
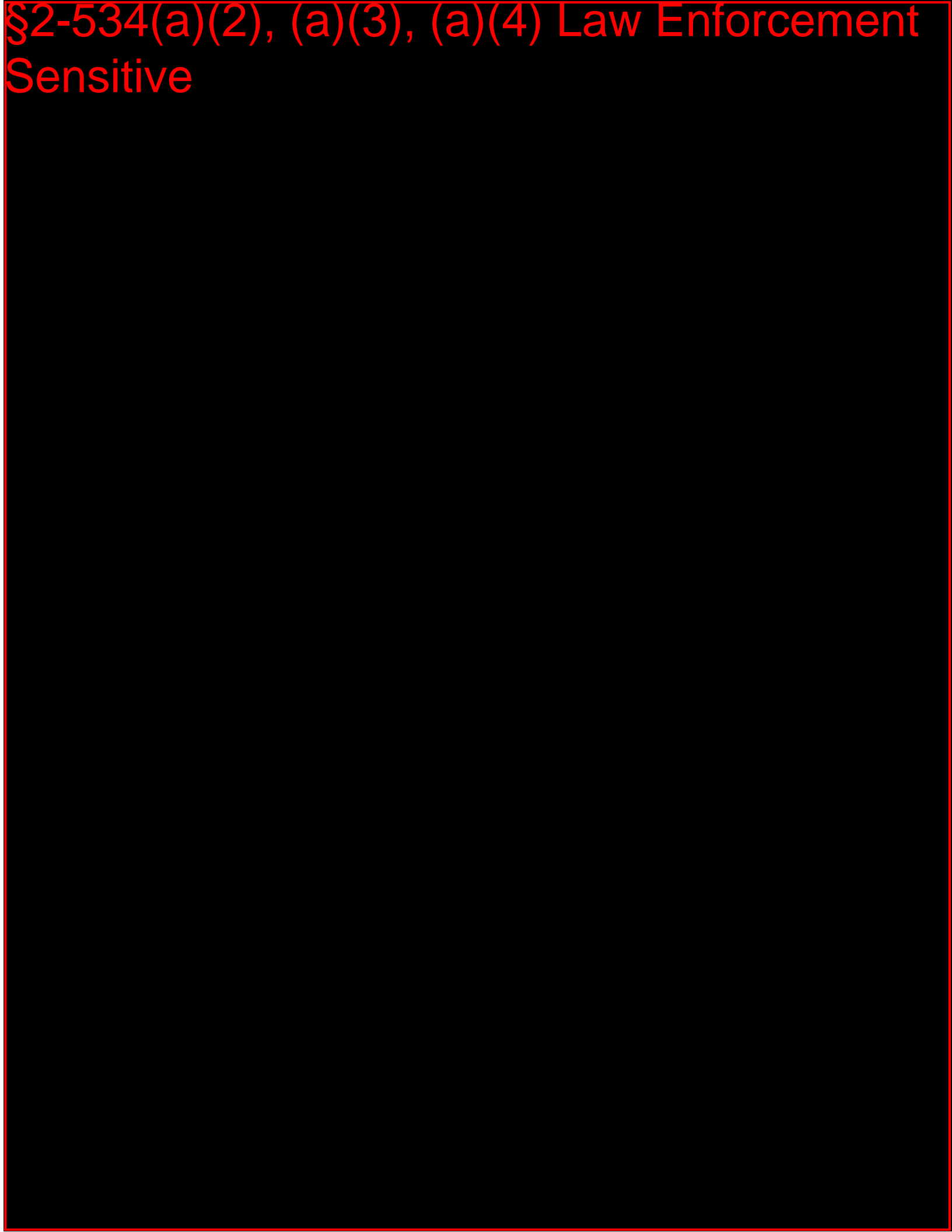


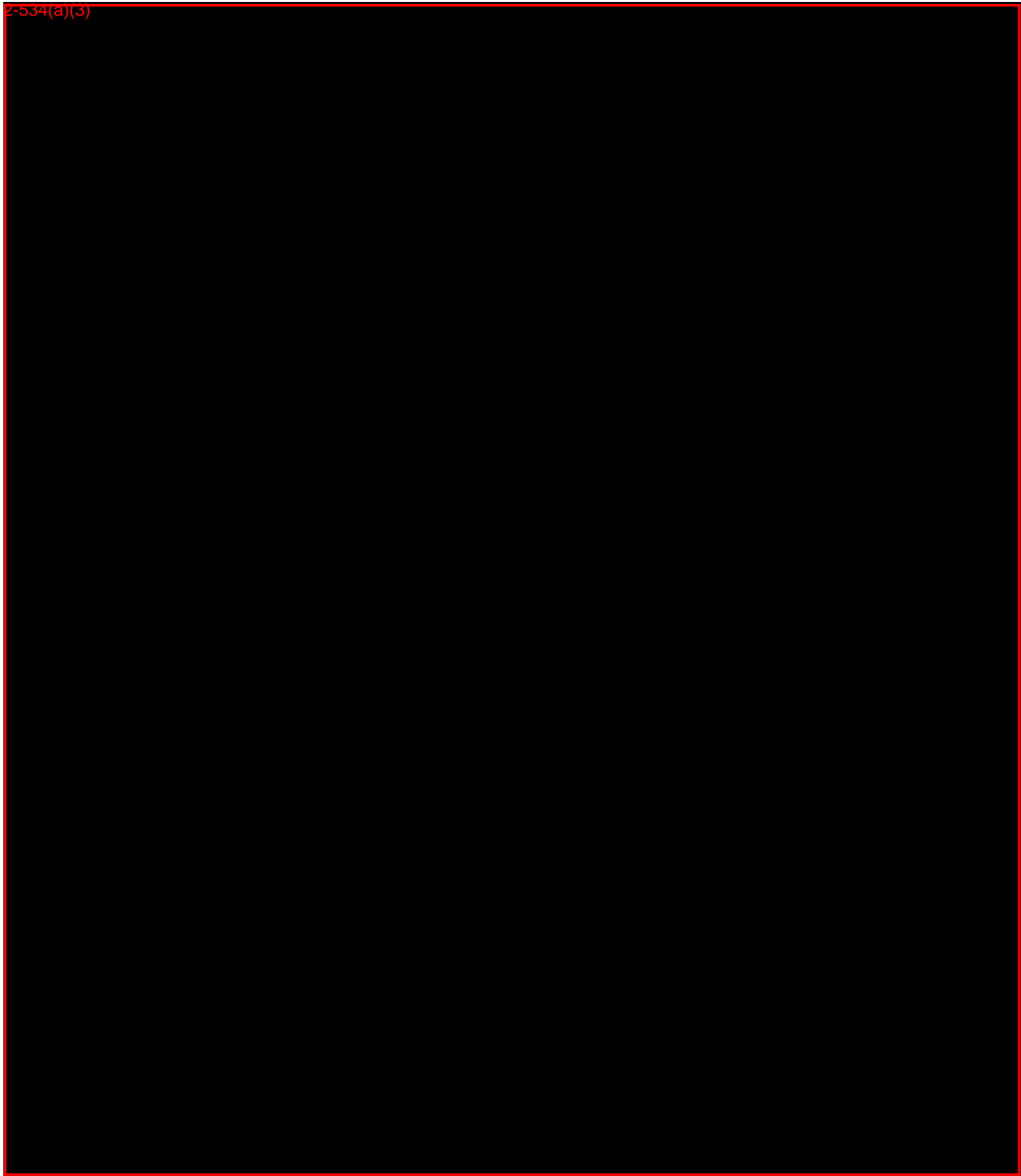
§2-534(a)(2), (a)(3)(C), (a)(4) Law
Enforcement Sensitive



