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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS  
3000 MARINE CORPS PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON, DC 20350-3000

5720  
ARSF-KC  
SEP 15 2017

SENT VIA EMAIL TO: [JOHN@GREENEWALD.COM](mailto:JOHN@GREENEWALD.COM)  
JOHN GREENEWALD  
THE BLACK VAULT

Dear Mr. Greenewald:

SUBJECT: YOUR FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (FOIA) REQUEST, FILE  
NUMBER DON-USMC-2017-008582

This responds to your May 12, 2017, FOIA request seeking a report entitled "ISIL research guide\_J7092014.pdf." Your original request to the National Security Agency (NSA), 101621-R1, was referred to Headquarters Marine Corps for processing on July 14, 2017. Your request was controlled under file number **DON-USMC-2017-008582**.

Upon review, we have determined that the document is releasable. We have enclosed a copy with this letter.

You will see that some information has been redacted. Specifically, information identified by the NSA has been withheld pursuant to FOIA exemption (b)(3), which prevents the public disclosure of any information protected by another federal statute. In this case, the NSA cited Section 6, Public Law 86-36 (50 U.S.C. 3605) as the statute this information has been withheld under.

In view of the above, you may consider this to be an adverse determination that may be appealed to the NSA/CSS FOIA Appeal Authority (P132), National Security Agency, 9800 Savage Road STE 6932, Fort George G. Meade, MD 20755-6932. Your appeal, if any, must be postmarked within 90 calendar days from the date of this letter and should include a copy of this letter and a statement indicating why you believe your appeal should be granted.

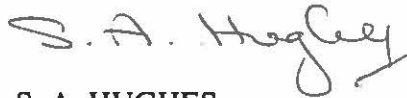
You also have the right to seek assistance and/or dispute resolution services from the Marine Corps FOIA Public Liaison, Ms. Sally Hughes, at [hqmcfoia@usmc.mil](mailto:hqmcfoia@usmc.mil) or (703) 614-4008, and/or the Department of the Navy FOIA Public Liaison, Mr. Christopher Julka, at [Christopher.a.julka@navy.mil](mailto:Christopher.a.julka@navy.mil) or (703) 697-0031. You may also contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) for assistance and/or dispute resolution at [ogis@nara.gov](mailto:ogis@nara.gov) or 1-877-684-6448. For more information online about services provided by OGIS, please visit their website at <https://ogis.archives.gov>.

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We have categorized you as an "other requester" for the purpose of assessing FOIA processing fees. As such, you are entitled to two hours of search time and 100 pages of duplication free of charge but are responsible for the payment of any fees beyond that. In this instance, the applicable fees did not exceed your free entitlement so there is no charge for processing this request.

I am the official responsible for this determination. Should you have questions about this action, please contact Ms. Kary Charlebois of my staff at (571) 256-8636, via email to [hqmcfoia@usmc.mil](mailto:hqmcfoia@usmc.mil), or fax at (703) 614-6287. Please reference the file number in the subject line above.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "S. A. Hughes", with a stylized flourish at the end.

S. A. HUGHES  
Head, FOIA/PA Section

Enclosure

**ENCLOSURE**

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#Worldwide  
Open Source  
Intelligence

