NATIONAL

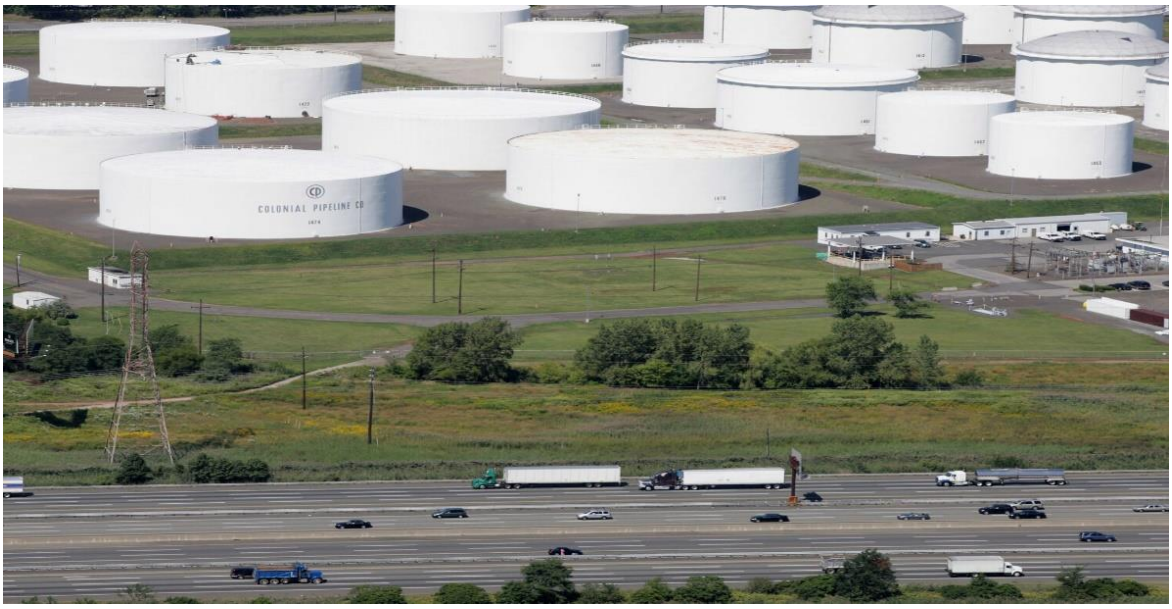
SECURITY

DIVISION

National Security Division Report

Week ending May 14, 2021

Ransomware Attack Shuts Down A Top U.S. Gasoline Pipeline



A ransomware attack has shut down one of the largest refined product pipelines in the United States. A security analyst said it shows that "core elements of our national infrastructure" remain vulnerable to cyberattacks.

The cyber-attack hit Colonial Pipeline, which carries gasoline, diesel, and jet fuel from Texas to New York and moves about 45% of all fuel consumed on the East Coast.

In a statement late Friday, Colonial Pipeline said it was "the victim of a cybersecurity attack," though the company didn't say who launched the attack or what the motives were. On Saturday, the company issued an update saying it had "determined that this incident involves ransomware."

It's the latest high-profile ransomware incident and follows a recent attack that targeted the Washington, D.C., police department.

Colonial Pipeline said that, in response to the attack targeting its facilities, "we proactively took certain systems offline to contain the threat, which has temporarily halted all pipeline operations, and affected some of our IT systems." The company said it contacted federal agencies and law enforcement, as well as enlisting a third-party cybersecurity firm to help with an investigation "into the nature and scope of this incident."

The American Legion will continue to monitor this situation. Digital capabilities today underpin financial, economic, transportation, energy, and defense infrastructure now rely on the cyber domain; therefore, more must be done to combat these types of attacks.

Resolution No. 20: National Cybersecurity Strategy

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Reno, Nevada, August 22, 23, 24, 2017, That The American Legion calls on the United States government to continue to develop and refine processes and policies that will enhance interagency cybersecurity, to develop programs, initiatives, and other activities that educate citizens and grow the U.S. cybersecurity workforce across all levels of government, to support state and municipal government and private sector actors in building resilient networks through information sharing and promulgation of best practices and standards, and to ensure the protection of critical infrastructure from cyber and other electronic attack.

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North Korea Warns U.S. Over Biden's 'Big Blunder'

North Korea warned on Sunday that the United States would face a grave situation if it continues to pursue its "hostile policy" toward Pyongyang's nuclear program. The statement, attributed to Kwon Jong Gun, head of the Foreign Ministry's department of U.S. affairs, comes as the Biden administration is set to unveil a new strategy to deal with the isolated Asian nation.

The statement said President Biden made a "big blunder" when he called North Korea's and Iran's nuclear programs a security threat during a speech before a joint session of Congress on Wednesday. Biden said he would work with allies to address the threats with "diplomacy and stern deterrence."

The statement, published on a government news site, warned that North Korea could respond with "corresponding measures."

On Friday, White House press secretary Jen Psaki said the administration had completed a "thorough, rigorous and inclusive" policy review of North Korea. She said the administration's goal is to completely denuclearize the Korean Peninsula — something she noted the past four

administrations had not achieved. The administration will not focus on achieving a grand bargain or rely on strategic patience, she said.

The American Legion has a particular concern for maintaining peace with freedom and recognizes that a firm U.S. Foreign policy is vital in that regard.