§2-534(a)(2), (a)(3), (a)(4) Law Enforcement
Sensitive



§2-534(a)(2),(a)(3)(C), (a)(4) Law
Enforcement Sensitive



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Graves, David L CIV DTRA OI (USA)

To: Graves, David L CIV DTRA OI (USA)
Subject: FW: CISA Daily Clips

From: Hart, David
Sent: Wednesday, January 20, 2021 7:44 AM
Subject: CISA Daily Clips



DAILY CLIPS January 20th, 2021

CISA

SolarWinds Provides Update on Major Hack Amid New CISA Venture < Caution-
<https://governmentciomedia.com/solarwinds-provides-update-major-hack-amid-new-cisa-venture> > **(01/19)**
GovernmentCIOMedia

In a new blog post, SolarWinds said the company first noticed “suspicious activity” on its Orion platform in September 2019 — more than a year before discovering the malicious code now referred to as SUNBURST, which induced the December 2020 cyberattack. According to SolarWinds, the SUNSPOT malware inserted the SUNBURST backdoor “into software builds of the SolarWinds Orion IT management product.” In other words, the malware mimicked SolarWinds’ own IT product, slipping in during the development process.

CISA’s Kolasky unveils ‘Systemic Cyber Risk Reduction Venture’ for critical infrastructure < Caution-
<https://insidecybersecurity.com/daily-news/cisa%E2%80%99s-kolasky-unveils-%E2%80%98systemic-cyber-risk-reduction-venture%E2%80%99-critical-infrastructure> > **(01/19)** **Inside Cybersecurity**

CISA’s National Risk Management Center is launching a multifaceted “risk reduction venture” to help organize efforts around analyzing, measuring and providing tools to address cybersecurity risks faced by critical infrastructure. “Using enterprise risk management best practices will be a focus for CISA in 2021, and today the National Risk Management Center (NRMC) is launching a Systemic Cyber Risk Reduction Venture to organize our work to reduce shared risk to the Nation’s security and economic security,” NRMC Director Bob Kolasky said Thursday in a blog post.

SolarWinds Hack Costs ‘Growing Every Day,’ CISA Official Says < Caution-
<https://www.meritalk.com/articles/solarwinds-hack-costs-growing-cisa-orion/> > **(01/19)** **MeriTalk**

The costs and consequences of the Russia-backed hack of government and private sector networks via a breach of SolarWinds Orion products are continuing to grow more than a month after the exploit was publicly disclosed, a senior official with the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) said today. “There is no bigger risk” facing critical infrastructure sectors than attacks on their supply chains, said Bob Kolasky, who heads the National Risk Management Center (NRMC) at CISA, at an online event organized by FCW. “We are all living and dealing with the

consequences of perhaps the most significant software supply chain attack" in history, Kolasky said referring to the SolarWinds breach.

COVID-19

Pfizer responds to Cuomo, says HHS approval needed to sell COVID vaccine to NY < Caution-
<https://nypost.com/2021/01/19/pfizer-hhs-approval-needed-to-sell-covid-19-vaccine-to-ny/> > **(01/19) The New York Post**

Pfizer says it would need federal approval to sell its coronavirus vaccine to New York, dashing Gov. Andrew Cuomo's hopes of buying the shots directly. Cuomo asked the Manhattan-based drugmaker about placing a COVID-19 vaccine order on Monday as he complained that the feds had left the state facing a shortage. But Pfizer said the US Department of Health and Human Services would have to approve such an arrangement based on the emergency use authorization that the Food and Drug Administration granted for the groundbreaking vaccine.

CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Can Joe Biden Get Infrastructure Done In 2021? < Caution-
<https://www.benzinga.com/government/21/01/19213829/can-joe-biden-get-infrastructure-done-in-2021> > **(01/19) Benzinga**

Next month before a joint session of Congress, President-elect Joe Biden plans to lay out his Build Back Better recovery plan that he claims will make "historic" investments in infrastructure. "It's time to stop talking about infrastructure and finally start building infrastructure," Biden said while unveiling his \$1.9 trillion COVID relief plan Thursday. "Millions of good-paying jobs putting Americans to work rebuilding our roads, our bridges, our ports to make them more climate resilient, to make them faster, cheaper, cleaner to transport American-made goods across our country and around the world, that's how we compete. Failure to do so will cost us dearly," Biden said.

SOLARWINDS

Fourth malware strain discovered in SolarWinds incident < Caution-<https://www.zdnet.com/article/fourth-malware-strain-discovered-in-solarwinds-incident/> > **(01/19) ZD Net**

Cyber-security firm Symantec said it identified another malware strain that was used during the SolarWinds supply chain attack, bringing the total number to four, after the likes of Sunspot, Sunburst (Solorigate), and Teardrop. Named Raindrop, Symantec said the malware was used only during the very last stages of an intrusion, deployed only on the networks of very few selected targets.

New Raindrop Tool Tied to SolarWinds Attackers < Caution-<https://duo.com/decipher/new-raindrop-tool-tied-to-solarwinds-attackers> > **(01/19) Duo**

Researchers have uncovered another piece of malware used by the SolarWinds attackers to help them move across networks after an initial compromise. The tool is known as Raindrop and while it shares a number of similarities with the Teardrop malware used by the same group, it has some unique capabilities and has only been found on a small number of computers.

