

Message

From: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Sent: 9/21/2021 5:21:24 PM
To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Subject: FW: Horse Incident PAG
Attachments: PAG Horse Patrol Incident Sept 20 2021 v2.docx

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Command Suite Executive Staff
DHS/CBP

Cell (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)



From: PADILLA, MANUEL JR (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 1:20 PM
To: HUFFMAN, BENJAMINE C (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) MIRANDA, LUIS A (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Horse Incident PAG

Chief,

(b) (5)

Manuel Padilla, Jr.
Acting Deputy Chief
United States Border Patrol Headquarters

O: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Message

From: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Sent: 9/21/2021 4:48:21 PM
To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Subject: FW: Horse Patrol PAG
Attachments: PAG Horse Patrol Incident Sept 20 2021.docx

Can we discuss?

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Command Suite Executive Staff
DHS/CBP
Cell (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
☒: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

From: PADILLA, MANUEL JR (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 12:48 PM
To: HUFFMAN, BENJAMINE C (b) (6), (b) (7)(C); ORTIZ, RAUL L (b) (6), (b) (7)(C);
MIRANDA, LUIS A (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Horse Patrol PAG

Chief,

Please see attached PAG for Horse Patrol incident.

Available to discuss.

Manuel Padilla, Jr.
Acting Deputy Chief
United States Border Patrol Headquarters
O (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Message

From: MIRANDA, LUIS A (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Sent: 9/21/2021 9:09:16 PM
To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Subject: RE: Horse Patrol PAG
Attachments: PAG Horse Patrol Incident Sept 20 2021DJN - Edits (b) (6), (b) (7)(C).docx

Yes, it's attached.

From: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 5:06 PM
To: MIRANDA, LUIS A (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Subject: RE: Horse Patrol PAG

Can you send me the one that forward for clearance?

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Command Suite Executive Staff
DHS/CBP
Cell (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
✉: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

From: MIRANDA, LUIS A (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 2:25 PM
To: ORTIZ, RAUL L (b) (6), (b) (7)(C); HUFFMAN, BENJAMINE C (b) (6), (b) (7)(C);
(b) (6), (b) (7)(C); PADILLA, MANUEL JR
(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Cc: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Subject: RE: Horse Patrol PAG

(b) (5)

From: ORTIZ, RAUL L (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 2:21 PM
To: MIRANDA, LUIS A (b) (6), (b) (7)(C); HUFFMAN, BENJAMINE C
(b) (6), (b) (7)(C); PADILLA,
MANUEL JR (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Cc: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Re: Horse Patrol PAG

(b) (5)

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: MIRANDA, LUIS A (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 1:13:14 PM
To: HUFFMAN, BENJAMINE C (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

PADILLA, MANUEL JR

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

ORTIZ, RAUL L

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Cc: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Subject: RE: Horse Patrol PAG

(b) (5)

From: MIRANDA, LUIS A

Sent: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 2:11 PM

To: HUFFMAN, BENJAMINE C (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

PADILLA, MANUEL JR

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

ORTIZ, RAUL L

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Cc: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Subject: RE: Horse Patrol PAG

(b) (5)

From: HUFFMAN, BENJAMINE C (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Sent: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 1:59 PM

To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) PADILLA, MANUEL JR

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

ORTIZ, RAUL L

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

MIRANDA, LUIS A

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Cc: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Subject: RE: Horse Patrol PAG

Thank you.

From (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Sent: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 1:41 PM

To: PADILLA, MANUEL JR (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) ORTIZ, RAUL L (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

MIRANDA, LUIS A (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Cc: HUFFMAN, BENJAMINE C (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Subject: RE: Horse Patrol PAG

Chief, AC,

Please see attached edits/comments, adding (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) for his edits around the curriculum.

Note: once we are complete with edits this must go back to AC Miranda and still requires DHS clearance.

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Command Suite Executive Staff
DHS/CBP

Cel: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)



From: PADILLA, MANUEL JR (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Sent: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 12:48 PM

To: HUFFMAN, BENJAMINE C (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) ORTIZ, RAUL L (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

MIRANDA, LUIS A (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Subject: Horse Patrol PAG

Chief,

Please see attached PAG for Horse Patrol incident.

Available to discuss.

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Acting Deputy Chief

United States Border Patrol Headquarters

O (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Message

From: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Sent: 9/21/2021 4:54:29 PM
To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Subject: PAG Horse Patrol Incident Sept 20 2021 (003).docx
Attachments: PAG Horse Patrol Incident Sept 20 2021 (003).docx

Message

From: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Sent: 11/6/2021 5:58:47 PM
To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Subject: Re: NPR: The inquiry into border agents on horseback continues. Critics see a 'broken' system

Sounds great. Can we include Luis Miranda as well who leads our OPA? Best times for me are 8pm or later either tonight or Sunday or tmrw between 1 and 3.

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, November 6, 2021 1:02:38 PM
To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Subject: RE: NPR: The inquiry into border agents on horseback continues. Critics see a 'broken' system

Pulling together a few folks/threads on the issue. (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) sent the attached memo outlining all the work they are doing in this space, which is fantastic. In addition, CBP reached out to OPA about the engagement/announcement (below) which reflects our discussions so far. I think we need to think it through a bit more but I think we mostly have consensus. Maybe we can have a quick call this weekend? (Also attaching a draft announcement of the engagement which I can explain further when we chat.)

From: MIRANDA, LUIS A (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Thursday, November 4, 2021 7:17 PM
To: (b) (6)
Subject: Media Roundtable: Accountability, Integrity, and Transparency

(b) (6) we are planning a media roundtable with a select group of national reporters at CBP HQ, to include the Commissioner, and Office of Professional Responsibility leadership. The goal will be to establish a clearer understanding of the transparency and accountability measures CBP has in place, debunk current lines of criticism, and softening the ground ahead of the eventual horse patrol investigation (without commenting directly on it). Note, no active investigations or litigation will be discussed.

Below are details on the format, and topics, below that some of the extended talking points on these topics. The Commissioner had discussed this with S1, and it is being included in a memo to him as a follow up from that meeting. The memo reiterates an invitation to S1 to participate in the roundtable, possibly to deliver opening remarks. Of course, we will build this around his schedule if he is available and we can certainly adjust any of the details in coordination with you. Please let me know how we can move this forward quickly. We have an increasing number of inquiries on the Border Patrol CIT's specifically, but the broader transparency conversation illuminates those, so I would rather get this done at the earliest possible opportunity. Please let me know if I can provide any more detail or context, and we can also get on a call to talk through the details.

- **Format:**
 - In-person, on-the-record roundtable with national media. No video cameras, but would be entirely on the record, and we would allow stills. We would welcome your participation to provide opening remarks.

- **Topics:**
 - Accountability and transparency framework, including an overview of how processes have evolved (such as the creation of the Office of Professional Responsibility) and the multi-tiered oversight framework. This includes how CBP investigates and reports use of force incidents and in-custody deaths. We believe there's good story to tell about the changes we've made in the last five years and walking through these changes and the current processes will be an important step forward with transparency.
 - Debunking current lines of criticism, while acknowledging that the discipline process does fail us, and how we are working to improve through ongoing reviews, highlighting our new accountability and transparency website. This includes clarifying the role of Border Patrol investigative units.
 - Previewing upcoming transparency measures:
 - Body Cam policy updates and best practices
 - Vehicle pursuit policy

Key Points

- CBP takes all allegations of employee misconduct seriously and strives to be as transparent as possible regarding the release of investigative information to the public. The DHS Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties provides oversight and investigation into allegations of civil rights violations, and we are working under the mandates of President Biden's equity orders and new Departmental initiatives to review policies, striving for a model of excellence.
- As part of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), CBP has a multi-tiered oversight framework in place to address allegations of misconduct involving agency personnel. Allegations of serious and criminal misconduct are initially referred to the Office of Inspector General (OIG) and may be investigated by that office or CBP's Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR). Complaints involving mismanagement or less serious misconduct may also be assigned to fact finders trained by OPR within CBP's operational components.
- To help ensure key stakeholders, including the public, have insight into CBP's oversight processes, we have launched a new section on our website allowing easy access to a variety of relevant resources including our annual discipline report, employee arrest data, searchable information regarding use of force trends, the results of our National Use of Force Review Board, a copy of our procedures for reviewing in-custody deaths, and public statements regarding each such death during FY21. CBP employees and officers perform their duties with honor and distinction, and we will not tolerate corruption or abuse within our ranks.
- CBP stresses honor and integrity in every aspect of our mission and expects officers to adhere to the oath they take to uphold the laws of this country, whether on or off duty. CBP will not tolerate hateful, misogynist, or racist behavior or any conduct that is unbecoming of the honor we hold as public servants. DHS, including CBP, is participating in an internal review as directed by Secretary Mayorkas to identify and terminate intolerable prejudice, and to reform policies and training.
- DHS, including CBP, is participating in an internal review as directed by Secretary Mayorkas to identify and terminate intolerable prejudice, and to reform policies and training. CBP is working to review policies and to underscore the need to respect the dignity of every individual, fight against discrimination, safeguard civil rights and civil liberties, and increase transparency and accountability.

- Important reforms have been implemented over the past 11 years. First, in 2015, CBP established a new use of force review process which placed the Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR) in charge of overseeing all internal use of force reviews. Second, in early 2016, OPR gained statutory authority to conduct criminal and administrative investigations regarding CBP personnel.
- CBP's Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR) leads CBP's Use of Force Incident Team (UFIT) process, which includes a comprehensive review of incidents leading to the facts and circumstances being presented before CBP's National Use of Force Review Board (NUFRB). The NUFRB is comprised of voting members from CBP's operational components along with representatives of the Department of Homeland Security Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties as well as the U.S. Department of Justice Civil Rights Division. The NUFRB reviews serious use of force incidents to determine whether the actions of CBP personnel were consistent with agency policy as well as to identify any training, tactics, or policy issues requiring further review.

Border Patrol CIT/CIIT

- The U.S. Border Patrol maintains teams with specialized evidence collection capabilities across the southwest border. These teams consist of highly trained personnel available to respond around the clock to collect and process evidence related to CBP enforcement activities as well as critical incidents. In the case of serious incidents involving CBP personnel, members of these teams are sometimes called upon to assist investigators from CBP OPR and other local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies. This is a vitally important capability as many critical incidents involving CBP operations occur in remote locations where other agencies may be unwilling or unable to respond.
- The U.S. Border Patrol disbanded their critical incident team in San Diego several years ago. Critical incident response teams in other sectors focus only on collecting evidence related to crimes that the U.S. Border Patrol regularly interdicts such as drug smuggling, documenting incidents in which there has been property damage such as vehicle accidents or other similar liability, and lastly providing support to investigative agencies including CBP OPR, FBI, and other state and local agencies when reviewing critical incidents and use of force incidents involving CBP personnel.

V/R,
Luis.

Luis Miranda
Assistant Commissioner
Office of Public Affairs



**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

From: [REDACTED] (b) (6)
Sent: Saturday, November 6, 2021 12:35 PM
To: [REDACTED] (b) (6)
Subject: FW: NPR: The inquiry into border agents on horseback continues. Critics see a 'broken' system

Privileged

(b) (5)

(b) (6)

(b) (6)

Acting Principal Deputy General Counsel
Department of Homeland Security

(b) (6)

From: Mayorkas, Alejandro (b) (6)

Sent: Saturday, November 6, 2021 12:13 PM

To: (b) (6)

Cc: (b) (6)

Subject: Re: NPR: The inquiry into border agents on horseback continues. Critics see a 'broken' system

Thank you very much (b) (6)
Ali

Alejandro N. Mayorkas
Secretary

From: (b) (6)

Sent: Saturday, November 6, 2021 12:01:05 PM

To: Mayorkas, Alejandro (b) (6)

Cc: (b) (6)

Subject: FW: NPR: The inquiry into border agents on horseback continues. Critics see a 'broken' system

Flagging. We weren't aware this piece was coming, but we have not been able to say much about the investigation. CBP has seen a number of these types of pieces the last couple weeks and is interested in having a roundtable with reporters to explain the investigation process.

NPR: The inquiry into border agents on horseback continues. Critics see a 'broken' system (Joel Rose)

Images of Border Patrol agents on horseback clashing with Haitian migrants in Del Rio, Texas, were still in heavy rotation on cable news when the Homeland Security secretary promised a swift investigation.

"It will be completed in days, and not weeks," Alejandro Mayorkas told lawmakers.

But people who knew the Border Patrol — and who've tried to hold its agents accountable for alleged misconduct — knew how hard that would be.

"I chuckled," said James Wong, a former deputy assistant commissioner for internal affairs at the U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

More than six weeks later, the Biden administration has yet to announce any disciplinary action. That comes as no surprise to Wong. Before he retired in 2011, it was his job to look into allegations of misconduct against Border Patrol agents.

"They treated everybody else as an outsider," Wong said in an interview. "I was often told when I would question some of their decisions that I didn't understand, because I had never worn green."

Critics of the Border Patrol say misconduct investigations move slowly, with little transparency, and rarely deliver more than a slap on the wrist.

"These investigation and discipline systems at the border agencies are really broken and need a complete overhaul," said Clara Long, an immigrants' rights advocate with the nonprofit Human Rights Watch.

The Department of Homeland Security won't say when the investigation will be finished — but does pledge to be transparent about its findings.

The last time the Border Patrol faced this much scrutiny was in the summer of 2019. Agents were caught using a private Facebook group to share posts and images that mocked dead migrants and sitting lawmakers, including sexualized images of Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez.

"It was horrendous," said **Mark Morgan**, the acting commissioner of CBP at the time in an interview with NPR's All Things Considered.

"Some of the images that were out there — absolutely horrendous, wrong and not consistent with the way that CBP, or specifically Border Patrol, conducts themselves — period," Morgan said.

An internal disciplinary board at CBP found that 60 agents committed misconduct, and recommended firing two dozen of them. But only two were ultimately fired, according to a recent report by the House Oversight and Reform Committee. Most of the other agents are now back at work.

"There's a lack of accountability and a lack of oversight," said Daniel Martínez, a sociologist at the University of Arizona who's studied how CBP treats migrants in its custody. "DHS seems to be operating behind this veil of secrecy. And it seems to be this cycle that keeps repeating itself," Martínez said in an interview.

The Border Patrol's critics worry that's happening again with the investigation into Del Rio.

Images of Border Patrol agents on horseback confronting Black migrants, mostly from Haiti, drew widespread condemnation — even from the top ranks of the Biden administration.

"It's outrageous. I promise you, those people will pay," President Biden said during a news briefing.

But those agents on horseback have their defenders, too.

"The agents were sent out there to do a specific job. They did exactly what they were sent out there to do," said **Brandon Judd**, the president of the union that represents Border Patrol agents.

Judd says the agents were swinging their horses' reins, not whips, and that no migrants were actually injured. He argues the investigation has been flawed from the start, because high-ranking officials within the administration weighed in early on.

"Those investigators have no choice but to find wrongdoing, which is why it's taking so long," Judd said in an interview.

If you talk to critics of the Border Patrol, they actually agree with Judd about one thing: The way agents in Del Rio acted toward migrants is not really unusual.

"Some of the conduct that we saw in Del Rio, while obviously atrocious to people who saw those photos, is pretty much within normal agency practice," said Clara Long with the nonprofit Human Rights Watch.

Her group released a report last month documenting more than 150 complaints of misconduct at CBP, including serious allegations of physical and sexual abuse of migrants in custody. But it's not clear if those complaints were ever investigated, because CBP won't say.

"If the Border Patrol was a police department operating somewhere in the United States, the Department of Justice would be all over it," Long said.

But former CBP commissioner **Gil Kerlikowske**, who led the agency during the Obama administration, argues it's a mistake to blame all Border Patrol agents for the actions in Del Rio.

"That just kind of misses the mark," Kerlikowske told NPR. "There are people that shouldn't be there. There are people that need to be disciplined. But it really isn't the culture ... of the Border Patrol that has resulted in some of these actions that have been seen so publicly."

Still, other former CBP officials say there are deeper problems at the Border Patrol. James Wong, who used to work in internal affairs at CBP, says the Border Patrol sees itself less as a law enforcement agency, and more as a "paramilitary force."

"I've had Border Patrol agents in the past tell me that they will not retreat, and they will not give up one foot of American soil," Wong said. "They view these people as the enemy. And to me, that's troubling."

The Border Patrol's critics say that's what the images from Del Rio reveal. And why they don't expect the investigation to make much of a difference — no matter how or when it ends.

###

Message

From: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Sent: 9/20/2021 4:50:41 PM
To: (b) (6) MIRANDA, LUIS A (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Subject: FW: Reuters: "Trapped": Migrants collecting food try to evade law enforcement at the U.S.-Mexico border

(b) (6) - FYA bc I know you need this now. +Luis in case you want to add anything.

From: MIRANDA, LUIS A (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 12:48 PM
To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) HUFFMAN, BENJAMINE
Cc: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) MILLER, TROY A (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Cc: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) PADILLA, MANUEL JR
(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) ORTIZ, RAUL L (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Subject: RE: Reuters: "Trapped": Migrants collecting food try to evade law enforcement at the U.S.-Mexico border

(b) (5)

From: MIRANDA, LUIS A
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 12:05 PM
To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) HUFFMAN, BENJAMINE
Cc: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) MILLER, TROY A (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Cc: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) PADILLA, MANUEL JR
(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) ORTIZ, RAUL L (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Subject: RE: Reuters: "Trapped": Migrants collecting food try to evade law enforcement at the U.S.-Mexico border

On the public communication side we'll also need to explain why people were going back and forth for the first few days, many buying food or supplies before returning, and why we suddenly started blocking that.

