

(b)(6)

From: First Alert | Urgent (b)(7)(E)
Sent: Monday, May 22, 2023 10:15 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: Explosion reported near Pentagon Complex in Washington, DC: Blog via Twitter.

Explosion reported near Pentagon Complex in Washington, DC: Blog via Twitter.

Priority level: Urgent

Estimated Event Location:
The Pentagon, Washington, DC, USA
Within 0.75 miles from 38.8719N, 77.0563W | 18SUJ 2162 0457

ORIGINAL PUBLIC TWEET (10:06am May 22, 2023 CDT) Large Explosion near The Pentagon Complex in Washington D.C. - Initial Report

Alert Verification:
@Deltaone, *Walter Bloomberg (Blog)

Copy and paste link to view on First Alert:

(b)(6); (b)(7)(E)

Copy and paste link to view on Twitter:

(b)(6); (b)(7)(E)

Copy and paste link to track story:

(b)(6); (b)(7)(E)

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Lists: Pentagon Threats

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(b)(6); (b)(7)(E)

Know First. Act Faster.

(b)(6)

From: (b)(6) PFPA CCO (USA)
Sent: Monday, May 22, 2023 10:49 PM
To: (b)(6) PFPA HQS (USA)
Cc: (b)(6) PFPA CCO (USA)
Subject: Explosion Tweet Summary
Signed By: (b)(6)

(b)(6) – As requested, here is a brief summary regarding the Pentagon Explosion Tweet that happened today.

- PFPA CCO was notified at 10:22 a.m. by (b)(6) the Arlington County Fire (b)(6) that there was a Tweet alleging that an explosion happened near the Pentagon. The Tweet included a doctored photo.
- (b)(6) developed the following tweet to push out in response: “@PFPAOfficial and the ACFD are aware of a social media report circulating online about an explosion near the Pentagon. There is NO explosion or incident taking place at or near the Pentagon reservation, and there is no immediate danger or hazards to the public.”
- We re-tweeted (b)(6) tweet on PFPA’s website.
- OSD PA (b)(6) was notified early on and
- PFPA CCO was contacted by ABC News, The Insider, and the Associate Press. We used the statement that Arlington County drafted to respond.
- The AP had follow on questions, which were coordinated with (b)(6) and (b)(6) for the response.

Vr/

(b)(6)

Team Lead, Corporate Communications
Pentagon Force Protection Agency

(b)(6)

www.pfpa.mil

(b)(6)

From: (b)(6) PFPA CI (USA)
Sent: Tuesday, May 23, 2023 11:29 AM
To: PFPA Pentagon IID List All
Subject: Fake news about th4e Pentagon
Signed By: (b)(6)

A faked image of a smoke-engulfed building billed as the Pentagon circulated online Monday led to a temporary drop in financial markets. The image appeared to be generated by AI and came from an apparently bogus Twitter account claiming to be the Bloomberg news outlet. Twitter suspended the account. ([Washington Post](#))

R/S

(b)(6)

Counterintelligence Agent
Office of Secretary of Defense
J2X/Pentagon Force Protection Agency

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

From: (b)(6) PFPA CCO (USA)
Sent: Monday, May 22, 2023 10:57 AM
To: (b)(6) OSD PA (USA); (b)(6) OSD PA (USA)
Cc: Johnston, David L CIV DMA HQ DMA (USA)
Subject: FW: Pentagon Explosion HOAX
Signed By: (b)(6)

(b)(6) - For your awareness, we re-tweeted the post that the Arlington County Fire Department posted about this hoax. Our open source team is looking into the posts to see where they originated from.

Vr/

(b)(6)
Team Lead, Corporate Communications
Pentagon Force Protection Agency
(b)(6)
<https://www.pfpa.mil>

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, May 22, 2023 10:32 AM
To: (b)(6) PFPA CCO (USA); (b)(6)
Cc: (b)(6) OSD PA (USA); (b)(6); (b)(6) OSD PA (USA)
(b)(6)
Subject: RE: Pentagon Explosion HOAX

Good morning,

This is what we put out [Arlington Fire & EMS on Twitter: "@PFPAOfficial and the ACFD are aware of a social media report circulating online about an explosion near the Pentagon. There is NO explosion or incident taking place at or near the Pentagon reservation, and there is no immediate danger or hazards to the public. https://t.co/uznY0s7deL" / Twitter](https://t.co/uznY0s7deL)

We needed to get something out faster before this got spun up further than it already has.