Biden DHS, Intel picks stress need to prioritize cybersecurity after SolarWinds Hack < Caution-
<https://thehill.com/policy/cybersecurity/534889-biden-dhs-intel-nominees-stress-need-to-prioritize-cybersecurity-after> > **(01/19) The Hill**

President-elect Joe Biden's nominees to serve as secretary of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and as director of national intelligence (DNI) both said Tuesday that if confirmed they will make a priority out of bolstering the nation's cybersecurity. DHS nominee Alejandro Mayorkas and DNI nominee Avril Haines each pointed to the specific need to secure the federal government against cyber threats following the recently discovered Russian hack of IT group SolarWinds, which compromised many key federal agencies and potentially thousands of businesses.

SolarWinds hack blights the Trump administration's cybersecurity record < Caution-

<https://fcw.com/articles/2021/01/19/trump-mixed-cyber-legacy.aspx> > **(01/19) FCW**

The SolarWinds hack, first detected in December 2020, colors any assessment of the cybersecurity legacy of the administration of President Donald Trump. During Trump's last days in office, as the president pressed to overturn the results of the November election, the federal government scrambled to contain the fallout from an ongoing intelligence operation believed to be the worst intrusion in the country's history.

Symantec connects another hacking tool to SolarWinds campaign < Caution-

<https://www.cyberscoop.com/solarwinds-symantec-raindrop-russia-hacking/> > **(01/19) CyberScoop**

Private sector analysts uncovered a new hacking tool thought to be used in a suspected Russian spying operation in the latest example of how, as the investigation into the SolarWinds breach continues, the plot only thickens. Security firm Symantec on Tuesday said it had found previously undocumented malicious code that the attackers used to move through victim networks and then transmit additional malware onto specific computers. The attackers installed the malicious code, dubbed Raindrop, on a handful of carefully chosen computers in an effort to spy on them, according to the latest findings.

FireEye releases tool for auditing networks for techniques used by SolarWinds hackers < Caution-

<https://www.zdnet.com/article/fireeye-releases-tool-for-auditing-networks-for-techniques-used-by-solarwinds-hackers/> > **(01/19) ZDNet**

Cybersecurity firm FireEye has released today a report detailing the techniques used by the SolarWinds hackers inside the networks of companies they breached. Together with the report, FireEye researchers have also released a free tool on GitHub named Azure AD Investigator that they say can help companies determine if the SolarWinds hackers (also known as UNC2452) used any of these techniques inside their networks.

The big cyber issues Joe Biden will face his first day in office < Caution-<https://www.cyberscoop.com/biden-cybersecurity-russia-solarwinds/> > **(01/19) Cyberscoop**

Joe Biden has his work cut out for him. Biden will be sworn into office on Jan. 20 with a long list of challenges ranging from the coronavirus pandemic to re-considering America's place on the world stage. There's also the fallout from a far-reaching hacking campaign that the U.S. has suggested is the work of the Russian government. Yet the next American president has also chosen top advisers, including his picks to lead the Department of Homeland Security and the CIA, who appear to view digital security as an integral part of policymaking. Their thinking on these issues, and whether they succeed or fail in the face of deep-seated challenges to internet security, could affect the trajectory of Biden's presidency.

CYBERSECURITY

Protective DNS aims to protect remote workers from malware attack < Caution-

<https://www.zdnet.com/article/protective-dns-aims-to-protect-remote-workers-from-malware-attack/> > **(01/19) ZDNet**

Remote working has put people at risk of being targeted by cyber criminals because home networks are rarely set up with enterprise-level security in mind. But a new tool could give home workers the same protections against cyberattacks as they're used to in the office. The UK's National Cyber Security Centre's (NCSC) Protective Domain Name Service (PDNS) has been active since 2017, helping to keep public sector workers as safe as possible from cyberattacks – and now there's a version for remote workers.

Mayorkas calls for review of Einstein, CDM < Caution-<https://fcw.com/articles/2021/01/19/mayorkas-dhs-confirm-cyber.aspx> > **(01/19) FCW**

Alejandro Mayorkas, at his Senate confirmation hearing to lead the Department of Homeland Security, said he will review the federal government's two major cybersecurity programs in the wake of the SolarWinds breach. Mayorkas said he would conduct "a thorough review of Einstein and Continuous Diagnostics and Mitigation [programs] to

understand whether Einstein and CDM ... are appropriately designed and appropriately and effectively executed" to stop a threat such as SolarWinds. "And if not, what other defenses need we develop in the federal government to best protect our very valuable equities and resources?" he added in response to a question from Sen. Maggie Hassan (D-N.H.) during his confirmation hearing before the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee.

Healthcare security challenge: How cyberattacks are evolving < Caution-

<https://www.securitymagazine.com/articles/94381-healthcare-security-challenge-how-cyberattacks-are-evolving> > **(01/19) Security Magazine**

First, it goes without saying that hospitals and frontline workers should be applauded for doing their utmost to ensure staff and patient safety under extraordinary circumstances. Hospitals are under unprecedented stress — and, sadly, it appears that the pandemic will get worse before it gets better. The vaccines are a light at the end of the tunnel, but until they have been widely distributed, hospitals will remain over-extended, making them even more vulnerable to cyberattacks.

Michael Sulmeyer, who held cyber posts under Trump and Obama, gets Biden White House gig < Caution-

<https://www.cyberscoop.com/michael-sulmeyer-senior-director-cyber-biden/> > **(01/19) CyberScoop**

Michael Sulmeyer, a senior adviser to National Security Agency and U.S. Cyber Command leader Gen. Paul Nakasone, will take the position of senior director for cyber in the Biden White House. Sulmeyer's selection came with no formal announcement. Instead, the transition website posted his position Monday evening. Sulmeyer is a cybersecurity veteran with broad experience, one of many to join the Biden administration. He's also one of several whose tenures have included roles in the Trump administration.

Will Your Airliner Get Hacked? < Caution-[https://urldefense.us/v3/__https://Caution-www.airspacemag.com/flight-today/will-your-airliner-get-hacked-180976752/__;!!BCIRuOV5cvtbuNI!Weh9VpUbtPWdaUH1UlsnfryZwdSogd2E3TiG-ZoETT1n-8ny_c__Xtz97Q4_lleUYMITgiU\\$](https://urldefense.us/v3/__https://Caution-www.airspacemag.com/flight-today/will-your-airliner-get-hacked-180976752/__;!!BCIRuOV5cvtbuNI!Weh9VpUbtPWdaUH1UlsnfryZwdSogd2E3TiG-ZoETT1n-8ny_c__Xtz97Q4_lleUYMITgiU$) > **(01/19) AirSpaceMag**

Modern aircraft have sometimes been called computers with wings, and as far back as 1994, long before hacking became high on society's list of everyday worries, Boeing engineers were having discussions about how to keep malicious software from being introduced into the data network of their newest marvel, the 777 airliner. So far, the protections devised by those engineers—and the ones who came after them—have worked. No hacker has ever penetrated the computers of an airliner's flight control system or any part of its avionics. The not-so-shocking news is that hackers have tried. Mike Vanguardia is one of an army of engineers who work to keep them out.

