

Message

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# DHS MORNING BRIEFING

Prepared for the Office of Public Affairs (OPA)  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
By TechMIS  
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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: Sunday, March 20, 2022 8:00 AM ET**

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## **Top News**

### **Border Patrol told to consider exempting Ukrainians at southern border from Title 42 restrictions: report**

FOX News [3/19/2022 1:48 PM, Adam Shaw, 10541K] reports Border Patrol agents have reportedly been told to consider exempting Ukrainians encountered at the southern border from Title 42 restrictions that are being used to quickly expel migrants -- the latest immigration measure put in place for Ukrainians amid the ongoing Russian invasion. In a Customs and Border Protection (CBP) memo, reported by CBS News, officials say that "the unjustified Russian war of aggression in Ukraine has created a humanitarian crisis." "CBP is authorized, consistent with the Title 42 Order, on a case-by-case basis based on the totality of the circumstances, including considerations of humanitarian interests, to except Ukrainian nationals at land border ports of entry from Title 42," the memo reportedly says. The guidance issued to agents allows exceptions for Ukrainians who are in possession of valid Ukrainian ID and are not deemed national security or public safety threats. There were 272 encounters with Ukrainians at the border in

February, according to CBP, compared to 19 in Feb. 2021. There have so far been 1,301 encounters since October.

### **Attorneys help Ukrainian immigrants stay in US, bring family members from war-torn home**

FOX News [3/19/2022 12:59 PM, Joe Schoffstall, 10541K] reports a group of attorneys is helping Ukrainian immigrants remain in the U.S. and bring their family members over from the war-torn nation. The Department of Homeland Security announced earlier this month that Ukrainian migrants living in the U.S. as of March 1 would be eligible for temporary protected status, which allows qualified individuals to receive work authorization and protects them from deportation. Nearly 4,000 Ukrainians were facing deportation proceedings at the time of the announcement, CBS News reported. DHS estimated the move could help 75,100 Ukrainian immigrants in the U.S. The group of attorneys is also assisting Ukrainian immigrants bring their family members to the U.S., Curran said. "Some people are still trying to bring family temporarily on tourist visas," she told Fox News. "There are situations of people trying to get family who can't get into the United States with a tourist visa into other countries or into Mexico." Some Ukrainians have fled to Mexico in order to seek asylum at the U.S. border, Curran said. She added that several of the families she is working with are still trying to get family out of Ukraine. Men 60 and under, however, are not allowed to leave the country.

### **Ukrainians only: Racial disparities in U.S. border policies grow more obvious**

The San Diego Union Tribune [3/19/2022 8:00 AM, Kate Morrissey] reports disparities have plagued the U.S. asylum system since its implementation, and for many, the Biden administration's new practice of letting in Ukrainians at the pedestrian entrance while turning away other nationalities fleeing harm is the latest iteration of that trend. Title 42 has left thousands of asylum seekers stranded in Mexican cities along the border, where cartels and other criminal groups have frequently taken advantage of them. Human Rights First has documented at least 9,886 violent attacks on asylum seekers stuck in Mexico because of Title 42, including kidnapping, torture and rape. With public attention high on Russia's invasion of Ukraine and pressure on the Biden administration to support Ukrainians fleeing the violence, that disparity has only grown. "The CDC's Title 42 public health order remains in place with respect to single adults and family units, and the Department of Homeland Security continues to operate in accordance with that order to the greatest extent possible," a DHS spokesperson said. "Consistent with the CDC order, DHS excepts particularly vulnerable individuals, on a case-by-case basis, from Title 42 for humanitarian reasons." A Union-Tribune analysis of Customs and Border Protection data found that while people from certain countries of origin, including India, Turkey, Romania, Ukraine and Russia, who reach U.S. soil are almost never expelled under Title 42, people from Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador are expelled most of the time. Expulsions of certain nationalities have also changed over time, adding to the unpredictable and seemingly arbitrary nature of the policy. DHS recently issued guidance reminding border officials that individualized exceptions to Title 42 "can be applied to Ukrainians," Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas told a small group of reporters on a recent call. He emphasized that there was no categorical exemption for them as a nationality. When asked about the possibility of ending Title 42, Mayorkas told reporters that the decision is up to the CDC.

### **[TX] Texas wildfire kills 1, as officials worry extreme drought could worsen conditions**

The Washington Post [3/19/2022 7:22 PM, Jack Douglas and Jacob Bogage, 12597K] reports all Raquel Robles could do was watch the video on her phone, horrified and helpless, as first smoke, then fire, moved up her driveway and then destroyed the house she and her family had lived in for 13 years. Flames raced through the front yard and caught on to a tree on the edge of her property in this small ranching town in West Central Texas. Then the wind-swept smoke got even thicker, small debris flew by and orange bursts appeared. Robles knew the house, and everything in it, was turning to ash. The Eastland Complex fire — made up of three smaller wild fires in Central Texas — has incinerated more than 45,000 acres of land since sparking Thursday, destroying hundreds of homes and killing a deputy sheriff who was helping evacuate residents. Deputy Sgt. Barbara Fenley, 51, was evacuating homes in Carbon, the Eastland County Sheriff's Office said, when, due to poor visibility and deteriorating conditions, she steered her vehicle off the road and into flames. Texas Gov. Greg Abbott (R) declared a disaster in 11

counties affected by the blaze. Smoke on Friday drifted into skies above Houston, some 300 miles away. Only 15 percent of the fire was contained as of Saturday afternoon, officials said. And conditions could worsen. Large swaths of Texas — from the Dallas and Fort Worth suburbs in the east to Lubbock in the north and Odessa and Midland in the west — are suffering extreme drought conditions. Meteorological officials expect winds from the arid southwest to kick up Sunday and Monday, fueling the fire's spread. [Univision](#) [3/19/2022 7:49 PM, Staff, 514K] reports the fires that consumed more than 45,000 acres, mainly in the towns of Carbon and Ranger, may have been started by a barbecue or grill. This was stated Friday morning by Darrell Fox, Ranger fire chief. High winds Thursday night and Friday morning helped the flames spread and quickly consumed acres of dry grass, according to the Texas Forest Service. The latest official report of acres affected is 45,383, which to give an idea of the magnitude is equivalent to 333 times the Dallas Cowboys stadium. Regarding the material damage, the authorities still do not have a precise estimate, but the last reports said that there were 60 homes consumed by the flames. For this reason, on Friday afternoon, Texas Governor Greg Abbott visited the city of Eastland to visit the affected areas. After his tour, he signed the emergency declaration for 11 North Texas counties, including Eastland, one of the most affected by the fires during the extreme drought in the state. As of Saturday afternoon, Texas Forest Services reported having contained 15 percent of the wildfires in Eastland. [AP](#) [3/19/2022 10:44 AM, Staff] reports fire crews in Texas hope to make progress Saturday against a massive complex of wildfires that have killed one person and burned at least 50 homes, officials said. Winds were expected to diminish on Saturday, raising hopes for the attack on the flames, said Angel Lopez, a spokesman for the task force attacking the wildfire complex near Eastland, about 120 miles west of Dallas. However, gusty winds were expected to return Sunday, again raising the wildfire threat to critical levels in western and central Texas, he said. At a news conference in Eastland, Gov. Greg Abbott said late Friday that at least 50 homes had been destroyed by flames with more possibly to be found. He declared a disaster in the 11 counties hardest hit by wildfires. The Texas A&M Forest Services warned that fires could also affect parts of Oklahoma and Kansas, and Nebraska warned of an extreme fire risk. [Reuters](#) [3/19/2022 11:14 PM, Daniel Trotta, 5304K] reports wildfires wiped out 86 homes and a majority of the small town of Carbon, Texas, the Dallas Morning News reported on Saturday, as four fires west of Dallas burned 54,000 acres (22,000 hectares) and killed a sheriff's deputy who was helping people flee. The four fires, designated as the Eastland Complex, have raged since Wednesday or Thursday in Eastland County, about 120 miles (190 km) west of Dallas, and were about 30% contained, the Texas A&M Fire Service said on Saturday. About 85% of Carbon, with a population of 225, was burned, the newspaper reported, publishing photos of homes that were reduced to piles of rubble.

Reported similarly:

[CNN](#) [3/19/2022 6:53 PM, Paradise Afshar and Christina Maxouris, 5600K]

### **[Ukraine] UN reports nearly 900 civilian deaths in Ukraine, believes true figure 'considerably higher'**

[The Hill](#) [3/19/2022 6:48 PM, Caroline Vakil, 1877K] reports the United Nations reported that close to 900 civilians have died in Ukraine since the start of Russia's invasion, but added that it believes the true death toll is "considerably higher." The U.N.'s human rights office said in an update on Saturday that it had recorded the deaths of 847 civilians in Ukraine since Feb. 24, including 155 men, 119 women, 21 boys and 7 girls. The U.N. office noted that officials did not know the sex of 509 adults and 36 children. The U.N. office also noted that it had recorded the injuries of 1,399 civilians in the country. The "[Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights] believes that the actual figures are considerably higher, especially in Government-controlled territory and especially in recent days, as the receipt of information from some locations where intense hostilities have been going on has been delayed and many reports are still pending corroboration," the U.N. office said in a statement. "This concerns, for example, Mariupol and Volnovakha (Donetsk region), Iziium (Kharkiv region), Sievierodonetsk and Rubizhne (Luhansk region), and Trostianets (Sumy region), where there are allegations of numerous civilian casualties. These figures are being further corroborated and are not included in the above statistics." The development comes as Ukraine last week reported that at least 1,300 Ukrainian soldiers had died, according to The Guardian. An adviser to Ukraine's defense minister said in an interview being aired Sunday that over 1,400 Russian soldiers have

been killed during the conflict. The Russian government has previously reported different casualty figures for its forces than Ukrainians have.

Reported similarly:

[NPR](#) [3/19/2022 5:10 PM, Jaclyn Diaz, 5K]

[CBS News](#) [3/19/2022 4:05 PM, Tori B. Powell, 2818K]

## Immigration and Customs Enforcement

### **[NM] ICE accuses DHS inspector general of staging photograph in critical report on migrant facility**

[FOX News](#) [3/19/2022 12:47 PM, Adam Shaw, 10541K] reports Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) accused the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) inspector general of having staged a photograph which the watchdog used to show allegedly poor conditions at a New Mexico migrant facility -- as it railed against the "integrity" of the report. The report found that the Torrance County Detention Facility in Estancia, New Mexico, which is privately run under contract for ICE, was unsafe and unsanitary -- and it took the unusual step of recommending the migrants there be transferred to different facilities. "We have determined that ICE must take immediate steps to address the critical facility staffing shortages and unsanitary living conditions that have led to health and safety risks for detainees at Torrance," it said. It described an understaffed facility with unsanitary conditions including clogged toilets, non-working sinks. ICE should "immediately relocate" everyone held there, the report said. But the enforcement agency railed against the report, with acting chief of staff Jason Houser writing in a formal response that the agency had "serious concerns about the accuracy and integrity of this report" and whether it meets government standards. "In a number of instances, it appears OIG has falsified or mischaracterized evidence, and has ignored facts presented to it in order to achieve preconceived conclusions," he wrote. ICE accused the OIG inspector of "very disconcerting and unprofessional behavior" including making comments 30 minutes in that there is "no way detainees should be housed here," suggesting a predetermined outcome. The company that runs the facility, CoreCivic, has been similarly critical of the report, including the allegedly staged photo. In an email to Fox News Digital, a spokesperson accused the DHS inspectors of acting "in a deeply unethical manner, including misrepresenting evidence to negatively portray the facility." "This deliberate effort to falsely portray our company and this facility in a negative light is even more disturbing because it was done under the guise of legitimate oversight. We're asking for an immediate review of the conduct of the inspectors," ICE spokesperson Ryan Gustin said. The report comes after DHS ended contracts in May with two detention facilities in Georgia and Massachusetts over conditions. At that time, DHS Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas said in a memo to acting ICE Director Tae Johnson that "[w]e will not tolerate the mistreatment of individuals in civil immigration detention or substandard conditions of detention."