Thanks,

(b)(6)
Executive Officer | Public Information
Arlington County Fire Department

(b)(6)

Please note that any email sent to/from Arlington County email addresses may be subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)

From: (b)(6) PFPA CCO (USA); (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, May 22, 2023 10:27 AM
To: (b)(6)
Cc: (b)(6) OSD PA (USA); (b)(6); (b)(6) OSD PA (USA)

(b)(6)

Subject: RE: Pentagon Explosion HOAX

(b)(6) – Thank you. Let me get right back with you.

Vr/

(b)(6)

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Monday, May 22, 2023 10:22 AM

To: (b)(6) CIV PFPA CCO (USA) (b)(6)

Subject: Pentagon Explosion HOAX

Importance: High

(b)(6)

There is a report on social media about an explosion near the Pentagon. The image is clearly false, but has generated significant media responses on my side. Can we craft something to put out quickly?

“PFPA and the Arlington County Fire Department are aware of a hoax social media report circulating online about an explosion near the Pentagon. There is NO explosion or incident taking place at or near the Pentagon reservation, and there is no immediate danger or hazards to the public.”

(b)(6)

Executive Officer | Public Information
Arlington County Fire Department

(b)(6)

Please note that any email sent to/from Arlington County email addresses may be subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)

(b)(6)

From: PFPA Pentagon IID Mailbox Open Source Team
Sent: Monday, May 22, 2023 12:48 PM
To: (b)(6) PFPA IID (USA); (b)(6) PFPA IID (USA); (b)(6) PFPA TMD (USA); (b)(6) PFPA IID (USA); (b)(6) PFPA IID (USA); (b)(6) PFPA TMD (USA)
Cc: PFPA Pentagon IID Mailbox TIC; (b)(6) PFPA IID (USA); (b)(6) CIV PFPA IID (USA); (b)(6) PFPA CI (USA); PFPA Pentagon IID Mailbox Open Source Team; PFPA Pentagon ITD List Threat Management Unit
Subject: Hoax Pentagon Explosion Twitter Posts
Attachments: Hoax Pentagon Explosion Twitter Posts - 2023-OST-090.docx; Hoax Petnagon Explosion Twitter Posts - 2023-OST-090.pptx
Signed By: (b)(6)

Good Afternoon,

Please see attached OST memorandum and supplementary slides re: Hoax Pentagon Explosion Twitter Posts. Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns. We will follow up if any additional relevant information is identified. Thank you!

Respectfully,



(b)(6)

Team Lead / Open Source Analyst

Open Source Team (OST)
Investigations and Intelligence Division (IID)
Pentagon Force Protection Agency (PFPA)

(b)(6)



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
PENTAGON FORCE PROTECTION AGENCY
9000 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-9000



22 May 2023

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

TO: Threat Management Unit (TMU)
FROM: Investigations and Intelligence Division, Open Source Team (OST)
SUBJECT: Derogatory Twitter Posts

On 22 May 2023 at approximately 1007hrs, (b)(7)(E) alerted OST of a Twitter post which mentioned a large explosion outside of the Pentagon:

“Large Explosion near The Pentagon Complex in Washington D.C. - Initial Report”

LINK to comment: <https://twitter.com/Deltaone/status/1660648429255630853>

The Twitter user whose tweet was sent via (b)(7)(E) was one of thousands of Twitter users who shared and/or mentioned the alleged explosion near the Pentagon. [Analyst Comment: *The Twitter user sent via (b)(7)(E) was NOT the original poster of the hoax photograph.*] According to reports on Twitter, the original post has been deleted; however, the contents of the post continued to spread across Twitter, Reddit, and Telegram. Numerous Twitter users debunked the alleged AI-generated photograph pointing out that the depiction of the “explosion near the Pentagon” was not well done. Additionally, some social media users have stated that this disinformation attempt may have been an effort to manipulate the stock market, which at the time of the original post, dropped quickly. At this time, the original poster of the hoax photograph cannot be determined.