Microsoft Additional Steps to Address ZeroLogon Flaw < Caution-<https://www.govinfosecurity.com/microsoft-taking-additional-steps-to-address-zero-logon-flaw-a-15796> > **(01/19) GovInfoSecurity**

Microsoft is alerting customers that starting Feb. 9, it will enforce domain controller settings within Active Directory to block connections that could exploit the unpatched ZeroLogon vulnerability in Windows Server. The software giant, along with the U.S. Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, has been warning about the urgency of patching the ZeroLogon vulnerability, which is tracked as CVE-2020-1472, for months. The flaw affects Windows Server's Netlogon Remote Protocol, or MS-NRPC - an authentication component of Active Directory that organizations deploy to manage user accounts, including authentication and access (see: Microsoft Issues Updated Patching Directions for 'ZeroLogon').

ELECTION SECURITY

Democrats race to push Biden's agenda after transition delays, GOP infighting < Caution-

<https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/congress/democrats-race-push-biden-s-agenda-after-transition-delays-gop-n1254692> > **(01/19) NBC News**

WASHINGTON — After weeks of Republican infighting over President-elect Joe Biden's victory, which culminated in the deadly siege of the Capitol two weeks ago by supporters of President Donald Trump, Democrats are now racing to help Biden get to work on day one. Democrats will officially capture the Senate on Wednesday when, according to two sources, three new members will be sworn in during the afternoon: Georgia winners Jon Ossoff and Raphael Warnock, and California's Alex Padilla, the appointee to replace Kamala Harris, who resigned on Monday two days before her vice presidential inauguration.

"MyPillow guy" Mike Lindell says he'd welcome suit from voting machines maker Dominion < Caution-

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/mike-lindell-dominion-lawsuit-mypillow-ceo/> > **(01/19) CBS News**

MyPillow CEO Mike Lindell — an ardent supporter of President Trump — says he would "welcome" a threatened lawsuit from voting machines manufacturer Dominion. Lindell told CBS News a suit would enable him to show the world the recent presidential election was rigged. However, the Justice Department found no evidence of widespread voter fraud and Trump administration national security and election officials have called it the "most secure election in American history." In a letter dated December 23, attorneys for Dominion asserted that Lindell has "participated in the vast and concerted misinformation campaign to slander Dominion."

CONGRESSIONAL ACTION

Congress Highlights Agencies' 2020 Cyber Struggles and Need for Reform < Caution-

<https://governmentciomedia.com/congress-highlights-agencies-2020-cyber-struggles-and-need-reform> > **(01/19)**

GovernmentCIOMedia

Legislators are calling for Congress to push IT modernization efforts across federal agencies following the 2020 spike in cybercrime due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Republicans on the House Financial Services Committee say cybercrime increased with the shift to remote work since March 2020 and also with the passage of the CARES Act in April. "Financial institutions were put in a position to balance the government's interest in disbursing money quickly against their long-standing interest in implementing a robust system to prevent cyberattacks and scams," according to the committee's report.

5G SECURITY

NTIA releases national strategy to secure 5G implementation plan < Caution-

<https://www.securitymagazine.com/articles/94379-ntia-releases-national-strategy-to-secure-5g-implementation-plan> > **(01/19) Security Magazine**

Fifth generation wireless technology, or 5G, will be a primary driver of the U.S. prosperity and security in the 21st century, says the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), the agency that is principally responsible for advising the President on telecommunications and information policy issues. The newly released National Strategy to Secure 5G plan by the NTIA details how the United States will lead global development, deployment, and management of secure and reliable 5G infrastructure.

RANSOMWARE

560 Healthcare Providers Fell Victim to Ransomware Attacks in 2020 < Caution-

<https://healthitsecurity.com/news/560-healthcare-providers-fell-victim-to-ransomware-attacks-in-2020> > **(01/19)**

HealthITSecurity

January 19, 2021 - In the midst of responding to COVID-19, the healthcare sector faced a significant number of ransomware attacks in 2020 with 560 healthcare provider facilities falling victim to the malware variant, according to the latest Emsisoft State of Ransomware report. The last quarter of 2019 saw an unprecedented number of ransomware incidents in the healthcare sector. And while the number of reported successful attacks petered off during the first half of 2020, those numbers drastically increased through a coordinated ransomware wave that began in September.

Scottish Environmental Protection Agency confirms 'ongoing' ransomware attack < Caution-

<https://www.computing.co.uk/news/4025963/sepa-ongoing-ransomware-attack> > **(01/19) Computing UK**

The Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) is still responding to an ongoing ransomware attack it identified on Christmas Eve, which has knocked many of its critical IT systems offline. According to SEPA, an initial investigation suggests that a highly organised, international cyber-crime group is behind the attack, intending to disrupt SEPA's public services and extort public funds. The Agency's email system is still down almost a month after the initial attack, and some internal systems and external data products will remain offline in the short term.

SUPPLY CHAIN

Rising Supply Chain Risk Requires Proactive Management (Opinion < Caution-<https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/opinions/rising-supply-chain-risk-proactive/> > **) (01/19) Infosecurity-Magazine**

As the roughly 18,000 organizations, government agencies and educational institutions continue to recover from last year's SolarWinds nation-state attack, one of the biggest takeaways from this event is that organizations need to be better educated on how to manage their third-party cyber-risks. Currently, the SolarWinds victims are experiencing the effects of what is known as a "supply chain" attack, which means that the attacker targeted a supplier (or "third-party") of an organization instead of directly attacking their target(s). Supply chain attacks are becoming more prevalent because they are an effective way of distributing malware to a large group of targets.

EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

DHS Awards \$1.5M to Small Business for First Responder Emergency Alerts Technology

Development < Caution-<https://www.newswise.com/articles/dhs-awards-1-5m-to-small-business-for-first-responder-emergency-alerts-technology-development> > **(01/19) Newswise**

Newswise — WASHINGTON — As emergency communications technologies adapt to an increasingly interconnected nation, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Science and Technology Directorate (S&T) today announced it awarded more than \$1.5 million to develop an Alerts, Warnings, and Notifications (AWN) Guidance Tool. The program planning app, which will be available through a portal at FEMA's website, is expected to provide customized resources, best practices and program templates to address the most pressing challenges of alert originators, helping public safety agencies at the federal, state, local, tribal and territorial levels disseminate emergency and life-saving information.

