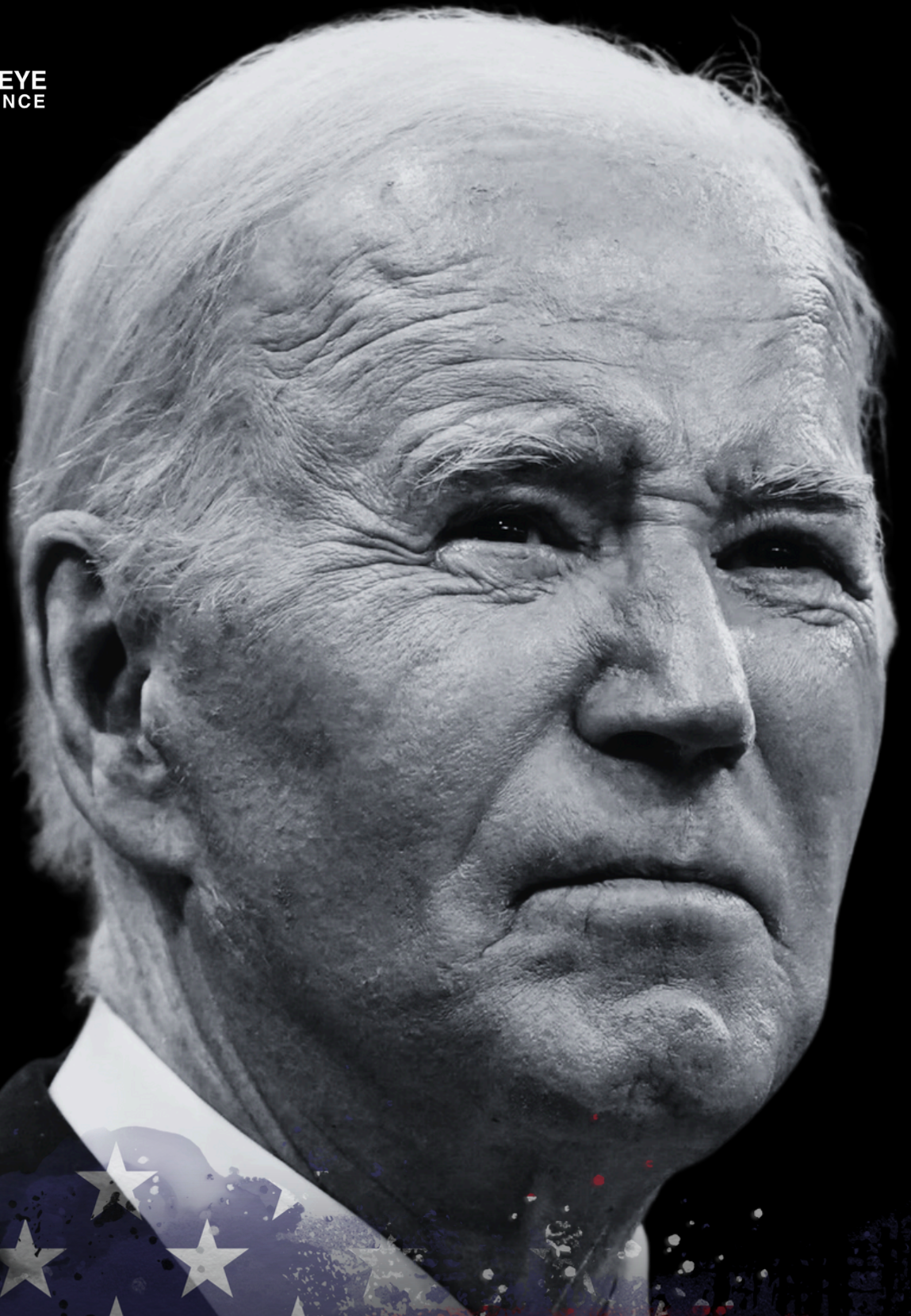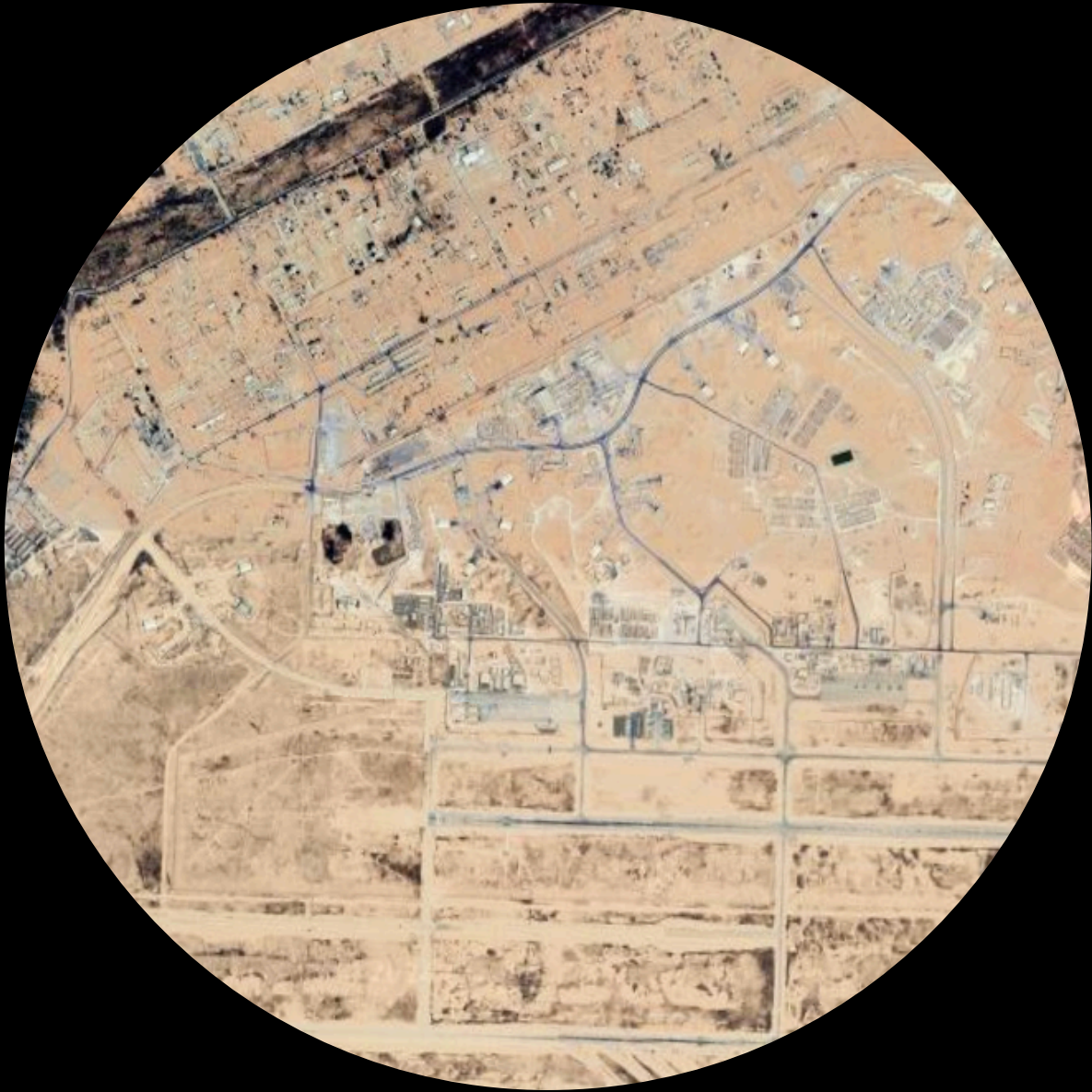# ATTACK ON
AIN AL ASAD, IRAQ