## Citizenship and Immigration Services

### **No entry: Ukrainian Americans struggle to get fleeing relatives into United States**

The [Washington Post](#) [3/19/2022 9:00 PM, Marc Fisher, Maria Sacchetti and Mark Shavin, 12597K] reports every morning and every night, from her home in Falls Church, Va., Nadiia Khomaziuk messages her sister Lidiia in her hideaway in western Ukraine. Is Lidiia still okay? How about her kids, who are 7 and 11? Every day, Khomaziuk scours the Internet, calls U.S. government offices and connects with lawyers and other Ukrainian Americans, in search of a path to bring her family to safety in the United States. To get to there, Khomaziuk's family and other Ukrainians fleeing the Russian invasion would need a visa, but the earliest appointment Khomaziuk could get for an interview for her sister at the U.S. Embassy in Warsaw is in September. Lidiia, who asked that her last name not be published because of security concerns, isn't ready to leave Ukraine. She wants to fight "till the last breath," Khomaziuk said, though "the kids' bags are packed, so they can jump in the car the minute they need to. But then I don't know if I can get them here. Waiting six months for an interview just isn't right." More than 3 million Ukrainians have

fled their ravaged country, and the great majority of them are in the border states of Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Moldova and Hungary, according to the United Nations. As Russian missiles obliterate more cities, refugees crowded into family basements and church social halls across Eastern Europe confront a painful choice to hold out where they are or try to be resettled as refugees, possibly in faraway countries. Over 5,000 miles away, the reality is setting in for Ukrainian Americans eager to bring their relatives to safety that despite government pledges of solidarity, getting into the United States is a lengthy and cumbersome process that remains largely unchanged from before the war, according to those trying to bring relatives into the country and advocates who are helping them.

**Lying on an asylum application would lead to the loss of any other immigration benefit in the US**  
Univision [3/19/2022 11:42 AM, Staff, 514K] reports a recent ruling by the Washington DC appeals court could complicate the situation for those who apply for a process of political asylum. In the event that the applicant lies and the court proves it, they would be up against the wall in future legal proceedings in the country. The ruling has an immediate effect, although it was dated March 11, 2022. According to the decision, if a person lies in their political asylum process, they will not be able to legalize themselves in the country.

### **[NC] Suspended North Carolina attorney sentenced for visa fraud**

The AP [3/19/2022 11:15 AM, Staff] reports a suspended North Carolina attorney has been sentenced to prison for continuing to submit documents for immigration benefits by impersonating another attorney, federal authorities said. Roydera Hackworth, 63, was sentenced Friday to a year and one day in prison and two years of supervised release for fraud in connection with visas, permits and other documents, said U.S. Attorney Michael Easley in a news release. Information from court documents showed that Hackworth was suspended in 2012 by the N.C. State Bar from practicing law. Two years later, she was suspended by the Board of Immigration Appeals from practicing in immigration matters before the Executive Office for Immigration Review, the Department of Homeland Security and the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. In 2019, evidence indicated Hackworth continued to practice, prepare, and submit petitions and applications on behalf of client petitioners and applicants for immigration benefits. A review by authorities showed that as many as 24 clients were represented by Hackworth with no knowledge that she was submitting their immigration petitions and applications under the name of another attorney.

## **Customs and Border Protection**

### **[TX] Border Patrol union fears agents getting railroaded in DHS probe of 'whipping' Haitian migrants**

The Washington Times [3/19/2022 11:04 AM, Stephen Dinan, 350K] reports President Biden was adamant after images of tense confrontations between horse-mounted Border Patrol agents and Haitian migrants emerged in September, vowing that the agents "will pay." One image showed a mounted agent with reins in his hand while a Haitian dodged around the horse, which led some to speculate the migrant was being whipped. A video caught another agent insulting a migrant and calling Haiti "S\*\*t." Vice President Kamala Harris likened the agents' treatment of the Haitians to the oppression of plantation slavery. Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas initially defended the agents but then rushed to Capitol Hill to condemn them and promised lawmakers results from his investigation in "days." That was six months ago. Now, with the investigation dragging on, several agents remain sidelined from field duty and fellow agents fear the department is setting them up as fall guys to fulfill Mr. Biden's demand for someone "to pay."

## **Federal Emergency Management Agency**

**Southeast braces for 'significant tornado event' this week**

CNN [3/20/2022 4:54 AM, Allison Chinchar, 5600K] reports a "substantial severe weather event -- including potential for significant tornadoes -- remains evident over the Lower Mississippi Valley/central Gulf Coast" this week, the Storm Prediction Center said Sunday. A potent low pressure system sweeping across the Intermountain West Sunday will become the catalyst for a multiday severe weather outbreak this week across the Southern Plains and Gulf Coast region. Beginning Monday, more than 20 million people along the Gulf Coast could be affected by damaging winds, very large hail, and tornadoes. By Tuesday the threat for severe weather increases as it shifts further east. The potential for strong tornadoes, hail, and damaging straight line winds exist from Lafayette, Louisiana, east into Huntsville, Alabama. Wednesday, the focus becomes an area between Mobile, Alabama and Columbia, South Carolina.

### **[NY] Undocumented immigrants affected by Ida in NY will have until April 29 to apply for financial assistance**

Telemundo [3/19/2022 9:01 PM, Staff, 11K] reports undocumented victims of the devastating passage of Storm Ida in New York in early September 2021 will have more time to apply for assistance because the grace period was extended, the New York State Office for New Americans announced Saturday on its Twitter account. The grace period for New Yorkers who are ineligible for FEMA assistance to apply for the Excluded New Yorkers One-Way Relief Fund was extended to April 29. To qualify for assistance under the extended assistance program, New Yorkers must not be eligible for FEMA assistance or live with someone who is eligible for federal assistance.

### **[FL] 'We were weightless': Florida woman says she was in her home as a suspected tornado lifted it off the ground**

USA Today [3/19/2022 1:50 PM, Samantha Neely, The News Herald, 7147K] reports on Friday evening, a suspected tornado tore through the historic St. Andrews community in Panama City, leaving a path of damaged homes and vehicles, scattered debris and shaken residents in its wake. The National Weather Service issued tornado watches for parts of Florida, Alabama and Georgia on Friday morning. There were also reports of a possible tornado in Atmore, Alabama, where a Friday storm injured six people and damaged mobile homes, local media reported.

### **[TX] Chilling photos show Texas communities devastated by wildfires that burned 50 homes**

USA Today [3/19/2022 12:35 PM, Christine Fernando, 7147K] reports an outbreak of wildfires around several small Texas communities has burned at least 50 homes, killed a sheriff's deputy and left a trail of charred vehicles, ash-filled homes and seared grass. Several wildfires merged to form a complex that continued to burn Saturday near Eastland, about 120 miles west of Dallas. Gov. Greg Abbott declared a disaster in the 11 counties hit hardest by the wildfires that were fueled by several months of dry weather and high winds. The Eastland County Sheriff's Office said the fire killed Deputy Sgt. Barbara Fenley, who was going door to door, getting residents to evacuate their homes Thursday. With winds expected to diminish Saturday, fire crews hoped to make progress against the flames, said Angel Lopez, a spokesman for the task force combatting the fire. But with wind gusts expected to return Sunday, the threat of wildfires in western and central Texas may again rise to critical levels, Lopez said. Smaller fires burned in other parts of Texas amid the low humidity and high winds. About 15% of the Eastland Complex fires were contained as of Saturday morning, according to the National Wildfire Coordinating Group. More than 45,000 acres have burned, officials said during a Friday news conference.

## **Secret Service**

### **Women make up just 24% of the cyber workforce. CISA wants to fix that.**

CBS News [3/19/2022 12:48 PM, Nicole Sganga, 2818K] reports as the race to recruit female talent in STEM continues moving ahead with steady progress, stunning statistics still wrack the cybersecurity sector: Women working in cybersecurity currently account for less than one quarter of the overall workforce. Pressed on how close America's cyber defense agency is to "getting there," Easterly

responded down to the decimal. "Right now, we're at 36.4% women at CISA's workforce, but I think we can get to 50% before 2030." She paused before adding, "Actually, I'm hoping we can get there before 2025." Easterly says she hopes colleagues across the federal workforce – including FBI, NSA, U.S. Secret Service – make similar pledges. But the gender gap marks just one of the cybersecurity workforce's persistent challenges. Hispanic, African American, Asian and American Indian/Native Alaskan workers made up just 4%, 9%, 8% and 1% respectively of the cyber security workforce, according to the Aspen Institute. An estimated 3.7 million cybersecurity jobs are available but unfilled, according to the latest (ISC)<sup>2</sup> Cybersecurity Workforce Study, with 377,000 of those vacancies located in the United States. By that measure, the global cybersecurity workforce will need to grow 65% in 2022 to effectively defend organizations' critical assets.

### **[MA] Great Barrington man arrested for child pornography after investigation, search**

Berkshire Eagle [3/18/2022 5:45 PM, Heather Bellow, 26K, Positive, Secondary] reports police arrested a State Road man Friday on child pornography charges after an investigation by police and federal agents led to allegations he was distributing material depicting children in sexual acts. James J. Keough, 54, is currently held in the Great Barrington Police Department in lieu of \$50,000 bail, police said in a statement Friday. His arraignment is scheduled for Monday in Southern Berkshire District Court. Great Barrington Police Chief Paul Storti told The Eagle that he does not believe the victims are local. Keough is not suspected of making pornography, but of downloading and sharing computer files, Storti said. Town police working with the U.S. Secret Service and state police detectives attached to the Berkshire District Attorney's Office searched Keough's apartment Friday in a multifamily building at 220 State Road. Officers were seen carting out boxes and other materials from Keough's apartment.

### **[NY] Woman who used counterfeit money to pay off bad check sent to prison**

The Daily News Online [3/19/2022 10:15 AM, Scott Desmit, 3K, Positive, Secondary] reports a Bath woman who issued bad checks at a business in Gainesville and then returned with counterfeit money to pay off the debt was sentenced to state prison Thursday in Wyoming County Court. Grace Brown, 46, was sentenced by Judge Michael Mohun to three to six years in state prison. She had pleaded guilty to second-degree forgery. Brown was arrested in October 2020 after an investigation revealed she forged a check and possessed counterfeit money. She originally was charged with first-degree possession of a forged instrument, forgery and issuing a bad check.

### **[NC] NC federal jury convicts father, son over virus business aid**

The AP [3/19/2022 6:03 PM, Staff, 2818K] reports a father and son now await sentencing after a federal jury in North Carolina convicted them of charges involving \$1.7 million in pandemic business relief received by the father's businesses that the U.S government say was obtained fraudulently. After a six-day trial, jurors convicted Tarik Freitekh of bank fraud, money laundering, conspiracy to commit both wire fraud and money laundering, as well as falsifying and concealing material facts, according to a U.S. Justice Department news release. His father, Izzat Freitekh, 55, of Waxhaw, also was found guilty on Wednesday of money laundering, money laundering conspiracy and making false statements. But he was found not guilty of several of more serious charges directly tied to the conspiracy, The Charlotte Observer reported.

### **[IL] Counterfeit \$100 bills found in Uptown Normal**

Week.com [3/19/2022 4:18 AM, Howard Packowitz, 5K, Neutral, Secondary] reports people who found \$100 bills on the ground in Uptown Normal on St. Patrick's Day may have thought the luck of the Irish was with them, but it really wasn't their lucky day. Normal Police are warning the public that it was fake cash was scattered about, looking much like the money in a picture posted on the department's Facebook page. Police are advising anyone pocketing one of those bills to shred it and don't spend it.