Motorola (MSI) Teams Up with PRP to Revamp Public Safety in Canada < Caution-

<https://www.nasdaq.com/articles/motorola-msi-teams-up-with-prp-to-revamp-public-safety-in-canada-2021-01-19> > **(01/19) Nasdaq**

In a dedicated effort to strengthen the public safety infrastructure, Motorola Solutions, Inc. MSI recently collaborated with Canada's third largest municipal police service — Peel Regional Police ("PRP"). Notably, the policing services provider has been sharing an active working relationship with Motorola for quite some time now on the back of the latter's integrated software technologies, such as LTE data communications and public safety radio. As part of the recent deal, PRP will capitalize on Motorola's avant-garde CommandCentral software, which will enhance the overall public safety ecosystem with centralized data access and render fast response times to mitigate operating risks.

Graves, David L CIV DTRA OI (USA)

To: Graves, David L CIV DTRA OI (USA)
Subject: FW: (U//FOUO) JRIC Daily: 20 January 2021

From: JRIC
Sent: Wednesday, January 20, 2021 3:00 PM
Subject: (U//FOUO) JRIC Daily: 20 January 2021

2-534(a)(10), 2-534(a)(3)



§ 2-534(a)(3)

§ 2-534(a)(3)

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Graves, David L CIV DTRA OI (USA)

To: Graves, David L CIV DTRA OI (USA)
Subject: FW: OSAC Afternoon Newsletter

From: OSAC Admin
Sent: Wednesday, January 20, 2021 4:01 PM
Subject: OSAC Afternoon Newsletter



Overseas Security Advisory Council
Research and Information Support
Center
Bureau of Diplomatic Security
U.S. Department of State

Afternoon Newsletter

Dear David Graves,

Your Afternoon Newsletter is ready!

01-20-2021

OSAC Reports

Africa

Niger

OSAC Analysis

[Deadly Attack in Niger Highlights Risks in Tri-Border Region](#)

Europe

Slovakia

[Health Alert: Slovakia, Nationwide Testing Required for Outside Activities](#)

South & Central Asia

India

OSAC Analysis

[Travel Security Resources for Female Travelers in India](#)

Western Hemisphere

Colombia

[Health Alert: Colombia, COVID-19 Testing Requirement for Air Travel](#)

Dominican Republic

[Health Alert: Dominican Republic, COVID Testing Update](#)

Guatemala

[Security Alert: Guatemala, Demonstrations and Roadblocks](#)

Upcoming OSAC Events

East Asia & Pacific

China

[VIRTUAL Country Chapter Meeting: Shanghai, China \(January 28\)](#)

Europe

Hungary

[VIRTUAL Country Chapter Meeting: Budapest, Hungary \(January 26\)](#)

Slovenia

[VIRTUAL Country Chapter Meeting: Ljubljana, Slovenia \(January 27\)](#)

United Kingdom

[VIRTUAL Country Chapter Meeting: London, United Kingdom \(January 21\)](#)

Global

[Women in Security Webinar: Learning the Language of Business \(January 27\)](#)

[Europe Regional Committee Winter Webinar \(January 28\)](#)

[Private Sector Security Overseas Seminar \(PSOS\): VIRTUAL Arlington, VA \(April 14-16, 2021\)](#)

[International Organizations/Non-Governmental Organizations Security Overseas Seminar \(IO/NGO SOS\):VIRTUAL \(May 13-14\)](#)

Western Hemisphere

Venezuela

[VIRTUAL Country Chapter Meeting: Caracas, Venezuela \(January 21\)](#)

External News

South & Central Asia

Kazakhstan

[72 coronavirus cases identified in Tengiz per day](#)

Pakistan

[At Least Eight Killed In Crash In Southwestern Pakistan](#)

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Sacco, Cristina (EOM)

From: Ripley, Patricia L. (WF) (DET) <PLRIPLEY@fbi.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 20, 2021 4:22 PM
To: Ferraro, Alexandra (HSEMA); §2-534(a)(2) (MPD); Newman, William J. (WF) (FBI); Phillips, Steve; michael.ebey@usss.dhs.gov; richard.rogers@usss.dhs.gov; christina.fabac@usss.dhs.gov; matthew.n.phillips@usss.dhs.gov; adam.kirkwood@usss.dhs.gov; Rosanna.donaghey@usss.dhs.gov; Barmonde, Thomas (WF) (DET); Cook, James A.; Chite, Mark; DAMON.C.EDWARDS@cbp.dhs.gov; Hawkins, Derron (FEMS); Jackson, Keishea (FEMS); Mccray, Jonice; amanda.s.mason4.mil@mail.mil; anh-chi.p.murphy.mil@mail.mil; jonathan.s.ebbert.mil@mail.mil; benjamin.goldberg@dot.gov; gerrityd@state.gov; zurburgkinghm@state.gov; herrera@state.gov; CeasarDN@state.gov; Andres, Alyse; Tu, Raymond H. (BA) (FBI); Wightman, Michael C. (BA) (FBI); Ellis, Loren M. (CIRG) (FBI); Erlendson, Jennifer J. (CIRG) (FBI); Louryk, John B. (WF) (TFO); Marc.L.Bosley@fps.dhs.gov; Ed.Wojciechowski@mail.house.gov; Lauren_Eagan@saa.senate.gov; George.Adams@oig.hhs.gov; James.Lehman@oig.hhs.gov; mark.a.rasmussen.civ@mail.mil; andrew.d.hasser.mil@mail.mil; wanda.c.squirewell.civ@mail.mil; marvin.c.solomon.civ@mail.mil; william.c.furmanski.civ@mail.mil; jonathan.m.morgenstein.mil@mail.mil; jessica.curtis@mcac.maryland.gov; Cardella, Alex; Janczyk, Jeffrey P. (WF) (TFO); Barbieri, Michael (MPD); Alvarez, Daniel (WF) (OGA); ADonald@wmata.com; MASalata@wmata.com; EMoscouLewis@wmata.com; Marcenelle, Madeline (HSEMA); Mein, John; Donell, Harvin; stephebj@nctc.gov; PATRJOM@nctc.gov; Gilliard, Darrell K.; William.grice@ncis.navy.mil; lillian.fata@ncis.navy.mil; Roosevelt.Glover@NCIS.NAVY.MIL; kristoffer.carlson@NCIS.NAVY.MIL; Kbahe@NCIS.NAVY.MIL; Waller, Markiest; paige.vandenneever@NCIS.NAVY.MIL; isaiah.cooper@NCIS.NAVY.MIL; nicholas.suszan@NCIS.NAVY.MIL; Alexander, Eryn R. (IOD) (FBI); samuel.g.gross.mil@mail.mil; Lay, Amy L.; jeremy.roush@fairfaxcounty.gov; Miller, Michael T. (WF) (OGA); douglas.m.trippany.mil@mail.mil; Thorward, Brent C. (WF) (DET); catherine.taylor43.mil@mail.mil; John.Erickson@uscg.gov; marilyn.guzman@uscg.gov; Delegan, John; David.Millard@uscg.gov; Usman.Saleem@uscg.gov; john.nugent@uscg.gov; ryan.mccamley@uscg.gov; john.donohue@uscg.gov; julie.farnam@uscg.gov; Dillon, Joseph; CGINTEL@uscg.mil; ronald.mcgarvey@usmc.mil; Smith, Johnnie (USMS); Madagu, Jonathan (USMS); Rose, Michael (HQ-JSD) (USMS); Knutson, Brett (WF) (DET); Rossi, Michael A. (CTD) (CON); Dingeldein, James E. (WF) (DET); mark_varanelli@nps.gov; Michael_Libby@nps.gov; elizabeth.adams@vdm.virginia.gov; Gene.E.Roddy@whmo.mil; Douglas.R.Reedy@whmo.mil; Jeffrey.W.Kuck@whmo.mil; Gary.Halton@whmo.mil; 'Hessling, Paul E COL USARMY NG NGB (USA)'
Cc: Stapleton, Hope T. (WF) (FBI); Morris, Tiffany (WF) (FBI); Loftus, Ashlea (WF) (FBI); Kukowski, Jed (WF) (FBI); WF-CT-4
Subject: Social media disinformation and extremist activity for 20/01/2021
Attachments: image001.png; Daily_Ethnographic_Monitoring_Brief_-_20.01.2021.pdf
Categories: Green