If they're hearing about our deportation flights and decide to go back, does this mean we won't let them return to Mexico either?

From: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 11:26 AM
To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) HUFFMAN, BENJAMINE C
(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) MILLER, TROY A (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Cc: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) PADILLA, MANUEL JR
(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) ORTIZ, RAUL L (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) MIRANDA, LUIS A

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Subject: RE: Reuters: "Trapped": Migrants collecting food try to evade law enforcement at the U.S.-Mexico border

(b) (5)

From: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 11:16 AM

To: HUFFMAN, BENJAMINE C (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

MILLER, TROY A (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Cc: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) PADILLA, MANUEL JR

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) ORTIZ, RAUL L (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) MIRANDA, LUIS A

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Subject: RE: Reuters: "Trapped": Migrants collecting food try to evade law enforcement at the U.S.-Mexico border

We are communicating with the local leadership now. Update shortly.

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

(A) Chief

Law Enforcement Operations Directorate

USBP Headquarters, Washington, DC

Cell: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

From: HUFFMAN, BENJAMINE C (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 11:15 AM

To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) MILLER, TROY A (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Cc: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

PADILLA, MANUEL JR (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) ORTIZ, RAUL L (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) MIRANDA,

LUIS A (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Subject: RE: Reuters: "Trapped": Migrants collecting food try to evade law enforcement at the U.S.-Mexico border

Looping in Chief Padilla and Chief Ortiz,

I pasted what I believe to be the concerning part of the story below. We need find out what really happened and if appropriate, report to the JIC/OPR. Also work with OPA with the response.

"Reuters journalists saw mounted officers wearing cowboy hats and vests emblazoned with "POLICE U.S. BORDER PATROL" blocking the path of migrants scrambling up the U.S. embankment carrying plastic bags and cardboard boxes.

After one of the officers in the vests unfurled a cord resembling a lariat like a whip and steered his horse to block the migrants, one tumbled back into the water. He got up and tried again, but the officer swung the cord again near his face.

In another incident, the same officer grabbed the back of the shirt of a migrant trying to run up the bank with bags of food."

From: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 10:55 AM

To: MILLER, TROY A (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) HUFFMAN, BENJAMINE C

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Cc: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Subject: Re: Reuters: "Trapped": Migrants collecting food try to evade law enforcement at the U.S.-Mexico border

On it with (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) right now, Sir.

From: MILLER, TROY A (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Sent: Monday, September 20, 2021 10:54:35 AM

To: HUFFMAN, BENJAMINE C (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Cc: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Subject: Fwd: Reuters: "Trapped": Migrants collecting food try to evade law enforcement at the U.S.-Mexico border

Deputy, FYSA: We need a good response. Troy

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: (b) (6)

Date: September 20, 2021 at 10:44:35 AM EDT

To: "Mayorkas, Alejandro" (b) (6)

Cc: "MILLER, TROY A" (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

(b) (6)

"MIRANDA, LUIS A"

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Subject: Reuters: "Trapped": Migrants collecting food try to evade law enforcement at the U.S.-Mexico border

We are running down and will put together a statement. Will need to clarify what reins look like vs a horse whip, and clarify use of force.

Reuters: "Trapped": Migrants collecting food try to evade law enforcement at the U.S.-Mexico border (Daina Beth Solomon and Alberto Fajardo)

CIUDAD ACUÑA, Mexico, Sept 19 (Reuters) - A U.S. law enforcement officer on horseback wielded what appeared to be a lariat, whipping it close to the face of a man wading in the Rio Grande carrying a plastic bag of food.

It was just one desperate moment in a few hours of such scenes along the Rio Grande on Sunday.

Hundreds of Haitian migrants who have been camping under a bridge in the Texas town of Del Rio were trying to bring food and other supplies from Ciudad Acuña in the Mexican state of Coahuila, while U.S. officials have stepped up security at the border and started flying migrants out of the area, some to Haiti.

Migrants said their squalid encampment under a bridge on the U.S. side of the river was short of supplies. U.S. officials over the last few days had let migrants cross back and forth at a shallow point of the river. On Sunday, however, they told migrants they would not be able to return to the U.S. side if they ventured into Mexico.

"We're trapped," said Joncito Jean, 37, who had spent three days sleeping on a sheet on the ground with his wife and children, ages 3 and 4. He said he regretted the decision to come.

"There are no humane conditions... We have to break out to buy water."

More than 12,000 migrants, identified by officials on both sides as mostly Haitian, have been gathering under the bridge in recent days, awaiting immigration processing. Instead, U.S. officials began removing several thousand people from the camp over the weekend, including some who were later seen arriving in Haiti.

Still, several people who spoke to Reuters, most of whom traveled with their children, said they would take their chances to try to stay in the United States.

Mackenley Pearre, 25, left impoverished Haiti in July with his cousin, wife and 2-year-old daughter due to the worsening violence and inability to find work as an electrician. In July, Haiti's president was assassinated, and in August a major earthquake and powerful storm hit the country.

"You have to do something to not die of hunger," he said, eating a tamale given to him by a local resident on the Mexican side, one of several people who said they felt moved to help.

At a news conference in Del Rio Sunday, U.S. Border Patrol Chief Raul Ortiz said resources were available.

"We are providing food, water, portable toilets, towels, emergency medical technicians are available for first aid," Ortiz said.

"Over the next 6 to 7 days our goal is to process the 12,662 migrants that we have underneath that bridge as quickly as we possibly can," Ortiz said. "What we want to make sure is that we deter the migrants from coming into the region so we can manage the folks that are under the bridge at this point."

At the border, migrants waded deeper to try to evade law enforcement. Mostly men, many barefoot and in boxers, attempted trickier crossings through waist-deep water. Some migrants crossed at another point where water reached their necks.

Reuters journalists saw mounted officers wearing cowboy hats and vests emblazoned with "POLICE U.S. BORDER PATROL" blocking the path of migrants scrambling up the U.S. embankment carrying plastic bags and cardboard boxes.

After one of the officers in the vests unfurled a cord resembling a lariat like a whip and steered his horse to block the migrants, one tumbled back into the water. He got up and tried again, but the officer swung the cord again near his face.

In another incident, the same officer grabbed the back of the shirt of a migrant trying to run up the bank with bags of food.

Both people appeared to eventually slip past while the officers tried to hold back migrants who were scattering in all directions. A group of some two dozen people were later seen seated on the U.S. side of the river's edge behind yellow tape near several patrol cars.

###

Message

From: DHS Daily (b) (7)(E)
Sent: 3/16/2022 9:44:49 AM
To: noreply@techmis.com
Subject: DHS Morning Briefing (3-16-22)
Attachments: DHS Morning Briefing (3-16-22).pdf

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DHS MORNING BRIEFING

Prepared for the Office of Public Affairs (OPA)

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

By TechMIS

www.TechMIS.com

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Editorial Note: The DHS Daily Briefing is a collection of news articles related to Department's mission. The inclusion of particular stories is not intended to reflect their importance, nor is it intended to endorse the political viewpoints or affiliations included in news coverage.

TO: Homeland Security Secretary & Staff
DATE: Wednesday, March 16, 2022 6:00 AM ET

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Top News

U.S. border arrivals increased in February, with 55% quickly expelled

[CBS News](#) [3/15/2022 11:15 AM, Camilo Montoya-Galvez, 2818K] reports that migrant arrivals at the southern border jumped by 7% in February from the previous month, but U.S. immigration officials also increased deportations, expelling over half of those who entered government custody using rules first issued under the Trump administration, according to Customs and Border Protection data published Tuesday. U.S. border authorities recorded 164,973 migrant apprehensions last month, compared to 153,941 detentions in January, the CBP figures show. Expulsions of migrants under a pandemic-era restriction put in place in 2020 rose by 17% to 91,513, representing 55% of all border encounters in February. The jump in immigration arrests along the Mexican border was largely fueled by a significant increase in arrivals of migrants from Mexico, Guatemala, Cuba and Colombia, as well as a higher arrest tally for single adults, many of whom try to enter the U.S. illegally multiple times after being expelled. CBP processed single adult migrants 126,151 times last month, an 11% jump from January. Officials also recorded a 16% drop in arrivals of families, processing 26,582 migrant parents and children traveling together. Just over 12,000 unaccompanied children entered U.S. border custody in February, a slight increase from January. Arrests of Mexican migrants rose by 18% to 71,210 in February, while arrivals of Guatemalans increased by 31% to 18,175. Cubans and Colombians reached the U.S. border in record

numbers, surpassing tallies for some Central American countries. About 16,500 migrants from Cuba and 9,600 from Colombia entered U.S. custody. CBP officials also processed 13,887 migrants from Honduras, 13,295 from Nicaragua and 7,116 from El Salvador, the agency statistics show. [CNN](#) [3/15/2022 11:42 AM, Priscilla Alvarez, 5600K] reports that over the weekend, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention terminated that rule as it relates to unaccompanied minors, who had been exempted from it under the Biden administration, after a lower court ruling forced the administration's hand. The White House has faced mounting pressure from Democratic lawmakers and immigrant advocates to terminate the Trump-era policy, which they say puts people in harm's way. Just last week, a Ukrainian family fleeing the war in their country had also been barred from seeking asylum at the California-Mexico border but were eventually allowed into the US. Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas visited Mexico on Monday to discuss migration with government officials. He is in Costa Rica on Tuesday.

Reported similarly:

[FOX News](#) [3/15/2022 10:58 AM, Adam Shaw and Griff Jenkins, 10541K]

[Washington Times](#) [3/15/2022 6:40 AM, Stephen Dinan, 350K]

Costa Rica says will work with U.S. to strengthen migration control

[Reuters](#) [3/16/2022 12:30 AM, Alvaro Murillo, 5304K] reports Costa Rica said on Tuesday the United States had agreed to work together on strengthening immigration and border policing in the Central American country, during a visit by U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas. Costa Rican President Carlos Alvarado met with Mayorkas weeks after Costa Rica, Panama and Mexico established visa requirements that make it more difficult for Venezuelans and Cubans to transit through their countries towards U.S. territory. The new requirements came after Nicaragua lifted visa requirements for Cuban nationals in November, opening a new avenue for migration north to Mexico and the United States. Mayorkas and Costa Rican Minister of Security Michael Soto signed a letter of understanding pledging police efforts and attention to migrants and refugees. Those efforts would include training, infrastructure and equipment, Soto said in a video shared with media. Mayorkas was in Costa Rica a day after his visit to Mexico where he discussed regional migration and labor policies with Mexican officials.

US seeks regional approach to migration and asylum seekers

The [AP](#) [3/15/2022 1:45 PM, Javier Córdoba and Christopher Sherman, 12597K] reports that Faced with the likelihood of eventually reopening its southern border to asylum seekers, the United States government is urging allies in Latin America to shore up immigration controls and expand their own asylum programs. U.S. President Joe Biden is under mounting pressure from leaders of his own party to end sweeping asylum restrictions that have been in place since March 2020 to limit the spread of COVID-19. U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas was meeting with officials in Costa Rica Tuesday, a day after holding talks in Mexico. The support of allies would be critical to control a surge of migration when those restrictions are lifted. Both countries are key, having their own asylum systems and being transit routes to the U.S. for immigrants from South America and from outside the Americas. Last month, Costa Rica started requiring visas for Venezuelans and Cubans, a step toward slowing their migration north. Mexico already required visas of Cubans and added Venezuelans in January. U.S. authorities encountered Venezuelans along the U.S.-Mexico border 3,072 times in February, down sharply from 22,779 times a month earlier, according to figures released Tuesday that demonstrate the impact of Mexico's new requirement for Venezuelans, which took effect Jan. 21. Colombians, who do not require visas for Mexico travel, were encountered 9,600 times, up from 3,911 times in January. Overall, U.S. authorities encountered migrants 164,973 times along the border in February, well below an August high of more than 200,000 but up from 154,745 in January and from 101,099 in February 2021, Customs and Border Protection said. Mayorkas' visits could be laying the groundwork for lifting the policy.

Pandemic preparedness bill moves ahead; funding still needed

The [AP](#) [3/15/2022 2:57 PM, Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar] reports a Senate committee on Tuesday approved a bipartisan blueprint to overhaul the nation's public health system, applying the lessons of COVID-19 to future outbreaks through a new chain of command, a stronger medical supply chain, and clearer crisis

communications. The Health, Education, Labor and Pensions committee approved the PREVENT Pandemics Act by a vote of 20-2. The bill starts by formally placing responsibility for pandemic response — in Burr’s words, “mission control” — within a new White House office, on a similar footing as national security. In the Obama White House, the National Security Council had a global health unit, but that was disbanded under the Trump administration. Congressional oversight of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention would be strengthened by requiring Senate confirmation of its director. They include more active surveillance of emerging diseases, building a capability to forecast epidemics and improving data collection and distribution. The Food and Drug Administration would be assigned a higher priority on medicines and countermeasures targeting infectious diseases. The bill calls for close attention to the medical supply chain, everything from raw materials for drug manufacturing, to protective equipment that was in such short supply in the first wave of the pandemic, to tests that continued to be an issue in the omicron wave. A new report estimates that overhauling U.S. public health and preparedness could take \$100 billion in the first year, \$20 billion to \$30 billion in the following two years, and \$10 billion to \$15 billion annually thereafter. Meanwhile, Congress has still to act on Biden’s request for \$22.5 billion in immediate funding to maintain momentum on the COVID-19 response.

[Mexico] Mexico deports border gang leader after shooting

The [AP](#) [3/15/2022 5:14 PM, Maria Verza, 566K] reports that Mexico deported the alleged leader of a bloodthirsty gang of border hitmen Tuesday, one day after his arrest caused retaliatory shooting and burnings that closed U.S. border crossings and a U.S. consulate. A Mexican official who was not authorized to be quoted by name said Juan Gerardo Treviño had been handed over to U.S. officials in a “Controlled deportation.” The term implies Treviño holds dual U.S. citizenship, which is not uncommon along the border. If he had only Mexican citizenship, he would have been subject to a lengthy extradition process. After his arrest Sunday, members of his gang shot up the border city of Nuevo Laredo, and even hit the U.S. consulate with gunfire. The consulate was closed until further notice and two U.S. border bridges leading to Laredo, Texas, were briefly closed because of the incident. U.S. Ambassador Ken Salazar said in a statement Monday that “I have raised our grave concerns about these incidents and the safety and security of our employees directly with the government of Mexico.” Treviño was handed over at a border bridge in Tijuana, far to the west of Nuevo Laredo, presumably to avoid attempts to free him. The Mexican army said he was the leader of an extremely violent and heavily armed gang of cartel gunmen known as “The Troops of Hell.” Treviño, who reportedly had two illegal guns when he was detained, faces charges of extortion, homicide and terrorism in Mexico. He was wanted for extradition to the U.S. on charges of conspiracy to traffic drugs and launder money. U.S. Customs and Border Protection said that southbound traffic from Laredo into Nuevo Laredo at the Juarez-Lincoln and Gateway to the Americas bridges was suspended, but reopened early Monday.

[Mexico] Journalist killed in Mexico, eighth so far this year

The [AP](#) [3/15/2022 10:33 PM, Fabiola Sánchez, 2818K] reports another journalist was shot to death in Mexico on Tuesday, the eighth murdered so far this year in an unprecedented spate of killings that has made Mexico the most dangerous place in the world for the press. Reporters and photographers have been murdered this year in Mexico at the rate of almost one a week, despite claims from the government that the situation is under control. Prosecutors in the western state of Michoacan said reporter Armando Linares was shot to death at a home in the town of Zitacuaro. His killing came six weeks after the slaying of a colleague, Roberto Toledo, from the same outlet Monitor Michoacan. It was Linares who announced Toledo’s death Jan. 31 in a video posted to social media. Zitacuaro is one of the closest towns to the monarch butterfly wintering grounds in the mountains west of Mexico City. The area has been plagued by illegal logging and drug gangs, local governance disputes and deforestation linked to expanding avocado production. Logging has damaged the pine and fir forests where the butterflies spend the winter after migrating from the United States and Canada. Linares served as director at the Monitor Michoacan website, which on Tuesday continued to show an article he had written about a cultural festival celebrating monarch butterflies. There was no immediate information on a possible motive in the killing.

[Ukraine] Biden administration to send \$186M to help Ukrainian refugees

The Hill [3/15/2022 6:17 PM, Morgan Chalfant, 1877K] reports the State Department announced plans Tuesday to provide \$186 million in humanitarian assistance to support Ukrainian refugees displaced due to the ongoing Russian attack on Ukraine. "This will provide further support for humanitarian organizations responding to the crisis and complement the generosity of the neighboring countries that are welcoming and supporting refugees," Secretary of State Antony Blinken said in a statement. The United Nations estimated Tuesday that 3 million people have been displaced by Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which began about three weeks ago. The Biden administration has sent \$550 million in assistance to Ukraine in the past two weeks, according to White House press secretary Jen Psaki. That assistance is expected to ramp up further after President Biden signed into law a sweeping government funding bill that includes \$13.6 billion in Ukraine-related assistance on Tuesday. Blinken said the funds would support efforts to get food, safe drinking water, shelter, and emergency healthcare to those in need.

[Ukraine] Explainer-Why isn't the U.S. accepting more Ukrainian refugees?

