

*CBS Mornings*

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[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: War with Iran; Conflict's Impact on Economy & National Security]

GAYLE KING: And now I think many people are worried about possible attacks on U.S. soil. How are you processing that? How concerned should we be?

SAMANTHA VINOGRAD: Well, the Iranian regime has posed a significant threat to the homeland for decades. It has been supercharged in the last few days, but the level of retaliation is probably going to depend on whether there is any kind of command and control structure left within the regime and if regime remnants feel that they have an off-ramp with the Trump administration or if this is in terms of tactics and targets. They are typically paid, recruited, and inspired in the homeland to conduct physical violence against government officials, against Iranian dissidents, against individuals and entities associated with the state of Israel and more. More recently, though, and this is interesting, the regime has really doubled down on cyber operations, using aggressive cyber attacks against government networks and other critical infrastructure.

KING: Is that your biggest concern right now, cyber?

VINOGRAD: I am very concerned about cyber attacks because we have such broad exposure against critical infrastructure networks and private citizens. And this is where we really talk about the government response and the government preparedness to regime retaliation, but everyday Americans, all your viewers have to be on heightened alert right now to phishing campaigns, to links they don't recognize because the Iranians are going to try to get into our networks to both influence public perception and cause disruptions.

ADRIANA DIAZ: Sam, how else should Americans try to keep themselves safe? Who we avoid crowded areas, big events, or, you know, landmarks?

VINOGRAD: I say this from experience. The decades with the government countering this threat. We had so many active investigations underway even before what happened with Operation Epic Eury. So, the government relies on partnerships in a situation like this, partnerships to increase intelligence collection with foreign partners, partnerships with businesses, Gayle, to make sure their resilience to potential cyber intrusions are strong, and partnerships with the public. If you see something, say something. And everybody in this moment needs to be on heightened alert and to reach out to government officials that they see something suspicious and to maintain extra vigilance.

KING: You know, I was in the airport this weekend. I feel like my head is on a swivel. It seems so unsettling to me.

VLADIMIR DUTHIERS: For sure, Gayle.

VINOGRAD: Well, there are heightened patrols.

KING: Yeah.

VINOGRAD: We have a physical presence out there to tell bad actors if you act, you will probably not be successful. But what's happening behind the scenes is important, that enhanced intelligence collection, enhanced surveillance, and more.