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the DC Government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know that the content is safe. If you believe that this email is suspicious, please forward to phishing@dc.gov for additional analysis by OCTO Security Operations Center (SOC).

§ 2-534(a)(3)



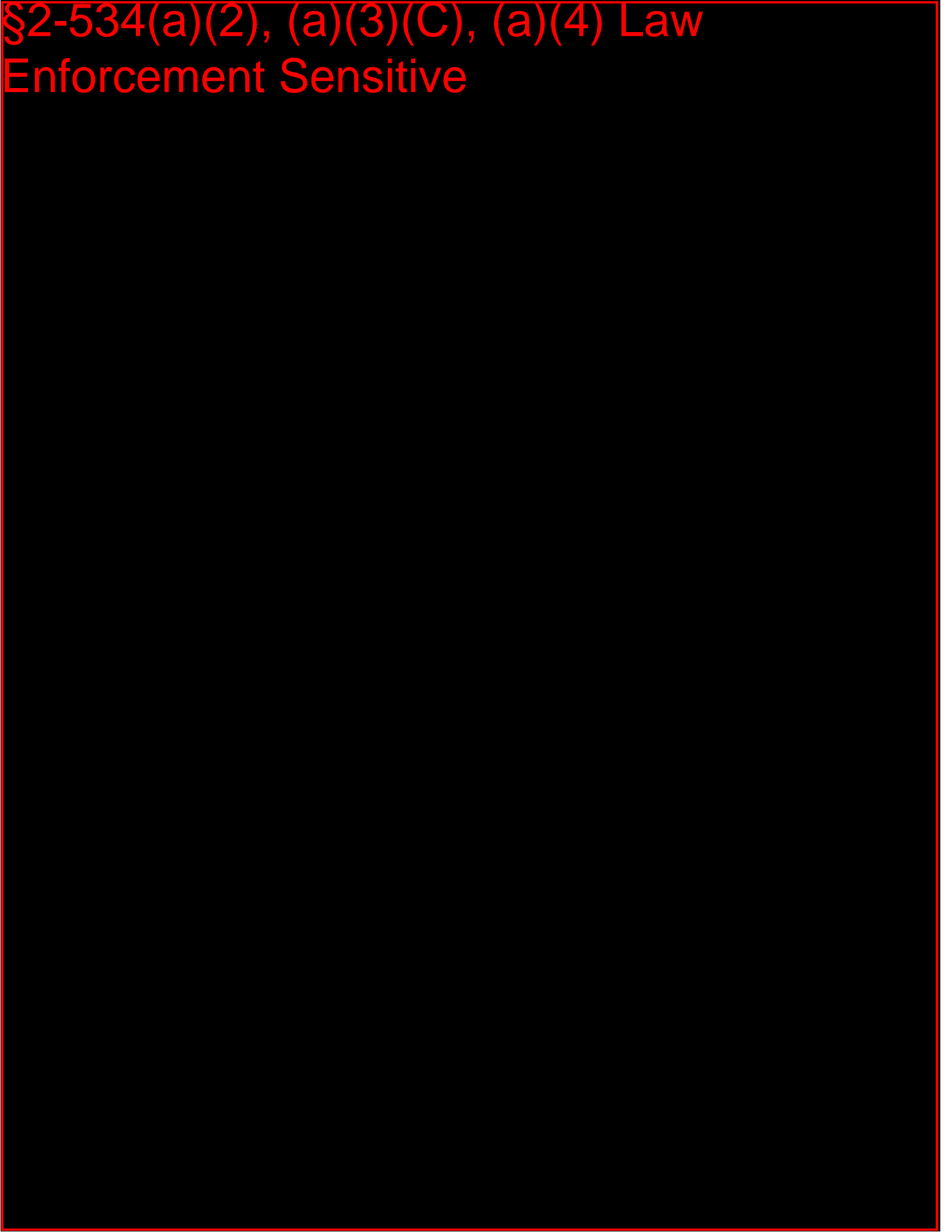
§ 2-534(a)(3)

[REDACTED]

2-534(a)(3)

§2-534(a)(2), (a)(3)(C), (a)(4) Law
Enforcement Sensitive

§2-534(a)(2), (a)(3)(C), (a)(4) Law
Enforcement Sensitive



Sacco, Cristina (EOM)

From: Snyder, Marc R. (OPE) (FBI) <MRSnyder@fbi.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 20, 2021 4:10 PM
To: HQ-DIV15-FUSION-CENTER-POCs; HQ-DIV15-FUSION-CENTER-DIRECTORS; HQ-DIV15-FUSION-CENTER-DEPUTY-DIRECTORS; HQ-DIV15-FUSION-CENTER-PARTNERS; HQ-DIV15-FUSION-CENTER-MGMT; HQ-DIV15-ASSOC-PARTNERS
Subject: Product on TTPs used during Capitol breach prepared by the Joint Regional Intelligence Center (JRIC)
Attachments: JRIC Capitol_210119.pdf
Categories: Green

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the DC Government. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know that the content is safe. If you believe that this email is suspicious, please forward to phishing@dc.gov for additional analysis by OCTO Security Operations Center (SOC).