Reuters [3/16/2022 12:05 AM, Ted Hesson, 5304K] reports more than 3 million people have fled Ukraine to neighboring countries since Russia invaded on Feb. 24, according to United Nations data, but the United States has only admitted several hundred Ukrainian refugees so far, leaving some critics questioning U.S. government policy. U.S. President Joe Biden and his top officials have said the United States stands ready to accept refugees if needed, but the administration has repeatedly signaled that Europe should be the primary destination for Ukrainians. "We're going to welcome Ukrainian refugees with open arms if, in fact, they come all the way here," Biden said on March 11 during a meeting of fellow Democrats in Philadelphia. Vice President Kamala Harris, Secretary of State Antony Blinken and White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki have made similar comments. Psaki said on March 10 that the administration believes the "vast majority" of refugees will want to remain in neighboring countries where many have family, friends and former employers. Refugee resettlement can take years, though the Biden administration sped up the process for Afghans following the U.S. military withdrawal from Afghanistan last August. Lessons from that experience could help expedite the resettlement of other refugees, three U.S. officials told Reuters. A group of more than three dozen Democratic lawmakers urged Biden in a March 11 letter to increase refugee admissions and allow Ukrainians with family members in the United States to enter faster through a temporary mechanism known as "humanitarian parole."

Immigration and Customs Enforcement

CoreCivic Trafficking Suit Dropped by Immigration Detainee

Bloomberg [3/15/2022 11:29 AM, Daniel Seiden, 19K] reports that a former immigration detainee abandoned her lawsuit accusing ICE contractor CoreCivic Inc. of violating the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 by forcing her to cook and clean under threat of severe living conditions at a Texas detention facility. The parties' joint motion to dismiss was granted by Judge Lee Yeakel of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Texas on Monday. Counsel for the parties didn't immediately respond to a request for comments. Martha Gonzalez filed a complaint on behalf of a class of 141 detainees claiming mistreatment by CoreCivic in 2018. The district court denied CoreCivic's... [Editorial note: consult source link for extended commentary]

Fake heiress Anna 'Delvey' Sorokin, who swindled NYC elite, in ICE custody amid rumors of deportation

FOX News [3/15/2022 5:31 PM, Audrey Conklin, 10541K] reports Anna Sorokin, who convinced New York City's elite that she was a German heiress by the name of Anna Delvey in 2017, remains in Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) custody as of Tuesday afternoon, despite rumors of her deportation, according to the agency. "In November 2021, the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) granted Sorokin's emergency stay request; she remains in ICE custody pending removal," an ICE spokesperson told Fox News Digital on Tuesday afternoon. The ICE spokesperson added that the agency does not discuss future removal operations due to operational security. Reports released Tuesday suggested that Sorokin had been deported back to Germany from the Orange County Correctional Facility in Goshen, New York.

She was scheduled to leave Monday after a Manhattan judge denied her appeal to stay in the U.S., and prison officials disabled her account on an inmate communications app, an attorney for Sorokin told Insider. [ABC News](#) [3/15/2022 9:27 AM, Luke Barr, 23K] reports she served just under four years in prison and has since been in U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement custody, awaiting deportation, according to a lawsuit she filed against ICE. She claims the poor treatment in ICE facilities gave her COVID-19 and that she was not allowed to receive a COVID booster shot.

Citizenship and Immigration Services

Thousands of Afghan refugees are still living in U.S. hotels while they wait for housing

[NPR](#) [3/15/2022 4:21 PM, Joel Rose, 5347K] Audio: [HERE](#) reports Aziz's family is among countless Afghans who are still living in hotel rooms and other temporary housing across the U.S., some for months, as they wait for permanent housing. All of the Afghan refugees who were evacuated in the Kabul airlift last summer have now left the military bases where they lived for months — more than 76,000 Afghans in all, according to the Department of Homeland Security. But for many, their journey still isn't over. It's not clear exactly how many Afghan refugees are still living in hotels. The federal agencies in charge told us they don't have that information. Based on conversations with state officials and resettlement agencies, the number of Afghans still living in hotels and other temporary housing is significant — likely more than 4000 nationwide as of early March. The biggest obstacle, resettlement agencies say, is a severe shortage of affordable housing.

U.S. Immigration Agency Plans Resumption of In-Person Services

[Bloomberg](#) [3/15/2022 12:24 PM, Andrew Kreighbaum, 19K] reports that U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services plans to partially reopen some domestic offices June 4 after suspending in-person services during the Covid-19 pandemic, the agency announced Tuesday. USCIS, part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, adjudicates green cards and naturalization applications as well as as temporary nonimmigrant worker visas. The agency has faced mounting backlogs for benefits such as work authorization documents over the past two years, despite pledges by the Biden administration to improve its efficiency. A December report from the agency's internal watchdog found that its work was slowed by its largely paper-based system, even after staff began... [Editorial note: consult source link for extended commentary]

U.S. Work-Permit Backlog Is Costing Immigrants Their Jobs

[Bloomberg](#) [3/15/2022 6:00 AM, Dara Lind, 9409K] reports every 15 days, Naina Arora checks a U.S. federal government website to see when she'll be allowed to work again. Arora, the wife of an H-1B visa holder, has been on unpaid leave from her job in the operations department of a major health-insurance provider in Pasadena, Calif. since October, when her work permit expired. She had applied for a renewal in advance, assuming it would take something like the three months it had taken her to get her first one in 2019. Instead, the average processing time listed on the website for cases like hers continues to increase—from 5½ months, to 7½, to 12½. After countless calls to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) case hotline, she finally reached an employee. As she recalls, the response she got was: "I'm so sorry, it's just bad luck, and we cannot do anything about it. Just wait and pray." Unprecedented delays in approving work-permit renewals are routinely leaving immigrants such as Arora in limbo. The government doesn't keep statistics on how many people have had their permits expire while waiting for a renewal, but officials estimate that, at its worst in January and February, hundreds per day were losing permission to work. USCIS found itself on the verge of fiscal collapse in summer 2020; its budget is largely funded by application fees, but applications had plummeted because of the Covid-19 pandemic and Trump-era restrictions on immigration. The agency avoided widespread furloughs, but instituted a hiring freeze that wasn't lifted until well into 2021. At the same time, the shutting down of in-person offices for months in 2020 prolonged already-growing processing times. Then, in summer 2020, the Trump administration created a regulation that turned the two-page work-permit application (which the agency claimed took about 12 minutes to complete) into a seven-page one.

Customs and Border Protection

37% increase in detention of unaccompanied minors at the Mexican border

Univision Austin [3/15/2022 5:40 PM, Staff, 514K] reports the number of unaccompanied immigrant children found at the border with Mexico increased 37% in February compared to those apprehended in January, said Tuesday the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection (CBP), the federal agency under whose command the Border Patrol operates. "In February, 12,011 unaccompanied children were found compared to 8,760 in January, an increase of 37%," details a statement posted on CBP's website. "In February, the average number of unaccompanied children in CBP custody was 520 per day, up from an average of 295 per day in January," it added. The detention figure is known at a time when a high-level delegation from the White House and the Departments of State (DOS), Justice (DOJ), Homeland Security (DHS) and Health (HHS) is meeting in Guatemala with representatives of Central American governments to develop a strategy to curb undocumented immigration to the United States. The CBP report further explains that the large number of deportations executed during the pandemic "has contributed to a greater number of migrants making multiple attempts to cross the border" to enter the United States. The attempts imply that "total encounters somewhat overstate the number of unique individuals arriving at the border with Mexico," the agency explains. The February data also reveals that "the number of unique individuals encountered along the entire border in February was 116,678, a 2% increase in the number of unique individuals encountered or found in January," it adds. The report further states that in February there were a total of 164,973 encounters along the land border with Mexico, an increase of 7% over the previous month. [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

A Haitian Man's Brutal Experience With U.S. Border Agents Sparked Outrage. Now He's Telling His Story

Yahoo! News [3/15/2022 2:07 PM, Jasmine Aguilera, 13319K] reports that the world first saw Mirard Joseph on one of the worst days of his life. On Sept. 19, 2021, he came to embody the plight of thousands of Haitian migrants after an image taken that day of his attempt to escape a U.S. Border Patrol (USBP) agent on horseback in Del Rio, Texas, spread across the internet and was broadcast on every major news network. While Joseph ran, clinging to plastic bags filled with food, the agent wrenched his shirt. The horse's rein seemed to coil like a whip. The image, captured by New Mexico- and Texas-based photojournalist Paul Ratje, stoked national debate over migration at the U.S.-Mexico border, enduring racism in American institutions, and the unique experience that Black immigrants face. Joseph, along with his wife Madeleine Prospere and their daughter, who just turned 2, had been living with some 15,000 other mostly Haitian migrants in makeshift tents in Del Rio. Many Americans saw Ratje's photo as evidence of the country's broken immigration system. Others, including the NAACP and Vice President Kamala Harris, argued that it evoked an ugly history of slavery. In the days after the incident, President Joe Biden condemned the USBP's use of horses in the arrests, and U.S. Customs and Border Protection launched an internal investigation into the Del Rio horse patrol. "We—our entire nation—saw horrifying images that do not reflect who we are, who we aspire to be, or the integrity and values of our truly heroic personnel in the Department of Homeland Security," Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas said, adding that the images "painfully conjured up the worst elements of our nation's on-going battle against systemic racism."

[FL] Over 100 migrants made landfall in the Florida Keys: Border Patrol

The Hill [3/15/2022 12:22 PM, Sarakshi Rai, 1877K] reports that U.S. Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) said Monday that a boat carrying more than 100 migrants, reportedly involved in a maritime smuggling event, made landfall in the Florida Keys. In a statement on Twitter, Chief Patrol Agent Walter N. Slosar, who is in charge of the Miami region, said agents along with federal, state and local partners were responding to "a maritime smuggling event involving over 100 migrants." There is a "coordinated response with our state, federal and local partners, making sure that we get medical and safety checks and then get these individuals processed and transported to our station," Slosar said in a video message on Twitter. The boat was carrying 123 migrants and landed about 20 miles north of Key West, Fla., CBP said in a statement on Tuesday. "At approximately 11:30 am Monday, a good Samaritan notified law

enforcement that a suspected migrant vessel was close to running aground with approximately 100 people on board. Soon thereafter the vessel ran aground near a residential shoreline in Summerland Key, Florida. All migrants onboard the vessel disembarked, and all safely swam to shore," CBP added. According to CBP, responding law enforcement was able to immediately secure the area without incident and rendered first aid to a few migrants needing assistance due to dehydration. CBP said the group told authorities at the scene that they had departed La Tortue Island, Haiti on March 9.

[China] US to detain goods from Chinese sportswear giant Li-Ning over North Korean labor concerns

CNN [3/16/2022 3:09 AM, Michelle Toh, 5600K] reports Li-Ning goods will be detained by US authorities after US Customs and Border Protection said an investigation indicated that the Chinese sportswear giant uses North Korean labor in its supply chain. Starting this week, the company's merchandise will be detained at all US ports, the CBP announced Tuesday. "Such merchandise will not be entitled to entry unless the importer provides clear and convincing evidence that their merchandise was not produced with convict labor, forced labor, or indentured labor," the agency said in a statement. The company is one of China's biggest makers of sports apparel and sneakers, with a market cap of about 133.3 billion Hong Kong dollars (\$17 billion).

Transportation Security Administration

U.S. agency fines more than 900 maskless air, transit passengers

Reuters [3/15/2022 3:42 PM, David Shepardson, 5304K] reports the U.S. Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has proposed \$644,398 in fines for 922 COVID-19 mask violators since February 2021 on commercial flights, in airports and train stations or on public transit services, the government reported on Monday, a dramatic jump in recent months. According to the government report, all but 44 of the TSA fines were for failing to wear masks as required on airplanes or, less often, in airports. The rest covered unmasked passengers in surface transportation like transit, rail and bus. The agency said it has also issued warnings to more than 2,700 travelers after more than 7,000 reported incidents since the transit mask requirements took effect. In late October, TSA said it had proposed \$85,990 in fines for 190 mask violators and issued warnings to more than 2,200. Last week, TSA said it was extending mask requirements at airports and on airplanes through April 18. Since the start of 2021, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has investigated reports of 6,800 unruly airplane passengers including about 4,800 for not wearing masks. It has opened 450 investigations and proposed more than \$5 million in fines. The TSA fines included \$501,388 for 788 onboard air incidents, averaging \$636. The TSA has issued 18 civil penalties for not wearing masks at airport checkpoints totaling \$57,065 or \$3,170 on average, and 160 others at airports totaling \$57,795, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) report said. Another 44 have been issued for surface transportation incidents totaling \$28,150.

Senate Passes Resolution to End Mask Rules on Transportation

Bloomberg [3/15/2022 6:47 PM, Lillianna Byington, 19K] reports the Senate backed legislation to end the federal mask mandate on planes and transit in a largely symbolic vote that highlights GOP opposition to White House pandemic policies. Senators on Tuesday voted 57-40 to pass a resolution (S. J. Res. 37) from Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) to end the mask mandate on public transportation. Republicans hope widespread opposition will nudge the White House to rethink the requirement, which was set to expire on March 18 but last week was extended to April 18. Eight Democrats backed the measure. A bipartisan vote "would go a long way toward convincing the administration that the public is on our side," said Sen. Roger Wicker (R-Miss.), ranking member on the Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee. He spoke at a press conference Tuesday with other Senate Republicans ahead of the vote. The measure would use the Congressional Review Act, which allows Congress to try to halt federal agencies' rules through expedited procedures. The Senate vote required a simple majority to pass, but will likely be defeated in the House if it came to a vote. The White House has also pledged to veto it if it does pass.

[ND] Officer injured in attack at the Bismarck Airport

The [AP](#) [3/15/2022 4:55 PM, Staff, 566K] reports that a police officer has been injured in an attack at the Bismarck Airport. Police say the officer was called to check on a man who was bothering passengers waiting in the security line Monday. The officer told the man that he would have to leave the airport if he didn't have an airline ticket. The officer was having a conversation with him in the front lobby area when "The guy just attacked him out of the blue," said Officer Lynn Wanner. The officer suffered lacerations that required stitches and was taken to the hospital. The officer radioed for assistance and the man was handcuffed with the help of airport and Transportation Security Administration officers. Police say the 37-year-old man had brass knuckles in his possession when he was booked into the Burleigh Morton Detention Center.

Federal Emergency Management Agency

Federal government has provided more than \$2B to help cover COVID-19 funerals

The [Hill](#) [3/15/2022 11:29 AM, Cameron Jenkins, 1877K] reports that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) on Tuesday announced that more than \$2 billion in funding has been allotted for funeral costs of about 300,000 American families that lost a loved one since the COVID-19 pandemic began. "FEMA's COVID-19 Funeral Assistance program has helped provide over 300,000 people with critical financial relief during a time of such unexpected, unimaginable and widespread loss," FEMA Administrator Deanne Criswell said, according to The Associated Press. Under the COVID-19 Funeral Assistance program, up to \$9,000 in funeral expenses are covered per person. On average, about \$6,500 has been given to families per death, the agency stated, according to the AP. The agency also reportedly announced on Tuesday that it is set to launch a paid ad campaign in four states that have had high rates of coronavirus-related deaths but low requests for funeral reimbursement. Those states include New York, Pennsylvania, Texas and California. "Our new outreach campaign is designed to reach families, especially across underserved communities, where the cost of a funeral can be a financial burden to a loved one," Criswell said, according to the AP. "Our goal is to help families apply for assistance, as well as submit all required documents for existing applications." In order for families to be eligible for assistance, they must provide death certificates that show evidence that COVID-19 was the cause of death of a loved one who died after May 16, 2020. For situations in which the death occurred prior to that date, a signed statement from a medical examiner detailing the cause of death must be provided in addition to the death certificate, the news outlet noted. The Hill has reached out to FEMA for comment.

Reported similarly:

[AP](#) [3/15/2022 9:30 AM, Zeke Miller, 2818K]

[CNN](#) [3/15/2022 6:14 PM, Liz Stark, 5600K]

Secret Service

New Secret Service report details growing incel terrorism threat

[CBS News](#) [3/15/2022 11:15 AM, Nicole Sganga, Neutral, Secondary] reports the federal government on Tuesday released a study on the growing terrorism threat from men who call themselves "anti-feminists" or "involuntary celibates" and draw motivation for violence from their inability to develop relationships with women. Since 2014, attacks inspired by the "incel movement" and spanning the U.S. and Canada have left dozens dead. Early intervention and behavioral threat assessments could be the difference between life and death for women targeted by the growing ideology, according to the 26-page report. The report concluded that while "there is no one profile of an individual who plans or executes an act of targeted violence," investigators must consider potential targets when seeking to thwart attacks, as suspects routinely "explore multiple targets during the planning process, before making their final selection." The U.S. Secret Service's National Threat Assessment Center took a deep dive into a series of red flags predating a shooting at a yoga studio in Tallahassee, Florida, to determine how early intervention could

save lives in the future. The NTAC routinely publishes research based on an assessment of the current threat environment. In the case of 40-year-old gunman Scott Paul Beierle, there were countless warning signs. The man who opened fire inside Hot Yoga Tallahassee — killing two women and injuring four more before committing suicide — had previously been fired from multiple teaching jobs, barred from bars and apartment buildings, and authored a 70,000 word revenge fantasy about a boy turned serial killer, according to the report. According to the U.S. Secret Service's analysis, Beierle was motivated to carry out violence by his inability to develop or maintain relationships with women. Although the origins of "anti-feminist" and "incel" movements vary, the shooter's final crime in 2018 is part of a string of gender-based ideology-driven attacks calling for violence against women.