# OSINT

(U) **ISIL RESEARCH GUIDE**  
**SEPTEMBER 2014**



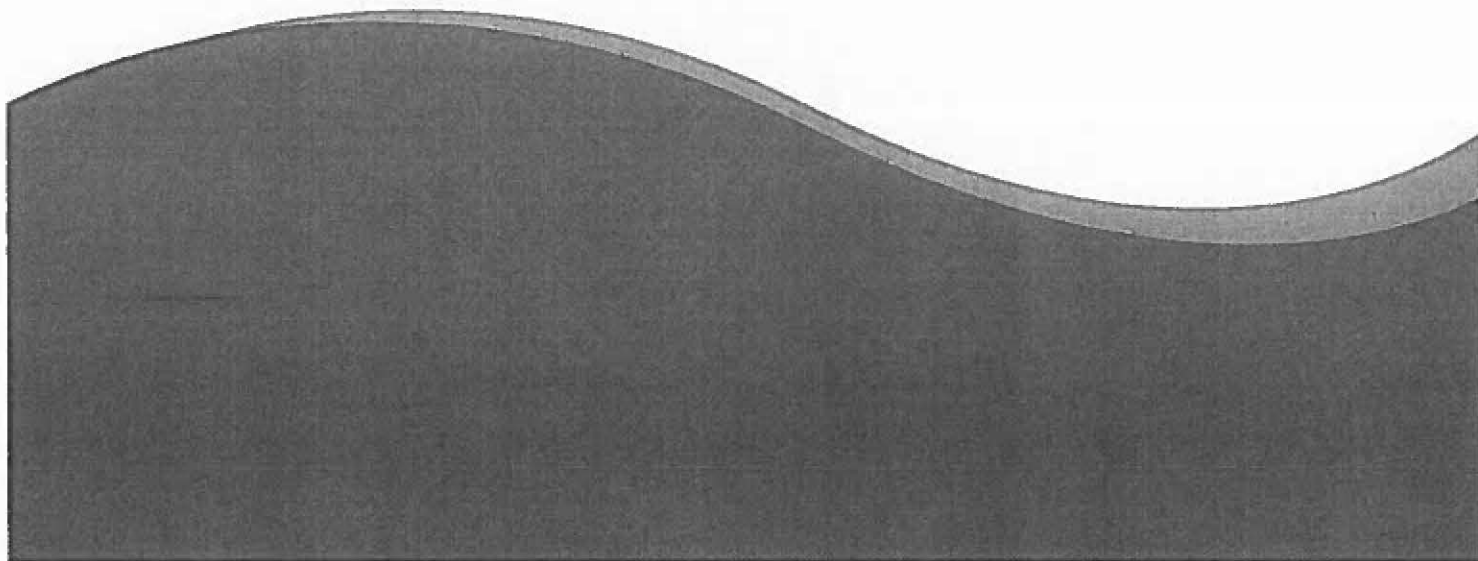
*Encl B*

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## INTRODUCTION

**(U) ISIL regularly uses social media and frequently receives coverage in news outlets. This guide enables the use of domestic and foreign websites directly associated to the group. Most documents created or containing official ISIL information will not likely be seen on the surface web.**

**(U) Remember that research is an iterative process and not accomplished in a single shot. Try different search terms, parameters, and language (English, French, and Arabic). When conducting OSINT research, do not login into any social media platforms with either your personal account or a generic account. Also, do not contact any individual you observe, like or follow any posts or groups that the individual is a part of nor the individual himself. Stay passive and only observe. Do not visit any foreign website using an account attributed to any U.S. government or DoD IP address.**



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OPEN SOURCE INTELLIGENCE  
ISIL RESEARCH GUIDE  
SEPTEMBER 2014

# WHAT'S INSIDE

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*Advanced Google search cheat sheet, search settings, result filters, and translation tools*

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## **(U) News Media**

*Organized media searches and list of top ISIL media sites*

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## **(U) Social Media**

*Facebook, Twitter, Blogs (including "how to" blog search and the top blogs)*

7

## **(U) Multimedia, Reach Back, & OSINT Tools**

*YouTube, Flickr, Picasa Web, Panoramio and geo-tagged videos and images; MCIA OSINT contact information; Open Source Center, Intelink OSINT tools, Non-Attributable (NA) account request, Expeditionary OSINT Training Link*



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*This is an open source information product containing unclassified open sources and is not to be considered comprehensive, but rather an overview of what is available. Please follow your organization's OPSEC procedures when visiting websites, use a non-attribution account when necessary.*

**Product Number: MCIA-2635-WWW-279-14**



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# Advanced Google Guide and Search Techniques



(U) The Advanced Google Guide is located in Inteldocs on unclassified computers; search for "MCIA OSINT" in the Jump to Folder box in the top left corner

(U) The guide can be used to develop pointed searches while using Google. If you have trouble locating or downloading the document, please contact the OSINT team at MCIAOSINT@mcia.osis.gov.

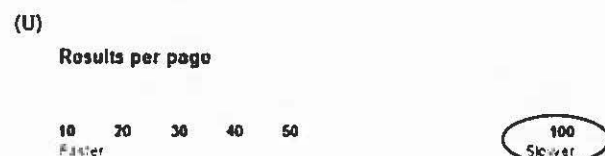
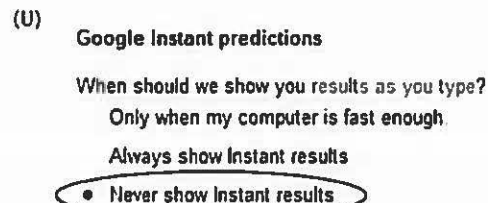
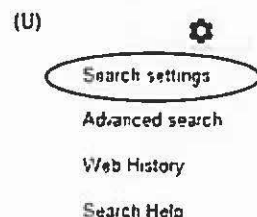
(b) (3) - P.L. 86-36

## (U) Other Google Search Techniques

(U) Click the settings icon on the top right of your screen and select Search Settings.

(U) Under Google Instant Predictions, select Never show instant results.

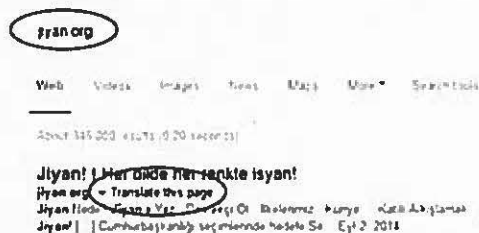
(U) Adjust the Results per page bar to 100 (this may slow your computer down).