## **Coast Guard**



**[MD] Ever Forward cargo ship could be stuck in Chesapeake Bay for over a week, officials say**  
CBS News [3/19/2022 1:20 PM, Staff, 2818K] reports it has been nearly a week since a massive cargo ship with thousands of containers on board got stuck in the Chesapeake Bay. And officials say it could be another 10 days before the ship is able to float again because it is a rare, complex mission. On Friday morning, CBS Baltimore's Ava-Joye Burnett traveled out onto the bay with U.S. Coast Guard engineers and investigators as they tried to bring the vessel afloat. "It's rare for a vessel to run aground in the Chesapeake Bay," Captain David O'Connell, the section Sector Commander of the Maryland-National Capital Region, said ahead of the excursion. He leads Coast Guard operations in the coordination of all maritime safety, security and environmental missions in the region. "I've been here a year and it's the first major incident we've had in the port. You'll see when we go out there that it is an impressive sight to see and because of its size, it's a very complex operation," he said. "Right now it's 24 feet, so basically as it traveled outside the channel, it almost buried itself into the bank," O'Connell said. "That's why it's not an easy operation of just putting some tugs on it and pulling it free." A team of engineers, investigators and even divers are working on a plan to move her. The department of the environment is there too, because with 2,200 tons of fuel onboard, they want to make sure nothing is leaking. As of now, no leaks have been detected, but the crew will have to monitor certain elements every four hours to make sure that doesn't change.

### **[FL] Coast Guard rescues 189 people near Haiti**

Telemundo [3/19/2022 10:09 PM, Staff, 41K] reports the U.S. Coast Guard on Saturday rescued 189 people 20 miles off the coast of Haiti, who were taken in on the freighter off Cape du Mole on the island's northwest coast. The rescued Haitians were on an overloaded vessel and in the midst of bad weather conditions, the Coast Guard said. The U.S. Coast Guard recently said it has "significantly increased its patrols" in the Windward Passage (Windward Passage), a strait in Caribbean waters between Cuba and Haiti, in the face of a wave of Haitian migrants trying to reach U.S. territory. In a statement, Seventh Coast Guard District Rear Admiral Brendan McPherson said that this increased surveillance also extends to all "approaches to the southeastern United States" in order to "intercept and rescue migrants in overloaded and unsafe vessels." The District 7 commander added that his institution works closely with the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Defense to "prevent these illegal immigrant trips and protect them from unscrupulous smugglers".

## **Terrorism Investigations**

### **[NY] Trial set for MS-13 associate charged in deaths of 4 men**

The San Diego Union Tribune [3/19/2022 3:14 PM, Staff] reports a federal jury will hear opening statements Monday in the trial of a Long Island woman accused of luring four young men to their slaughter by more than a dozen members of the MS-13 street gang. Prosecutors say Leniz Escobar helped orchestrate the 2017 massacre as a teenage associate of the gang before falsely claiming to be a victim in the ambush. Escobar has pleaded not guilty to racketeering charges in the four deaths that prosecutors described as "a horrific frenzy of violence" involving machetes, knives and tree limbs in a Central Islip park. Defense attorney Jesse Siegel told The Associated Press that "after almost five years, Ms. Escobar is looking forward to having her day in court." MS-13 had been seeking to settle a score, prosecutors allege, and believed the young victims to be members of the rival 18th Street Gang. The victims' families have denied that any of the slain men were in a gang.

## **National Security News**

### **[Ukraine] Russian forces bomb art school in Mariupol housing 400 refugees-city council, Zelenskyy cites war crimes**

Reuters [3/20/2022 3:15 AM, Staff] reports Russian forces have bombed an art school in the besieged Ukrainian port city of Mariupol, where about 400 residents had taken shelter, the city council said on Sunday. There was no immediate word of casualties from the Saturday attack, although the council said

the building was destroyed and there were victims under the rubble. Reuters could not independently verify the claim. The [AP](#) [3/20/2022 4:28 AM, Cara Anna] reports Ukrainian authorities said the Russian military bombed an art school where about 400 people had taken refuge in the port city of Mariupol, where President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said an unrelenting siege by Russian troops would go down in history for what he said were war crimes. Local authorities said the school's building was destroyed and people could remain under the rubble. There was no immediate word on casualties. Russian forces on Wednesday also bombed a theater in Mariupol where civilians were sheltering, authorities have said. "To do this to a peaceful city, what the occupiers did, is a terror that will be remembered for centuries to come," Zelenskyy said in his nightly video address to the nation. Mariupol, a strategic port on the Azov Sea, has been under bombardment for at least three weeks and become a symbol of the horror of Russia's war in Ukraine. Local authorities have said the siege has cut off food, water and energy supplies, and killed at least 2,300 people, some of whom had to be buried in mass graves.

Reported similarly:

[Reuters](#) [3/20/2022 5:08 AM, Raju Gopalakrishnan and Dominic Evans, 5304K]

### **[Turkey] Turkey says Russia and Ukraine nearing agreement on 'critical' issues**

[Reuters](#) [3/20/2022 6:05 AM, Ali Kucukgocmen, 5304K] reports Turkey's foreign minister said in an interview published on Sunday that Russia and Ukraine were nearing agreement on "critical" issues and he was hopeful for a ceasefire if the two sides did not backtrack from progress achieved so far. Foreign ministers Sergei Lavrov of Russia and Dmytro Kuleba of Ukraine met in the Turkish resort town of Antalya earlier this month with Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu also attending. The discussions did not yield concrete results. But Cavusoglu, who also travelled to Russia and Ukraine last week for talks with Lavrov and Kuleba, told Turkish daily Hurriyet that there had been "rapprochement in the positions of both sides on important subjects, critical subjects". "We can say we are hopeful for a ceasefire if the sides do not take a step back from the current positions," he said, without elaborating on the issues. Turkish presidential spokesman Ibrahim Kalin, speaking to al Jazeera television, said the two sides were getting closer on four key issues. He cited Russia's demand for Ukraine to renounce ambitions to join NATO, demilitarisation, what Russia has referred to as "de-nazification", and the protection of the Russian language in Ukraine.

### **[North Korea] N. Korea fires artillery into sea days after missile launch**

The [AP](#) [3/20/2022 4:51 AM, Hyung-Jin Kim, 23K] reports North Korea fired suspected artillery pieces into the sea on Sunday, South Korea's military said, days after the North's latest missile launch ended in failure amid the country's recent burst of weapons testing activity. There is speculation that North Korea could soon try to launch its developmental longest-range ballistic missile to bolster its arsenal and dial up pressure on the United States to wrest concessions as negotiations remain stalled. South Korea's military suggested North Korea's midair missile explosion last Wednesday involved parts of the Hwasong-17 missile, its biggest weapon. On Sunday, South Korea's Defense Ministry said it detected firings likely from multiple rocket launch systems off North Korea's west coast. The ministry said the military closely monitors North Korean moves and maintains its readiness. South Korea's presidential office said in a separate statement it held an emergency national security council meeting to discuss what it called the North's "short-range projectile launches."

Reported similarly:

[Reuters](#) [3/20/2022 2:32 AM, Josh Smith and Minwoo Park, 5304K]

### **[South Korea] S. Korea's National Security Council Meets on North's Projectile**

[Bloomberg](#) [3/20/2022 3:06 AM, Sangmi Cha, 9409K] reports South Korea convened a National Security Council meeting to discuss North Korea's launch on Sunday of a short-range projectile, according to the presidential office. North Korea appears to have fired from its multiple rocket launcher this morning, the Joint Chiefs of Staff in Seoul said in a text message to reporters. The military has been maintaining defense readiness while closely monitoring related developments, it said. "The NSC participants will

closely analyze the details of the projectile in close cooperation with the U.S. and maintain alert over the recent series of North Korea's missile launches," presidential spokeswoman Park Kyung-mi said in a statement. "We should also work to prevent a security vacuum during the presidential transition period," she said. Concerns have been mounting that North Korea was looking to fire off its first intercontinental ballistic missile in five years after Yonhap News reported this month South Korea and the U.S. have detected signs of an imminent ICBM launch.

**{End of Report} [RETURN TO TOP](#)**

Message

**From:** MIRANDA, LUIS A (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)  
**Sent:** 3/1/2022 11:08:30 PM  
**To:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)  
**CC:**  
**Subject:** FW: B1 local media interviews last week  
**Attachments:** Chief Ortiz media rundown week of Feb. 24, 2022.docx

H (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) flagging for you that USBP scheduled some media engagements last week with B1 on their own. Among the flags, B1 basically said most of the agents in the horse patrol investigation would be exonerated.

>>>

clips from B1's local media engagements while he was in RGV last week. Attached is the recap.

A couple of flags for you:

- Interviews were not approved; significant pushback from BP on why B1 couldn't go on Fox or any other national media.
- B1's visit occurred during the same time as the highly partisan CoDel visit and would have placed him in an untenable position if he did any national engagements
- Biggest flags/common themes from interviews:
  - B1 repeatedly stated he needs more manpower, more agents and more equipment and is working closely with Congress to get additional resources
  - Working on the 21-point plan outlined by S1
  - More than 260,000 got away this FY year already.
  - On Horse Patrol: "I will tell you that almost every agent that was involved in that event is back to work and riding horses, and I had a chance (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) over the last nine days...I've ridden horses four times with my agents out there in the field to demonstrate to them my support for horse patrol units and what they do each and every day, and they are doing a phenomenal job. And then with respect to the Del Rio event, I think that investigation is going to get wrapped up here relatively quickly. And we're going to find out you know, really, what the truth were was behind that that incident, and I'm confident that almost all those ages will be exonerated. And what we'll find is it was probably, you know, something that was mischaracterized."

Thx,

Message

**From:** DHS Daily [dhs@techmis.com]  
**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](http://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**  
**DATE: Wednesday, March 16, 2022 6:00 AM ET**

## Top News

[U.S. border arrivals increased in February, with 55% quickly expelled](#)

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[US seeks regional approach to migration and asylum seekers](#)

[Pandemic preparedness bill moves ahead; funding still needed](#)

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[\[Mexico\] Journalist killed in Mexico, eighth so far this year](#)

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

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## Immigration and Customs Enforcement

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[Fake heiress Anna 'Delvey' Sorokin, who swindled NYC elite, in ICE custody amid rumors of deportation](#)

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[Thousands of Afghan refugees are still living in U.S. hotels while they wait for housing](#)

[U.S. Immigration Agency Plans Resumption of In-Person Services](#)

[U.S. Work-Permit Backlog Is Costing Immigrants Their Jobs](#)

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[37% increase in detention of unaccompanied minors at the Mexican border](#)

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

[\[FL\] Over 100 migrants made landfall in the Florida Keys: Border Patrol](#)

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

## **Transportation Security Administration**

[U.S. agency fines more than 900 maskless air, transit passengers](#)

[Senate Passes Resolution to End Mask Rules on Transportation](#)

[\[ND\] Officer injured in attack at the Bismarck Airport](#)

## **Federal Emergency Management Agency**

[Federal government has provided more than \\$2B to help cover COVID-19 funerals](#)

## **Secret Service**

[New Secret Service report details growing incel terrorism threat](#)

[New report tells horrors facing threatened election officials](#)

[Gunman who attacked Florida yoga studio gave off decades of warning signs, Secret Service finds](#)

[\[MA\] New York Man Pleads Guilty to COVID-19 Relief Fraud Scheme](#)

[\[PA\] Suspect in Stabbings at Museum of Modern Art Apprehended in Philadelphia](#)

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

[\[MD\] 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](#)

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

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

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

[\[Maldives\] Fake US Dollars sold in Maldives' black market](#)

## **Coast Guard**

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

## **CISA/Cybersecurity**

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[\[Russia\] Bipartisan Senate group urges DHS to provide answers on Russian cyberthreat](#)

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[NATO defense ministers to discuss sending 'substantially more forces' to its eastern borders](#)

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

[\[Ukraine\] Two Journalists Working for Fox News Killed While Covering Ukraine-Russia War](#)

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

[\[Belarus\] U.S. sanctions Belarus president Lukashenko and others](#)

[\[Iran\] Russia raises hopes for a return to the stalled Iran nuclear talks](#)

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

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

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

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

[\[North Korea\] North Korea Weapons Test Appears to Have Failed](#)

## **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-Zaldívar] 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 escalation 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), (b) (7)(C)  
**Sent:** 9/22/2021 2:11:00 AM  
**To:** DailyMediaReport (b) (7)(E)  
**Subject:** Daily Media Report: September 21, 2021

**Daily Media Report  
Media Division  
September 21, 2021**

**GUIDANCE:** Entries in blue are new or updated. Black entries previously mentioned.

The submission starts with the date posted on the DMR. For media inquiries, submissions should identify the outlet, name of the reporter(s), topic, request and deadline. For events, submissions should include the following details: date, time, address, label and title of principal officials attending/speaking, type of event.