New report tells horrors facing threatened election officials

The Los Angeles Times [3/15/2022 8:00 AM, Staff, 3779K] reports that, in the combustible days and weeks following the November 2020 election, Adrian Fontes was threatened so many times he lost count. As Maricopa County recorder, Fontes oversaw the balloting in Phoenix and its sprawling suburbs, the swing portion of a swing state and one of the focal points of President Trump's unhinged efforts to overturn Joe Biden's victory. With tensions mounting, as armed demonstrators gathered outside his office and a SWAT team parked itself inside, Fontes packed "Go bags" so his wife and children could quickly flee their home. After one death threat, the family evacuated for several days. The menace facing Fontes and his staff was not unusual. A new survey by the Brennan Center for Justice found 1 in 6 election officials nationwide said they have been threatened, part of a dramatic rise in tensions as voting and elections have become an increasing political flashpoint. "These attacks have forced election officials across the country to take steps like hiring personal security, fleeing their homes and putting their children into counseling," according to the center, a research and policy organization affiliated with New York University. All because election workers were doing their job and a bunch of sore-losing chuckleheads didn't like the result. Maricopa County Recorder Adrian Fontes talks to the media in Phoenix as 2020 ballots are counted behind him. More than 1 in 4 of those surveyed by the Brennan Center said they were concerned about being assaulted. Over half said they worried about the safety of their colleagues. More troubling, 30% said they knew of at least one election worker who had left the position in part because of intimidation or increased threats. It bears repeating that, despite Trump's continued and incessant lies, U.S officials judged the Nov. 3, 2020, election - which saw record-high turnout amid the worst pandemic in a century - "The most secure" in the country's history. "There is no evidence that any voting system deleted or lost votes, changed votes or was in any way compromised," the Department of Homeland Security said in a statement co-signed by some of Trump's own appointees.

Gunman who attacked Florida yoga studio gave off decades of warning signs, Secret Service finds

NBC News [3/15/2022 6:13 AM, Pete Williams, 5101K, Neutral, Primary] reports the Florida man who opened fire inside a Tallahassee yoga studio in 2018, killing two women and injuring five, repeatedly engaged in offensive and criminal behavior for decades, presenting missed opportunities to prevent the rampage, the Secret Service said in a new analysis issued Tuesday. The agency's National Threat Assessment Center studied the background of Scott Beierle, the 40-year-old man who walked into Hot Yoga on Nov. 2, 2018, drew a semi-automatic handgun and began shooting. A few minutes later, he shot and killed himself. But for decades, he gave off warning signs involving inappropriate and criminal behavior toward women and girls, the report found. He was fired from several jobs, banned from some public places, thrown out of the military and even arrested. Friends and family members feared him, and his parents slept with the bedroom doors locked when he lived with them. "Tragedies like this one are successfully prevented every day with behavioral assessment programs," said Steven Driscoll, the threat center's assistant chief. "Nothing about this attacker's behavior should be considered normal. His misogyny was extreme, and it began at a young age." Secret Service researchers found that he touched girls without their consent in high school and openly admired Hitler and the Aryan Nations. After failing in his dream of becoming a screenwriter, he lived with his parents and wrote stories and songs described as "dark, violent and misogynistic."

[MA] New York Man Pleads Guilty to COVID-19 Relief Fraud Scheme

The [United States Department of Justice](#) [3/15/2022 4:50 PM, Staff, Positive, Secondary] reports a New York Man pleaded guilty today to charges arising from a scheme to fraudulently obtain business loans and unemployment pandemic relief funds made available under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. Ronald Buie, 35, pleaded guilty to one count of wire fraud before U.S. District Court Judge Douglas P. Woodlock who scheduled sentencing for June 24, 2022. Buie was charged on Jan. 25, 2022. Buie engaged in a scheme to defraud the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) by submitting fraudulent applications for loans offered in connection with the CARES Act. As part of this scheme, Buie used various false identities to apply for and obtain fraudulent SBA loans in amounts exceeding \$219,000. Buie also submitted fraudulent documentation to apply for and obtain a fraudulent SBA loan for \$60,000 for his company, Platinum Car Service LLC. Specifically, in support of his loan application, Buie provided what he purported to be a monthly bank statement for his business checking account showing an ending balance of more than \$198,000, whereas bank records for that particular month show that the actual balance was less than \$3,000. In addition, Buie's scheme also involved the utilization of various false identities to apply for Pandemic Unemployment Assistance benefits in Massachusetts and Ohio. United States Attorney Rachael S. Rollins; Mark Comorosky, Special Agent in Charge of the U.S. Secret Service, Boston Field Office; Jonathan Mellone, Special Agent in Charge of Department of Labor, Office of Inspector General, Labor Racketeering and Fraud Investigations; and Ketty Larco-Ward, Inspector in Charge of the United States Postal Inspection Service made the announcement today. Valuable assistance was provided by the U.S. Secret Service, New York Field Office; Massachusetts Department of Unemployment Assistance; and the New York City Police Department. Assistant U.S. Attorney William F. Abely, Chief of Rollins' Criminal Division, is prosecuting the case.

[PA] Suspect in Stabbings at Museum of Modern Art Apprehended in Philadelphia

The [Wall Street Journal](#) [3/15/2022 5:41 PM, Allison Prang and Ginger Adams Otis, Positive, Primary] reports a man sought in connection to a stabbing of two employees at New York City's Museum of Modern Art was apprehended early Tuesday morning in Philadelphia, the New York Police Department said. The man, identified by police as 60-year-old Gary Cabana, had allegedly attacked the employees on Saturday afternoon after he was denied entry to the museum in Midtown Manhattan because of a revoked membership. A 24-year-old male victim was stabbed once on the left collarbone, and a 24-year-old female victim was stabbed once in the back of the neck and twice in the lower back. The wounds weren't life-threatening. The NYPD said the investigation is continuing. Chief Essig said the Secret Service got involved in the matter when threats were made against former President Donald Trump. The Secret Service said that, for security reasons, it doesn't discuss "the means and methods used to conduct our protective operations or matters of protective intelligence."

[PA] Lebanon County police seek help identifying suspects who used fake money at Walmart

[FOX 43](#) [3/15/2022 8:45 PM, Grace Ganz, 19K, Neutral, Secondary] reports North Lebanon Township Police Department is calling on community members to help officers identify suspects who used fake money at an area Walmart. Police say the three suspects pictured below passed counterfeit currency at the store on 1355 E Lehman St. on March 12 at 10:50 p.m. According to police, the suspects initially tried to use the counterfeit money in the store's electronics department, but the cashier denied them. Police say they then took their items to an elderly cashier at general checkout, where they bought \$1,534 of merchandise. The suspects purchased the items "using 29 counterfeit \$50's and 7 \$20's totaling \$1,590.00," according to a report from Crimewatch. The report also stated the suspects fled the Walmart in a light-colored minivan or SUV.

[MD] Serial Fraudster Pleads Guilty in U.S. District Court in Maryland to Two New Fraud Schemes and to Violating His Supervised Release for a Previous Federal Fraud Conviction

The [United States Department of Justice](#) [3/15/2022 12:00 PM, Staff, Positive, Secondary] reports Jason Evans, age 47, formerly of Anne Arundel County, Maryland, pleaded guilty yesterday to two counts of bank fraud, in connection with two separate fraud schemes, to aggravated identity theft, and to violating his supervised release on a previous federal bank fraud conviction. The guilty pleas were announced

by United States Attorney for the District of Maryland Erek L. Barron and Special Agent in Charge Bo Keane of the United States Secret Service - Baltimore Field Office. According to his plea agreement, in 2015, Evans was sentenced to four years in federal prison, and began five years of supervised release on January 17, 2018. Evans admitted that from June 29, 2019 through August 30, 2019, he fraudulently obtained and used a credit card in the name and identity of "JM" using JM's name, date of birth and social security number. The bank approving the credit card application also opened a business account connected to that credit card. Evans then obtained a counterfeit Pennsylvania driver's license bearing the name of JM and a photograph of Evans, with the date of birth altered to be consistent with Evans' age. On July 30, 2019, Evans presented the credit card and the counterfeit driver's license at a bank in the 7900 block of Ritchie Highway in Glen Burnie, Maryland, and requested a cash advance of \$14,400, which the bank approved. The next day, Evan used the credit card and counterfeit Pennsylvania driver's license at a store in Annapolis, Maryland, to purchase Apple merchandise totaling \$12,114.74, including nine iPhone XS Max cell phones. On August 6, 2019, Evans presented the credit card and counterfeit Pennsylvania driver's license in JM's name at a bank in the 1000 block of Washington Boulevard in Laurel, Maryland, and requested a cash advance of \$14,400. The cash advance was not immediately approved due to a problem with the bank's computer system, but before the system could be rebooted and the transaction identified as fraudulent, Evans left the bank, leaving the fraudulently obtained credit card and counterfeit license in JM's name behind.

[GA] Man used bleach, \$1 bills and a little creativity to make \$235K in fake cash, feds say

The [Ledger-Enquirer](#) [3/15/2022 3:44 PM, Julia Marnin, Positive, Secondary] reports a man got a little creative and led a counterfeit money scheme by using bleach, real \$1 bills and a printer that he traveled with to create fake \$100 bills totaling \$235,000, federal officials in Virginia said. This comes after he was convicted twice in 2015 for using counterfeit money, court documents obtained by McClatchy News state. Most recently, he'd bleach the real dollars and print images of \$100 onto them before handing them out to co-conspirators for them to make purchases, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Virginia. New Jersey resident Hollis Forteau, 38, was sentenced to five years in prison on Monday, March 14, federal officials said. "Mr. Forteau is sincerely regretful for any harm that he had caused," his lawyer Daymen Robinson told McClatchy News in a statement. "He will immediately begin to reimburse those who suffered economic lost and do his best to make amends for his conduct." In December 2019 and January 2020, Forteau and at least six others working with him drove from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to Virginia, where he directed the others to make purchases at local retailers with the fake cash, according to court documents. Then, prosecutors say, they drove to the same retailers at a different location to return the items they illegally bought and obtain real cash. Forteau would take a cut of the money, prosecutors said. "To ensure a consistent supply" of the fake bills, Forteau traveled with a printer, which was bought with counterfeit money, and a laptop to create them in hotel rooms, according to court documents.

[FL] Variety of drugs, including fentanyl, found after Florida Keys traffic stop, cops say

The [Bradenton Herald](#) [3/15/2022 3:34 PM, David Goodhue, Positive, Secondary] reports a man and woman from Jacksonville were arrested on several felony charges after Monroe County deputies say they found multiple drugs, including fentanyl, in their car in a traffic stop in the Florida Keys. The pair, Jeremiah Persyns, 38, and Ashley Caroline Young, 35, are being charged with trafficking in opium, cocaine possession, possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of pills without a prescription. As of Tuesday afternoon, they were both in county jail on Stock Island with no bond information immediately available. Deputy Juan Carlos Marino pulled them over around 7:40 p.m. Monday near 12th Street in the Middle Keys city of Marathon. He said he stopped them because the Chevy SUV Persyns was driving had illegal tint on the windows, according to sheriff's office spokesman Adam Linhardt. Persyns first told Marino that he didn't have his driver's license, before providing a fake name, Linhardt said. According to the sheriff's office, deputies searched the car and found 9.9 grams of fentanyl, 6.6 grams of cocaine, 2 grams of methamphetamine, 1.8 grams of marijuana, Oxycodone and Xanax pills, Multiple syringes and pipes, Deputies also found four counterfeit \$100 bills, which Young said were intended for buying more drugs, according to the sheriff's office.

[Canada] South Shore woman charged with trying to poison Trump deemed fit to stand trial

The Montreal Gazette [3/15/2022 6:00 PM, Paul Cherry, Neutral, Secondary] reports Pascale Ferrier, the South Shore resident who is charged with threatening to kill a U.S. president after she allegedly tried to send Donald Trump a letter laced with poison, has been found competent to stand trial. The results of a mental health evaluation conducted by a psychologist were mentioned Tuesday afternoon during a status hearing before Judge Dabney Friedrich at the U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C. According to a court document filed in the case earlier this month, the evaluation was ordered to determine whether Ferrier is "suffering from a mental disease or defect rendering her mentally incompetent to stand trial, unable to understand the nature and consequences of the proceedings against her and to properly assist in the preparation of her defence." Ferrier, a resident of St-Hubert, was arrested on Sept. 20, 2020 when she showed up at a border crossing in Buffalo, N.Y. and told U.S. border agents she was the person behind a threatening letter that contained the poison ricin and was addressed to Trump at the White House while he was president. The letter was intercepted on Sept. 18, 2020 when it arrived at the White House mail sorting facility, and the Secret Service turned it over to the FBI.

[Maldives] Fake US Dollars sold in Maldives' black market

The Edition [3/16/2022 3:56 AM, Lamy Abdulla, Neutral, Secondary] reports police cautions public on the purchase of US Dollars from unauthorized parties on Wednesday as reports of sale of fake Dollars have increased. They said there has been an increase of the sale of forged US Dollars through messaging communities such as Viber and other social media platforms. These communities advertise themselves as offering money exchange services, and that police were currently investigating such cases as well. These transactions are conducted by talking to people wishing to purchase Dollars privately once they express interest in the community. The money changes hand when they meet in person, often in places visited by few people. Foreign exchange via unauthorized parties is a widely practiced business in Maldives. However, due to the sale of fake Dollars, the police have urged to conduct such transactions via authorized channels only. They also urged the public ensure they have received valid notes as well.

Coast Guard

[MD] Cargo ship stuck in Maryland's Chesapeake Bay presenting Coast Guard 'logistical challenge'

ABC News [3/15/2022 12:49 PM, Bill Hutchinson, 23K] reports that a loaded 1,095-foot cargo ship remained stuck Tuesday morning in Maryland's Chesapeake Bay, presenting Coast Guard officials with what they described as a "logistical challenge" to free the vessel without polluting the environment. The container vessel, named Ever Forward, ran aground Sunday night after leaving Baltimore, Petty Officer 1st Class Steve Lehmann, a spokesman for the Coast Guard's Mid-Atlantic district, told ABC News Tuesday morning. Lehmann said the ship is stuck in about 23-feet of water but is not blocking traffic in the bay's deep-water channel. "It's a pretty big logistical challenge," Lehmann said about freeing the ship. Lehmann said a Coast Guard environmental team boarded the ship to make an assessment of its condition and determine how to safely get it towed off what is believed to be a sandbar without polluting the water or causing harm to the crew. "We're making sure all boxes are checked," said Lehmann, adding that a timeline has not yet been established on when an attempt to free the vessel will be made. Lehmann said no one was injured and no pollution has been detected as a result of the mishap. He said the Coast Guard was notified of the incident around 9 p.m. Sunday. Coast Guard officials said the ship was apparently traveling outside the deep-water channel when it got hung up. Lehmann said the ship is believed to be owned by Evergreen Marine Corp., noting the company's name on the side of the vessel. [Editorial note: consult video at source link] The AP [3/15/2022 6:25 PM, Staff] reports that technical experts boarded the Ever Forward on Monday to evaluate the ship's condition, Maryland Port Administration Executive Director William P. Doyle said in a statement Tuesday. He said various experts are working with divers to determine the best course of action to free the ship. Officials haven't yet determined what caused the ship to run aground, Coast Guard Petty Officer 3rd Class Breanna Centeno said in an email Tuesday.

Reported similarly:

[Reuters](#) [3/15/2022 12:51 PM, Staff, 5304K]

[CBS News](#) [3/15/2022 12:04 PM, Caitlin O'Kane, 2818K]

CISA/Cybersecurity

[Germany] Germany Issues Hacking Warning for Users of Russian Anti-Virus Software Kaspersky

[Reuters](#) [3/15/2022 5:31 PM, Staff] reports that Germany's cyber security agency on Tuesday warned users of an anti-virus software developed by Moscow-based Kaspersky Lab that it poses a serious risk of a successful hacking attack. The BSI agency said that the Russia-based cyber-security company could be coerced by Russian government agents to hack IT systems abroad or agents could clandestinely use its technology to launch cyberattacks without its knowledge. Kaspersky said in a statement it was a privately-managed company with no ties to the Russian government. It said that the warning by BSI was politically motivated, adding it was in contact with the BSI to clarify the matter. The BSI warning comes as Russia's invasion of Ukraine escalates with the Russian army's shelling of the capital of Ukraine. The BSI said that German companies as well as government agencies that manage critical infrastructure were particularly at risk of a hacking attack.

[Russia] Bipartisan Senate group urges DHS to provide answers on Russian cyberthreat

The [Washington Times](#) [3/15/2022 4:55 AM, Ryan Lovelace, 350K] reports a bipartisan group of 22 senators urged the Department of Homeland Security to provide details about the government's preparedness for cyberattacks from Russia, as its invasion of Ukraine has American lawmakers on edge. Fears of a catastrophic Russian cyberattack accompanying physical attacks on Ukraine that could spiral out of control have not yet materialized. The senators wrote to Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas to get information on the government's plan to defend against cyberattacks, hacks and disinformation that may still come. The 17 Democrats, four Republicans and one independent requested a briefing to explain what the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) is doing to protect against state-sponsored attacks and to share information about what business sectors are targets, as well as how the government is sharing technical guidance to small businesses and organizations and how the threat of disinformation has changed since Russia's invasion, among other things. CISA recently released new details about its work to prepare for a major cyberattack. The agency said Monday that it hosted a three-day cyber exercise last week called "Cyber Storm VIII," which included about 200 organizations from government, the private sector and other countries to simulate the discovery of a widespread cyberattack and coordinate a response.

