens or telling them what is happening,' Levy said. 'Let me remind you, the story of the blackout scenario was also hidden from the local authorities until I brought it to the media.'

'In all the scenarios we simulate, we're looking at about a minimum of 72 hours without electricity, and I tell people to prepare for more than that because whether there are 72 hours without electricity or 24, it is still better to be prepared when you don't have medications or an energy source to heat food for a baby and use basic and essential services. It doesn't matter if they restore power to the cellphone service if my phone's battery is dead,' Levy said.

'We are hearing that we are facing a very dangerous threat of 4,000 missiles here in our area every day,' he continued..."

After 'unacceptable' Hezbollah threats, European ministers fear Middle East escalation

June 24, 2024 timesofisrael.com reported: "European foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said Monday that the Middle East was close to seeing the conflict between Israel and Hamas expanding into Lebanon, days after the Iran-backed Hezbollah terror group threatened EU member Cyprus.

'The risk of this war affecting the south of Lebanon and spilling over is every day bigger,' Borrell told reporters ahead of a foreign ministers meeting in Luxembourg. It was unclear if he mentioned the potential impact on Israel. 'We are on the eve of the war expanding,' he said.

Iran-backed Hezbollah began attacking Israel the day after Hamas's October 7 assault sparked the war in Gaza. Hezbollah has said it would not stop until there is a ceasefire in Gaza.

Hezbollah terror chief Hassan Nasrallah last week said that nowhere in Israel would be safe if a full-fledged war broke out. He also threatened EU member Cyprus for the first time, and other parts of the Mediterranean

"It is absolutely unacceptable to make threats against a sovereign state of the European Union," Greek Foreign Minister George Gerapetritis said..."

House passes defense bill automatically registering men 18-26 for draft

June 14, 2024 foxnews.com reported: "The House of Representatives passed a measure on Friday automatically registering men aged 18 to 26 for selective service.

It was part of the annual National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), which sets out the U.S. government's military and national security priorities over the next fiscal year. This year's NDAA authorizes \$895.2 billion in military spending, a \$9 billion increase from fiscal 2024.

While it hasn't been invoked in over half a century, it's mandatory for all male U.S. citizens to register for the selective service, also known as the

military draft, when they turn 18. Failure to register is classified as a felony and comes with a host of legal challenges.

Supporters of the amendment argue that it would cut down on bureaucratic red tape and help U.S. citizens avoid unnecessary legal issues, as well as cutting down on the taxpayer dollars going toward prosecuting those cases..."

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