Resolution No. 42: Foreign Policy Objectives

RESOLVED, By The American Legion in National Convention assembled in Charlotte, North Carolina, August 26, 27, 28, 2014, That The American Legion believes that the following objectives should be incorporated into U.S. foreign policy in order to maintain peace with freedom while preserving and promoting democracy:

> **7. Opposition to the spread of nuclear, chemical or biological weapons or longrange ballistic missiles which may be used by terrorists, terrorist organizations, communists or aggressor nations**
>
> **11. Recognition that the President must be the chief architect of U.S. foreign policy as envisioned in the U.S. Constitution, while Congress performs important functions of advice, oversight and funding**

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Skyrocketing Support Costs Threaten Air Force Modernization

The Air Force's weapon sustainment costs are rising fast and threaten to poach funds from developing new systems if the service can't "figure out a way" to retire old hardware, Lt. Gen. David S. Nahom, deputy chief of staff for plans and programs, said May 12.

"We've let our fleets get old," Nahom said at a McAleese and Associates virtual conference. "About 44 percent of the Air Force fleet is now flying beyond its design service life." The "so what" of that figure is that the cost of weapon sustainment and support (WSS) is "skyrocketing," Nahom said.

"In the next couple of years, we're projecting our WSS costs to go up at over twice inflation," he said, "creating enormous problems." The Air Force is also struggling to manage seven different fighter fleets—Nahom counted the F-15C, F-15E, and F-15EX as three separate platforms, along with the A-10, F-16, F-22, and F-35—something that "no other air force" has attempted to do, he said. The service needs to retire some legacy hardware to make room for cutting-edge systems, he said.

The complex trades will be in deciding how much to invest in high-end capabilities for a high-end fight, Nahom said, "but at the same time, you have to be in a lot of places," such as performing homeland defense and low-end theaters. "We have to figure out how to do that affordably."

The American Legion views a robust national defense as paramount to national security. We must continue to support budgets that will allow us to modernize by either purchasing or replacing aging aircraft that will improve our military's overall readiness against current and immerging threats.

Resolution No. 35: National Defense Budget

RESOLVED, That Congress never allows our military forces to reach a weakened state in these uncertain and perilous times.

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DEFENSE POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY
FULFILLING OUR NATION'S PROMISE

May 10, 2021: USS Oklahoma Brothers Accounted For From World War II (Trapp, H. & Trapp, W.)
May 10, 2021: Soldier Accounted For From Korean War (Beek, E.)
May 11, 2021: USS Oklahoma Sailor Accounted For From World War II (Harr, R.)
May 11, 2021: USS West Virginia Sailor Accounted For From World War II (Brown, C.)
May 11, 2021: USS Oklahoma Sailor Accounted For From World War II (Shafer, W.)
May 11, 2021: USS Oklahoma Sailor Accounted For From World War II (Saylor, P.)
May 11, 2021: Soldier Accounted For From World War II (White, J.)

Legislative Issues

• Availability of Healthcare benefits for residents at the Armed Forces Retirement Home in proposed language of the FY22NDAA – The American Legions support funding that provides long-term solvency and viability of the Armed Forces Retirement Home (Resolution No. 107, 2016)

• Quality of Life for Service members and their Families – We owe our military men and women a debt of gratitude we can never repay for all that they — and their families — sacrifice to serve

our country. The American Legion supports a fully fun• Ensure the Coast Guard is paid – The American Legion supports a fully funded United States Coast Guard (Resolution No. 23, 2016)

• Expedited Citizenship through Honorable Military Service – The American Legion supports measures to ensure the process of naturalization through military service is completed before discharge (Resolution No. 15, 2018)

• Cybersecurity and Critical Infrastructure – The American Legion supports refined processes and policies that will enhance interagency cybersecurity and promulgate best practices and standards and ensure the protection of critical infrastructure from cyber and other electronic attacks. (Resolution No. 20, 2017)

• Addressing the Forever Wars – The American Legion advocate for elevating diplomacy to build a better, safer world (Resolution No. 22, 2020)

Staff Activity:

Staff participated in the Office of the Chief, Public Affairs (OCPA) Army MSO/VSO Roundtable to discuss multiple topics impacting servicemembers and their families. Most notably was the signing of the Army Directive 2021-16, which improves the Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention program implementing several recommendations from the Fort Hood Independent Review Committee (FHIRC) report. The committee examined the command climate and culture at Fort Hood and the surrounding military community to determine whether they reflect the Army's commitment to safety, respect, inclusiveness, diversity, and freedom from sexual harassment after a significant volume of questions and concerns voiced during the investigation of the disappearance and murder of SPC Vanessa Guillen.

Click Here FHIRC Report

Staff participated in DoD Countering Extremism Working Group to discuss laws, policies, and frameworks addressing extremism in the Department concerning complications of potential infractions of 1st Amendment rights. The Countering Extremism Working Group established four subcommittees to address the following: Military Justice Policy DODI 1325.06 Handling Dissident and Protest Activities Among Members of the Armed Forces; Standardize Practices for Insider Threat Programs; Gap Analysis to enhance training and education; Screening Capabilities to enhance prevention.

Click Here DODI 1325.06

Staff and the Legislative Division met with 1sr Degree to discuss initiating an Awareness Campaign to address support for Afghan Interpreters who stood shoulder to shoulder with U.S Forces and significantly contributed to saving countless Americans. As a follow-on measure to the National Commander's Letter to The President and the Letter to the Secretary of State, The American Legion's initial focus for the campaign is advocacy for the Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) program; a tool used by the State Department to issue Afghan Nationals visas for the United States under the authority of the Afghan Allies Protection Act of 2009.

Click Here Afghan Allies Protection Act of 2009

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Week ending 05/14/2021