Terrorism Investigations

Attacks on Asian American women are igniting a conversation about public safety

[CNN](#) [3/15/2022 12:48 PM, Harmeet Kaur, 5600K] reports that What hit Hong Lee so hard about the killing of Christina Yuna Lee was how easily it could have been her. Late one night in February, Christina took a car back to her New York Chinatown apartment, where a man followed her up six flights of stairs and forced herself into her home. She cried out desperately for help, but before anyone could reach her, she was stabbed dozens of times to her death. Christina was an Asian American woman around Hong's age. They shared a mutual friend. And Hong, too, had an experience that left her afraid for her life -- a memory that has been fresh on her mind lately given the string of Asian American women who have been killed in recent weeks. Michelle Go was pushed to her death on the New York City subway tracks. GuiYing Ma died from her injuries after being struck repeatedly in the head with a rock last year in Queens. Julia Li was killed while driving in St. Paul, Minnesota. Mary Ye, a spa worker in Albuquerque, New Mexico, was shot and killed during an attempted robbery. Fang Sihui, a spa owner in the same city, was killed under similar circumstances just three weeks earlier. All the while, the trauma from last year's Atlanta spa shootings still felt raw. "It's just odd to me that all these attacks are happening all at once," Hong said.

The brutality and seeming frequency of these high-profile incidents have Hong and other Asian American women on edge. But making sense of the tragedies has proved especially difficult. The victims have been from various class backgrounds -- attacked on streets and subway platforms, at homes and workplaces. The perpetrators have been White, Black and Hispanic -- their actions sometimes without expressing obvious anti-Asian bias. Meanwhile, rates of homicides and other violent crimes increased last year in cities nationwide. As 74% of Asian American and Pacific Islander women report having personally experienced racism or discrimination in the past year, community members are pushing leaders to do more to address public safety. But without a clear, identifiable pattern to the attacks, advocates, elected officials and citizens are divided about the root of the problem -- and what's needed to solve it.

[DC] Document on plan to occupy Capitol Hill buildings, Supreme Court on January 6 discovered by prosecutors

CNN [3/15/2022 2:14 PM, Katelyn Polantz, 5600K] reports that prosecutors have discovered a written plan to "infiltrate" and "occupy" six congressional office buildings and the Supreme Court on January 6, 2021, as part of the federal investigation into Proud Boys leader Enrique Tarrio, according to his indictment and a source familiar with the case.

The nine-page planning document, titled "1776 Returns," is mentioned briefly in the federal indictment filed last week against Tarrio, who is accused of orchestrating key participants in the US Capitol attack that day. A source revealed more details than were previously known about the plan. In court, prosecutors described an unnamed person sending Tarrio the document in late December 2020. "The revolution is important," the person told him. According to prosecutors, Tarrio replied: "That's what every waking moment consists of ... I'm not playing games." The written plan doesn't mention violence and contains two prongs -- one called "Storm the Winter Palace" in which organizers would "fill the buildings with patriots" and another called the "Patriot Plan." That one-page list of demands would be distributed in the streets, declaring "we the people" request a new election on January 20, 2021, and falsely claiming "the evidence of election fraud is overwhelming." Though the document doesn't call for seizing the US Capitol, its timing and themes track closely to the 1 p.m. ET assembly of the rioting crowd on Capitol Hill that ultimately overtook the Capitol building. The planning document is included in Tarrio's indictment as part of the alleged actions that support a conspiracy charge against him and others. While the document is notable enough to be included in the charging documents, it is unclear who authored it or how widely it was distributed, or whether Tarrio distributed it to other Proud Boys. His five conspiracy co-defendants have pleaded not guilty, and Tarrio is appearing in federal court on Tuesday in Florida for a detention hearing. The Justice Department wants him to remain in jail as he awaits trial.

[DC] Proud Boys leader charged in Jan. 6 plot jailed until trial

The AP [3/15/2022 3:08 PM, Adriana Gomez Licon, 566K] reports that a leader in the far-right Proud Boys extremist group will remain jailed until his trial on charges that he remotely led a plot to stop Congress' certification of Joe Biden's 2020 presidential victory. In a Miami courtroom Tuesday, U.S. Magistrate Judge Lauren F. Louis cited the danger that prosecutors say Henry "Enrique" Tarrio poses to the community. The judge said her decision would be explained in detail later in a written order. Though he wasn't at the Capitol with other members of the Proud Boys during the violent insurrection on Jan. 6, 2021, prosecutors say Tarrio created the leadership structure, organized the group of men and directed them to the Capitol. They say Tarrio organized encrypted chats with Proud Boys members in the weeks before the attack, had a 42 second phone call with another member of the group who was moving in and out of the building during the riot and took credit for the chaos at the Capitol. "This is a crime that struck at the heart of our democracy," said prosecutor Jason McCullough. "It is difficult to imagine something that is graver than this crime." Tarrio's attorney Nayib Hassan said his client was not at risk of fleeing from authorities and doesn't have a violent background. Hassan said other defendants charged in the same alleged conspiracy and who were present at the Capitol during the riot have been allowed pretrial release.

[Cuba] Plea discussions launched in stalled 9/11 case at Guantanamo

The AP [3/15/2022 3:02 PM, Ben Fox] reports prosecutors have initiated discussions on a potential plea agreement to resolve the long-stalled case of five men held at the Guantanamo Bay detention center who

have been charged with planning and providing assistance for the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. The discussions, which attorneys for one defendant said Tuesday were ongoing, are a significant development in a case that has been mired in pre-trial litigation at the U.S. base in Cuba for nearly a decade. All five, including the self-described mastermind of the 9/11 plot, face potential death sentences if convicted by military commission, though repeated delays and legal challenges have made even setting a trial date elusive. Among the other defendants is Khalid Shaikh Mohammad, a senior al-Qaida figure who has portrayed himself as the architect of the plot. The government has resisted efforts to try the men separately, and an earlier effort to reach a settlement was rebuffed by former President Donald Trump's Attorney General Jeff Sessions.

[Cuba] Washington invitation opens way for U.N. expert's Guantanamo visit

Reuters [3/15/2022 2:33 PM, Emma Farge, 5304K] reports a U.N. expert told the world's top rights body on Tuesday that she had received a preliminary invitation from Washington to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, in what could lead to the first-ever visit by one of the body's special rapporteurs. "I am pleased to report to this council session that the U.S. government has extended a preliminary invitation...to engage in a technical visit to the U.S. naval station in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba," Fionnuala Ní Aoláin, the special rapporteur on human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism told the Geneva-based Human Rights Council. Ní Aoláin released a report to the council on Tuesday on secret detentions in which she repeated a call to close the site, which she said still has at least 38 male Muslim detainees.

National Security News

U.S. less effective at countering terrorist threats in Afghanistan and Somalia since troop withdrawal

The Washington Post [3/15/2022 7:56 PM, Karoun Demirjian, 12597K] reports U.S. troops' exit from Afghanistan and Somalia has limited the United States' ability to conduct counterterrorism operations against groups linked to al-Qaeda and the Islamic State, the American generals in charge of the Middle East and Africa told senators Tuesday. "In my view, we are marching in place at best," Army Gen. Steven Townsend, who leads U.S. Africa Command, told members of the Senate Armed Services Committee of the security picture in Somalia. "We may be backsliding." For years, the United States has been trying to weaken the terrorist organization al-Shabab, which Townsend has called "the most lethal arm of al-Qaeda." Those efforts were complicated in the last year, following the full exit of U.S. troops from Somalia, a departure ordered by President Donald Trump near the end of his tenure in the White House. Townsend said that counterterrorism efforts have experienced reduced efficacy due in part to the fact U.S. troops have been "commuting to work" from neighboring Djibouti, where the U.S. military maintains a permanent base. The AP [3/15/2022 3:53 PM, Lolita C. Baldor, 2164K] reports former President Donald Trump ordered the complete withdrawal of the roughly 700 U.S. troops in Somalia as one of his final acts in office. Gen. Frank McKenzie, head of U.S. Central Command, said the U.S. has not launched any strikes on Islamic State insurgents in Afghanistan since the U.S. military pulled out of the country last August. He said the militant group has grown since the U.S. left and there are concerns about its ongoing development. He said the group has carried out high-profile attacks in Afghanistan and still aspires to strike the U.S. and allies. McKenzie said the Taliban, which swept across Afghanistan and took control of the government last year, still is trying to counter the Islamic State. But he said it is more difficult for the Taliban to control al-Qaida elements in the country, because the two groups have long been more closely aligned. McKenzie said that without sustained counterterrorism pressure, militants have more time and space to prepare for attacks. Sustained military pressure prevents groups from being able to grow, train and plot, he said.

NATO defense ministers to discuss sending 'substantially more forces' to its eastern borders

The New York Times [3/16/2022 1:50 AM, Victoria Kim] reports NATO defense ministers will discuss stepping up defenses along their eastern front as Russia's attacks inch closer to the alliance's doorstep, the organization's secretary general said on Tuesday. The ministers were set to meet on Wednesday

ahead of next week's extraordinary NATO summit, where President Biden is scheduled to discuss how to respond to Russia's invasion. European allies are putting more pressure on the United States to take more direct action in addition to sanctions and military aid in face of relentless Russian attacks and widespread civilian suffering. Ministers will discuss "concrete measures" to reinforce its eastern flank, on the ground and in the air and on the water, said Jens Stoltenberg, the secretary general of NATO, in advance of the meeting of defense ministers. The Russian invasion and its coordination with Belarus "creates a new security reality" in Europe, he said. "We need to reset NATO's military posture for this new reality," he said. "This could include substantially more forces in the eastern part of the alliance at high alertness and more pre-positioned equipments.

[Belgium] Biden to travel to Brussels for NATO summit amid Russia's war on Ukraine

FOX News [3/15/2022 1:28 PM, Brooke Singman, 10541K] reports that President Biden is expected to travel to Brussels, Belgium, next week for a NATO summit on Russia's war in Ukraine, the White House said Tuesday. Biden will join the "extraordinary" NATO summit that will convene March 24. White House press secretary Jen Psaki said the president will "Discuss the ongoing deterrence and defense efforts in response to Russia's unprovoked and unjustified attack on Ukraine as well as to reaffirm our ironclad commitment to our NATO allies." Biden is also set to join a scheduled European Council Summit to discuss "Shared concerns about Ukraine, including transatlantic efforts to impose economic costs on Russia, provide humanitarian support to those effected by the violence, and to address other challenges related to the conflict." The president's plans to travel to Europe come as Russia's war against Ukraine rages on. Vice President Kamala Harris, who returned to the U.S. over the weekend, traveled to Europe last week to represent the United States in bilateral meetings with European leaders. While in Warsaw, she also met with Canadian President Justin Trudeau. Harris also traveled to Bucharest, Romania, for a bilateral meeting with Romanian President Klaus Iohannis. Harris' visit came after the U.S. sent additional U.S. troops to the countries and neighboring countries to strengthen NATO's deterrence and defense as Russia continues its invasion of Ukraine.

[Ukraine] Congress cuts humanitarian spending despite billions for Ukraine

Roll Call [3/15/2022 9:00 AM, Rachel Oswald, 113K] reports that the bipartisan spending deal that Congress cleared last week provides billions of dollars in aid for Ukraine, but it cuts other humanitarian programs meant to address mounting hunger crises elsewhere in the world, including Afghanistan and West Africa. When the bill's \$4.1 billion in emergency supplemental humanitarian funding for Ukraine is excluded, the baseline fiscal 2022 spending level for humanitarian accounts covered by the State-Foreign Operations title comes in at \$6.8 billion — a \$1 billion cut compared to fiscal 2021 enacted levels. The Biden administration had requested over \$8.5 billion in total fiscal 2022 funding spread over two principal humanitarian aid accounts: the State Department's Migration and Refugee Assistance account and the U.S. Agency for International Development's International Disaster Assistance account. The initial House-passed bill and one offered in the Senate, written by majority Democrats, would have largely fulfilled the White House's humanitarian funding request. In interviews and statements, foreign aid advocates said they were "embarrassed" and "flabbergasted" that Congress reduced funds for dealing with the worst refugee displacements since World War II and other crises caused by mounting natural disasters and manmade conflicts. "It cuts the humanitarian [account] disastrously," said Lisa Peña, director of policy, budget and appropriations for the bipartisan U.S. Global Leadership Coalition. "This bill was insufficient prior to [Russian President Vladimir] Putin even moving his tanks near the border with Ukraine. We knew there were food price spikes on food and other commodities prior to the war in Ukraine."

[Ukraine] U.S. providing over \$186M in additional humanitarian aid to Ukraine

Axios [3/15/2022 4:58 PM, Ivana Saric, 526K] reports the U.S. is providing over \$186 million in additional humanitarian assistance to Ukrainians internally displaced or forced to flee abroad by Russia's unprovoked invasion of Ukraine, Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Tuesday in a statement. This aid comes on top of the nearly \$293 million the U.S. has provided to Ukraine and the region since the start of the invasion in late February, making the U.S. the "largest single-country donor of humanitarian assistance to Ukraine," Blinken said. Yahoo News/The Hill [3/15/2022 6:17 PM, Morgan Chalfant,

13319K] reports "This will provide further support for humanitarian organizations responding to the crisis and complement the generosity of the neighboring countries that are welcoming and supporting refugees," Secretary of State Antony Blinken said in a statement. "We call for an immediate end to Russia's continuing war against Ukraine and for Russia to facilitate unhindered humanitarian access in Ukraine and safe passage for those who seek to leave the cities where they are trapped," he said. "Humanitarian aid deliveries must be allowed to continue without interference, and humanitarian workers must have safe passage to deliver aid and assistance to those in need." The United Nations estimated Tuesday that 3 million people have been displaced by Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which began about three weeks ago.

[Ukraine] Two Journalists Working for Fox News Killed While Covering Ukraine-Russia War

The [Wall Street Journal](#) [3/15/2022 4:48 PM, Benjamin Mullin] reports two journalists working for Fox News, a cameraman and a consultant, were killed on assignment covering the war in Ukraine, network chief Suzanne Scott told employees Tuesday. Pierre Zakrzewski, a cameraman for Fox News, and Oleksandra "Sasha" Kuvshynova, a consultant, were reporting near Kyiv alongside foreign-affairs correspondent Benjamin Hall when their vehicle was struck by fire on Monday, Ms. Scott said in notes to staff. Based in London, Mr. Zakrzewski was a war photographer who had covered several major conflicts for Fox News, including in Iraq, Afghanistan and Syria, the network said. Since the Russia-Ukraine war began, journalists have been shot at, beaten and jailed while covering the conflict and protests, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists. Another journalist, Ukrainian Yevhenii Sakun, was killed earlier this month when Russian military forces shelled a television tower. Last year, Mr. Zakrzewski was recognized internally at the network with an "Unsung Hero" award for helping to get Afghan freelance associates and their families out of the country. Mr. Zakrzewski was an Irish citizen. Micheál Martin, Ireland's prime minister, said in a statement that he is "deeply disturbed and saddened" by Mr. Zakrzewski's killing. Mr. Hall is hospitalized in Ukraine. He joined the network in 2015 and has reported from the front lines in Syria and Iraq, according to his author page on Fox News's website. Several journalists working for U.S. media have been killed covering the war in recent days. On Sunday, Brent Renaud, a journalist who was on assignment for Time Studios, was shot and killed near the front line of the war. Andrey Nebitov, a police official in the Kyiv region, blamed the killing on Russian troops and said two other correspondents were injured. Before he was injured on Monday, Mr. Hall told Fox News viewers that Mr. Renaud's death was a reminder that the violence in Ukraine affects everyone in harm's way.

[Ukraine] White House insists no-fly zone over Ukraine 'could prompt a war with Russia'

[FOX News](#) [3/15/2022 3:06 PM, Brooke Singman, 10541K] reports President Biden maintains that creating a no-fly zone over Ukraine "could prompt a war with Russia," the White House said Tuesday, as Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy insists that NATO order Russian planes not to fly over his country. Zelenskyy is expected to repeat his plea when he addresses Congress virtually Wednesday morning. Members of Congress have stopped short of calling for a no-fly zone, with many echoing Biden's concerns that the move could be escalatory. "It is also true that the president has to look at decisions that are made through the prism of what is in our national security interest and global security interest," White House press secretary Jen Psaki said Tuesday. But a growing number of bipartisan lawmakers have been urging the Biden administration to facilitate a deal with Poland to send MiG-29 planes to Ukraine for additional air support as Russia continues its multi-front war on the country. Meanwhile, the president is set to travel to Brussels, Belgium, for a NATO summit on March 24 where he will discuss the "ongoing deterrence and defense efforts in response to Russia's unprovoked and unjustified attack on Ukraine as well as to reaffirm our ironclad commitment to our NATO allies." Biden is also set to join a scheduled European Council Summit to discuss "shared concerns about Ukraine, including transatlantic efforts to impose economic costs on Russia, provide humanitarian support to those effected by the violence, and to address other challenges related to the conflict."

