FYI: Attached please find a summary of today’s House staff briefing per FBI.

Thank you,

Joanne
Summary of House Staff Briefing

March 29, 2017, 12:30 to approx. 1:30
(Notes by Joanne Johnson, OLA, x5-8313)

Staff from the following House offices:

Speaker's Office
Majority Leader's Office
House Judiciary Committee
House Homeland Committee
House Foreign Affairs Committee
House Oversight Committee
House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence
House Appropriations Committee

Briefer: Grant Mendenhall, Assistant Director, CTD, FBI

[FBI responded to a list of 7-8 questions that they received from the Hill. (I am awaiting the list of questions from FBI)].

FBI Briefer:

Over 300 cases exist involving individuals who entered the US as refugees. They do not all currently maintain a refugee status. The individual are from countries identified in the Executive Order (Somalia, Syria, Sudan, Libya, Iran, and Yemen).

Q: How did the FBI decide the date range categories above?
A: Will need to get back to you.

FBI Briefer:
Q: Of the 300, (b)(1), (b)(3), (b)(7) per FBI
A: (b)(1), (b)(3), (b)(7) per FBI

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A: (b)(1), (b)(3), (b)(7) per FBI

Q: (b)(1), (b)(3), (b)(7) per FBI
A: Will need to get back to you.

Q: (b)(1), (b)(3), (b)(7) per FBI
A: (b)(1), (b)(3), (b)(7)

Q: Is there any other country missing?
A: No. (b)(1), (b)(3), (b)(7) per FBI

Q: Out of the 300, were the three largest groups (b)(1), (b)(3), (b)(7) per FBI
A: (b)(1), (b)(3), (b)(7) per FBI

Q: Can the list of categories be transmitted to the Intel committees?
A: Will take that back and check.

Q: How are the individuals categorized? For example, you noted that (b)(1), (b)(3), (b)(7) per FBI
A: (b)(1), (b)(3), (b)(7) per FBI

Q: (b)(1), (b)(3), (b)(7) per FBI
A: (b)(1), (b)(3), (b)(7) per FBI

Q: (b)(1), (b)(3), (b)(7) per FBI
A: (b)(1), (b)(3), (b)(7) per FBI

Q: (b)(1), (b)(3), (b)(7) per FBI
A: Do not have that information.

Q: (b)(1), (b)(3), (b)(7) per FBI
Q: How many refugees have been removed or lost their status because of terrorist connections?
A: Do not have that statistic. I can tell you have many CT arrests have occurred, but I do not have the specific information concerning who was a refugee or not. The focus of the daily work of the FBI is not on refugees. It is on threats – people engaging in criminal activity with regard to terrorists or their networks. Would take a while to come up with a number regarding how many arrests have been refugees.

Q: Did HVEs radicalize before they arrived in the US? How many refugees of the 300 arrived as children?
A: Do not have that bucket of data. Anecdotally, of the 10 successful attacks since 9/11, only two were done by refugees – and both were Somali. When they came in as refugees, one was approximately two years old and the other was under two years old. They were radicalized in the United States. One of the biggest challenges from an investigation standpoint is determining the radicalization timeline. In a lot of cases, that cannot be determined until the person is in custody. Generally speaking, the message of ISIS – social media presence of ISIS/global reach of ISIS – is the number one radicalization threat we face. ISIS and ISIS-inspired individuals are the number one threat the US faces now.

Q: At what point in time did the FBI run the numbers to obtain the 300 number?
A: The AG asked the FBI for this number. The AG has asked for a lot of data over the last 3-4 months. This information was not compiled before the request(s) was made.

Q: Of the total CT investigations, what percentage is the 300?
A: (b)(1), (b)(3), (b)(7)(E) per FBI

Q: Are the 300 cases currently open?
A: (b)(1), (b)(3), (b)(7)(E) per FBI. Please explain.

Q: How many (b)(1), (b)(3), (b)(7)(E) per FBI
A: (b)(1), (b)(3), (b)(7)(E) per FBI.

Q: Are the 300 cases individual cases?
A: (b)(1), (b)(3), (b)(7)(E) per FBI

Q: How many cases are associated
A: That number would be extremely difficult to come up with.

Q: What number would be extremely difficult to come up with?
A: FBI

Q: Are these cases considered CT (not worked out of Crim)?
A: Yes.

Q: How many were minors when they arrived?
A: Will need to check.

Q: DHS put out a document that discussed closed cases and gave helpful statistics. Is there a parallel lessons learned type document that the FBI provides to its agents?
A: Do not think we have written on this. This type of analysis is something that would be worked out with NCTC. We do training. Radicalization piece is difficult to wrestle to the ground. If open a case today, the radicalization piece is woven through the course of the investigation.

Q: Seems like a shift in policy regarding how refugees are treated per Executive Order.
A: No comment on policy.

Q: Focus of EO has been on host countries.
A: Generally, there are countries where we have robust liaisons and partner with every day. There are countries that have limited capabilities and limited record keeping. They can also be challenging to work with. Or even if a good liaison, their partnership cannot help us because of the country's limitations.

Q: Were there open investigations on the Ohio and Crossroads Mall terrorists?
A: FBI

***FBI OCA requested that the staffers' questions be gathered through the Leadership Office and forwarded to the FBI for response.***