**C1/C2/LEADERSHIP EVENTS:**

**CONGRESS, SLT, NGO, OTR:**

**COVID-19:**

**SPECIAL PROJECTS:**

8/17: [Update 3] USA Today editor (b) (6) requested a series of interviews with CBP officials for four stories that will appear in the newspaper's annual homeland security special edition. The special edition will publish on or about September 27. Tone is expected to be positive.

- Reporter (b) (6) is preparing a story about forced labor enforcement and CBP's nomination for the 2021 Service to America Medal for Safety, Security, and International Affairs. (b) (6) interviewed OT Executive Assistant Commissioner AnnMarie Highsmith for the story on July 8 and interviewed OT Executive Director for Trade Remedy Law Enforcement (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) for the story on July 19. Reporter focused on why Americans should care about forced labor and what CBP is doing to prevent goods made by forced labor from entering U.S. commerce. Tone of story is expected to be positive.
- On July 27, reporter (b) (6) interviewed OT Deputy Executive Assistant Commissioner (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) and OFO Executive Director for Cargo and Conveyance Security (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) on July 27. The interview focused on CBP's efforts to secure and facilitate lawful trade during the COVID-19 pandemic. Reporter has also interviewed the DHS Chief Medical Officer, FEMA, ICE, and S&T for her story, which will address the Department's broader pandemic response.
- On August 6, reporter (b) (6) interviewed OFAM Assistant Commissioner (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) on about CBP's efforts to address climate change. AC (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) is CBP's representative to the DHS Climate Action Group. The interview will inform a broader story about DHS's climate policies. (b) (6) has also spoken with DHS Acting Undersecretary for Strategy, Policy, and Plans (b) (6), FEMA Administrator (b) (6) and the U.S. Coast Guard for the story.
- During the week of August 2, reporter (b) (6) interviewed CBPAS Canine Handler (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) for a "Faces of DHS Profile." The profile will focus on (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) work alongside her canine partner (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) why that work is important to homeland security, and what inspired (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) to pursue a career with CBP. Tone is expected to be positive.

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

**HEADQUARTERS:**

**Enforcement:**

9/21: Numerous reporters asked for updates on the CBP's response to migrants in Del Rio, the number of migrants under the International Bridge, the number transferred to other sectors, the number expelled on flights to Haiti, and the number of flights upcoming. Pointed reporters to DHS's statement Saturday, Chief Ortiz's press conference in Del Rio Sunday, and his press conference with S1 and C1 in Del Rio Monday. Lead: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

9/21: Numerous reporters asked for comment on USBP's horse patrol units following an incident Monday where agents on horses encountered Haitian migrants crossing the river in Del Rio – specifically, whether they used whips, followed

proper standards of conduct, are still on patrol, or will be investigated. Pointed reporters to DHS's statement on Monday evening and Monday's press conference where B1 and S1 commented on the situation. DHS statement:

*"The Department of Homeland Security does not tolerate the abuse of migrants in our custody and we take these allegations very seriously. U.S. Customs and Border Protection's Office of Professional Responsibility is investigating the matter and has alerted the DHS Office of Inspector General. In addition, Secretary Mayorkas has directed that personnel from the Office of Professional Responsibility be on site full-time to ensure that the responsibilities of DHS personnel are executed consistent with applicable policies and training and the Department's values."*

*"Secretary Mayorkas visited Del Rio today and witnessed the extraordinary work of DHS personnel. The footage is extremely troubling and the facts learned from the full investigation, which will be conducted swiftly, will define the appropriate disciplinary actions to be taken. We are committed to processing migrants in a safe, orderly, and humane way. We can and must do this in a way that ensures the safety and dignity of migrants."*

9/17: Distributed local press release on temporary closure and re-routing of trade and traffic from Del Rio Port of Entry to Eagle Pass Port of Entry. Answered follow-up questions confirming pedestrian and vehicle traffic is closed in both directions.

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

9/16: Provided statement to reporters from the NY Times, NBC, CNN, CBS News, Univision, Telemundo, the Texas Tribune, the Washington Examiner, Breitbart, Spectrum News following comments from the Texas Governor that CBP requested help from Texas to close ports of entry:

*"The Department of Homeland Security is not seeking assistance from the State of Texas to shut down ports of entry. It would be a violation of federal law for the Texas National Guard to unilaterally do so."*

Lead: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) & AC Miranda

9/16: Provided the following statement to reporters from Reuters, CBS News, Fox News, Washington Examiner, Breitbart, Daily Caller, Telemundo San Antonio who asked about CBP's response to migrants arriving at Del Rio's International Bridge:

*The Border Patrol is increasing its manpower in the Del Rio Sector and coordinating efforts within DHS and other relevant federal, state and local partners to immediately address the current level of migrant encounters and to facilitate a safe, humane and orderly process. To prevent injuries from heat-related illness, the shaded area underneath Del Rio International Bridge is serving as a temporary staging site while migrants wait to be taken into USBP custody.*

*Drinking water, towels, and portable toilets have been delivered for migrants to use while they await to be transported to a facility. The vast majority of single adults and many families will continue to be expelled under the CDC's Title 42 authority, and those who cannot be expelled under Title 42 and do not have a legal basis to remain will be placed in expedited removal proceedings.*

*On Background: Persons taken into Border Patrol custody for immigration processing are evaluated on a case-by-case basis for custodial determinations. U.S. legal requirements, COVID-19 protocols, holding capacity, and the health conditions of the persons in custody are all factors that affect such determinations.*

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

9/16: Postponed B1's interviews with CNN, Fox News, and the AP. CNN request for interview pending further review with Border Patrol.

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

#### **Travel:**

9/21: iPolitics Canadian reporter (b) (6) inquired whether there will be an update on border restrictions tomorrow. Informed him the Federal Register Notices will post in the next couple days.

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

#### **Trade / Ag:**

None

### **SOUTHWEST BORDER**

9/25: Based on bi-national information shared with NOG ILU a local protest led by IGNATION Solidarity Network is scheduled for Saturday September 25, 2021, in Nogales, Sonora. At this time, there is no additional information associated to the size of the protest. Postings indicate the group will support migrants who wish to present themselves for asylum. Tone: neutral/negative. Air date: 9/25

Lead: PAI (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

9/21 (b) (6) KTAR Radio performs an interview concerning the volume of apprehensions in Yuma Sector. (b) (6) was provided the approx. daily numbers with an emphasis on the weekend numbers of over 2400 apprehensions with a

record day on Friday of over 940 apprehensions. The percentage of family units was asked and given a percentage of 60 to 70 percent. He asked if the family units were able to stay and why. The Flores decision was explained to him and it was further explained as to why this allows family units to stay in country while they await their immigration proceedings. Samore asked if we had sufficient resources to deal with the increase in apprehensions. He was told that the lesson learned in 2019 was that facilities had to be made available right away along with a plan to make things like toiletries, clothes, food and other things readily available to family units. That has been done this time around with the quick construction of the soft sided facility and the ready availability of the items needed for family units for a couple days. So yes, we are receiving the resources that we need to hold migrants while we process them. Tone: Positive/Neutral Air Date: 9/21 Lead: SOS (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) PAS (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

9/21: Associated Press reporter (b) (6) inquired if CBP was providing any media access to the migrant camp area underneath Del Rio International Bridge and asked for consideration, noting social media posts from other reporters, mainly from Fox News, showing footage near the camp area. Advised that to my knowledge, CBP is currently not providing access at present and copied PAO (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) for any further guidance.  
Lead: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

9/21: Televisa Nuevo Laredo reporter (b) (6) and Laredo Morning Times reporter (b) (6) inquired on social media video posting from Laredo social media maven "La Gordiloca" and Laredo Fire Department reports regarding response to Gateway to the Americas Bridge to transport an ill person in critical condition and sought comment from CBP. Developed response, consulted with LFO mgmt.. and provided statement to reporters:

*Attributable to a CBP official:*

*On the evening of Sept. 20, CBP officers at Gateway to the Americas Bridge responded to reports of an ill traveler that had collapsed on the pedestrian walkway. CBP officers administered first aid and immediately contacted emergency medical services, which transported the traveler to a local hospital.*

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

9/21 Univision's (b) (6) has requested an interview with Chief Gloria Chavez, a statement on El Paso Sector support for processing Del Rio migrants, and imagery of migrants being processed at the El Paso Central Processing Center. Request and draft statement is being staffed for approval. Chief Chavez is likely to decline interview due to State Department sponsored El Salvador media scheduled for this week and limited ability to speak on Del Rio transferers. Draft statement for local media was being proposed in lieu of any local media interviews.

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

9/20: NBC Nightly News producer (b) (6) sought permission to do a live shot with correspondent (b) (6) (b) (6) from the middle of currently empty Del Rio International Bridge and then pan to a live drone shot of the migrants and law enforcement presence below for NBC Nightly News broadcast. Consulted with HQ OPA, LFO mgmt. and in consideration of equanimity, the precedent this would set, ability/bandwidth to support similar requests from myriads of other gathered outlets for the same or more, advised producer that we would not be able to support the request and to utilize the TFR status granted to fly their drone within the parameters they had been given.

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

9/20: Courthouse News reporter (b) (6) asked about the temporary closure of Del Rio Port of Entry, reroute to Eagle Pass, when it was made, who ordered it, will traffic increase in Del Rio. Pointed reporter to news release regarding the temporary port closure and reroute, the DHS strategy news release regarding Del Rio migrant influx, video of B-1, S-1 media availabilities on DRT Facebook page and advise it is probable that Eagle Pass Port of Entry traffic would increase and directed reporter to Border Wait Times page.

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

9/20 KVIA, KTSM/Border Report, Univision, KFOX and El Paso Matter all requested information about El Paso Sector Border Patrol support for transporting from Del Rio and processing Haitian migrant here in the El Paso Central Processing Center. Local statement for the media on El Paso sector numbers of migrant being processed daily combined with DHS Secretary Mayorkas's key messages are being staffed for approval. EPT Stratcom photographer also captured images for social media.

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

9/17 (b) (6) of KTSM El Paso news asked for information from the CBP MOU. CBP Press release and data from CBP.GOV was provided to the reporter to answer her questions. Reporter is interested in following up next week with an interview of what Border Patrol Agents are seeing in sector. Reporters request will be forwarded to EPT Sector Border Patrol for coordination and follow-up.

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

9/16 (b) (6) a producer with Donlon Report, asked if El Paso Sector Chief Gloria Chavez could do a 6-8 min interview on their program tonight or in the next few days on the situation at the border. After checking with Chief Chavez, the earliest the Chief could do the interview is the first week of October. Reporter was sent a response with that proposed time frame and the pitch about Chief Chavez talking about how Transnational Criminal Organization exploit, endanger and abandon migrants after charging them thousands of dollars to cross the border illegally. Bubnis replied that she is interested in doing the interview the first week of Oct.

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

8/19: California reporter (b) (6) from the Alpine Sun is requesting an interview with USBP San Diego Sector about the Missing Migrant Program; her interest in the program stems from her participating in the Sector's hike and border safety demonstration. SDC is looking to set up the phone interview.

9/10: 9/14 update: The reporter was on medical leave and is now back. There will be an interview with the San Diego Sector Foreign Operations Branch the week of September 20.