Good afternoon,

Please see the attached **UNCLASS//LES** report that was prepared by the Joint Regional Intelligence Center (JRIC) in California. This publication is titled: *"Violent Opportunist TTP Catalog on the US Capitol Riot"*

Please review and share this **U//LES** product with your peers and partners within the relevant communities or sectors accordingly.

Thank you,

FBI Office of Partner Engagement

Sacco, Cristina (EOM)

From: Ferraro, Alexandra (HSEMA) </O=DC GOVERNMENT/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=AA04E9A90A014BE29A48AD566D9D0015-ALEXANDRA>

Sent: Wednesday, January 20, 2021 3:42 PM

To: Ripley, Patricia L. (WF) (DET); §2-534(a)(2) (MPD); Newman, William J. (WF) (FBI); Phillips, Steve; michael.ebey@usss.dhs.gov; richard.rogers@usss.dhs.gov; christina.fabac@usss.dhs.gov; matthew.n.phillips@usss.dhs.gov; adam.kirkwood@usss.dhs.gov; Rosanna.donaghey@usss.dhs.gov; Barmonde, Thomas (WF) (DET); Cook, James A.; Chite, Mark; DAMON.C.EDWARDS@cbp.dhs.gov; Hawkins, Derron (FEMS); Jackson, Keishea (FEMS); Mccray, Jonice; amanda.s.mason4.mil@mail.mil; anh-chi.p.murphy.mil@mail.mil; jonathan.s.ebbert.mil@mail.mil; benjamin.goldberg@dot.gov; gerrityd@state.gov; zurburgkinghm@state.gov; herrerama@state.gov; CeasarDN@state.gov; Andres, Alyse; Tu, Raymond H. (BA) (FBI); Wightman, Michael C. (BA) (FBI); Ellis, Loren M. (CIRG) (FBI); Erlendson, Jennifer J. (CIRG) (FBI); Louryk, John B. (WF) (TFO); Marc.L.Bosley@fps.dhs.gov; Ed.Wojciechowski@mail.house.gov; Lauren_Eagan@saa.senate.gov; George.Adams@oig.hhs.gov; James.Lehman@oig.hhs.gov; mark.a.rasmussen.civ@mail.mil; andrew.d.hasser.mil@mail.mil; wanda.c.squirewell.civ@mail.mil; marvin.c.solomon.civ@mail.mil; william.c.furmanski.civ@mail.mil; jonathan.m.morgenstein.mil@mail.mil; jessica.curtis@mcac.maryland.gov; Cardella, Alex; Janczyk, Jeffrey P. (WF) (TFO); Barbieri, Michael (MPD); Alvarez, Daniel (WF) (OGA); ADonald@wmata.com; MASalata@wmata.com; EMoscouLewis@wmata.com; Marcenelle, Madeline (HSEMA); Mein, John (EOM); Harvin, Donell (HSEMA); stephebj@nctc.gov; PATRJOM@nctc.gov; Gilliard, Darrell K.; William.grice@ncis.navy.mil; lillian.fata@ncis.navy.mil; Roosevelt.Glover@NCIS.NAVY.MIL; kristoffer.carlson@NCIS.NAVY.MIL; KBahe@NCIS.NAVY.MIL; Waller, Markiest; paige.vandenneever@NCIS.NAVY.MIL; isaiah.cooper@NCIS.NAVY.MIL; nicholas.suszan@NCIS.NAVY.MIL; Alexander, Eryn R. (IOD) (FBI); samuel.g.gross.mil@mail.mil; Lay, Amy L.; jeremy.roush@fairfaxcounty.gov; Miller, Michael T. (WF) (OGA); douglas.m.triptyany.mil@mail.mil; Thorward, Brent C. (WF) (DET); catherine.taylor43.mil@mail.mil; John.Erickson@uscg.gov; marilyn.guzman@uscg.gov; Deegan, John; David.Millard@uscg.gov; Usman.Saleem@uscg.gov; john.nugent@uscg.gov; ryan.mccamley@uscg.gov; john.donohue@uscg.gov; julie.farnam@uscg.gov; Dillon, Joseph; CGINTELPLLOT@uscg.mil; ronald.mcgarvey@usmc.mil; Smith, Johnnie (USMS); Madagu, Jonathan (USMS); Rose, Michael (HQ-JSD) (USMS); Knutson, Brett (WF) (DET); Rossi, Michael A. (CTD) (CON); Dingeldein, James E. (WF) (DET); mark_varanelli@nps.gov; Michael_Libby@nps.gov; elizabeth.adams@vdm.virginia.gov; Gene.E.Roddy@whmo.mil; Douglas.R.Reedy@whmo.mil; Jeffrey.W.Kuck@whmo.mil; Gary.Halton@whmo.mil; 'Hessling, Paul E COL USARMY NG NGB (USA)'

Cc: Stapleton, Hope T. (WF) (FBI); tmorris@fbi.gov; Loftus, Ashlea (WF) (FBI); Kukowski, Jed (WF) (FBI)

Subject: Roll-Up of SARS and Sitrep

Attachments: image001.png; (U--LES) 1300 SITREP 20 Jan 2021.pdf; TrapWire NCR Bulletin - Fraudulent Credentials and Probing Checkpoints.pdf

Categories: Green

Please see the attached rollup of Suspicious Activity Reports involving fraudulent credentials and probing security between 15 and 18 January, as well as NTIC's 1300 SitRep for those who have not yet received it.