[Belarus] U.S. sanctions Belarus president Lukashenko and others

[Axios](#) [3/15/2022 1:37 PM, Ivana Saric, 526K] reports that the Treasury Department on Tuesday announced sanctions against Belarus strongman Aleksandr Lukashenko, his wife and several Russians "connected to gross violations of human rights." Why it matters: Belarus has backed Russia's unprovoked

invasion of Ukraine, allowing attacks on Ukraine to be launched from its territory. An earlier set of sanctions targeted Belarus' technology exports and sanctioned entities that have supported the Belarusian security services, military and defense sectors. The big picture: While Lukashenko has been sanctioned before, the Treasury Department said it was "re-designating" him, noting that in his nearly 30 years in power he has corruptly used his influence to "grant unique privileges and advantages to his associates" while targeting those who have opposed him. Lukashenko's wife, Halina, has been sanctioned for the first time, "for being a senior-level official, family member of such an official, or a person closely linked to such an official who is responsible for or has engaged in public corruption related to Belarus." Secretary of State Antony Blinken said in a statement that Lukashenko and his immediate family members would be banned from entry to the U.S. Several Russians were also sanctioned for their connections to the detention and death of whistleblower Sergei Magnitsky and for "gross violations of human rights" against human rights advocate Oyub Titiev. What they're saying: "Today's designations demonstrate the United States will continue to impose concrete and significant consequences for those who engage in corruption or are connected to gross violations of human rights," Andrea Gacki, director of Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control, said in the statement. "We condemn Russia's attacks on humanitarian corridors in Ukraine and call on Russia to cease its unprovoked and brutal war against Ukraine," Gacki added.

[Iran] Russia raises hopes for a return to the stalled Iran nuclear talks

The [Washington Post](#) [3/15/2022 3:49 PM, Liz Sly, 12597K] reports Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said Tuesday he has received "written guarantees" from the United States that Western sanctions on Russia related to Ukraine won't affect Russia's role in the Iran nuclear deal, potentially paving the way for a resumption of stalled talks to revive the agreement. Lavrov was speaking alongside Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian, who was visiting Moscow for talks on reviving the 2015 deal, which were suspended Friday after a new Russian demand for guarantees on the sanctions threw the discussions into disarray. Lavrov's comments suggested that Moscow has decided to accept a limited interpretation of its demand that the United States agree in writing to protect Russian dealings with Iran from the new sanctions imposed in response to its invasion of Ukraine. Lavrov said the guarantees Russia has sought were contained in the draft text of an agreement already negotiated by diplomats in Vienna to restore the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, as the nuclear deal is known. "We received written guarantees. They are included in the text of the agreement itself," Lavrov said. "All projects and areas of activity envisaged by the JCPOA have been protected, including the direct involvement of our companies and specialists." Russia's new demand had initially seemed to encompass a much wider range of trade and investment dealings with Iran that could be constrained under the new, Ukraine-related sanctions, giving rise to fears that Moscow intended to hold the Iran deal hostage to the Ukraine war. The [Wall Street Journal](#) [3/15/2022 6:10 PM, Laurence Norman] reports the European Union, which coordinates the talks, announced a break in the negotiations on Friday, blaming "external factors" for preventing a deal that is "essentially ready." A senior western diplomat said Tuesday evening that Russia's chief negotiator at the talks, Mikhail Ulyanov, had informed the EU that Russia would accept narrower guarantees ensuring that Russia could carry out the nuclear work it is mandated to do under the 2015 nuclear deal. That includes a uranium swap with Iran, the redesign of the Fordow nuclear facility and the provision of nuclear fuel to Iranian reactors. "Russia says happy with guarantees on nuclear projects and not asking for anything else," said the diplomat, who asked to remain unidentified because of the sensitive nature of the talks. "So we can go ahead with negotiations that are now exclusively US-Iran." State Department spokesman Ned Price said Tuesday evening that "we are not going to sanction Russia for undertaking, for participating in nuclear projects that are part of the" nuclear deal.

[Russia] Russia issues sanctions against Biden and a long list of US officials and political figures

[CNN](#) [3/15/2022 2:07 PM, Maegan Vazquez, 5600K] reports that Russia on Tuesday imposed sanctions against a wide range of American officials, including President Joe Biden, marking another escalations in tensions between Russian President Vladimir Putin and the West as Russian military forces continue their invasion of Ukraine. According to a statement issued Tuesday by the Russian Foreign Ministry, the government is adding the following individuals to a "stop list," barring them from entering Russia: Biden,

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Mark Milley, Biden national security adviser Jake Sullivan, CIA Director William Burns, White House press secretary Jen Psaki, deputy national security adviser Daleep Singh, USAID Director Samantha Power, Deputy Secretary of the Treasury Adewale Adeyemo and US Export-Import Bank President Reta Jo Lewis. The "stop list" also includes other non-governmental individuals, including the President's son, Hunter Biden, and former US presidential candidate and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. The move is largely symbolic as it seems unlikely that members of Biden's administration would be traveling to Russia any time soon as the US and its allies move to punish Putin and members of Russia's elites for invading Ukraine. Biden and his administration have ruled out potential meetings with Putin and have questioned whether he is seriously interested in a diplomatic solution to the war.

[Russia] NATO chief warns of risk of accidental Russian strike in allied nation, calls for increased air defense

FOX News [3/15/2022 2:01 PM, Caitlin McFall, 10541K] reports that NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg warned against the increasing possibility of an accidental military strike by Russian forces in a neighboring NATO nation. "We are ready to protect and defend every inch of NATO allied territory," he told reporters on Tuesday. "When we see more military activities, when we see actually fighting going on close to NATO borders, there's always a risk for incidents and accidents." "Therefore, we have to make every effort to prevent such incidents and accidents and if they happen, to make sure that they don't spiral out of control and create really dangerous situations," he added. The secretary-general's comments came just days after Croatian authorities said an armed Soviet-era drone crashed outside the capital of Zagreb after flying over Romania and Hungary. "I can say that we are stepping up our vigilance," Stoltenberg told reporters, adding that preliminary findings show that the drone was not in fact loaded with explosives as claimed by the Croatian Ministry of Defense. "We are both increasing the capabilities we have to monitor, to track, but also to ensure that we are able to react if needed," he continued. "If anything, it demonstrates the need to further strengthen integration, further strengthen information sharing among allies, and also to invest more and upgrade everything from radars to our persons of air and missile defense systems." Russia has launched more than 900 missiles at Ukrainian targets since the invasion began nearly three weeks ago. Western targets near the Polish border have been increasingly hit and concerns have mounted that a misguided missile could strike a NATO nation as fighting continues.

[Russia] Without sending troops, the U.S. wages 'hybrid warfare' against Russia

NPR [3/15/2022 5:39 PM, Greg Myre] Audio: [HERE](#) reports the U.S. and Russian militaries have both talked for years about "hybrid warfare" as the future of war. Yet it remains a fuzzy term with no fixed meaning. The general idea is waging unconventional war on multiple fronts, and well beyond the traditional battlefield. What's clear is the U.S. and its allies are doing this now — perhaps on a scale never seen before — as they attempt to counter Russia in the war in Ukraine.

[China] White House warns of 'consequences' if China provides aid to Russia: 'The world is watching closely'

FOX News [3/15/2022 3:35 PM, Brooke Singman, 10541K] reports the White House said there will be "consequences" if China provides aid to Russia amid its multi-front war on Ukraine, warning that "the world is watching closely." U.S. intelligence officials said Russia asked China for military and economic aid following its invasion of Ukraine. In an attempt to protect intelligence sources, U.S. officials have been reluctant to detail what type of aid is being sought. "There are a range of sanctions we obviously have in place and we watch, of course, if there's a violation of those and we also watch if there is support provided for the military invasion of another country," White House press secretary Jen Psaki said Tuesday. Psaki said that, at this point, "any potential impacts or consequences" will be discussed "through private diplomatic channels." Psaki's comments come after White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan met with the director of Chinese Foreign Affairs Commission Yang Jiechi Monday in Rome, Italy, for an "intense seven-hour session." "We do have deep concerns about China's alignment with Russia at this time, and the national security adviser was direct about those concerns and the potential implications and consequences of certain actions," the official said, without commenting directly to the reports that

Russia had requested aid from China after invading Ukraine. The official, though, maintained that the Biden administration is "communicating directly and privately to China about our concerns about the kinds of support that other countries might be providing to Russia." Sullivan, ahead of the meeting, warned that there "will absolutely be consequences for large-scale sanctions evasion efforts or support to Russia to backfill them."

[North Korea] North Korea Weapons Test Appears to Have Failed

The Wall Street Journal [3/16/2022 1:44 AM, Timothy W. Martin] reports North Korea test-fired an unknown projectile on Wednesday, though the launch was unsuccessful, South Korea's military said, a stumble that Pyongyang has largely avoided in recent years. The attempted launch occurred at 9:30 a.m. local time from the Sunan area, on the outskirts of Pyongyang, according to the South Korean military. The projectile appeared to have exploded during an early boost phase just after taking flight, at an altitude of roughly 12 miles or less, a South Korean military official said. Japan's Defense Ministry said it was aware of the launch but unable to confirm the flight of any ballistic missile. The AP [3/15/2022 9:22 PM, Hyeong-Jin Kim, Kim Tong-Hyung, 2164K] reports it wasn't immediately clear what North Korea launched on Wednesday morning or at what stage it had an apparent failure. But the launch, the 10th of its kind this year, shows North Korea is determined to press ahead on its push to modernize its weapons arsenal and pressure its rivals into making concessions amid dormant denuclearization talks. Experts say past failures still have moved North Korea closer to its goal of acquiring a viable nuclear arsenal that could threaten the American homeland. Of eight "Musudan" intermediate-range missiles tests in 2016, only one of those launches was seen by outside analysts as successful, which led to debates of whether North Korea's path toward ICBMs had been cut off.

{End of Report} RETURN TO TOP

Message

From: (b) (6)
Sent: 9/26/2021 5:14:41 PM
To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Subject: FW: DHS Rights Violations in Del Rio, Texas
Attachments: CRCL Complaint on Del Rio.pdf

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

FYI - Just wanted to be sure you saw this complaint and related press.

Best,

(b) (6)

<https://theorio.com/2021/09/25/biden-complaint-black-immigration-groups-haitian-migrants/>

(b) (6)

*Senior Immigration Counselor
Office of the Secretary
Department of Homeland Security*

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Sunday, September 26, 2021 9:56 AM
To: (b) (6)
Subject: FW: DHS Rights Violations in Del Rio, Texas

Hi (b) (6) here is the complaint and we are working on setting up a meeting for next week. Personal contacts are also reaching out to me from the groups and I am trying to set it up for tomorrow afternoon.

We also are processing the complaint per our usual protocol. This is one of various complaints we have received on these matters. The OIG has the right of first refusal. We have two opened that the OIG has declined and two more that we have sent to the OIG and as far as I know we have not heard back yet on those two. We also sent staff to Del Rio last week.

Please let me know if you need any further information.

Best, (b) (6)

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Friday, September 24, 2021 1:17 PM
To: CRCLCompliance <CRCLCompliance@HQ.DHS.GOV>
Cc: (b) (6)
Subject: DHS Rights Violations in Del Rio, Texas

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of DHS. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you recognize and/or trust the sender. Contact your component SOC with questions or concerns.

Dear Officer (b) (6)

We are writing to file the attached formal complaint about operations of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the conduct of DHS's officers and agents in and around Del Rio, Texas, on behalf of the following organizations.

We would appreciate acknowledgement of receipt and an opportunity to discuss with your staff at the earliest opportunity.

Thank you,

Haitian Bridge Alliance
The UndocuBlack Network
Black Alliance for Just Immigration (BAJI)
African Communities Together

Al Otro Lado
Aldea - The People's Justice Center
American Immigration Lawyers Association
Americans for Immigrant Justice
Amnesty International USA
Asylum Seeker Advocacy Project (ASAP)
ASISTA
Bellevue Program for Survivors of Torture
Black LGBTQIA+ Migrant Project (BLMP)
Bridges Faith Initiative
CASA
Center for Gender & Refugee Studies
Columbia Law School Immigrants' Rights Clinic
Diocesan Migrant & Refugee Services
Florence Immigrant & Refugee Rights Project
Global Justice Clinic, Washington Square Legal Services
Harvard Immigration and Refugee Clinical Program
HIAS
Human Rights First
Human Rights Watch
Immigrant Defenders Law Center
Institute for Justice and Democracy in Haiti
International Mayan League
International Refugee Assistance Project (IRAP)
Justice Action Center
Latin American Working Group (LAWG)
Mississippi Center for Justice
National Immigrant Justice Center
National Immigration Law Center
National Immigration Project (NIPNLG)
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice
Oasis Legal Services
Refugee And Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services (RAICES)
Revolve Impact
RFK Human Rights

Tahirih Justice Center
The Advocates for Human Rights
Transgender Law Center
U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants
Witness at the Border
Women's Refugee Commission

Message

From: (b) (6)
Sent: 9/21/2021 9:36:36 PM
To: MIRANDA, LUIS A (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Subject: RE: VP comment

Got it. Looking now. I think an email first would be best. Then we can do the video.

WH is asking for any updates on the investigation:

- Length of time investigation will take (weeks? A month?)
- Any interim actions taken (anything we can say about agents being assigned other duties)

They would like this info tonight.

S1 will do MSNBC's Joy Reid to try to calm things down.

Thanks much!

From: MIRANDA, LUIS A (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 4:54 PM
To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Subject: RE: VP comment

Attached is the text. It could be just an email to personnel, or we can replace the video, or we can do as both the email and the video. I changed it to match your edits in the prior script.

From: (b) (6)
Sent: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 4:42 PM
To: MIRANDA, LUIS A (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Subject: RE: VP comment

Sounds good! Can we clear the email before it goes?

Slight edits to the script attached.

From: MIRANDA, LUIS A (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 4:28 PM
To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Subject: RE: VP comment

I like that idea. What I got from BP as one of the two video scripts we discussed (see attached) makes me worry that it seems like he's ignoring it, or glossing it over. I don't want to put B1 in a bad position, but they're wanting to obviously send a message of support broadly. The highlights are what I added. I think I'd feel better if we merged it, or timed it to have the accountability piece go first.

From: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)
Sent: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 4:21 PM
To: MIRANDA, LUIS A (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Subject: RE: VP comment

Should we have B1 send something like this out in an employee email? Would be good to have a stronger statement from him on this incident, but also to thank BP for their work & know they are under tough situation.

From: MIRANDA, LUIS A (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Sent: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 2:28 PM

To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Subject: RE: VP comment

There's a fuller public affairs guidance working its way through to include more on how we use horse patrol units and why. (see attached) The key portions of that are as follows, though I don't have confirmation that signage is up on the campsite, just at processing facilities, nor that it's culturally sensitive/available in multiple languages:

Regarding the incident that occurred between U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) horse patrol units and migrants seeking to enter the United States in Del Rio, Texas, CBP is conducting an internal investigation and is cooperating with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Office of the Inspector General. CBP stresses honor and integrity in every aspect of our mission and expects our officers and agents to adhere to the oath they take to uphold the laws of this country. We will continue to prioritize processing migrants in a safe, orderly, and humane way.

Our agents have overwhelmingly done the best they can under very difficult circumstances, but that does not mean we allow misconduct or mistreatment of migrants to occur and are taking this incident seriously.

Operational guidance has been provided to horse patrol units to keep order, as well as to look for any migrants that are in need or medical distress. Any abuse or mistreatment of a migrant is unacceptable. It is against CBP's policy, training and our core values.

Background

The operational guidance provided to horse patrol units includes:

- A strong reminder that any verbal or physical abuse of migrants is not tolerated, regardless of whether migrants are in CBP custody or not;
- To patrol along the river, identify migrants in medical distress or vulnerable populations.
- To guide migrants to location where we have food, water, shelter, and medical services.
- As needed, to request transport or assistance.
- The long reins used to maintain control and maneuver the horses are never to be used as whips or lariats;
- OPR now has a 24/7 presence in Del Rio, Texas to respond to any reported incidents; and
- In all processing facilities, [including throughout the camp at DelRio] CBP has posted [culturally sensitive signage] [in multiple languages] advising

migrants of their rights and how to report any allegations of mistreatment, consistent with language needs and .

If asked.

The Horse Patrol Units identified as part of the incident that is being investigated have returned to their duty station and are no longer working in Del Rio.

From: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Sent: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 2:09 PM

To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Subject: RE: VP comment

(b) (6)

Here's an update on this:

The horse patrol unit from Carrizo station has been returned to Carrizo and is no longer working in Del Rio. Specific leadership messaging to horse patrol units continuing to work in Del Rio has been, "patrol along the river for migrants in medical distress or vulnerable populations. Guide them to location where we have food, water, shelter, and medical services. As needed, request transport or assistance."

Thank you

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

--

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Advisor to the Chief of Staff

U.S. Customs and Border Protection

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

From: (b) (6)

Sent: Tuesday, September 21, 2021 1:35 PM

To: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

MIRANDA, LUIS A

(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

Subject: VP comment

Do you have updated guidance on what you're providing to agents?



Courtney Subramanian

@cmsub

...

@VP told reporters she's "deeply troubled" by images of border patrol agents on horseback trying to rein in Haitian migrants at the southern border. Says she'll talk to @SecMayorkas about it today.

1:03 PM · Sep 21, 2021 · TweetDeck

(b) (6)

Assistant Secretary
Office of Public Affairs

Message

From: DHS Daily (b) (7)(E)
Sent: 9/26/2021 11:48:41 AM
To: noreply@techmis.com
Subject: DHS Morning Briefing (9-26-21)
Attachments: DHS Morning Briefing (9-26-21).pdf

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of DHS. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you recognize and/or trust the sender. If you feel this is a suspicious-looking email, please report by using the Report Phish button option.