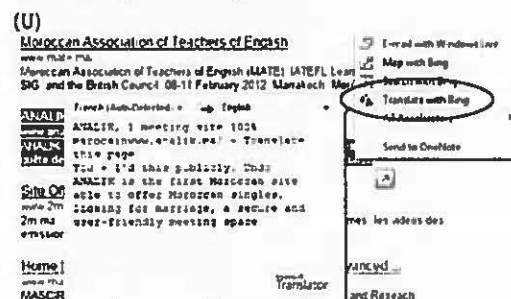
(U) On the right side of a Google Search Results page you will find an option to filter the results by the time they were posted. This option can be very helpful when looking for the most recent search results for the day, week, etc. If you do not see the image below, click on "Show Search Tools."

Any time  
Past hour  
Past 24 hours  
Past 2 days  
Past week  
Past month  
Past year  
Custom range...

(U) To visit a foreign news page or website, search for the address in the Google Search page and, if needed, choose the Translate this page link under the correct result. To view foreign websites, particularly official government websites insure that you are logged into a non-attribution account.



(U//FOUO) To conduct a "Deep Dive" research project on foreign websites or other foreign domains, use your non-attributable account and use search terms such as "Islamic State." If your system security allows, there is an add-in available to Internet Explorer that will help sort and translate the best results before clicking on a site. When using Internet Explorer you will be able to highlight the website and description, right click and hover over "translate with Bing" or "translate with Explorer" and a translation box will pop up containing a crude translation. This can also be achieved with Google Translate, but it will require you to leave your search page. Once again, you must use a non-attributable account before clicking on a foreign website.



Google

(U//FOUO) When searching for OSINT, use specific places and current issues related to the specific requirements and search for them in each of the following categories:

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## News Media



(U//FOUO) Search the news wires at [news.google.com](http://news.google.com) or [news.yahoo.com](http://news.yahoo.com). After making your search, use Search Tools to sort the results by date based on your information requirement.

(U//FOUO) Below is a selection of news sources for ISIL; it is not an exhaustive list as there are others. Use Google Translate or Translate with Bing/Explorer if needed.

### (U) United States

(U) <http://counterjihadreport.com/category/the-islamic-state-is/>

Counter Jihad Report- Website that contains updates on the ISIL

(U) <http://live.wsj.com>

The Wall Street Journal Live (WSJ Live) - is part of a global online newspaper, offering targeted interest-blogs and digital content through video. The links below are some video that pertain to ISIL.

(U) <http://live.wsj.com/video/the-islamic-state-how-its-leadership-is-organized/4F4FA0B8-9C07-4D09-BF1D-5761162A0D87.html#!4F4FA0B8-9C07-4D09-BF1D-5761162A0D87> - Video covers the organization of ISIS

(U) <http://live.wsj.com/video/isis-tactics-online-show-high-level-of-social-media-skill/7336BCAE-CB48-4C11-B83E-514F61B7E7C2.html#!7336BCAE-CB48-4C11-B83E-514F61B7E7C2> - ISIS Tactics on Social Media (Propaganda and recruitment)

(U) <http://live.wsj.com/video/islamic-state-propaganda-videos-show-us-british-recruits/BD885ED4-B926-4941-8DEB-D9F1FBC24E0E.html#!BD885ED4-B926-4941-8DEB-D9F1FB-C24E0E> - Propaganda videos by the militant group the Islamic State show people claiming to be Australian, British and even American.

(U) <http://www.voanews.com> - Voice of America

(U) <http://www.voanews.com/media/video/2445196.html> - "Islamic State Foreign Fighters Are Cause for Concern on 9/11 Anniversary."

### (U) Indonesian

(U) <http://www.alkhoirot.net/2014/08/ISIL-negara-islam.html>

Indonesian website that provides background information on ISIL.

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## Social Media



### Facebook

(U//FOUO) To search Facebook, use the advanced search operator *site:facebook.com* at Google to limit your search queries to content only on Facebook. Change the results to be sorted by date or within the past day.

(U//FOUO) The following are examples of official Facebook pages found using *site:facebook.com* "ISIL"

(U) <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Islamic-State-of-Iraq-and-the-Levant/325237250983487>

Facebook fan page for ISIL by viewing people who have liked this page you can determine their affiliation with ISIL and other groups they have joined on Facebook to obtain specific information.

(U) <https://www.facebook.com/ISIS.ISILTheTruth>

A Facebook group called "ISIS / ISIL Unveiled" routinely follows and posts articles to Facebook concerning ISIL activities.

(U) <https://www.facebook.com/inquiryintoislam>

Facebook post submitted by a group called "An Inquiry into Islam" who routinely follows and post articles to Facebook.