Please see supplementary slides for additional information. The point of contact for this memo is the Open Source Team at (b)(6)

Open Source Team [OST]
Investigations and Intelligence Division
Pentagon Force Protection Agency

Controlled by: PEPA
Controlled by: IID/TIC/OST
CUI Category: LEI, PRIVY
Distribution: UNCLASSIFIED
POC: (b)(6)



Pentagon Force Protection Agency (PFPA) Open Source Team (OST)

HRP Weekly Roll-Up

25 MAY 2023

Controlled by: [REDACTED]
Controlled by: [REDACTED]
Category: [REDACTED]
Distribution: [REDACTED]
PG: (b)(6)



PFFPA Open Source Team (OST) HRP Weekly Roll-Up

18 MAY 2023 – 24 MAY 2023

Prepared on 25 MAY

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C); (b)(7)(E)

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C); (b)(7)(E)

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C); (b)(7)(E)

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C); (b)(7)(E)

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C); (b)(7)(E)

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C); (b)(7)(E)



PFFPA Open Source Team (OST) HRP Weekly Roll-Up

18 MAY 2023 – 24 MAY 2023

Prepared on 25 MAY

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C); (b)(7)(E)

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C); (b)(7)(E)

(b)(6); (b)(7)(C); (b)(7)(E)

Pentagon Reservation

BLUF: One direct threat was identified.

Mentions of the Pentagon were elevated this week. Criticism regarding the DoD budget, recent DoD leaks, Ukraine-Russia war, UAP disclosure, and DEI initiatives continued. Additionally, the Pentagon was mentioned regarding an online hoax that shared an alleged AI-generated photo of an explosion at “the Pentagon” which quickly went viral on Twitter. Additionally, news and social media commentary on the Pentagon’s recent “\$3B accounting error” regarding the value of the weapons sent to Ukraine was widespread. **One Reddit user was referred to TMU for threatening to bomb the Pentagon. This individual also shared photographs of alleged classified documents to their Reddit feed.**

(b)(6)

From: PFPA Pentagon IID Mailbox Open Source Team
Sent: Thursday, May 25, 2023 11:19 AM
To: (b)(6) PFPA PSD (USA); (b)(6) PFPA PSD (USA); (b)(6) PFPA IID (USA); (b)(6) PFPA (USA); (b)(6) PFPA TAC (USA); (b)(6) (b)(6) PFPA TMD (USA); (b)(6) PFPA PSD (USA); (b)(6) PFPA ADTM (USA); (b)(6) PFPA PSD (USA); (b)(6) PFPA PSD (USA); (b)(6) (b)(6) PFPA IID (USA); (b)(6) PFPA TMD (USA); (b)(6) PFPA IID (USA); (b)(6) PFPA IID (USA); (b)(6) PFPA CI (USA); (b)(6) PFPA IID (USA); (b)(6) PFPA PPD (USA)
Cc: PFPA Pentagon IID Mailbox Open Source Team; PFPA Pentagon IID Mailbox TIC; (b)(6) PFPA IID (USA); (b)(6) PFPA IID (USA); (b)(6) PFPA IID (USA); (b)(6) PFPA IID (USA)
Subject: HRP Weekly Roll-Ups - 25 MAY 2023
Attachments: HRP Weekly Roll-Up - 25 MAY 2023.pdf; OSD and JCS HRP Weekly Roll-Up - 25 MAY 2023.pdf
Signed By: (b)(6)

Good afternoon everyone,

Please see attached OST HRP Weekly Roll-Ups. Thank you!

V/r,

(b)(6)



(b)(6)

Open Source Team (OST)

Threat Intelligence Center (TIC)
 Investigations and Intelligence Division (IID)
 Pentagon Force Protection Agency (PFPA)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

From: (b)(6) PFPA POC (USA)
Sent: Monday, May 22, 2023 10:41 AM
Subject: OPEN SOURCE REPORTING Explosion at the Pentagon _ 22 May 2023
Signed By: (b)(6)

SUBJECT: OPEN SOURCE REPORTING – Explosion at the Pentagon (PFPA/WHS/DA&M)	
Date / Time of Information:	2 May 2023 / 22 May 2023
Update # or Initial	INITIAL
Location of Incident	Pentagon
Situation / Information: The Pentagon Operations Center received a call from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Network Operations Center (NOC) regarding an OPEN SOURCE Report of an explosion at the Pentagon. NO corroboration of the report from patrolling officers, tenants, nor Arlington County Emergency Dispatch. PFPA Open Source Team is investigating the origin of the Twitter post.	
Triggered CIR	Situational Awareness
Impacts to Pentagon Reservation or Leased Facilities: NONE	
Agencies Involved: PFPA	
Jurisdiction: PFPA	