DHS MORNING BRIEFING

Prepared for the Office of Public Affairs (OPA)
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
By TechMIS
www.TechMIS.com

[Mobile User Copy](#)

Editorial Note: The DHS Daily Briefing is a collection of news articles related to Department's mission. The inclusion of particular stories is not intended to reflect their importance, nor is it intended to endorse the political viewpoints or affiliations included in news coverage.

TO: Homeland Security Secretary & Staff
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Top News

Biden administration has removed just 2K of 30,000 migrants who surged border in Del Rio

FOX News [9/25/2021 4:06 PM, Adam Shaw, 9251K] reports the Biden administration has removed just 2,000 of the more than 30,000 migrants who surged to the border in Del Rio in September, Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas said Friday. Scenes of approximately 15,000 migrants camped under the Del Rio bridge drew national and international headlines, as well as outrage from lawmakers on both sides of the aisle. Mayorkas on Friday announced from the White House podium that "there are no longer any migrants in the camp underneath the Del Rio International Bridge." He told reporters nearly 30,000 migrants had surged to the border since Sept. 9, and that approximately 12,400 had been allowed to have their cases heard by an immigration judge "to make a determination on whether they will be removed or permitted to remain in the United States." These migrants were released into the United States with either a notice to appear in court or a notice to check into an Immigration and Customs

Enforcement (ICE) office. Mayorkas said an estimated 8,000 migrants "have decided to return to Mexico voluntarily" and just over 5,000 are being processed by DHS to determine whether they will be expelled or placed in immigration proceedings in the U.S. Mayorkas said 2,000 of the 30,000 who attempted to enter the U.S. this month were removed by the U.S. aboard 17 flights.

[TX] 14 Mexican soldiers crossed into US; 1 had marijuana

The [AP](#) [9/25/2021 7:31 PM, Staff, 302K] reports fourteen Mexican army soldiers were briefly detained and then returned to Mexico after they crossed into the U.S. at a border bridge in El Paso, Texas. U.S. Customs and Border Protection said in a statement that two Mexican military vehicles crossed the bridge that links El Paso to Ciudad Juarez, Mexico in the early hours of Saturday. CBP said the soldiers, their weapons and equipment "were secured for safety and processing," and noted the soldiers said "they did not realize they had entered the U.S." One of the Mexican soldiers "was assessed a civil penalty after CBP officers discovered a personal use amount of marijuana in his possession," according to CPB. All 14 soldiers, their equipment and vehicles were returned to Mexico a few hours later after Mexican army officers came for them. [Reuters](#) [9/25/2021 5:31 PM, Staff, 5304K] reports the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) said. "Just after midnight today CBP officers working at the Bridge of the America's international crossing in El Paso noted two Mexican military vehicles crossing the boundary and entering the U.S.," the CBP told Reuters in an emailed statement. Thirteen of the 14 Mexican soldiers were processed without incident, but one soldier was assessed a civil penalty after CBP officers discovered a personal use amount of marijuana in his possession. All 14 soldiers, their equipment and vehicles were returned to Mexico before 5 a.m, said the CBP. Mexico's Defense Ministry did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Reported similarly:

[Univision](#) [9/25/2021 7:06 PM, Isaias Alvarado, 366K]

[TX] Acting CBP chief 'shocked' by images of Border Patrol on horses, as administration doubles down

[FOX News](#) [9/25/2021 4:18 PM, Adam Shaw and Peter Hasson, 9251K] reports the acting Commissioner of Customs and Border Protection (CBP) told staff in an email Friday that he is "shocked" by images that show Border Patrol agents on horseback blocked Haitian migrants in Del Rio – just hours after President Biden repeated a false claim that the images show migrants being "whipped" and promised to make them "pay." "Along with many of you, I was shocked by the images from Del Rio of Horse Patrol Units that have dominated the media in recent days," acting Commissioner Troy Miller said in the email. "What those images appear to portray is terrible and is not who we are." Initial claims that agents were using "whips" were debunked by officials and agents, who noted the migrants were using long reins to control the horse, and were twirling their reins to move the horse forward. Since then, additional video has emerged which also fails to show agents using whips or migrants being whipped. Meanwhile, the photographer who took the initial images that sparked the "whips" claim said: "I've never seen them whip anyone." But Democrats and activists promoted the narrative, with DHS Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas claiming that the images "painfully conjured up the worst elements of our nation's ongoing battle against systemic racism." Mayorkas also claimed that his initial comments on Monday, in which he appeared to back agents alongside Border Patrol Chief Raul Ortiz, were made before he actually saw the pictures. [CBS News](#) [9/25/2021 7:10 AM, Staff, 2612K] reports President Biden promised there would be consequences as an investigation is launched into Border Patrol agents' treatment of Haitian migrants at the U.S.-Mexico border. This comes as the huge encampment by a bridge in Del Rio, Texas, with nearly 15,000 migrants less than two weeks ago, is now gone. Manuel Bojorquez reports. [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

[NM] Fort Bliss: Female military service member assaulted by Afghan evacuees, FBI investigating
[USA Today](#) [9/25/2021 10:11 AM, Aaron Martinez, El Paso Times, 6282K] reports a female U.S. military service member was assaulted by male evacuees at the Doña Ana County Range Complex where Afghan refugees are being housed, Fort Bliss officials said. The woman, whose name and age were not released,

was assaulted Sept. 19 by a “small group of male evacuees” at the complex in New Mexico, Fort Bliss officials said. The incident is being investigated by the FBI. “We take the allegation seriously and appropriately referred the matter to the Federal Bureau of Investigation,” Fort Bliss officials said in an emailed statement. “The safety and well-being of our service members, as well as all of those on our installations, is paramount.” No details on the assault or the suspects have been released. The victim is among 1,000 service members who are part of Operation Allies Welcome. The U.S. operation is to “support vulnerable Afghans, including those who worked alongside us in Afghanistan for the past two decades, as they safely resettle in the United States,” according to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. The number of refugees at the Doña Ana County Range Complex was not immediately available. Thousands of refugees have come to the U.S. after fleeing Afghanistan as the U.S. ended its 20-year presence there in late August. Officials said additional security and safety measures are being put into place at the complex. “Task Force-Bliss is also implementing additional security measures to include increased health and safety patrols, additional lighting, and enforcement of the buddy system at the Doña Ana Complex,” officials said. “We will cooperate fully with the FBI and will continue to ensure the service member reporting this assault is fully supported.”

[Haiti] Haiti prime minister warns inequality will cause migration to continue

The Hill [9/25/2021 7:17 PM, Celine Castronuovo, 1776K] reports Haitian Prime Minister Ariel Henry warned the international community Saturday that global migration will continue as long as there is inequality. In a video address to the United Nations General Assembly, Henry, who took office in July shortly after Haitian President Jovenel Moïse’s assassination, argued that “human beings, fathers and mothers who have children, are always going to flee poverty and conflict,” according to The Associated Press. “We do not wish to challenge the right of a sovereign state to control the entry borders into its territory, or to send back to the country of origin those who enter a country illegally,” he said, but noted that world leaders should expect overwhelming levels of migration to persist. “Migration will continue as long as the planet has both wealthy areas, whilst most of the world’s population lives in poverty, even extreme poverty, without any prospects of a better life,” he argued, the AP reported. AP [9/25/2021 12:05 PM, Jennifer Peltz] reports the beleaguered island country’s embattled prime minister pointedly said that inequalities and conflict drive migration, but he stopped short of directly criticizing Washington over the issue. “We do not wish to challenge the right of a sovereign state to control the entry borders into its territory, or to send back to the country of origin those who enter a country illegally,” Prime Minister Ariel Henry said in a video speech to the U.N. General Assembly’s annual meeting of world leaders. But “human beings, fathers and mothers who have children, are always going to flee poverty and conflict,” he added. “Migration will continue as long as the planet has both wealthy areas, whilst most of the world’s population lives in poverty, even extreme poverty, without any prospects of a better life.” A massive migrant camp — largely made up of Haitians, many of whom had been in Mexico or other Latin American countries for years — sprouted in the town of Del Rio, Texas, peaking last week at over 14,000 people hoping to gain entry to the U.S. The camp has now been cleared. Some people have been deported; about 12,400 migrants have been allowed into the U.S., at least temporarily, to pursue their claims to stay, Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas said.

Reported similarly:

CNN [9/25/2021 3:50 PM, Caitlin Hu, 4876K]

Citizenship and Immigration Services

Who is David Neal, new director of the Immigration Court, and how he will face the challenge of processing 1.4 million pending cases

Univision [9/25/2021 1:05 PM, Jorge Cancino, 366K] reports one of the main challenges for the new director of the Immigration Court (EOIR), David L. Neal, will be to reduce the gigantic backlog experienced by the courts with more than 1.4 million pending cases. On Friday, Attorney General Merrick Garland announced the appointment of Neal, who will also be responsible for overseeing the chairmanship of the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA), the Chief Immigration Judge, the Chief Immigration Officer,

Administrative Hearings and all agency staff. In announcing Neal's appointment, Garland said that "the Department of Justice's commitment to a fair and efficient immigration court system, governed by due process and the rule of law, is exemplified in recent policy changes and in our search for important additional resources."

House-passed measure includes \$6.3 billion for Afghan refugee resettlement, path to green cards

FOX News [9/25/2021 7:35 PM, Adam Shaw, 9251K] reports the Democratic-controlled House this week passed a continuing resolution that included language requested by the White House that would fund the resettlement effort of tens of thousands of Afghans to the tune of \$6.3 billion, while also giving a timetable for them to be eligible for green cards. The continuing resolution is designed to keep the government funded until Dec. 3 and until lawmakers can pass a budget for fiscal year 2022. It passed the House on a 220-211 vote. The Senate is expected to vote as early as Monday. It includes \$28.6 billion for disaster relief, an increase of the debt limit, and \$6.3 billion for the Afghan evacuation process -- which the administration has said expects to see 95,000 refugees brought to the U.S. over the next year. That money is designated for housing evacuees at facilities, screening, humanitarian assistance and resettlement. But Republicans had sounded the alarm about parts of the White House proposal to allow all refugees who come in from Afghanistan and are paroled into the U.S. to apply for a green card after a year of having entered the U.S. if they have entered any time between July 2021 and the end of September 2022. The House bill gives the Department of Homeland Security 150 days to make a decision on an asylum application submitted by an Afghan evacuee. If asylum is granted, then the asylee can apply for a green card after a year.

Customs and Border Protection

[NJ] More than 190 fugitives arrested in New Jersey operation dubbed 'Clean Sweep'

CNN [9/25/2021 6:07 AM, Alaa Elassar, 4876K] reports a multi-agency law enforcement operation in New Jersey resulted in the arrest of more than 190 fugitives, according to the US Marshals Service. Operation "Clean Sweep" focused on capturing some of the state's "most violent offenders," including gang members, sex offenders, and violent criminals, US Marshals said in a news release on Wednesday. "By employing a strategically focused approach to policing, our state, county, local, and federal, partners were able to locate and apprehend some of the most dangerous fugitives in the state of New Jersey," US Marshal Juan Mattos Jr. said in the release. "By removing these violent offenders from the streets, the communities they preyed upon can immediately feel more secure." The US Marshals Service worked with the District of New Jersey and the New York/New Jersey Regional Fugitive Task Force to conduct the sweep, which they describe in the release as a "high-impact fugitive apprehension initiative." Among those arrested were 72 gang members, 13 suspects wanted for homicide, and 80 suspects wanted for weapons offenses, according to the release. More than 1.4 kilograms of narcotics, \$5,259, and 16 firearms were confiscated, the US Marshals Service said. Other agencies that participated in the operation included the Essex County Prosecutor's Office; Essex County Sheriff's Office; Camden County Sheriff's Office; New Jersey Department of Corrections; New Jersey State Police; Newark Police Department; and Customs and Border Protection Special Response Team.

[TX] U.S. reopening Texas border crossing after clearing out migrant encampment

CBS News [9/25/2021 2:01 PM, Sophie Reardon, Manuel Bojorquez, 2612K] reports a U.S.-Mexico border crossing in Texas is partially reopening on Saturday, U.S. Customs and Border Patrol announced. The Del Rio Port of Entry had been closed for several days as U.S. officials cleared a nearby migrant encampment that had grown to include nearly 15,000 people, many of them Haitian migrants. "Following efforts this week by U.S. Border Patrol, Office of Field Operations and DHS partners to expedite processing of the migrant flow to manageable levels and with public safety restored, CBP reopened trade and travel operations at Del Rio Port of Entry," Saturday's statement from CBP said. The border will reopen to passenger and pedestrian traffic Saturday afternoon, followed by commercial cargo traffic on Monday morning, CBP said. On Friday, Del Rio Mayor Bruno Lozano said, "As of right now, there are zero

persons under the bridge." At least 2,000 were deported and 5,000 are still being processed and could be expelled, according to Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas. The rest, officials said, were either released into the U.S. under the asylum process or returned to Mexico voluntarily. Mayorkas has rejected calls to stop the deportations. "We have in fact determined, despite the tragic and devastating earthquake, that Haiti is in fact capable of receiving individuals," he said Friday.

Reported similarly:

[CBS News](#) [9/25/2021 12:12 PM, Staff, 2612K]

[TX] Portion of Texas border where thousands of migrants crossed to reopen

[The Hill](#) [9/25/2021 2:35 PM, Jordan Williams, 1776K] reports the portion of the United States' border with Mexico in Texas where thousands of Haitian migrants crossed will be reopened for trade and travel operations Saturday afternoon. U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) said in a statement that it was able to reopen operations at the Del Rio Port of Entry following efforts to "expedite processing of the migrant flow to manageable levels." CBP said travel operations will resume at the Del Rio Port of Entry for passenger traffic at 4 p.m. on Saturday. Cargo operations will begin at 8 a.m. on Monday. The port of entry was closed last week after an estimated 15,000 Haitian migrants camped out under a bridge in Del Rio. Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas said Friday that there were no longer any migrants under the bridge. Mayorkas said that about 2,000 Haitians had been deported through repatriation flights under Title 42, the controversial policy allowing for expulsions for public health reasons. Roughly 8,000 voluntarily returned to Mexico, and another 5,000 are in CBP custody.

Reported similarly:

[CNN](#) [9/25/2021 3:37 PM, Rosa Flores, Conor Powell and Ray Sanchez, 4876K]

[Mexico] Haitians heading to US change plans, Haitian migrants to be offered residency, permits by Mexico

The [AP](#) [9/25/2021 9:38 AM, Marcos Martínez Chacón] reports other Haitians already in Ciudad Acuña and Del Rio, Texas were telling them the U.S. was flying people back to Haiti. That Sunday, more than 320 people were sent Port-au-Prince on three flights. As U.S. authorities moved out the last of the more than 14,000 migrants gathered beside a border bridge in Del Rio, thousands of other Haitians who were en route to the border from South America were realizing their time window to make it to the United States had closed. So now, as they have done before, they are looking to legalize their status in the countries they find themselves in, get work and wait until the next opportunity to once again head north. So far this year, about 19,000 Haitian migrants have requested asylum in Mexico. The agency's director, Andrés Ramírez said this week via Twitter that the number of Haitian applications through August this year was 56% above all those received from 2013 to 2020. He said hundreds had arrived this week to all of the agency's offices across Mexico. Mexico has been sending migrants from Ciudad Acuña to the southern city of Tapachula near the Guatemala border this week. The government has maintained what is essentially a containment policy that seeks to keep asylum seekers in southern Mexico and away from the U.S. border. But it is Mexico's poorest region, there is little work and migrants have grown tired of waiting there. [USA Today](#) [9/25/2021 3:11 PM, Natalia E. Contreras and Omar Ornelas, 6282K] reports Acuña Deputy Mayor Felipe Basulto Corona made an offer to Haitian migrants huddled in a makeshift camp in a park near the Rio Grande. "The Mexican government is going to offer the opportunity to those who want to stay in Mexico to proceed with the legal residency and work permit procedures here," he told them Friday, if they vacate the park and move to a rented private building in Acuña being used by Mexican immigration authorities. "You will not be imprisoned, you will not be detained. You are free, you are home," Basulto Corona told them. Eventually, about 50 Haitian migrants — men, women and children — at Braulio Fernández Aguirre Park agreed to move to the building.

Transportation Security Administration

[FL] Record number of passengers with weapons warned at Florida airports

Telemundo [9/25/2021 4:19 PM, Staff, 14K] reports Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport broke a record for passengers detected with weapons at checkpoints so far this year, with more than a hundred, while the total number of Florida air terminals exceeded, with 456 the total figures 2020. "With more than three months to go until 2021, the stage is set for a regrettable and dangerous record, a record that no airport wants to set," said Sari Koshetz, spokeswoman for the Transportation Security Administration, when releasing the figures. Across the "statewide" of Florida TSA officials have seen an increase in the number of passengers carrying weapons to airport checkpoints. "This is a worrying trend that threatens the safety of other passengers and our officers," he added. He explained that it also poses the risk of an accidental discharge with "tragic results" considering the way in which some travelers throw their suitcases on the X-ray belt for detection. 103 weapons have been detected at TSA checkpoints in Fort Lauderdale, more than the record of 100 in 2019. At Orlando International Airport it reached 80, Tampa 71 and Miami 51 so far of the year. This Thursday alone, TSA officers detected three weapons in Fort Lauderdale, all loaded, and three in Miami, two of them loaded.