(U) <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Islamic-State-of-Iraq-and-the-Levant/137460572950041>

Facebook fan page for Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, by viewing who has liked the page, you can add filters to find possible ISIL members. In addition, by viewing the people who have liked this page, you can also view other pages or groups they have liked by doing this you can find possible ISIL propaganda pages similar to the one found below that was followed by Fikrie Alfatih.

(U) <https://www.facebook.com/ghirohjihad>

Possible ISIL propaganda Facebook site.



### Twitter

(U//FOUO) Search Twitter by simply searching ISIL at <https://twitter.com/search-advanced>, by using Spot at <http://neoformix.com/spot/#/> Twitter+Visualization, or by using Twitter Fall at

<http://twitterfall.com>. Twitter can be searched through a particular hashtag (Example: #ISIL) that is popular or generic search terms. Twitter defaults to providing the most recent results. Click through any links provided in their posts and look for valuable

information to capture.

(U) <https://twitter.com/markscheffler/media>

Sr. Video Journalist/Producer - Wall Street Journal.

(U) <https://twitter.com/jenanmoussa>

Roving Reporter for Arabic Al Aan TV from Dubai. RT ≠ endorsement. \* Photos: All Rights Reserved - Al Aan TV\* <http://www.alaan.tv>

(U) <https://twitter.com/kovandire>

Journalist - wordpress.com



### Blogs

(U//FOUO) Use the blog search engines at <http://blogsearch.google.com>, <http://technorati.com>, and <http://www.icerocket.com>. As with the news media search, change your search results to be sorted by date and within the past day. This will give you the most recent posts to the blogosphere. The following examples are a good starting point:

(U) <http://www.reddit.com/r/uncensorship/search?q=ISIL+weapons&sort=relevance&t=all>

thread that contains information on ISIL weapons.

(U) <http://jiyan.org/?s=I%C5%9E%C4%B0D>

Jiyan! - Turkish news website ISIL focus.

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## (U) Multimedia, Reach Back, & OSINT Tools



### Video

(U//FOUO) You may search the entire web for video at <http://video.google.com> and you can filter it by source under Any Source on the left side of the page. You can eliminate YouTube videos from your search by adding "- youtube.com" after your search term. If you want to limit your search to YouTube go to ([www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)). Change your results to most recent.



### Images

(U//FOUO) Search user uploaded content at Flickr ([www.flickr.com](http://www.flickr.com)), Picasa Web (<http://picasaweb.google.com>), and Panoramio ([www.panoramio.com](http://www.panoramio.com)). Flickr is a popular dissemination point for photographs. All the photographs at Panoramio are geo-tagged with lat/long coordinates. Flickr also provides geotagged content at <http://www.flickr.com/map>.

### (U) MCIA OSINT

(U) OSIS OSINT Section: [MCIAOSINT@mcia.osis.gov](mailto:MCIAOSINT@mcia.osis.gov)  
 (U) SIPR OSINT Section: [MCIAOSINT@mcia.usmc.smil.mil](mailto:MCIAOSINT@mcia.usmc.smil.mil)  
 (U) JWICS OSINT Section: [MCIAOSINT@usmc.ic.gov](mailto:MCIAOSINT@usmc.ic.gov)

### (U) Open Source Center

(U) Open Source Center (OSC) log-in/registration:  
<https://www.opensource.gov>

(U) MediaPedia - Under the Wiki tab, access OSC's MediaPedia page and search by countries. MediaPedia is a collaborative space for expertise on media, but some countries may be outdated.

(U) Advanced Search - Under the My Tools tab, go to Search for options on how to search OSC. Browsing by topic and country is fairly helpful, but using specific search terms in the advanced search will provide the most relevant feedback.

(U) The Open Source Center is also available on SIPR at:  
<https://www.opensource.sgov.gov>

### (U) Intelink

Use Intelink's "Untangling the Web" wiki page, providing ODNI OSINT experts that describe current best practices and resources related to internet research.

#### (U) Intelink:

#### (U) Untangling the Web:

\*If you are having problems with your Intelink account, you may also access it through OSC, by clicking on Partners and then Intelink-U

(U) Refer to the Expeditionary OSINT Training Manual and Field Guide for any immediate questions (<http://www.mcia.osis.gov/osint/index.html>).

### (U) Non-attributable Account Access

(U//FOUO) An Intelink NA account is used to conceal the intelligence professional's web footprint by providing the webmaster with a non-government IP and disassociating the user from the government, minimizing the chance of identifying the user as a Marine or U.S. government employee. For detailed information about an Intelink NA accounts, visit:

(U//FOUO) Contact your G-6 or S-6 shop for instructions on how to obtain an NA account.

(b) (3) - P.L. 86-36

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