

THE HOMELAND SECURITY ***NEWS BRIEFING***

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TO: THE SECRETARY AND SENIOR STAFF

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TODAY'S EDITION

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FBI Conducts Raids In Probe Of "Anonymous" Hackers..... 8

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FBI Conducts Raids In Probe Of “Anonymous” Hackers. The FBI and British law enforcement agencies carried out a series of coordinated raids Thursday as part of an international effort to track down hackers associated with the pro-WikiLeaks group, “Anonymous.” The FBI executed more than 40 search warrants and the London police arrested five young men suspected of using distributed denial of service (DDoS) attacks to take down corporate servers.

The [New York Times](#) (1/28, A18, Savage, 1.01M) reports, “The Federal Bureau of Investigation said it had executed more than 40 search warrants in the United States on Thursday as part of an investigation into an international group of computer hackers who attacked corporate Web sites last year in a show of support for WikiLeaks.” The FBI’s “investigation is part of a larger international inquiry into a loose confederation of hackers calling itself ‘Anonymous’ that coordinated the cyberattacks against the Web sites of companies like PayPal, Visa and MasterCard late last year after they severed ties with WikiLeaks.” As part of their “Operation Payback” retaliatory plan, Anonymous hackers use distributed denial of service (DDoS) attacks in order to compromise corporate servers. According to the FBI, “facilitating or conducting such an attack is illegal and punishable by up to 10 years in prison.”

The [AP](#) (1/28, Satter) reports an FBI spokesperson “confirmed that one warrant was served in the Las Vegas area, and five were served in central and southern California.” There have been no arrests. The FBI says “it was working on the case with international police forces, and added that German, Dutch and French authorities had launched their own investigations.”

The [Miami Herald](#) (1/28, Siebel, 175K) reports, “The FBI said it is working with several European governments and the National Cyber-Forensics and Training Alliance, or NCFTA, to identify the source of the attacks, which the FBI attributed to a type of software it identified as “Low Orbit Ion Canon” tools. It said major anti-virus programs had been

updated to block such software.” The [Los Angeles Times](#) (1/28, 681K) also notes the FBI-NCFTA connection.

[Reuters](#) (1/28), the [Washington Times](#) (1/28, Waterman, 77K), [Bloomberg News](#) (1/28, Larson, Lumley) and the [Wall Street Journal](#) (1/28, Bray, 2.09M) also report on the FBI investigation.

British Police Arrest Five In Connection With “Anonymous” Attacks. [AFP](#) (1/28) reports, “British police arrested five people and the FBI launched raids across the US as part of a probe into cyber attacks by online group ‘Anonymous,’ which last year assailed websites hostile to WikiLeaks.” The London’s Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) conducted a Thursday morning raid in England and “three teenage males and two adult men were arrested on suspicion of breaking the Computer Misuse Act 1990.” According to London police, “the arrests are in relation to recent and ongoing ‘distributed denial of service’ attacks (DDoS) by an online group calling themselves ‘Anonymous.’ This investigation is being carried out in conjunction with international law enforcement agencies in Europe and the US.” [Reuters](#) (1/28), the [Wall Street Journal](#) (1/28, Bryan-Low, 2.09M), [Washington Post](#) (1/28, Tsukayama, 605K), [Guardian](#) (1/28, Halliday) and [Daily Telegraph](#) (1/28) also report on the UK arrests.

“Anonymous” Responds To UK Arrests. The [Financial Times](#) (1/28, Watkins, Bradshaw, Menn, 448K) reveals that Anonymous responded to the UK arrests through an open letter to the government. The group explained that it viewed DDoS attacks as a modern form of sit-in demonstration and claimed it was not a criminal action. Anonymous asserted: “Just as is the case with traditional forms of protest, we block access to our opponents infrastructure to get our message across. It is clear then, that arresting somebody for taking part in a DDoS attack is exactly like arresting somebody for attending a peaceful demonstration in their hometown.” Anonymous claimed the UK arrests were “politically motivated, and were being carried out under pressure from the US government.”

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