Lead: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) and Agent (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

9/15 (b) (6) a El Paso based reporter for Reuters, has requested to do a story on Border Patrol Horses in the El Paso Sector. Sector wants to do the story and has staffed the reporter's request to headquarters for approval.

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

9/14 CBS Immigration Report (b) (6) requested information to questions and a statement about the arrest and detention of a suspected alien smuggler at arrested by U.S. Border Patrol Agents at El Paso Int'l Airport on July 11, 2021. The suspect, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) a Mexican national and passport holder without a valid U.S. Visa, but possessing a U.S. Employment permit claims to be a DACA recipient and claims he was mistreated and not properly treated for his medical condition which requires weekly kidney dialysis while in custody. Evidence indicates that (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) has bought a plane ticket for another Mexican national who was in the U.S. illegally and that he was attempting to fly with him back to Minneapolis. Draft response to query statement is being staffed for response.

9/14 UPDATE Proposed statement prepared and cleared thru Strat Comms, OCC and Privacy. Pending additional clearances.

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

9/13 (b) (6) CNN Houston Bureau, called and expressed interest in a visit and ride along tour of El Paso to talk about rescues, TCO exploitation of migrants, stash houses and the increase of Ecuadorians coming across the border illegally. EPT Border Patrol Stratcom is working a proposed schedule to provide to (b) (6) so she can pitch the story to her editors. Date TBD.

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

9/8: San Diego Union Tribune reporter (b) (6) is working on an article based on her recent hike through the Otay Mountains with USBP San Diego Sector. (b) (6) asked for the lat/long of the new rescue beacons, and for local statistics on rescues and deaths.

Lead: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) and Agent (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

9/8: Fox News Channel producer (b) (6) requested an interview and brief float with the San Diego Air and Marine Branch following a fatal maritime smuggling incident off Point Loma in May. Pending final approvals, the interview and visit will take place on Thursday, September 30, to discuss maritime smuggling off the coast of California.

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

8/31: Los Angeles Telemundo affiliate reporter (b) (6) is working on a story based on a family complaining that they were fined \$5000 for using the SENTRI lane at the San Ysidro port of entry when they are not in SENTRI, and also that when brought in to pay the penalty they were handcuffed. OPA is coordinating with the San Diego Field Office on a response.

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

8/26: El Paso Times reporter (b) (6) is writing about SENTRI lines in El Paso. User have noted longer than normal lines recently. She is interested in current and historical enrollment figures and if CBP is noting any significant changes locally. She was also interested in larger scale (SWB/national) data regarding SENTRI enrollment to see if there are any trends related to the pandemic, etc. No timetable for the story. Lead: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

8/24 Phoenix New Times reporter (b) (6) has requested a telephonic interview with Nogales Port Director (b) (6), (b) (7)(C). While no time/date has yet to be determined, the topic is USC's being used to smuggle drugs through the ports.

Tone: TBD Air Date: TBD Lead: PAL (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) PAS (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

8/24: Mexico-based digital news reporter (b) (6) with "La Lista" is attempting to set up an interview with a DHS official regarding the vague situation at the border. If DHS is not able to accommodate CBP will step up. OPA is still trying to narrow down the request/topics and geographic location of the reporter. This remains in progress.

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

8/23 Local El Paso KFOX reporter (b) (6) is requesting a ride-a-long/meet up tour on the border next week to discuss recent trends in human smuggling in the El Paso Sector. Request is being staffed through US Border Patrol Sector.

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

8/23 US Border Patrol El Paso Sector is preparing to support US State Department sponsored foreign media team engagement from El Salvador the later part of September on the dangers of crossing the border illegally. El Paso Sector is willing to assist CBP HQ with this media engagement.

9/15: First leg of tour in DC set for Monday, September 20<sup>th</sup>. Co-op will subsequently engage in El Paso on Sept 23 and 24<sup>th</sup>; and in Tucson on the 27<sup>th</sup>. Itinerary prepared and being finalized.

9/17: UPDATE DC portion of trip set for Monday, September 27<sup>th</sup> at the RRB with roundtable and one-on-one interview with USBP and AMO.

9/20: DC portion conducted. Participants engaged in a background roundtable discussion with USBP presenters Associate Chief (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) and SBPA (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) as well as AMO presenters Acting Dir. Air Operations (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) and Acting Dir. Marine Operations (b) (6), (b) (7)(C). The roundtable was followed by two on the record interviews with (A) Deputy Chief Manuel Padilla and (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) Acting Exec. Dir. AMO. Both were smooth and focused on the message of the dangers of the journey. The journalists goal (from 4 Vision) is to prepare a media product for their audiences in El Salvador to dissuade irregular migration to the U.S. . They will head to El Paso next and then to Tucson.

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

8/23 KXAN TV Austin, Texas reporter (b) (6) is requesting an interview with a U.S. Border Patrol Agent from the El Paso Sector who help an airline aircrew subdue a passenger who was attempting to enter the cockpit of the airplane, endangering the entire flight. The BPA was seen as a hero and the reporter would like to interview him. Request is being staffed through El Paso Sector and they are contacting the agent to see if he is willing to be interviewed.

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

8/19: KTEP-FM/NPR El Paso reporter (b) (6) is beginning work on a story on weapons/ammo smuggling to Mexico. OPA advised on current operational status/tempo and is pursuing statistics for the reporter.

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

#### **NORTHERN & COASTAL BORDER:**

9/17: Albany-Times Union reporter (b) (6) inquired about individuals claiming asylum in Canada, being denied, and then returned to the United States POEs. She also inquired on what happens if they have no status within the United States. Provided talking points on those that have no status are turned over to ICE to include the law sections of U.S. Code. Deferred ICE related questions to their PAO. Also deferred all questions regarding Canadian policy to CBSA.

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

9/16: Pittsburgh's KDKA news radio reporter (b) (6) interviewed CBP's Philadelphia Acting Area Port Director on the Port of Pittsburgh's recent seizure of 70 counterfeit COVID-19 vaccination cards. Interview discussed CBP's trade enforcement mission, and amplified government messaging that reminds consumer that those who make, sell or buy fake COVID-19 vaccination cards endanger themselves and others and are breaking the law.

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

9/16: WLWT Cincinnati (NBC Affiliate) reporter (b) (6) requested an interview regarding Cincinnati's recent press release about counterfeit COVID vaccine cards and bogus Pfizer stickers. The reporter asked what are tell-tale signs that vaccination cards are fake, how do officers find these shipments, and what these counterfeit cards would be used for.

Tone: Positive

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

9/16: **\*\*PITCHED\*\*** Through a DOJ redirect in Southern Georgia connected with (b) (6) new government reporter for Savannah News, online and print. After background, sharing our monthly operations update and confirming that we cannot share port specific data she is interested in a day-in-the-life of CBP officers on duty at Savannah Seaport. Currently the 4<sup>th</sup> busiest Seaport in the U.S. in addition, spoke with WSB (ABC) reporter (b) (6) about our MOU and COX Media interest in Savannah Seaport. He is looking to cover trade volume increase, CBP technology and IPR enforcement ahead of holiday shopping. OPA working with DFO/PD on concurrence for these 1-day press engagements . Tone: anticipated good to positive. Timeline- October

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

9/15:OPEN PRESS EVENT: On Thursday September 16, CBP Los Angeles will host a Press Conference/Grand Opening of the First-in-the-country dedicated Air Centralized Examination Station (Air-CES) at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX). Since the beginning of the pandemic e-commerce importations at LAX experienced an unprecedented growth of over 700%. DFO and warehouse contractor will deliver remarks. Time: 1:30 p.m. (PDT) – Location: Custom Specialized Services - 5235 W 104th Street Los Angeles, CA 90048. **Media RSVP:** KABC-TV, KCBS-TV, KTLA-TV, Spectrum News 1, Ngoui Viet - Vietnamese Newspaper, KVEA-TV – Noticiero 52 – Telemundo, KMEX-TV – Noticias 34 – Univision, KFI AM 640 – News Radio, KTTV-TV - FOX 11 News, KRCA-TV - Estrella TV Noticias Canal 62, KNX 1070 AM – News Radio, Orange County Register – Newspaper and China Press – Newspaper.

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

9/7: **\*\*PITCHED\*\*** (b) (6) Bloomberg reporter for Puerto Rico & Caribbean will partake in an phone interview on the regarding the combined efforts by USDA APHIS and CBP to prevent African Swine Fever from reaching the US after cases were detected in the Dominican Republic on Thursday, Sept. 9. The interview would center on the elements that visitors and importers must know on the ways that the virus can spread and reach US soil, as well as the measures that can be taken to prevent the spread. A CBP Program Manager from the SJFO and a Veterinary Epidemiologist from USDA APHIS would be the resourced for the interview. Coordination with USDA APHIS Public affairs is ongoing. Positive tone expected.

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

9/2: Vice News will visit John F. Kennedy International Airport on Wednesday 15 September for a story about CBP Agriculture Specialists at JFK who are on the front line of defense in protecting the United States agricultural economy and vitality. CBP SMEs CBPAS (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) CBPAS (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) will be interviewed on camera about what CBP at the JFK does in intercepting food items within the passenger environment. Additionally they will collect b-roll of agriculture inspections, K-9 (Beagle Brigade) inspections, and the grinder table.

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

8/24: Public Radio Maine, freelance Journalist (b) (6) inquired about the effect 9/11 will have on northern border security. Followed up with a call requesting further information to identify whether this is a policy question for DHS. Awaiting response.

8/30 UPDATE: Reporter submitted written questions for his requested interview with a CBP representatives about border security pre and post 9/11. The request was shared with CBP Directors in Maine and we are awaiting response.

Tone: Educational

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

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

Branch Chief, Northern/Coastal Regions

CBP Public Affairs

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

cell)

For urgent after-hours media matters, contact:

[cbpmediarelations@cbp.dhs.gov](mailto:cbpmediarelations@cbp.dhs.gov)



Message

**From:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)  
**Sent:** 9/20/2021 2:44:29 PM  
**To:** Mayorkas, Alejandro (b) (6)  
**CC:** MILLER, TROY A (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)  
(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)  
(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) MIRANDA, LUIS A  
**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:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)  
**Sent:** 9/23/2021 1:19:54 AM  
**To:** DailyMediaReport (b) (7)(E)  
**Subject:** Daily Media Report: September 22, 2021

**Daily Media Report  
Media Division  
September 22, 2021**

**GUIDANCE:** Entries in blue are new or updated. Black entries previously mentioned.

The submission starts with the date posted on the DMR. For media inquiries, submissions should identify the outlet, name of the reporter(s), topic, request and deadline. For events, submissions should include the following details: date, time, address, label and title of principal officials attending/speaking, type of event.

**C1/C2/LEADERSHIP EVENTS:**

**CONGRESS, SLT, NGO, OTR:**

**COVID-19:**

**SPECIAL PROJECTS:**

8/17: USA Today editor (b) (6) requested a series of interviews with CBP officials for four stories that will appear in the newspaper's annual homeland security special edition. The special edition will publish on or about September 27. Tone is expected to be positive.

**HEADQUARTERS:**

**Enforcement:**

9/22: Voice of America reporter (b) (6) inquired about (b) (7)(E) apprehensions as a follow up to similar questions in March following allegations from House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy and today from Rep. Clay Higgins during the Homeland Security Committee hearing alleging that his source has told him 200 known or suspected terrorists have been detained along the southern border. Standard statement was shared.