Federal Emergency Management Agency

Sam intensifies to a Category 4 Hurricane - U.S. NHC

Reuters [9/25/2021 4:52 PM, Bhargav Acharya, 5304K] reports Hurricane Sam has intensified to a category 4 hurricane, with some additional strengthening expected through Saturday night, the U.S. National Hurricane Center (NHC) said. Sam is located about 1,025 miles (1,655 km) east-southeast of the northern Leeward Islands, packing maximum sustained winds of 140 miles per hour (220 km/h), the Miami-based weather forecaster said.

Reported similarly:

CBS News [9/25/2021 5:32 PM, Tori B. Powell, 2612K]

[NH] New Hampshire delegation backs disaster declaration request

The AP [9/25/2021 8:43 AM, Staff] reports New Hampshire's Democratic Congressional delegation is backing the governor's request for federal disaster declarations following storms and flooding in July and August. Republican Gov. Chris Sununu asked the Federal Emergency Management Agency for help after mid-July storms caused at least \$2.3 million worth of damage in Cheshire County and a second round of storms July 29-Aug. 2 caused more than \$3.2 million worth of damage. U.S. Sens. Jeanne Shaheen and Maggie Hassan and U.S. Reps. Annie Kuster and Chris Pappas followed up this week, sending their own letter in support of the declarations.

[LA] Caskets are still scattered around a Louisiana community as residents struggle to recover from Hurricane Ida

CNN [9/25/2021 5:09 AM, David Williams, 4876K] reports Hurricane Ida devastated Ironton, Louisiana, as it made its deadly march inland, with powerful flood waters that knocked homes off their foundations, swamped buildings with several feet of water and swept caskets out of their tombs, scattering them around the community. Some of those caskets are still sitting there almost four weeks after the category 4 storm, as residents work to salvage anything they can from their homes and prepare for the grueling process of rebuilding. Members of the Louisiana Cemetery Response Task Force and its contractors were in Ironton on Tuesday to see what is needed to recover the caskets and get them to a staging area where they can be identified before they are returned to their proper resting places. Parish debris crews have begun picking up materials placed on the side of the road as residents clean out their homes. Additionally, parish president Kirk Lepine has asked FEMA for authorization to remove debris from private property, according to a post on the Plaquemines Parish Government Facebook page. The National Guard has been working to clear the roads in Ironton, but that effort has been slow because there's still standing water, the post said. FEMA is also encouraging residents to apply for housing and other disaster assistance.

[MS] Mississippi gets ready to repair highway collapse from Ida

The [AP](#) [9/25/2021 10:58 AM, Staff] reports Mississippi will soon start rebuilding a section of highway that collapsed during torrential rainfall brought by Hurricane Ida, the head of the state Department of Transportation says. Two people were killed and nine were injured Aug. 30 as seven vehicles plunged, one after another, into a deep pit that opened up on the dark, rural stretch of Mississippi Highway 26 near Lucedale. One of the injured people died in a hospital Sept. 11. Department of Transportation Director Brad White told legislative budget writers Friday that the department has completed a geotechnical review and will choose a company early next month to repair the damage for about \$1.2 million. He said the highway could reopen in about 45 days. White said the area had already received more than double its average annual rainfall before the hurricane, and then Ida dumped more than 12 inches (30.5 centimeters) of rain in less than one day. The stretch of highway is on a hillside, and White said the deluge blew out a pipe that ran under the roadbed.

[ID] Idaho morgues are running out of space for bodies as covid-19 deaths mount

The [Washington Post](#) [9/25/2021 1:27 PM, Derek Hawkins, 11773K] reports as covid-19 deaths reach record highs in the state of 1.8 million, hard-hit areas are struggling to keep pace with the surge in victims. Some hospitals, funeral homes and coroners say they've been pushed to the limit. Some morticians have even started embalming bodies that wouldn't normally need the procedure so they don't have to refrigerate them, the Idaho Statesman reported. "Idaho is having its viral tsunami at the moment," said Robert Kim-Farley, a infectious-disease expert at UCLA Fielding School of Public Health. "I anticipate that we'll see even more deaths coming in the near future because of the fact that cases are still increasing. It's going to get worse before it gets better." Statewide, hospitalizations have shot upward since early summer, leading officials to authorize rationing of medical care for the first time in Idaho's history. Intensive care unit admissions are at their highest level, exceeding the worst of the winter wave, data from the health department shows. Unvaccinated patients account for the vast majority of the state's latest deaths, which have risen sharply since the beginning of September, according to tracking by The Washington Post. Idaho's rolling average for daily deaths peaked at 23 this month — a high number for the sparsely populated state, where just 41 hospitals have emergency rooms, according to the Idaho Hospital Association. The state is logging 68 new daily cases per 100,000 residents, the sixth-most in the country, The Post's analysis shows. To combat the virus spread, Idaho Gov. Brad Little, a Republican, recently mobilized the National Guard to help overwhelmed hospitals. The state has also expanded access to monoclonal antibody treatment and sent money to providers to help alleviate staffing shortages. But Little has resisted issuing a statewide mask mandate — his lieutenant and political rival, Janice McGeachin has tried to ban them entirely — and has threatened legal action against the Biden administration's vaccine requirements for businesses, even while describing the shots as "our ticket out of the pandemic." During previous spikes in deaths, some states and the District of Columbia received trailers from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to help hold the dead. So far, Idaho hasn't had to request them, according to Niki Forbing-Orr, a spokeswoman for the health department. "Idaho has been supporting the sharing of existing mortuary capacity throughout the pandemic and would submit a request to FEMA after all resources in the state have been exhausted," she said in an email. "We are monitoring the situation very closely."

[CA] Crews scramble to make progress against California wildfires

The [Los Angeles Times](#) [9/25/2021 5:57 PM, Alex Wigglesworth, 3710K] reports crews were hoping a shift in the weather would help them get the upper hand against several wildfires burning in Northern California and the southern Sierra. But forecasters warned Saturday the window of opportunity could be short-lived, as a cooling trend was expected to be followed by warmer temperatures and dry winds. The Fawn fire north of Redding had burned 7,544 acres and was 10% contained as of Saturday morning. At least 100 structures were believed to have been destroyed based on a survey by fire crews, but damage assessment teams were out Saturday conducting a more detailed review, said Scott Ross, public information officer with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. The fire started Wednesday and quickly spread amid gusty winds, forcing evacuations, Ross said. Alexandra Souverneva, 30, of Palo Alto, was charged with arson for allegedly sparking the fire. Authorities did not disclose a

potential motive but said she may be linked to other fires in the county and state. Conditions had already started to cool off, helping to boost relative humidity levels. The trend was expected to continue, with temperatures at least 10 degrees below average by Tuesday, said Sierra Littlefield, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Sacramento.

[CA] Fawn Fire destroys 100 buildings, winds expected to shift; California woman charged with arson in spreading Fawn Fire

SFGate [9/25/2021 11:19 AM, Amy Graff, 2701K] reports a weekend forecast with cooler temperatures and shifting winds is expected to help firefighters contain a Northern California wildfire 225 miles north of San Francisco that has destroyed 100 structures as it tears through a parched, drought-stricken landscape. The Fawn Fire, first reported Wednesday near the community of Mountain Gate just north of Redding, was 7,544 acres Saturday morning with 10% containment, Cal Fire said. Authorities arrested a 30-year-old Palo Alto woman Thursday on suspicion of starting the blaze. Alexandra Souverneva was charged Friday with felony arson to wildland with an enhancement due to the declared state of emergency California is under, Shasta County District Attorney Stephanie Bridgett said at a Friday press conference. Some 5,200 people have been evacuated due to the blaze, the California Office of Emergency Services reported. The number of destroyed structures is likely to go up as damage inspection teams hit the ground Saturday to conduct assessments. Cal Fire said 9,000 structures continue to be threatened by the fire. Photos and video showed some homes blazing but the number of residences lost was not known. FOX News [9/25/2021 1:15 PM, Julia Musto, 9251K] reports a California woman has been arrested by authorities on suspicion of starting the state's 6,820-acre Fawn Fire. Speaking to reporters on Friday, Shasta County District Attorney Stephanie A. Bridgett said that 30-year-old Alexandra Souverneva of Palo Alto, Calif. had been found with an operable lighter in her pocket. "We received the [CAL FIRE] report yesterday and today we announce that we have filed felony arson charges against her not only for arson but also for committing an arson during a state of emergency. The maximum penalty that she currently faces is nine years in state prison," she said. The investigation into the incident is still underway, though Bridgett noted that additional charges are likely and that Souverneva may be linked to other fires in the county and other fires and charges statewide. "Souverneva was then interviewed by Cal Fire law enforcement officers and information was gathered leading officers to believe Souverneva is responsible for causing the fire. She was subsequently arrested then transported and booked into the Shasta County Jail," Cal Fire wrote then. "Cal Fire will be submitting its case to the Shasta County District Attorney's Office recommending Souverneva be charged with "arson to wildland." This charge receives an enhancement due to the declared "state of emergency" California is currently in due to wildfire danger."

Reported similarly:

CBS News [9/25/2021 12:28 PM, Staff, 2612K]

[CA] PG&E charged with manslaughter for California fire

Reuters [9/25/2021 1:04 PM, Staff, 5304K] reports prosecutors in Northern California on Friday charged power utility Pacific Gas & Electric with four counts of manslaughter and other felonies, alleging it failed to cut down a sickly tree that fell onto power lines and sparked a deadly wildfire. Fred Katayama reports. [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

Secret Service

Lawyers to urge no restrictions for Reagan shooter Hinckley

The AP [9/25/2021 8:52 AM, Ben Finley, Neutral, Secondary] reports Lawyers for John Hinckley Jr., the man who tried to assassinate President Ronald Reagan, are scheduled to argue in court Monday that the 66-year-old should be freed from restrictions placed on him after he moved out of a Washington hospital in 2016. Since Hinckley's move to Williamsburg, Virginia, a federal judge has made him live under various conditions that dictate much of his life. For instance, doctors and therapists must oversee his psychiatric medication and decide how often he attends individual and group therapy sessions. Hinckley's attorney,

Barry Levine, has said that Hinckley should get what's called "unconditional release" because he no longer poses a threat. In a May court filing, the U.S. government had said it opposed ending the restrictions. It also retained an expert to examine Hinckley and determine "whether or not he would pose a danger to himself or others if unconditionally released." Findings from such an examination have not been filed in court. But a 2020 "violence risk assessment" conducted on behalf of Washington's Department of Behavioral Health said Hinckley would not pose a danger. Timothy McCarthy, a Secret Service agent who was shot during the assassination attempt, told the AP that he doesn't "have a lot of good Christian thoughts" about Hinckley. "But in any case, I hope they're right," McCarthy, 72, said of mental health professionals and the court. "Because the actions of this man could have changed the course of history."

'View' host Ana Navarro tests negative for coronavirus after testing positive before Harris interview

The Hill [9/24/2021 11:10 PM, Jordan Williams, 1776K, Neutral, Secondary] reports "The View" co-host Ana Navarro said Friday evening that she has tested negative for COVID-19 after testing positive earlier in the day ahead of an interview with Vice President Harris. Navarro confirmed on CNN's "Anderson Cooper 360" that she's since taken a rapid antigen test and a PCR test, both of which returned negative results. She said she is waiting for a third test so she can fly home to Miami. Navarro applauded Harris's team, the Secret Service and the team at "The View" for how the situation was handled.

[AL] Moody man to appear in federal court later this month

The Daily Home [9/24/2021 6:05 PM, Staff, 5K, Neutral, Secondary] reports a Moody man is set to appear in court for sentencing later this month after he and a Center Point man pled guilty for participating in a conspiracy to defraud his former employer. According to a news release from the Northern Alabama U.S. Attorney's office, Joshua Daniel Powell, 40, of Moody, a former manager at the Chick-fil-A in Five Points, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit wire fraud in June and is scheduled for a sentencing hearing Oct. 20. U.S. Attorney Prim F. Escalona and U.S. Secret Service Special Agent in Charge Patrick M. Davis announced earlier this week that Larry James Black, Jr., 37, of Center Point, the former director of hospitality at the same location and Powell's co-defendant, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit wire fraud and bank fraud before U.S. District Judge Madeline H. Haikala. Black's sentencing hearing is scheduled for January 20, 2022. The U.S. Secret Service Cyber Fraud Task Force investigated the case. Assistant U.S. Attorney Edward J. Canter prosecuted the case.

Coast Guard

[LA] NTSB: Broadcasting only boat size led to fatal towboat crash

The AP [9/25/2021 9:00 AM, Janet McConnaughey] reports a fatal head-on crash between barges pushed by two towboats in Louisiana was caused by inadequate communication and failure to broadcast their total sizes, the National Transportation Safety Board says. The RC Creppel overturned and sank after the collision with the Cooperative Spirit about 5:30 a.m. on Jan. 26, 2020. Its pilot, captain and one of two crewmen were never found. A second crewman was rescued. The first of two barges pushed by the RC Creppel hit some of the 40 barges pushed by the Cooperative Spirit as they tried to pass each other in a bend of the Mississippi River near Destrehan, said the report released in August. The agency said neither boat's pilot had entered the total dimensions of boat and tow into the boat's automatic identification system, even though earlier NTSB reports have pointed out that it's important to do so. The NTSB said estimated damage to the three vessels and 11 of the barges totaled nearly \$3.8 million. The agency noted that in 2016 it recommended that the Coast Guard, the American Waterways Operators and the Radio Technical Commission for Maritime Services work together to change regulations, procedures, and equipment standards to ensure that automatic information systems broadcast tow size and configuration as well as boat length. "We generally expect the actions we recommend to be completed within 5 Years; however, these safety recommendations are nearly 5 Years old, and we have not received any updates from the Coast Guard regarding them in more than 4 Years," NTSB wrote to the Coast Guard on Aug. 20. The tugboat, towboat and barge industry group described what it's done toward that end a

year ago and the radio commission responded Sept. 7 but the Coast Guard hasn't updated the board since 2017, according to NTSB webpages. The Coast Guard is preparing a response including its actions since 2017, Coast Guard spokesman Kurt Fredrickson said in an email Tuesday.

Terrorism Investigations

Grocery workers have borne the brunt of the pandemic. Now supermarket shootings are on the rise.

The [Washington Post](#) [9/25/2021 8:00 AM, Joanna Slater, Laura Reiley, Caroline Anders and María Paúl, 11773K] reports earlier this week, a gunman opened fire inside a Kroger supermarket outside Memphis, turning the routine task of grocery shopping into a terrifying encounter with gun violence. Such events are no longer exceptional: at least three other deadly shootings have taken place at supermarkets this year, continuing a recent trend. According to data from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, shootings at grocery stores have risen in recent years. Between 2000 and 2020, 78 people were killed in 28 such incidents, FBI data shows. While some of the shootings were at smaller markets or convenience stores in gas stations, major chains such as Walmart and Kroger have experienced multiple shootings at their locations since 2018. Earlier this year, a gunman killed 10 people at a King Soopers outlet, owned by Kroger, in Boulder, Colo. Grocery stores have been a recurrent setting for this kind of violence in part because they are open from early morning until late at night, they cater to a broad demographic range which occasionally results in interpersonal friction, and, even in the pandemic, they have been one of the few retail environments that were consistently open, says William Flynn, co-founder of the Power of Preparedness, a security training company, who formerly worked for the New York Police Department and the Department of Homeland Security. Grocery chains are not eager to discuss publicly the measures they are taking to respond to the threat. Walmart, Publix and Wegmans did not respond to requests for comment. Whole Foods said it had no one immediately ready to speak about the company's emergency preparedness.

[DC] FBI had informant in crowd during Capitol riot: report

[The Hill](#) [9/25/2021 11:58 AM, Jordan Williams, 1776K] reports the FBI had an informant in the crowd during the Jan. 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol, The New York Times reported Saturday, citing confidential records it obtained. The informant's name was not revealed in the records, though he was affiliated with a Midwest chapter of the far-right group the Proud Boys, according to the newspaper. Based on an account of the informant's activities detailed in the records, the informant described meeting up with men from other Proud Boys chapters at 10 a.m. at the Washington Monument and eventually entering the Capitol. The informant has since denied that the Proud Boys intended to use violence on Jan. 6 but rather were consumed by a herd mentality. He has also denied that the group planned to attack the Capitol in interviews, the Times reported. "While the FBI's standard practice is not to discuss its sources and methods, it is important to understand that sources provide valuable information regarding criminal activity and national security matters," the statement said.

National Security News

[Russia] Russia says it's in sync with US, China, Pakistan on Taliban

The [AP](#) [9/25/2021 9:18 PM, Edith M. Lederer, 37K] reports Russia, China, Pakistan and the United States are working together to ensure that Afghanistan's new Taliban rulers keep their promises, especially to form a genuinely representative government and prevent extremism from spreading, Russia's foreign minister said Saturday. Sergey Lavrov said the four countries are in ongoing contact. He said representatives from Russia, China and Pakistan recently traveled to Qatar and then to Afghanistan's capital, Kabul, to engage with both the Taliban and representatives of "secular authorities" — former president Hamid Karzai and Abdullah Abdullah, who headed the ousted government's negotiating council with the Taliban. Lavrov said the interim government announced by the Taliban does not reflect "the whole gamut of Afghan society — ethno-religious and political forces — so we are engaging in contacts.

They are ongoing.” The Taliban have promised an inclusive government, a more moderate form of Islamic rule than when they last ruled the country from 1996 to 2001 including respecting women’s rights, providing stability after 20 years of war, fighting terrorism and extremism and stopping militants from using their territory to launch attacks. But recent moves suggest they may be returning to more repressive policies, particularly toward women and girls.

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