This briefing was developed for **The Blue Book Project**, lead by the Commonwealth of Virginia, support by CNA, and funded through a FEMA regional catastrophic planning grant.

Blue Book Project Goal: Develop a coordinated operational process to support local, state, federal, and private sector priorities; support Virginia residents; and ensure continuity of government while managing consequences from a coordinated nation-state cyberattack on critical lifeline services.

CNA

The Blue Book Project

Russian Federation Threat Briefing

Russian strategic goals

- Espionage
  - Using cyber attacks to infiltrate US systems to extract information
  - Identify variations in system security across US federal agencies as well as state governments
- Weakening US capabilities
  - Damaging critical infrastructure
  - Sowing division in society
- Preparing for future conflict with US
  - Using cyber attacks to test and assess potential US vulnerabilities
  - Military doctrine includes attacks on civilian infrastructure to affect adversary's will to fight
- Deterrence of US action against Russia
  - Demonstrating risks to US of engaging in hostile activities

Russian capabilities and actors

- FSB: responsible for intelligence and counter-intelligence, incl. cyberspace
- GRU: military intelligence responsible for offensive cyber operations
  - Unit 74455: hacking and leaking cyber operations, malware
  - Unit 26165: SIGINT and cryptographic cyber operations
  - Unit 54777: psychological warfare, digital information operations
- SVR: cyber espionage operations
- Non-state actors
  - Independent and government-connected ‘patriotic’ hackers
  - Cyber criminals

Malware attacks

- Colonial Pipeline
  - 2021 ransomware attack disabled digital systems, resulted in shutdown of pipeline
  - Carried out by Darkside: Russia-related cyber criminal group
  - Enabled by exposed password for VPN account: likely target of opportunity, rather than planned attack
- Thwarted potential 2022 attack on US power grid
  - Pipedream malware targets variety of industrial control systems
  - Infiltrated air-gapped control rooms of multiple electric utilities
  - Similar to successful 2015 attack on Ukraine electric grid
- NotPetya
  - 2017 GRU Unit 74455 attack stopped 1/3 of Ukrainian economy for 3 days
  - Spread globally, causing $10 billion in economic damage, incl US health care providers

Cyber hacking and espionage

- Turla APT: FSB cyber espionage group
  - Sophisticated group focused on long-term value targets
  - Attacked US military networks in 2008, hijacked satellite internet connections
- 2014: leak of conversation between Asst. Sec. of State and US Amb. to Ukraine
  - Intended to undermine US foreign policy vis-à-vis Ukraine
- 2016: SVR Cozybear group penetration of US voter databases at state level
- 2020: SVR Solarwinds supply chain hack
  - Allowed backdoor system access and file exfiltration
  - Affected gov't agencies includes DHS, DOJ, Treasury
- 2023: Russian hackers use backdoor to access UK MOD files
  - Publish information on access to nuclear base, prisons, other secure facilities