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

9/21: Numerous reporters asked for updates on the CBP's response to migrants in Del Rio, the number of migrants under the International Bridge, the number transferred to other sectors, the number expelled on flights to Haiti, and the number of flights upcoming. Pointed reporters to DHS's statement Saturday, Chief Ortiz's press conference in Del Rio Sunday, and his press conference with S1 and C1 in Del Rio Monday. Lead: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

9/21: Numerous reporters asked for comment on USBP's horse patrol units following an incident Monday where agents on horses encountered Haitian migrants crossing the river in Del Rio – specifically, whether they used whips, followed proper standards of conduct, are still on patrol, or will be investigated. Pointed reporters to DHS's statement on Monday evening and Monday's press conference where B1 and S1 commented on the situation. DHS statement:

*"The Department of Homeland Security does not tolerate the abuse of migrants in our custody and we take these allegations very seriously. U.S. Customs and Border Protection's Office of Professional Responsibility is investigating the matter and has alerted the DHS Office of Inspector General. In addition, Secretary Mayorkas has directed that personnel from the Office of Professional Responsibility be on site full-time to ensure that the responsibilities of DHS personnel are executed consistent with applicable policies and training and the Department's values."*

*"Secretary Mayorkas visited Del Rio today and witnessed the extraordinary work of DHS personnel. The footage is extremely troubling and the facts learned from the full investigation, which will be conducted swiftly, will define the appropriate disciplinary actions to be taken. We are committed to processing migrants in a safe, orderly, and humane way. We can and must do this in a way that ensures the safety and dignity of migrants."*

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*"The Department of Homeland Security is not seeking assistance from the State of Texas to shut down ports of entry. It would be a violation of federal law for the Texas National Guard to unilaterally do so."*

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

#### **Trade / Ag:**

None

#### **SOUTHWEST BORDER**

9/22: (b) (6) CNN, interviewed CBP Chief Medical Officer (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) about the latest addition to the medical facilities stood up at the Del Rio International Bridge. The engagement included a statement by (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) who also answered a few questions, and a brief walk through of the facility. Air date: 9/22.

Lead: (b) (6)

9/22: (b) (6) 330Times (local Del Rio, TX, internet news) interviewed Border Patrol Chief Raul Ortiz about the migrant encampment at the Del Rio International Bridge. Topics included: the history of the buildup of migrants in the area, how CBP is ramping up efforts to address challenges, wellbeing and morale of agents, and the recent publicity surrounding the horse patrol. Publication date: 9/22.

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

9/20: Local Laredo Morning Times reporter (b) (6) inquired about the checkpoint closure at the Laredo Sector Border Patrol. He submitted an inquiry with a series of questions for CBP response. The inquiry is still being reviewed and advised him that hopefully tomorrow we will have a return query.

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

9/20: KLDO-TV (Univision/Fox-Laredo) reporter (b) (6) and (b) (6) telephonically inquired about the soft side facility being constructed on HWY 83. The network requested an on-camera interview with Chief (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) to clarify some misconceptions about what was being circulated on social media. I advised them at this time we do not have media availability planned but confirmed with the network that the facility has not opened yet and is still under construction.

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9/20: (b) (6) with El Manana newspaper (international media) telephonically and in person inquired about the soft side facility being constructed on HWY 83. The reporter requested an in person interview with Chief (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) to clarify some misconceptions about what was being circulated on social media. I advised him at this time we do not have media availability planned but confirmed with the network that the facility has not opened yet and is still under construction.  
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9/20: (b) (6) with NBC news and (b) (6) with Telemundo network telephonically inquired about the soft side facility being constructed on HWY 83. The reporter requested an in person interview with Chief (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) to clarify some misconceptions about what was being circulated on social media. I advised him at this time we do not have media availability planned but confirmed with the network that the facility has not opened yet and is still under construction.  
Lead: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

9/20: (b) (6) with NBC news requested a statement on Laredo Sector efforts to Del Rio. She wanted confirmation how many immigrants will be coming to Laredo. A series of questions was submitted to CBP for RTQ. The inquiry is still being reviewed and advised her that hopefully tomorrow we will have a return query.  
Lead: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

9/20: Coordinated with DRT on multiple media inquires on the story circulating on the agent on horse patrol, (imagery from AFP). As per DRT, DPS was also getting inquiries. CBP Statement is forthcoming. (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) took over the inquiries.  
Lead: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

9/25: Based on bi-national information shared with NOG ILU a local protest led by IGNATION Solidarity Network is scheduled for Saturday September 25, 2021, in Nogales, Sonora. At this time, there is no additional information associated to the size of the protest. Postings indicate the group will support migrants who wish to present themselves for asylum. Tone: neutral/negative. Air date: 9/25  
Lead: PAL (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

9/21: Associated Press reporter (b) (6) inquired if CBP was providing any media access to the migrant camp area underneath Del Rio International Bridge and asked for consideration, noting social media posts from other reporters, mainly from Fox News, showing footage near the camp area. Advised that to my knowledge, CBP is currently not providing access at present and copied PAC (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) for any further guidance.  
Lead: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

9/21 Univision's (b) (6) has requested an interview with Chief Gloria Chavez, a statement on El Paso Sector support for processing Del Rio migrants, and imagery of migrants being processed at the El Paso Central Processing Center. Request and draft statement is being staffed for approval. Chief Chavez is likely to decline interview due to State Department sponsored El Salvador media scheduled for this week and limited ability to speak on Del Rio transfers. Draft statement for local media was being proposed in lieu of any local media interviews.  
Lead: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

9/20 KVIA, KTSM/Border Report, Univision, KFOX and El Paso Matter all requested information about El Paso Sector Border Patrol support for transporting from Del Rio and processing Haitian migrant here in the El Paso Central Processing Center. Local statement for the media on El Paso sector numbers of migrant being processed daily combined with DHS Secretary Mayorkas's key messages are being staffed for approval. EPT Stratcom photographer also captured images for social media.  
Lead: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

9/16 (b) (6) a producer with Donlon Report, asked if El Paso Sector Chief Gloria Chavez could do a 6-8 min interview on their program tonight or in the next few days on the situation at the border. After checking with Chief Chavez, the earliest the Chief could do the interview is the first week of October. Reporter was sent a response with that proposed time frame and the pitch about Chief Chavez talking about how Transnational Criminal Organization exploit, endanger and abandon migrants after charging them thousands of dollars to cross the border illegally. (b) (6) replied that she is interested in doing the interview the first week of Oct.

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

8/19: California reporter (b) (6) from the Alpine Sun is requesting an interview with USBP San Diego Sector about the Missing Migrant Program; her interest in the program stems from her participating in the Sector's hike and border safety demonstration. SDC is looking to set up the phone interview.

9/10: 9/14 update: The reporter was on medical leave and is now back. There will be an interview with the San Diego Sector Foreign Operations Branch the week of September 20.

Lead: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) and Agent (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

9/15 (b) (6) a El Paso based reporter for Reuters, has requested to do a story on Border Patrol Horses in the El Paso Sector. Sector wants to do the story and has staffed the reporter's request to headquarters for approval.

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

9/14 CBS Immigration Report (b) (6) requested information to questions and a statement about the arrest and detention of a suspected alien smuggler at arrested by U.S. Border Patrol Agents at El Paso Int'l Airport on July 11, 2021. The suspect, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) a Mexican national and passport holder without a valid U.S. Visa, but possessing a U.S. Employment permit claims to be a DACA recipient and claims he was mistreated and not properly treated for his medical condition which requires weekly kidney dialysis while in custody. Evidence indicates that (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) has bought a plane ticket for another Mexican national who was in the U.S. illegally and that he was attempting to fly with him back to Minneapolis. Draft response to query statement is being staffed for response.

9/14 UPDATE Proposed statement prepared and cleared thru Strat Comms, OCC and Privacy. Pending additional clearances.

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

9/13 (b) (6) CNN Houston Bureau, called and expressed interest in a visit and ride along tour of El Paso to talk about rescues, TCO exploitation of migrants, stash houses and the increase of Ecuadorians coming across the border illegally. EPT Border Patrol Stratcom is working a proposed schedule to provide to (b) (6) so she can pitch the story to her editors. Date TBD.

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

9/8: Fox News Channel producer (b) (6) requested an interview and brief float with the San Diego Air and Marine Branch following a fatal maritime smuggling incident off Point Loma in May. Pending final approvals, the interview and visit will take place on Thursday, September 30, to discuss maritime smuggling off the coast of California.

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

8/26: El Paso Times reporter (b) (6) is writing about SENTRI lines in El Paso. User have noted longer than normal lines recently. She is interested in current and historical enrollment figures and if CBP is noting any significant changes locally. She was also interested in larger scale (SWB/national) data regarding SENTRI enrollment to see if there are any trends related to the pandemic, etc. No timetable for the story. Lead: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

8/24 Phoenix New Times reporter, (b) (6) has requested a telephonic interview with Nogales Port Director (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) While no time/date has yet to be determined, the topic is USC's being used to smuggle drugs through the ports.

Tone: TBD Air Date: TBD Lead: PAL (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) PAS (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

8/24: Mexico-based digital news reporter (b) (6) with "La Lista" is attempting to set up an interview with a DHS official regarding the vague situation at the border. If DHS is not able to accommodate CBP will step up. OPA is still trying to narrow down the request/topics and geographic location of the reporter. This remains in progress.

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

8/23 Local El Paso KFOX reporter (b) (6) is requesting a ride-a-long/meet up tour on the border next week to discuss recent trends in human smuggling in the El Paso Sector. Request is being staffed through US Border Patrol Sector.

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

8/23 US Border Patrol El Paso Sector is preparing to support US State Department sponsored foreign media team engagement from El Salvador the later part of September on the dangers of crossing the border illegally. El Paso Sector is willing to assist CBP HQ with this media engagement.

9/15: First leg of tour in DC set for Monday, September 20<sup>th</sup>. Co-op will subsequently engage in El Paso on Sept 23 and 24<sup>th</sup>; and in Tucson on the 27<sup>th</sup>. Itinerary prepared and being finalized.

9/17: UPDATE DC portion of trip set for Monday, September 27<sup>th</sup> at the RRB with roundtable and one-on-one interview with USBP and AMO.

9/20: DC portion conducted. Participants engaged in a background roundtable discussion with USBP presenters Associate Chief (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) and SBPA (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) as well as AMO presenters Acting Dir. Air Operations (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) and Acting Dir. Marine Operations (b) (6), (b) (7)(C). The roundtable was followed by two on the record interviews with (A) Deputy Chief Manuel Padilla and (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) Acting Exec. Dir. AMO. Both were smooth and focused on the message of the dangers of the journey. The journalists goal (from 4 Vision) is to prepare a media product for their audiences in El Salvador to dissuade irregular migration to the U.S. . They will head to El Paso next and then to Tucson.

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

#### **NORTHERN & COASTAL BORDER:**

9/22: (b) (6) a reporter with Spectrum News 1 TV in Cincinnati, requested an interview with a CBP officer at the Port of Cincinnati regarding the latest counterfeit COVID card and Pfizer sticker seizure. The reporter is interested in what led to this seizure, how CBP is fighting the spread of counterfeit items, and how dangerous this is to the community. The interview will be on Thursday, Sept 23, at the Port of Cincinnati. Tone: Positive

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

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

Branch Chief, Northern/Coastal Regions

CBP Public Affairs

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

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

For urgent after-hours media matters, contact:

[cbpmediarelations@cbp.dhs.gov](mailto:cbpmediarelations@cbp.dhs.gov)

Message

**From:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)  
**Sent:** 9/24/2021 1:50:46 AM  
**To:** DailyMediaReport (b) (7)(E)  
**Subject:** Daily Media Report: September 23, 2021

**Daily Media Report  
Media Division  
September 23, 2021**

**GUIDANCE:** Entries in blue are new or updated. Black entries previously mentioned.

The submission starts with the date posted on the DMR. For media inquiries, submissions should identify the outlet, name of the reporter(s), topic, request and deadline. For events, submissions should include the following details: date, time, address, label and title of principal officials attending/speaking, type of event.

**C1/C2/LEADERSHIP EVENTS:**

**CONGRESS, SLT, NGO, OTR:**

**COVID-19:**

9/23: Washington Post reporter (b) (6) inquired as to whether CBP is included under the Executive Order requiring all federal employees to get the COVID-19 vaccination. Advised that CBP is included under the EO.