(b)(6)

Pentagon Operations Center
Pentagon Force Protection Agency

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

From: PFPA Pentagon IID Mailbox Open Source Team
Sent: Monday, May 22, 2023 10:31 AM
To: PFPA Pentagon POC Mailbox Command Center
Cc: (b)(6) CIV PFPA IID (USA)
Subject: RE: Explosion reported near Pentagon Complex in Washington, DC: Blog via Twitter.
Signed By: (b)(6)

Good morning,

Thank you for the information.

OST is currently tracking the alert and are currently looking into the validity of the post.

v/r

(b)(6)

Chief, Open Source Team (OST)

Threat Intelligence Center (TIC)
Investigations and Intelligence Division (IID)
Pentagon Force Protection Agency (PFPA)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

-----Original Message-----

From: PFPA Pentagon POC Mailbox Command Center <(b)(6)>
Sent: Monday, May 22, 2023 10:19 AM
To: PFPA Pentagon IID Mailbox Open Source Team <(b)(6)>
Subject: FW: Explosion reported near Pentagon Complex in Washington, DC: Blog via Twitter.

Good morning,

Please see the First Alert below for your knowledge

POC

-----Original Message-----

From: First Alert | Urgent (b)(7)(E)
Sent: Monday, May 22, 2023 10:16 AM
To: (b)(6) PFPA POC (USA)

(b)(6)

Subject: Explosion reported near Pentagon Complex in Washington, DC: Blog via Twitter.

Explosion reported near Pentagon Complex in Washington, DC: Blog via Twitter.

Priority level: Urgent

Estimated Event Location:
The Pentagon, Washington, DC, USA
Within 0.75 miles from 38.8719N, 77.0563W | 18SUJ 2162 0457

ORIGINAL PUBLIC TWEET (10:06am May 22, 2023 EDT) Large Explosion near The Pentagon Complex in Washington D.C. - Initial Report

Alert Verification:
@Deltaone, *Walter Bloomberg (Blog)

Copy and paste link to view on First Alert:

(b)(6); (b)(7)(E)

Copy and paste link to view on Twitter:

(b)(6); (b)(7)(E)

Copy and paste link to track story:

(b)(6); (b)(7)(E)

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Lists: Pentagon Threats

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prohibited.

You agree to the following terms of use here:

(b)(6); (b)(7)(E)

(b)(6)

From: (b)(6) PFPA IID (USA)
Sent: Monday, May 22, 2023 12:52 PM
To: PFPA Pentagon IID Mailbox Open Source Team; (b)(6) PFPA IID (USA); (b)(6) PFPA TMD (USA); (b)(6) PFPA IID (USA); (b)(6) PFPA IID (USA); (b)(6) PFPA TMD (USA)
Cc: PFPA Pentagon IID Mailbox TIC; (b)(6) PFPA IID (USA); (b)(6) PFPA IID (USA); (b)(6) PFPA CI (USA); PFPA Pentagon ITD List Threat Management Unit
Subject: RE: Hoax Pentagon Explosion Twitter Posts
Signed By: (b)(6)

Thanks (b)(6)

From: PFPA Pentagon IID Mailbox Open Source Team (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, May 22, 2023 12:48 PM
To: (b)(6) PFPA IID (USA); (b)(6) PFPA IID (USA); (b)(6) PFPA TMD (USA); (b)(6) PFPA IID (USA); (b)(6) PFPA TMD (USA); (b)(6) PFPA IID (USA); (b)(6) PFPA TMD (USA); (b)(6) PFPA IID (USA)
Cc: PFPA Pentagon IID Mailbox TIC (b)(6) PFPA IID (USA); (b)(6) PFPA CI (USA); (b)(6) PFPA Pentagon IID Mailbox Open Source Team; (b)(6) PFPA Pentagon ITD List Threat Management Unit
Subject: Hoax Pentagon Explosion Twitter Posts

Good Afternoon,

Please see attached OST memorandum and supplementary slides re: Hoax Pentagon Explosion Twitter Posts. Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns. We will follow up if any additional relevant information is identified. Thank you!

