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United States Department of Defense

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Intelligence Bulletin

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Subject: Coordinated Russian and Iranian Attacks Against France and Türkiye

Status: Critical Security Threat

Event: On November 17, 2026, the Russian Federation conducted a military strike against the Eiffel Tower in Paris, France, in collaboration with the Islamic Republic of Iran, which carried out a bombing in Istanbul, Türkiye. These coordinated attacks represent a significant escalation of hostilities against NATO member states and pose a direct threat to international security and United States military interests. Potential Russian objectives include challenging NATO's influence, reducing Western support for Ukraine, and pressuring Western governments to reconsider economic sanctions. Iran's involvement indicates a strengthening strategic relationship between Moscow and Tehran and their shared opposition to Western influence. However, these attacks may result in increased international isolation, additional economic sanctions, and a stronger commitment to collective defense among NATO members. The possibility of NATO invoking Article 5 raises concerns regarding direct military confrontation between the United States, Russia, and Iran. The extent of civilian casualties and structural damage remains undetermined.

Action: The Department of Defense recommends immediate coordination with NATO allies to assess the attacks and determine an appropriate collective response. The United States should increase defensive readiness at American military installations overseas and provide intelligence, humanitarian,

and defensive assistance to France and Türkiye. The Department of Defense will continue monitoring Russian and Iranian military activities and assessing potential threats against American personnel and allied nations. Should NATO invoke Article 5, the United States must be prepared to fulfill its collective defense obligations. However, the Department recommends maintaining diplomatic communication with Moscow and Tehran to reduce the possibility of further military escalation. The Secretary of Defense will coordinate with the Chief of Staff to evaluate potential military response options and provide updated threat assessments to the President. The United States must demonstrate its commitment to NATO while protecting American national security interests and preventing the conflict from escalating into a larger international war.

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