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

**SPECIAL PROJECTS:**

8/17: USA Today editor (b) (6) requested a series of interviews with CBP officials for four stories that will appear in the newspaper's annual homeland security special edition. The special edition will publish on or about September 27. Tone is expected to be positive.

**HEADQUARTERS:**

**Enforcement:**

9/23: Provided a number of inquiring national reporters with a DHS statement that provided for the first time the number of Haitian migrants transported from Del Rio's International Bridge to US locations, the number of Del Rio bridge migrants flown to Haiti, the number of flights to Haiti in recent days, and the number of migrants remaining in Del Rio as of Wednesday night. Statement provided:

*On Wednesday, September 22, 2021 the Department of Homeland Security conducted two repatriation flights from Del Rio, Texas to Port-au-Prince, Haiti and one repatriation flight from Del Rio, Texas to Cap Haitien, Haiti with a total of 318 Haitian nationals on board. These flights will continue on a regular basis.*

*Since Sunday, September 19, 12 repatriation flights have left the United States and 1,401 Haitian nationals have been returned to Haiti. 3,206 Haitian nationals have been moved from the Del Rio camp to CBP custody or to other sectors of the United States border to either be expelled via Title 42 if possible or placed into removal proceedings. There remain less than 5,000 migrants in the Del Rio sector.*

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

9/23: Provided CBS News reporter (b) (6) NBC reporter (b) (6) NY Times reporter (b) (6) KENS5 reporter (b) (6) the following statement from DHS when asked questions relating to the processing of migrants who arrived in Del Rio:

*DHS continues to expel migrants under CDC's Title 42 authority. Those who cannot be expelled under Title 42 and do not have a legal basis to remain are placed in expedited or full removal proceedings.*

*Individuals who are not immediately repatriated are either placed in Alternatives to Detention, detained in an ICE facility, or released with a legal document (either a Notice to Appear in court or a notice to report to an ICE office for further immigration processing). The document an individual receives is dependent on facility space and resources available to process.*

*As part of the process, Border Patrol agents collect biometric and biographic information – fingerprints, photos, phone numbers, and an address in the United States – and run a background check to identify criminals or those who pose a public safety risk. Those who do not report, like anyone who is in our country without legal status, are subject to removal by ICE.*



*The Biden Administration has reiterated that our borders are not open, and people should not make the dangerous journey. Individuals and families are subject to border restrictions, including expulsion. Irregular migration poses a significant threat to the health and welfare of border communities and to the lives of migrants themselves, and should not be attempted.*

Lead: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) and (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

9/23: Confirmed when asked by a number of reporters if Border Patrol temporarily ceased horse patrol units in Del Rio. Reporters included New York Times reporter (b) (6) Fox News (b) (6) Axios (b) (6) Newsweek's (b) (6) AFP's (b) (6)

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

9/23: Provided USA Today reporter (b) (6) with the number of migrant deaths identified and rescues performed by US Border Patrol in August (figures broken down by sector).

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

9/23: Politico, Law360 and CNN reached out for comment on the OIG report "CBP Targeted Americans Associated with the 2018-2019 Migrant Caravan" which were referred back to the letter and management response in the report.

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

9/23: WTOF reporter (b) (6) requested stats or info on the number of horse patrol units on the northern border vs. the southwest border. Reporter was advised there is one unit on the northern border in Spokane Sector and there are units in all southwest border sectors except Yuma.

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

9/22: Voice of America reporter (b) (6) inquired about (b) (7)(E) apprehensions as a follow up to similar questions in March following allegations from House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy and today from Rep. Clay Higgins during the Homeland Security Committee hearing alleging that his source has told him 200 known or suspected terrorists have been detained along the southern border. Standard statement was shared.

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

9/21: Numerous reporters asked for updates on the CBP's response to migrants in Del Rio, the number of migrants under the International Bridge, the number transferred to other sectors, the number expelled on flights to Haiti, and the number of flights upcoming. Pointed reporters to DHS's statement Saturday, Chief Ortiz's press conference in Del Rio Sunday, and his press conference with S1 and C1 in Del Rio Monday. Lead: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

9/21: Numerous reporters asked for comment on USBP's horse patrol units following an incident Monday where agents on horses encountered Haitian migrants crossing the river in Del Rio – specifically, whether they used whips, followed proper standards of conduct, are still on patrol, or will be investigated. Pointed reporters to DHS's statement on Monday evening and Monday's press conference where B1 and S1 commented on the situation. DHS statement:

*"The Department of Homeland Security does not tolerate the abuse of migrants in our custody and we take these allegations very seriously. U.S. Customs and Border Protection's Office of Professional Responsibility is investigating the matter and has alerted the DHS Office of Inspector General. In addition, Secretary Mayorkas has directed that personnel from the Office of Professional Responsibility be on site full-time to ensure that the responsibilities of DHS personnel are executed consistent with applicable policies and training and the Department's values."*

*"Secretary Mayorkas visited Del Rio today and witnessed the extraordinary work of DHS personnel. The footage is extremely troubling and the facts learned from the full investigation, which will be conducted swiftly, will define the appropriate disciplinary actions to be taken. We are committed to processing migrants in a safe, orderly, and humane way. We can and must do this in a way that ensures the safety and dignity of migrants."*

9/17: Distributed local press release on temporary closure and re-routing of trade and traffic from Del Rio Port of Entry to Eagle Pass Port of Entry. Answered follow-up questions confirming pedestrian and vehicle traffic is closed in both directions.

Lead: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) and (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

9/16: Provided statement to reporters from the NY Times, NBC, CNN, CBS News, Univision, Telemundo, the Texas Tribune, the Washington Examiner, Breitbart, Spectrum News following comments from the Texas Governor that CBP requested help from Texas to close ports of entry:

*"The Department of Homeland Security is not seeking assistance from the State of Texas to shut down ports of entry. It would be a violation of federal law for the Texas National Guard to unilaterally do so."*

Lead: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) & AC Miranda

9/16: Provided the following statement to reporters from Reuters, CBS News, Fox News, Washington Examiner, Breitbart, Daily Caller, Telemundo San Antonio who asked about CBP's response to migrants arriving at Del Rio's International Bridge:

*The Border Patrol is increasing its manpower in the Del Rio Sector and coordinating efforts within DHS and other relevant federal, state and local partners to immediately address the current level of migrant encounters and to facilitate a safe, humane and orderly process. To prevent injuries from heat-related illness, the shaded area underneath Del Rio International Bridge is serving as a temporary staging site while migrants wait to be taken into USBP custody. Drinking water, towels, and portable toilets have been delivered for migrants to use while they await to be transported to a facility. The vast majority of single adults and many families will continue to be expelled under the CDC's Title 42 authority, and those who cannot be expelled under Title 42 and do not have a legal basis to remain will be placed in expedited removal proceedings.*

*On Background: Persons taken into Border Patrol custody for immigration processing are evaluated on a case-by-case basis for custodial determinations. U.S. legal requirements, COVID-19 protocols, holding capacity, and the health conditions of the persons in custody are all factors that affect such determinations.*

Lead: Peter Carr

9/16: Postponed B1's interviews with CNN, Fox News, and the AP. CNN request for interview pending further review with Border Patrol.

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

#### **Travel:**

9/21: iPolitics Canadian reporter (b) (6) inquired whether there will be an update on border restrictions tomorrow. Informed him the Federal Register Notices will post in the next couple days.

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

#### **Trade / Ag:**

9/23: (b) (6) a reporter with The Globe and Mail, a national newspaper in Canada, contacted OPA writing about a report in August that CBP detained solar panels from the company Canadian Solar, based on a Wapo story that indicated such event. Reporter wanted to confirm the detainment of the Canadian business. Statement provided:

*CBP does not comment on specific investigations. CBP continues to investigate credible allegations of forced labor. As CBP uncovers additional evidence through these investigations, the agency will take appropriate action. CBP will continue to use all available resources to prevent goods made by forced labor from entering U.S. commerce, consistent with the agency's statutory authority.*

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

#### **SOUTHWEST BORDER**

9/23: In response to incessant telephone inquiries from local media outlets to PAO (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) regarding repatriation flights of Haitians through Laredo Airport, PAO (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) forwarded the latest DHS statement on the issue to KGNS-TV (NBC/Telemundo-Laredo) KLDO-TV (Univision/Fox-Laredo) El Manana de Nuevo Laredo, Forte Noticias and Televisa Nuevo Laredo and advised all further inquiries need to be routed to DHS OPA:

From The Department of Homeland Security:

*On Wednesday, September 22, 2021 the Department of Homeland Security conducted two repatriation flights from Del Rio, Texas to Port-au-Prince, Haiti and one repatriation flight from Del Rio, Texas to Cap Haitien, Haiti with a total of 318 Haitian nationals on board. These flights will continue on a regular basis.*

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

9/23: Globe and Mail (Canada) reporter (b) (6) reached out to PAOs (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) regarding reports of Ciudad Acuna administrator hearing from American authorities that the Del Rio International Bridge will not open until there is fewer than 100 migrants left and is this economic blackmail for Mexico. Developed RTQ language that met with LFO mgmt. concurrence. Checking regarding HQ OPA concurrence.

Attributable to a CBP official:

*The Del Rio Port of Entry has been temporarily closed to ensure the safety of the traveling public, CBP facilities and employees and other crossing options currently exist through the rerouting of traffic to Eagle Pass Port of Entry. CBP continues to monitor the evolving situation and once conditions are such that public safety is restored, we will make an announcement regarding reconstitution of Del Rio Port of Entry operations.*

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

9/23: KENS-TV (CBS-San Antonio) reporter (b) (6) inquired what are the criteria that determine which migrants from the influx situation below Del Rio International Bridge are released into the U.S. and which are repatriated

to Haiti. Provided reporter with link to latest DHS statement regarding repatriation flights and current volumes, DHS Title 42/general processing statement and the links to the statements and media availabilities this week with DHS/CBP principals.

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

9/23: (b) (6) Univision, (b) (6) NPR UTEP El Paso, (b) (6) KTSM/Border Report, and (b) (6) (b) (6) of El Paso Times requested information on Haitian Migrants being flown to El Paso Sector for processing. DHS statement provided. Note: El Paso Air Port is wide open and journalists are taping ICE and Coast Guard flights and transfers of Haitian migrants from outside the fence on private property for their news stories.

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

9/23: KRGV-TV (ABC-RGV) and TV Azteca en el Valle (b) (6) inquired with Progreso PAL (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) regarding whether CBP officers may stop travelers that are intoxicated at ports of entry, how is this determined, etc. PAO (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) developed RTQ statement and cleared with LFO mgmt. and Laredo OCC. PAL (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) responded with the cleared statement:

*Attributable to a CBP official:*

*CBP officers do not enforce state law, however if a CBP officer observes someone in a state of intoxication they may reach out to state and local law enforcement and they would make a determination whether to investigate further and take any additional action if warranted.*

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

9/23: RGV-based Univision television reporter (b) (6) is requesting an opportunity to speak to RGV Border Patrol agents regarding recent apprehensions of gang members. Several recent local news releases have identified gang members as those who were taken into custody. The interview is pending HQ approval.

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

9/23: Multiple reports at El Diario de El Paso are writing about seemingly longer than normal wait times at El Paso and Ysleta POE SENTRI lanes. There have been systematic outages throughout the day causing minor disruptions. Social media reporting indicates that crossing times are taking more than an hour and information posted on the CBP BWT page does not accurately reflect crossing times. Negative tone anticipated.

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

9/23: KRIS-TV Corpus Christi reporter (b) (6) requested information on how many area BP agents have died from COVID and requested an interview on the topic. Reporter provided guidance on how to access CBP COVID-19 data on the webpage. Death number and interview not provided because of privacy matter and out of respect for the families of those who have been directly impacted.

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

9/22: (b) (6) CNN, interviewed CBP Chief Medical Officer (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) about the latest addition to the medical facilities stood up at the Del Rio International Bridge. The engagement included a statement by (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) who also answered a few questions, and a brief walk through of the facility. Air date: 9/22.