Respectfully,



(b)(6)
Team Lead / Open Source Analyst

Open Source Team (OST)
Investigations and Intelligence Division (IID)
Pentagon Force Protection Agency (PFPA)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

From: PFPA Pentagon POC Mailbox Command Center
Sent: Monday, May 22, 2023 11:26 AM
Subject: RE: OPEN SOURCE REPORTING Explosion at the Pentagon _ 22 May 2023 _ FINAL
Signed By: (b)(6)

SUBJECT: OPEN SOURCE REPORTING – Explosion at the Pentagon (PFPA/WHS/DA&M)	
Date / Time of Information:	2 May 2023 / 1130
Update # or Initial	FINAL
Location of Incident	Pentagon
Situation / Information: Final: The PFPA Threat Management Unit (TMU) confirmed with the PFPA Open Source Team (OST) that the reporting is deemed non-credible. OST noted the original post was deleted and the image appears to stem from an Artificial Intelligence (AI) source. OST will update if further information received. Original: The Pentagon Operations Center received a call from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Network Operations Center (NOC) regarding an OPEN SOURCE Report of an explosion at the Pentagon. NO corroboration of the report from patrolling officers, tenants, nor Arlington County Emergency Dispatch. PFPA Open Source Team is investigating the origin of the Twitter post.	
Triggered CIR	Situational Awareness
Impacts to Pentagon Reservation or Leased Facilities: NONE	
Agencies Involved: PFPA	
Jurisdiction: PFPA	

(b)(6)

Pentagon Operations Center
Pentagon Force Protection Agency

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

From: (b)(6) PFPA CCO (USA)
Sent: Monday, May 22, 2023 10:36 AM
To: (b)(6)
Cc: (b)(6) OSD PA (USA); (b)(6) OSD PA (USA)
Subject: RE: Pentagon Explosion HOAX
Signed By: (b)(6)

Ok. No problem. Thank you.

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, May 22, 2023 10:32 AM
To: (b)(6) PFPA CCO (USA); (b)(6)
Cc: (b)(6) OSD PA (USA); (b)(6) OSD PA (USA); (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Pentagon Explosion HOAX

Good morning,

This is what we put out [Arlington Fire & EMS on Twitter: "@PFPAOfficial and the ACFD are aware of a social media report circulating online about an explosion near the Pentagon. There is NO explosion or incident taking place at or near the Pentagon reservation, and there is no immediate danger or hazards to the public. https://t.co/uznY0s7deL" / Twitter](https://t.co/uznY0s7deL)

We needed to get something out faster before this got spun up further than it already has.

Thanks,

(b)(6)

Executive Officer | Public Information
Arlington County Fire Department

(b)(6)

Please note that any email sent to/from Arlington County email addresses may be subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)

From: (b)(6) PFPA CCO (USA); (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, May 22, 2023 10:27 AM
To: (b)(6)
Cc: (b)(6) OSD PA (USA); (b)(6) OSD PA (USA); (b)(6)
Subject: RE: Pentagon Explosion HOAX

(b)(6) – Thank you. Let me get right back with you.

Vr/

(b)(6)

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Monday, May 22, 2023 10:22 AM

To: (b)(6) PFPA CCO (USA) (b)(6)

Subject: Pentagon Explosion HOAX

Importance: High

(b)(6)

There is a report on social media about an explosion near the Pentagon. The image is clearly false, but has generated significant media responses on my side. Can we craft something to put out quickly?

“PFPA and the Arlington County Fire Department are aware of a hoax social media report circulating online about an explosion near the Pentagon. There is NO explosion or incident taking place at or near the Pentagon reservation, and there is no immediate danger or hazards to the public.”

(b)(6)

Executive Officer | Public Information
Arlington County Fire Department

(b)(6)

Please note that any email sent to/from Arlington County email addresses may be subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)

(b)(6)

From: (b)(6) PFPA CCO (USA)
Sent: Monday, May 22, 2023 1:07 PM
To: PMarcelo@ap.org
Cc: (b)(6) OSD PA (USA)
Subject: RE: Associated Press reporter seeking comment re: reports of explosion near Pentagon
Signed By: (b)(6)

Mr. Marcelo – The tweet from Arlington County Fire is authentic, and we retweeted their post on PFPA’s twitter feed.