TACTICAL INTELLIGENCE REPORT

AIN AL ASAD BASE, IRAQ

Coordinates:
33°48'03"N 42°26'57"E

The base features various amenities, including an indoor swimming pool, movie theater, post office, Morale, Welfare and Recreation center, gyms, Post Exchange, restaurants and a Combat Support Hospital.

AIN AL ASAD BASE

- **History**: Ain Al Asad Airbase was initially secured by Australian Special Air Service Regiment in April 2003, during the Iraq War. It was later turned over to the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment (3rd ACR) and then the Marines of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force. The base has been used by US forces since 2003 and has undergone several renovations and expansions.

- **Previous Attacks**: Ain Al Asad Airbase has been targeted by rockets and shelling on several occasions. In February 2015, ISIL took control of nearby al-Baghdadi town and began shelling the base, but Iraqi forces later cleared the area. In December 2019, five rockets landed on the base, causing no injuries, and in January 2020, two rockets hit the Balad Air Base near Baghdad.

- **Operation Martyr Soleimani**: On January 3, 2020, Iran launched a ballistic missile attack on Ain Al Asad Airbase and Erbil International Airport, targeting US forces stationed at the base. The attack, code-named "Operation Martyr Soleimani," was in response to the US assassination of Iranian Major General Qasem Soleimani five days prior.

1. Injuries and Damage:

- Casualties: Initial reports indicate that at least five U.S. personnel, including military troops and civilian contractors, were injured. One individual sustained serious injuries. The total number of casualties may change as more information becomes available.

- Damage Assessment: Base personnel are assessing the extent of the damage caused by the rockets, which landed within the base perimeter.

2. Responsibility and Escalation:

- Attribution: The U.S. Defense Department has attributed the attack to Iran-aligned militia groups. This incident is considered a "dangerous escalation" amid rising regional tensions. Kataeb Hezbollah has claimed responsibility for the attack.