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

9/22: (b) (6) 830Times (local Del Rio, TX, internet news) interviewed Border Patrol Chief Raul Ortiz about the migrant encampment at the Del Rio International Bridge. Topics included: the history of the buildup of migrants in the area, how CBP is ramping up efforts to address challenges, wellbeing and morale of agents, and the recent publicity surrounding the horse patrol. Publication date: 9/22.

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

9/20: (b) (6) (International media network) telephonically inquired about the soft side facility being constructed on HWY 83. The network requested an on-camera interview with Chief (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) to clarify some misconceptions about what was being circulated on social media. I advised him at this time we do not have media availability planned but confirmed with the network that the facility has not opened yet and is still under construction.

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

9/20: (b) (6) with El Manana newspaper (international media) telephonically and in person inquired about the soft side facility being constructed on HWY 83. The reporter requested an in person interview with Chief (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) to clarify some misconceptions about what was being circulated on social media. I advised him at this time we do not have media availability planned but confirmed with the network that the facility has not opened yet and is still under construction.

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

9/20: (b) (6) with NBC news and (b) (6) with Telemundo network telephonically inquired about the soft side facility being constructed on HWY 83. The reporter requested an in person interview with Chief (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) to clarify some misconceptions about what was being circulated on social media. I advised him at this time we do not have media availability planned but confirmed with the network that the facility has not opened yet and is still under construction.

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

9/20: (b) (6) with NBC news requested a statement on Laredo Sector efforts to Del Rio. She wanted confirmation how many immigrants will be coming to Laredo. A series of questions was submitted to CBP for RTQ. The inquiry is still being reviewed and advised her that hopefully tomorrow we will have a return query.

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

9/20: Coordinated with DRT on multiple media inquires on the story circulating on the agent on horse patrol, (imagery from AFP). As per DRT, DPS was also getting inquiries. CBP Statement is forthcoming, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) took over the inquiries.

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

9/25: Based on bi-national information shared with NOG ILU a local protest led by IGNATION Solidarity Network is scheduled for Saturday September 25, 2021, in Nogales, Sonora. At this time, there is no additional information associated to the size of the protest. Postings indicate the group will support migrants who wish to present themselves for asylum. Tone: neutral/negative. Air date: 9/25

Lead: PAL (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

9/21: Associated Press reporter (b) (6) inquired if CBP was providing any media access to the migrant camp area underneath Del Rio International Bridge and asked for consideration, noting social media posts from other reporters, mainly from Fox News, showing footage near the camp area. Advised that to my knowledge, CBP is currently not providing access at present and copied PAC (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) for any further guidance.

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

9/21 Univision's (b) (6) has requested an interview with Chief Gloria Chavez, a statement on El Paso Sector support for processing Del Rio migrants, and imagery of migrants being processed at the El Paso Central Processing Center. Request and draft statement is being staffed for approval. Chief Chavez is likely to decline interview due to State Department sponsored El Salvador media scheduled for this week and limited ability to speak on Del Rio transfers. Draft statement for local media was being proposed in lieu of any local media interviews.

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

9/20 KVIA, KTSM/Border Report, Univision, KFOX and El Paso Matter all requested information about El Paso Sector Border Patrol support for transporting from Del Rio and processing Haitian migrant here in the El Paso Central Processing Center. Local statement for the media on El Paso sector numbers of migrant being processed daily combined with DHS

Secretary Mayorkas's key messages are being staffed for approval. EPT Stratcom photographer also captured images for social media.

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

9/16 (b) (6) a producer with Donlon Report, asked if El Paso Sector Chief Gloria Chavez could do a 6-8 min interview on their program tonight or in the next few days on the situation at the border. After checking with Chief Chavez, the earliest the Chief could do the interview is the first week of October. Reporter was sent a response with that proposed time frame and the pitch about Chief Chavez talking about how Transnational Criminal Organization exploit, endanger and abandon migrants after charging them thousands of dollars to cross the border illegally. (b) (6) replied that she is interested in doing the interview the first week of Oct.

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

8/19: California reporter (b) (6) from the Alpine Sun is requesting an interview with USBP San Diego Sector about the Missing Migrant Program; her interest in the program stems from her participating in the Sector's hike and border safety demonstration. SDC is looking to set up the phone interview.

9/10: 9/14 update: The reporter was on medical leave and is now back. There will be an interview with the San Diego Sector Foreign Operations Branch the week of September 20.

Lead: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) and Agent (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

9/15 (b) (6) a El Paso based reporter for Reuters, has requested to do a story on Border Patrol Horses in the El Paso Sector. Sector wants to do the story and has staffed the reporter's request to headquarters for approval.

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

9/14 CBS Immigration Report (b) (6) requested information to questions and a statement about the arrest and detention of a suspected alien smuggler at arrested by U.S. Border Patrol Agents at El Paso Int'l Airport on July 11, 2021. The suspect (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) a Mexican national and passport holder without a valid U.S. Visa, but possessing a U.S. Employment permit claims to be a DACA recipient and claims he was mistreated and not properly treated for his medical condition which requires weekly kidney dialysis while in custody. Evidence indicates that (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) has bought a plane ticket for another Mexican national who was in the U.S. illegally and that he was attempting to fly with him back to Minneapolis. Draft response to query statement is being staffed for response.

9/14 UPDATE Proposed statement prepared and cleared thru Strat Comms, OCC and Privacy. Pending additional clearances.

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

9/13 (b) (6) CNN Houston Bureau, called and expressed interest in a visit and ride along tour of El Paso to talk about rescues, TCO exploitation of migrants, stash houses and the increase of Ecuadorians coming across the border illegally. EPT Border Patrol Stratcom is working a proposed schedule to provide to (b) (6) so she can pitch the story to her editors. Date TBD.

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

9/8: Fox News Channel producer (b) (6) requested an interview and brief float with the San Diego Air and Marine Branch following a fatal maritime smuggling incident off Point Loma in May. Pending final approvals, the interview and visit will take place on Thursday, September 30, to discuss maritime smuggling off the coast of California.

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

8/26: El Paso Times reporter (b) (6) is writing about SENTRI lines in El Paso. User have noted longer than normal lines recently. She is interested in current and historical enrollment figures and if CBP is noting any significant changes locally. She was also interested in larger scale (SWB/national) data regarding SENTRI enrollment to see if there are any trends related to the pandemic, etc. No timetable for the story. Lead: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

8/24 Phoenix New Times reporter (b) (6) has requested a telephonic interview with Nogales Port Director (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) While no time/date has yet to be determined, the topic is USC's being used to smuggle drugs through the ports.

Tone: TBD Air Date: TBD Lead: PAL (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) PAS (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

8/24: Mexico-based digital news reporter (b) (6) with "La Lista" is attempting to set up an interview with a DHS official regarding the vague situation at the border. If DHS is not able to accommodate CBP will step up. OPA is still trying to narrow down the request/topics and geographic location of the reporter. This remains in progress.

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

8/23 Local El Paso KFOX reporter (b) (6) is requesting a ride-a-long/meet up tour on the border next week to discuss recent trends in human smuggling in the El Paso Sector. Request is being staffed through US Border Patrol Sector.  
Lead: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)

8/23 US Border Patrol El Paso Sector is preparing to support US State Department sponsored foreign media team engagement from El Salvador the later part of September on the dangers of crossing the border illegally. El Paso Sector is willing to assist CBP HQ with this media engagement.

9/15: First leg of tour in DC set for Monday, September 20<sup>th</sup>. Co-op will subsequently engage in El Paso on Sept 23 and 24<sup>th</sup>; and in Tucson on the 27<sup>th</sup>. Itinerary prepared and being finalized.

9/17: UPDATE DC portion of trip set for Monday, September 27<sup>th</sup> at the RRB with roundtable and one-on-one interview with USBP and AMO.

9/20: DC portion conducted. Participants engaged in a background roundtable discussion with USBP presenters Associate Chief (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) and SBPA (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) as well as AMO presenters Acting Dir. Air Operations (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) and Acting Dir. Marine Operations (b) (6), (b) (7)(C). The roundtable was followed by two on the record interviews with (A) Deputy Chief Manuel Padilla and (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) Acting Exec. Dir. AMO. Both were smooth and focused on the message of the dangers of the journey. The journalists goal (from 4 Vision) is to prepare a media product for their audiences in El Salvador to dissuade irregular migration to the U.S. . They will head to El Paso next and then to Tucson.

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

#### **NORTHERN & COASTAL BORDER:**

9/23: Puerto Rico based reporters from El Nuevo Dia and the Miami Herald sought information regarding how human smugglers abandoned in Mona Island 71 Haitian migrants between 9/21 and 9/22. Coast Guard is transporting 59 of the 71 migrants to the Mayaguez Port of entry for later transport to the Ramey Border Patrol Station for processing. Neutral tone expected.

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

9/23: TradeWindsNews correspondent (b) (6) inquired about why the Port of Oswego, N.Y. did not have a OFO/CBP facility. ADFO mission support stated the port would not establish the required cargo facility at no cost the U.S. Government, as required and assisted with response. Provided the following to reporter:

*U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) requires uniform processing facilities and equipment be provided to the Government in order to safeguard trade and ensure national security. To these ends, and to ensure more efficient facilities and service, CBP developed the Cargo Facility Design Standard based on the regulations set forth in Title 19 U.S. Code and in 19 CFR Parts 19, 115, and 118, which require that adequate space be provided by facility operators. The Cargo Facility Standard identifies CBP's requirements in terms of space allocation, adjacencies, and specific technical criteria for building materials and systems.*

Tone: Neutral/Educational

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

9/22: (b) (6) a reporter with Spectrum News 1 TV in Cincinnati, requested an interview with a CBP officer at the Port of Cincinnati regarding the latest counterfeit COVID card and Pfizer sticker seizure. The reporter is interested in what led to this seizure, how CBP is fighting the spread of counterfeit items, and how dangerous this is to the community. The interview will be on Thursday, Sept 23, at the Port of Cincinnati. Tone: Positive

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

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

Branch Chief, Northern/Coastal Regions

CBP Public Affairs

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

cell)

For urgent after-hours media matters, contact:

[cbpmediarelations@cbp.dhs.gov](mailto:cbpmediarelations@cbp.dhs.gov)

Message

**From:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)  
**Sent:** 9/21/2021 6:53:07 PM  
**To:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)  
**Subject:** FW: Horse Patrol PAG  
**Attachments:** PAG Horse Patrol Incident Sept 20 2021 (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) Edits (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) .docx

FYSA -

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

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**From:** MIRANDA, LUIS A (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 21, 2021 2:47 PM  
**To:** HUFFMAN, BENJAMINE C (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) ORTIZ, RAUL L (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

Yes sir. Moving it through for clearance.

---

**From:** HUFFMAN, BENJAMINE C (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 21, 2021 2:42 PM  
**To:** MIRANDA, LUIS A (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) ORTIZ, RAUL L (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)  
(b) (6), (b) (7)(C) PADILLA, MANUEL JR (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)  
(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)  
**Cc:** (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)  
**Subject:** RE: Horse Patrol PAG

Thank you. Please to work get cleared by DHS.

---

**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

I believe the attached consolidates all of it plus the corrections on guidance. I made the line about the units no longer being in Del Rio as "if asked." We will need an answer if we are asked if they're still in a capacity to engage with migrants. If that's not the right line, we need the alternate. (b) (5)

(b) (5) Please let me know if that works.

---

**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)  
(b) (6), (b) (7)(C)  
Cc: (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)  
Subject: Re: Horse Patrol PAG

We do not need to add any language about the Carrizo Springs unit being grounded, this incident was a few agents.

Get [Outlook for IOS](#)

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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)

If that's accurate we should fix that too.

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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

Attached with my edits. If we get a line on why we use the Horse Patrols for crowd control or anything else that needs review on the curriculum that would be great, but if that's going to take time I can start moving this through DHS for approvals.

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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)  
✉: (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)