We confirm that there was no explosion or incident around the Pentagon. Furthermore, the building in the photo is not the Pentagon, so the post is clearly a hoax. However, we are looking into the post further.

Vr/

(b)(6)

Team Lead, Corporate Communications
Pentagon Force Protection Agency

(b)(6)

<https://www.pfpa.mil>

From: Marcelo, Philip (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, May 22, 2023 11:34 AM
To: PFPA Pentagon CCO Mailbox General (b)(6)
Subject: Associated Press reporter seeking comment re: reports of explosion near Pentagon

Hi

This message is for (b)(6) or whoever is handling media relations for the agency today.

Reaching out as I’ve been asked to look into claims circulating widely online that there was an explosion near the Pentagon this morning.

Appears your agency shared a tweet from Arlington Fire that this is a fake image:

<https://twitter.com/ArlingtonVaFD/status/1660653619954294786?s=20>

Can someone please confirm that’s an authentic tweet and that there’s no actual explosion?

Also, is there any sense where these reporters/images originated and how this spread? IS that something Pentagon officials are potentially looking into?

For a brief story for today. Deadline is asap.

Many thanks,

Philip Marcelo
Reporter, AP Fact Check

The Associated Press
200 Liberty Street
New York, NY 10281

Office: (b)(6)

Cell: (b)(6)

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

AP

The information contained in this communication is intended for the use of the designated recipients named above. If the reader of this communication is not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that you have received this communication in error, and that any review, dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify The Associated Press immediately by telephone at +1-212-621-1500 and delete this email. Thank you.

(b)(6)

From: (b)(6) PFPA CCO (USA)
Sent: Monday, May 22, 2023 10:50 AM
To: PFPA Pentagon CCO Mailbox General
Cc: (b)(6) PFPA CCO (USA)
Subject: RE: Explosion?
Signed By: (b)(6)

(b)(6) – I responded to (b)(6) and just included this statement that ACFD pushed out on their twitter page. We retweeted it.

[Arlington Fire & EMS on Twitter: "@PFPAOfficial and the ACFD are aware of a social media report circulating online about an explosion near the Pentagon. There is NO explosion or incident taking place at or near the Pentagon reservation, and there is no immediate danger or hazards to the public. https://t.co/uznY0s7deL" / Twitter](https://t.co/uznY0s7deL)

From: PFPA Pentagon CCO Mailbox General (b)(6)
Sent: Monday, May 22, 2023 10:45 AM
To: (b)(6) PFPA CCO (USA) (b)(6)
Cc: (b)(6) (b)(6) PFPA CCO (USA)
(b)(6)
Subject: FW: Explosion?

(b)(6) ABC News wants to know if we deny the allegations? -:) I will leave this in your capable hands to respond to.

V/R

(b)(6)

From: Peterson, Beatrice E. <(b)(6)>
Sent: Monday, May 22, 2023 10:43 AM
To: PFPA Pentagon CCO Mailbox General (b)(6)
Subject: Explosion?

Hey,

I was wondering if you have a statement about the reports that there was an explosion near the Pentagon that was on social media? My understanding was there was no such explosion but wanted to check to confirm that the images were deepfakes.

Thanks,
B

Beatrice Peterson

ABC News | Washington Bureau

Cell: (b)(6)

@Missbeae

with any person not authorized to receive such information. Failure to appropriately safeguard classified information is a reportable security incident.

Fake image of Pentagon explosion goes viral

Following the depiction from a verified Twitter account, another image showing a building purported to be the White House in black smoke started to circulate on the platform.

Politico | Kierra Fraizer

A fake image of what was claimed to be an explosion near the Pentagon spread on social media Monday morning, with markets fluctuating around the time the posts appeared online.

The image showed a large cloud of black smoke of what verified Twitter users said was next to the Pentagon. The tweet was originally shared on Twitter on Monday morning by the user OSINTdefender, a Twitter account that describes itself as an "Open Source Intelligence Monitor." The post has since been deleted.

Another account that tweeted the image was a verified account impersonating a Bloomberg news feed. That account, called @BloombergFeed, has since been suspended. The photo was also spread by RT, a Russian state-media Twitter account with over 3 million followers.