Russian use of MDM

Operation Secondary Infection

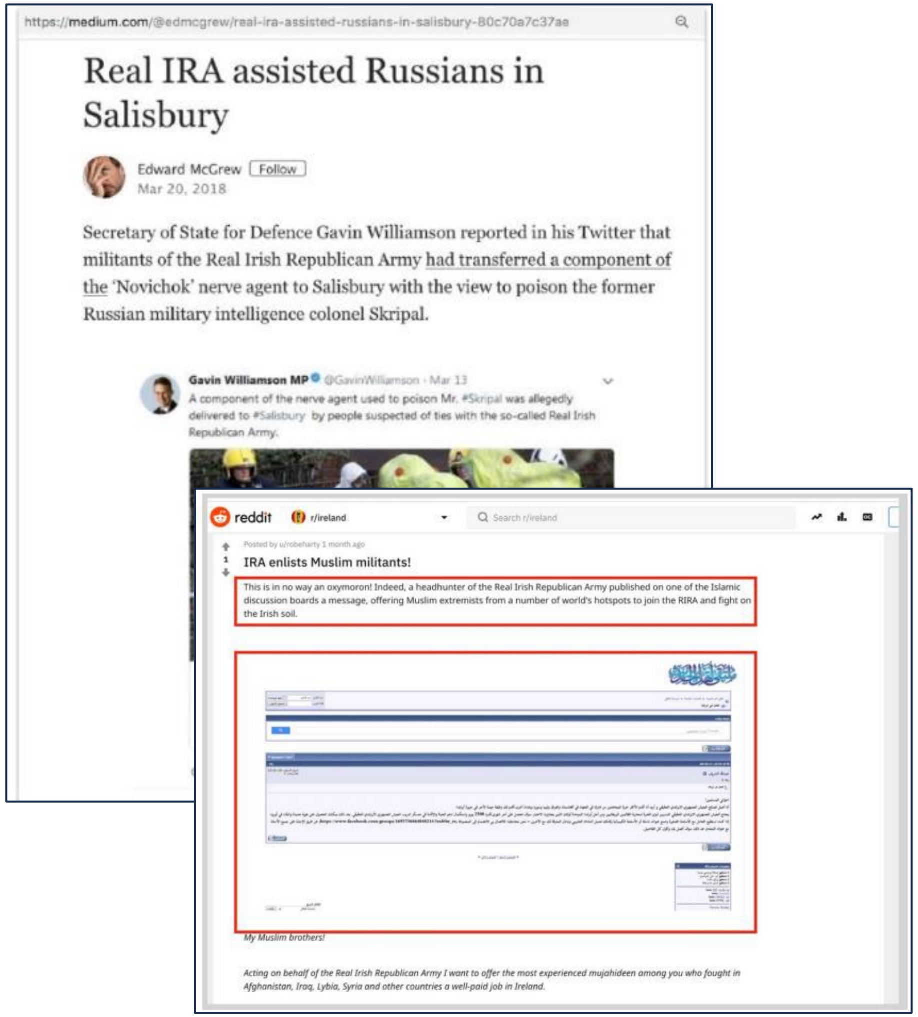
Designed to foment discord and division within countries that Russia perceives as its adversaries

- 6+ years
- 9 languages
- 30 social networks and blogging platforms
- Fake news stories, forged documents, and divisive content

2016 US Presidential Election

Designed to foment discord and division within the US

- Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, Reddit, Pinterest, Tumblr, and Vine
- Facebook posts alone were shared over 31 million times
- Event invitations, memes, and news articles; linking across platforms; and sharing authentic and nonpolitical content



https://medium.com/@edmcgrew/real-ira-assisted-russians-in-salisbury-80c70a7c37ae

Real IRA assisted Russians in Salisbury

Edward McGrew Follow
Mar 20, 2018

Secretary of State for Defence Gavin Williamson reported in his Twitter that militants of the Real Irish Republican Army had transferred a component of the 'Novichok' nerve agent to Salisbury with the view to poison the former Russian military intelligence colonel Skripal.

Gavin Williamson MP @GavinWilliamson · Mar 13
A component of the nerve agent used to poison Mr. #Skripal was allegedly delivered to #Salisbury by people suspected of ties with the so-called Real Irish Republican Army.

reddit r/ireland Search r/ireland

Posted by u/robeharty 1 month ago
1
IRA enlists Muslim militants!

This is in no way an oxymoron! Indeed, a headhunter of the Real Irish Republican Army published on one of the Islamic discussion boards a message, offering Muslim extremists from a number of world's hotspots to join the RIRA and fight on the Irish soil.

My Muslim brothers!

Acting on behalf of the Real Irish Republican Army I want to offer the most experienced mujahideen among you who fought in Afghanistan, Iraq, Lybia, Syria and other countries a well-paid job in Ireland.

Let’s Connect

Feel Free to email us with questions

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