- Regional Context: The attack follows the recent assassinations of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh in Tehran and Hezbollah commander Fuad Shukr in Beirut, which have heightened regional tensions and prompted retaliatory threats.
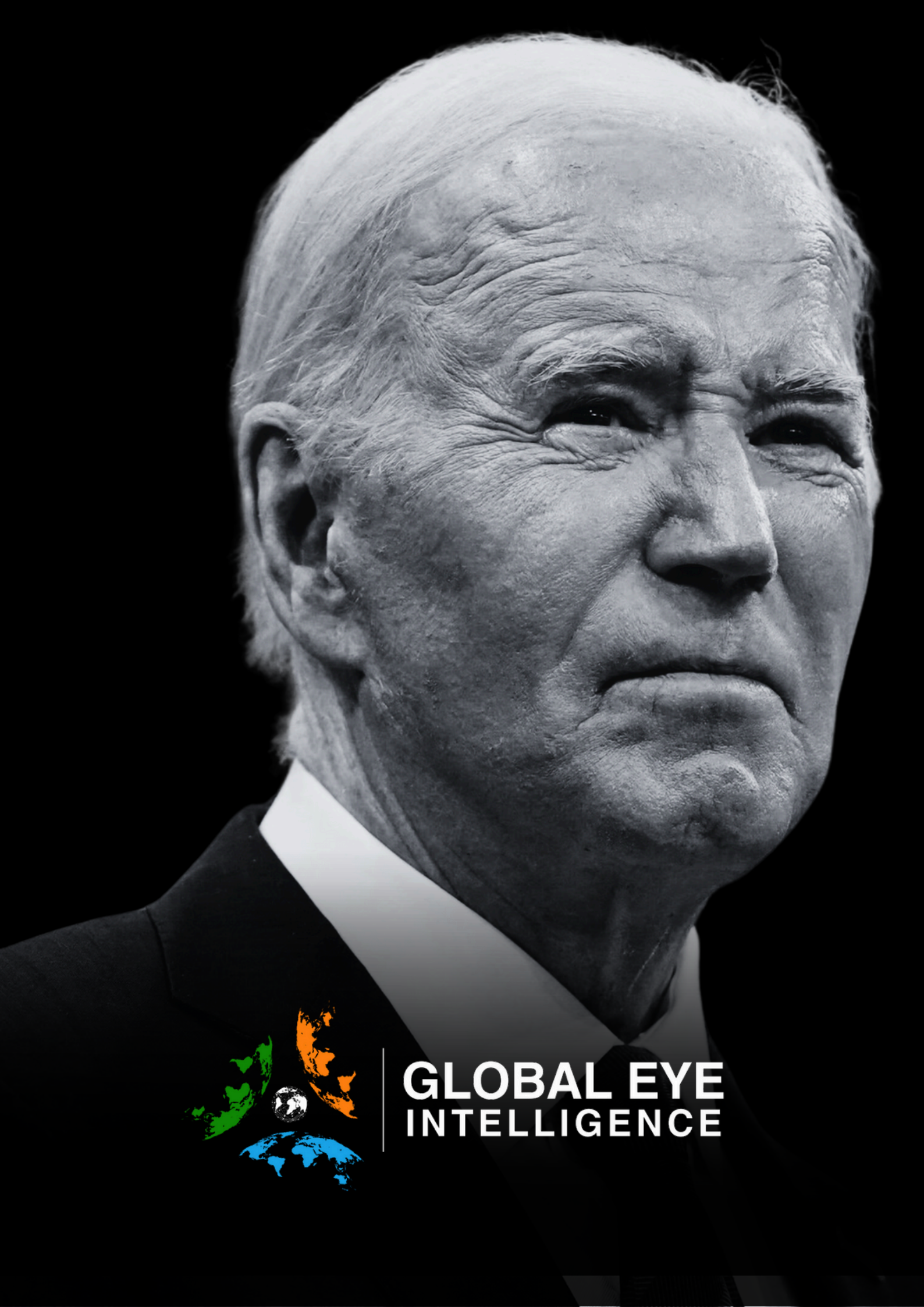
3. Previous Incidents:

- July 16, 2024: A drone attack on Al-Asad Airbase, which did not result in injuries. This attack led to a U.S. response targeting an Iranian-backed drone factory.

4. Political Implications:

- U.S.-Israeli Coordination: U.S. Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin and Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant have discussed the attack and its implications, highlighting the need to address Iran's destabilizing role in the region.

- Iraqi Dynamics: Iraq, which hosts approximately 2,500 U.S. troops, faces internal divisions regarding U.S. military presence. Some factions advocate for a quicker U.S. withdrawal, while others support a continued advisory role for U.S. forces.

5. Future Outlook:

- Increased Threat: The region is on high alert for potential retaliatory actions by Iran and its proxies. The ongoing conflict between Israel and Hamas, coupled with the broader geopolitical dynamics, indicates a heightened risk of further escalations.

GLOBAL EYE
INTELLIGENCE