Following the fake Pentagon photo, another image displaying a building purported to be the White House in black smoke started to circulate on Twitter.

The Arlington Fire Department in Virginia confirmed that there was no explosion near the Pentagon on Monday.

"@PFPAOfficial and the ACFD are aware of a social media report circulating online about an explosion near the Pentagon," the department said in a tweet. "There is NO explosion or incident taking place at or near the Pentagon reservation, and there is no immediate danger or hazards to the public."

The S&P 500 had fallen 0.26 percent but quickly bounced back once it was proved the Pentagon image was fake.

It's unclear how the photo was created and whether artificial intelligence was involved. But observers pointed out not only obvious discrepancies between the image and the actual building, but also signs of generative AI. The Pentagon did not immediately respond to a request for comment about the image.

(b)(6)

Office of the Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs
Media Analysis (ManTech)

(b)(6)

EG (b)(6) PFPA IID (USA) 5/22 10:17 AM
large explosion



i just got it on my phone 🙄

JB (b)(6) PFPA IID (USA) 5/22 10:18 AM
we see the tweet - looking for what they are referring to. someone mentioned something was AI generated



EG (b)(6) PFPA IID (USA) 5/22 10:19 AM
let me kno if ysll need me imma make some boxes

CC (b)(6) 5/22 10:20 AM
seeing more people saying false report, same thing Jackie said, probably Ai generated



JB (b)(6) PFPA IID (USA) 5/22 10:20 AM
maybe its this one: <https://twitter.com/ILRUSSO12/status/1660646242681061376>

5/22 10:21 AM
Can yall reverse image search that pic



JB (b)(6) PFPA IID (USA) 5/22 10:21 AM
yes ill do that now

5/22 10:21 AM
What bldg is that? never that near the pentagon



JB (b)(6) PFPA IID (USA) 5/22 10:22 AM
i am no sure lol

EG (b)(6) PFPA IID (USA) 5/22 10:25 AM
is it me or is that a russian flag in the UN



JB (b)(6) PFPA IID (USA) 5/22 10:25 AM
nothing coming up in (b)(7)(E) for me



5/22 10:26 AM
Maybe AI like people are saying



Ruby the POC sent us the (b)(7)(E) You wanna respond to them?

JB (b)(6) PFPA IID (USA) 5/22 10:28 AM
people are saying the original post was deleted though, so that may not have even been it



EG (b)(6) PFPA IID (USA) 5/22 10:28 AM
ughhh

sure



JB (b)(6) PFPA IID (USA) 5/22 10:28 AM
thank you rubyyyy



(b)(6)

From: (b)(6) PFPA TMD (USA)
Sent: Monday, May 22, 2023 5:58 PM
To: PFPA Pentagon TAC List Nightly Roll Up
Subject: TMU Nightly Case Roll-Up
Signed By: (b)(6)

Good evening,

There are five (5) incidents to report:

(b)(7)(E)

Incident Number: 230522011

Incident/Offense: Threat – Social Media

Location: Pentagon

Details: TMU was notified of a (b)(7)(E) alert from Twitter reporting an explosion at the Pentagon. POC, TMU, and OST investigation indicated this claim could not be substantiated, and was therefore not credible. Original tweet has since been removed.

V/r,

(b)(6)

Pentagon Force Protection Agency
Investigations and Intelligence Division
Threat Management Unit

(b)(6)

~~CAUTION: THIS EMAIL MAY CONTAIN SENSITIVE, FOUO, AND/OR LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE INFORMATION NOT INTENDED FOR RELEASE TO THE MEDIA, GENERAL PUBLIC, OR TO NON LAW ENFORCEMENT OR SECURITY PERSONNEL WITHOUT A "NEED TO KNOW."~~

If you received this message in error, please notify the sender by reply e-mail and delete all copies of this message



Pentagon Force Protection Agency (PFPA) Open Source Team (OST)

Hoax Pentagon Explosion Supplementary Slides

22 May 2023

Controlled by: [REDACTED]
Date: [REDACTED]
Category: [REDACTED]
Classification: [REDACTED]
POC: (b)(6)



Pentagon Force Protection Agency Investigations & Intelligence Division Open Source Team (OST)

Hoax Pentagon Explosion Twitter Posts

Alert 10:07 AM May 22, 2023

Explosion reported near Pentagon Complex in Washington, DC: Blog via Twitter.


