

prosecutors say

inserted into another agent's com- plete, "a file immediately began to be created itself." The agent, however, had never seen that happen before. He knew it was something out of the ordinary," Eisenbach said. He had to immediately stop his computer in order to stop it. A law enforcement official said the computer was not part of a government data network, and no sensitive information was put at risk. Tracking Zhang's movements, authorities determined she en- tered the country legally on March 26, flying into Newark on a flight from Shanghai. Two days later, Zhang ap- proached a Mar-a-Lago check- point and told security officials she was there to go to the swim- ming pool, authorities said. Initially, Mar-a-Lago employees assumed to think she might be a guest of one of the club's members, whose last name also is Zhang. She was brought inside the resort to the reception desk, where further questioning by a receptionist re- vealed she was not allowed on the property, according to the court report, according to the court report.

Tehran: Terrorist designation is intended to aid Netanyahu

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statement. "We will continue to increase financial pressure and take the steps for the Iranian re- sults until it abandons its ma- lign and outlawed behavior." U.S. officials have long said the IRGC's opaque structure and fa- vorable treatment provided a safe haven for terrorist activities that threaten Israel, Europeans and U.S. forces, and whether to make the designation has been a long- standing debate. But previous admin- istrations refrained from taking that step because of concerns that other nations could similarly tar- get U.S. national security agen- cies, Iranian officials and military personnel at risk of being detained while traveling abroad. The move continues the admin- istration's aggressive posture toward Iran, which includes U.S. withdrawal from the 2015 nuclear deal with Tehran. Trump's critics warn that the administration is flirting with a potential military conflict in the region. The Iranian government im- mediately condemned the designa- tion Monday and alleged that it was done to boost Netanyahu's electoral chances. "Another misguided election- eve gift to Netanyahu. Another dangerous U.S. misadventure in the region," Iran's foreign min- ister, Mohammad Javad Zarif, re- sponded on Twitter in English. IRGC commander Mohammad Ali Jafari issued an implied threat against U.S. forces in the Middle East. "With this stupidity, the American army and security forces will no longer have today's calm in the west Asia region," the IRGC- affiliated Fars News Agency quoted him as saying. The Supreme National Security Council of Iran responded Monday by branding "the government of the United States as a supporter of terrorism and Central Com- mand, also known as Centcom, and all of its affiliated forces, as terrorist groups," state news agen- cy IRNA reported. The terrorist designation allows the Trump administration to seek criminal penalties against elements of the military, state and foreign officials involved in the effort to oust Iranian President Rouhani.



A woman passes a street painting in Tehran. The Trump administration plans to list Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps as a terrorist group.

where U.S. troops work to prevent the resurgence of the Islamic State and where Shiite militias tied to the IRGC operate close by. The IRGC is also tied to Hezbollah in Lebanon, where the political wing of the terrorist group is part of the government. Netanyahu, who faces corruption allegations and a tough re- election fight against a former military chief, cast the U.S. move as a sign of his influence with the United States. "Thank you, my dear friend, President Donald Trump, for having decided to announce Iran's Revolutionary Guard as a terrorist organization," Netanyahu wrote on Twitter in Hebrew. Trump said the move was a "historic step" to "bring the Revolutionary Guard into the United States' list of terrorist groups."

that Iraq could be caught in a double bind, as it purchases electricity from Iran, including from entities tied to the IRGC. "When you take it all into account, the big question at the end of the day is, what does this tangibly add to our tool kit?" Levitt said. "It does add some things, but I'm not convinced they're all that significant." U.S. officials said the designa- tion is the next step in what the Trump administration calls its "maximum-pressure campaign" against Iran. The administration had previously named the IRGC as a sup- porter of terrorism conducted by militias it supports, but stopped short of listing it as a foreign terrorist group. The move may have undermined some- thing that the administration had been counting on: Iran's support of U.S. troops in Iraq.

terro the financial means to spread misery and death." "The IRGC masquerades as a legitimate military organization, but none of us should be fooled," Pompeo told reporters in making the formal announcement. He said the "based of 603 American soldiers Iran killed in Iraq" is on the hands of the IRGC. Pompeo denied that the timing of the announcement had anything to do with Israeli elections Tuesday. "It happened today be- cause today was the day we were ready to make the announce- ment," he said on Fox News. Matt Levitt, a former Treasury Department official who is direc- tor of the counterterrorism pro- gram at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, said the move may have undermined some- thing that the administration had been counting on: Iran's support of U.S. troops in Iraq.

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