Original public tweet from: @DeItaone

Large Explosion near The Pentagon Complex in Washington D.C. - Initial Report

Published 10:06 AM May 22, 2023

[View on Twitter](#)

[Track Story](#) [Save Alert](#) [Email](#)



**The Pentagon,
Washington, DC, USA**

Estimated Event Location
Within 0.75 miles of 38.8719° N, 77.0563° W | 18SUJ 2162 0457

Alert Verification

***Walter Bloomberg**
@DeItaone | Geneva, Switzerland

Joined Aug 3, 2014
Followers 653,691
Public Tweets 137,629

Alert Reference Terms

(b)(7)(E)



***Walter Bloomberg**
@DeItaone

Large Explosion near The Pentagon Complex in Washington D.C. - Initial Report

10:06 AM · May 22, 2023 · **570.8K** Views

224 Retweets 72 Quotes 696 Likes 16 Bookmarks

<https://twitter.com/Deltaone/status/1660648429255630853>



Pentagon Force Protection Agency Investigations & Intelligence Division Open Source Team (OST)

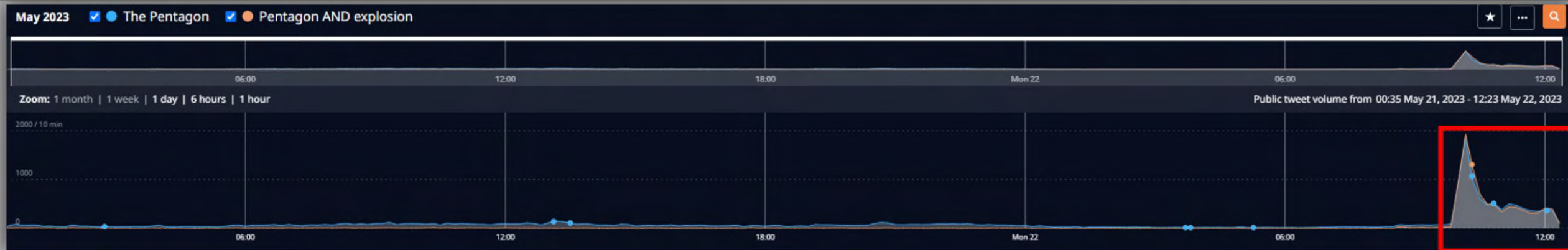
Hoax Pentagon Explosion Twitter Posts – Sampling of Posts





Pentagon Force Protection Agency Investigations & Intelligence Division Open Source Team (OST)

Hoax Pentagon Explosion Twitter Posts – Sampling of Posts and Quantity of Mentions on Twitter



1h

Confident that this picture claiming to show an **explosion near the pentagon** is AI generated.

Check out the frontage of the building, and the way the fence melds into the crowd barriers. There's also no other images, videos or people posting as first hand witnesses.

46 283 741 207.4K

54m

This AI-generated image of an **explosion at the Pentagon** tricked several breaking news accounts, and caused the stock market to drop temporarily

@elonmusk this is why we need to regulate AI

EXPLORATION NEAR PENTAGON

War Monitor @WarMonitors · 12m

#BREAKING The explosion occurred near the Pentagon in the United States

Show this thread

The Pentagon received thousands of mentions with in a 10-min span due to the hoax photograph.



Pentagon Force Protection Agency Investigations & Intelligence Division Open Source Team (OST)

Hoax Pentagon Explosion Twitter Posts – Alleged Stock Market Manipulation



28m

An AI image of an **explosion** at the **Pentagon** just dropped the stock market.

Is this going to become a problem moving forward given the ability to make money from false news reports as such?

1:46 \$197.91
Followers: 7,412 / 7,500
Subscribers: 201 / 215

Current Ticker: SPY

The image shows a Twitter post from a user with a profile picture of a person wearing a green mask. The tweet text discusses a hoax explosion at the Pentagon and its impact on the stock market. Below the text is a video player showing a Twitch stream from 'Twitch.Tv/freydingStocks'. The stream features multiple stock market charts and a large blue play button. The stream's title is '\$197.91' and it has 7,412 followers and 201 subscribers. The current ticker is SPY. The video player also shows a chat window with several messages.