Thank you,

Alexandra Ferraro

Intelligence Analyst

National Capital Region Threat Intelligence Consortium
DC Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency
2720 Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue, SE,
Washington, DC 20032

Mobile: (202) 255-2013

alexandra.ferraro@dc.gov

NTIC Mainline: (202) 481-3075

NTIC@dc.gov

From: Ripley, Patricia L. (WF) (DET) <PLRIPLEY@fbi.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, January 20, 2021 1:19 PM

To: Ferraro, Alexandra (HSEMA) <alexandra.ferraro@dc.gov>; §2-534(a)(2) (MPD) <§2-534(a)(2)@dc.gov>; Newman, William J. (WF) (FBI) <wjnewman@fbi.gov>; Phillips, Steve <hphillips@uss.s.dhs.gov>; michael.ebey@uss.s.dhs.gov; richard.rogers@uss.s.dhs.gov; christina.fabac@uss.s.dhs.gov; matthew.n.phillips@uss.s.dhs.gov; adam.kirkwood@uss.s.dhs.gov; Rosanna.donaghey@uss.s.dhs.gov; Barmonde, Thomas (WF) (DET) <TBARMONDE@fbi.gov>; Cook, James A. <cookjam@amtrak.com>; Chite, Mark <Mark.Chite@amtrak.com>; DAMON.C.EDWARDS@cbp.dhs.gov; Hawkins, Derron (FEMS) <derron.hawkins@dc.gov>; Jackson, Keishea (FEMS) <keishea.jackson@dc.gov>; Mccray, Jonice <jonice.t.mccray.nfg@mail.mil>; amanda.s.mason4.mil@mail.mil; anh-chi.p.murphy.mil@mail.mil; jonathan.s.ebbert.mil@mail.mil; benjamin.goldberg@dot.gov; gerrityd@state.gov; zurburgkinghm@state.gov; herrerama@state.gov; CeasarDN@state.gov; Andres, Alyse <andrewsav@state.gov>; Tu, Raymond H. (BA) (FBI) <rhtu@fbi.gov>; Wightman, Michael C. (BA) (FBI) <mcwightman@fbi.gov>; Ellis, Loren M. (CIRG) (FBI) <lmellis@fbi.gov>; Erlendson, Jennifer J. (CIRG) (FBI) <jjerlendson@fbi.gov>; Louryk, John B. (WF) (TFO) <jblouryk@fbi.gov>; Marc.L.Bosley@fps.dhs.gov; Ed.Wojciechowski@mail.house.gov; Lauren_Eagan@saa.senate.gov; George.Adams@oig.hhs.gov; James.Lehman@oig.hhs.gov; mark.a.rasmussen.civ@mail.mil; andrew.d.hasser.mil@mail.mil; wanda.c.squirewell.civ@mail.mil; marvin.c.solomon.civ@mail.mil; william.c.furmanski.civ@mail.mil; jonathan.m.morgenstein.mil@mail.mil; jessica.curtis@mcac.maryland.gov; Cardella, Alex <alex.cardella@mcac.maryland.gov>; Janczyk, Jeffrey P. (WF) (TFO) <jpjaneczyk@fbi.gov>; Barbieri, Michael (MPD) <michael.barbieri@dc.gov>; Alvarez, Daniel (WF) (OGA) <DALVAREZ2@fbi.gov>; ADonald@wmata.com; MASalata@wmata.com; EMoscouLewis@wmata.com; Marcenelle, Madeline (HSEMA) <madeline.marcenelle@dc.gov>; Mein, John (EOM) <John.Mein@dc.gov>; Harvin, Donell (HSEMA) <Donell.Harvin@dc.gov>; stephebj@nctc.gov; PATRJOM@nctc.gov; Gilliard, Darrell K. <darrell.k.gilliard.civ@mail.mil>; William.grice@ncis.navy.mil; lillian.fata@ncis.navy.mil; Roosevelt.Glover@NCIS.NAVY.MIL; kristoffer.carlson@NCIS.NAVY.MIL; KBahe@NCIS.NAVY.MIL; Waller, Markiest <Markiest.Waller@ncis.navy.mil>; paige.vandenneever@NCIS.NAVY.MIL; isaiah.cooper@NCIS.NAVY.MIL; nicholas.suszan@NCIS.NAVY.MIL; Alexander, Eryn R. (IOD) (FBI) <ERALEXANDER@FBI.GOV>; samuel.g.gross.mil@mail.mil; Lay, Amy L. <Amy.Lay@vsp.virginia.gov>; jeremy.roush@fairfaxcounty.gov; Miller, Michael T. (WF) (OGA) <MTMILLER3@fbi.gov>; douglas.m.trippany.mil@mail.mil; Thorward, Brent C. (WF) (DET) <BCTHORWARD@fbi.gov>; catherine.taylor43.mil@mail.mil; John.Erickson@uscg.gov; marilyn.guzman@uscg.gov; Deigan, John <john.deigan@uscg.gov>; David.Millard@uscg.gov; Usman.Saleem@uscg.gov; john.nugent@uscg.gov; ryan.mccamley@uscg.gov; john.donohue@uscg.gov; julie.farnam@uscg.gov; Dillon, Joseph <joseph.r.dillon@uscg.mil>; CGINTEL@uscg.mil; ronald.mcgarvey@usmc.mil; Smith, Johnnie (USMS) <Johnnie.Smith@usdoj.gov>; Madagu, Jonathan (USMS) <Jonathan.Madagu@usdoj.gov>; Rose, Michael (HQ-JSD) (USMS) <Michael.Rose2@usdoj.gov>; Knutson, Brett (WF) (DET) <BKNUTSON@fbi.gov>; Rossi, Michael A. (CTD) (CON) <marossi@fbi.gov>; Dingeldein, James

E. (WF) (DET) <JEDINGELDEIN@fbi.gov>; mark_varanelli@nps.gov; Michael_Libby@nps.gov; elizabeth.adams@vdm.virginia.gov; Gene.E.Roddy@whmo.mil; Douglas.R.Reedy@whmo.mil; Jeffrey.W.Kuck@whmo.mil; Gary.Halton@whmo.mil; 'Hessling, Paul E COL USARMY NG NGB (USA)' <paul.e.hessling.mil@mail.mil>

Cc: Stapleton, Hope T. (WF) (FBI) <htstapleton@fbi.gov>; tmorris@fbi.gov; Loftus, Ashlea (WF) (FBI) <ALOFTUS@fbi.gov>; Kukowski, Jed (WF) (FBI) <jkukowski@fbi.gov>

Subject: JRIC product on TTPs used during Capitol breach

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LES product by JRIC on TTPs used during Capitol breach

From: Ferraro, Alexandra (HSEMA) <alexandra.ferraro@dc.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, January 20, 2021 7:19 AM

To: Ripley, Patricia L. (WF) (DET) <PLRIPLEY@fbi.gov>; §2-534(a)(2) (MPD) <§2-534(a)(2)@dc.gov>; Newman, William J. (WF) (FBI) <wjnewman@fbi.gov>; Phillips, Steve <hphillips@uss.s.dhs.gov>; michael.ebey@uss.s.dhs.gov>; michael.ebey@uss.s.dhs.gov>; richard.rogers@uss.s.dhs.gov>; christina.fabac@uss.s.dhs.gov>; christina.fabac@uss.s.dhs.gov>; matthew.n.phillips@uss.s.dhs.gov>; matthew.n.phillips@uss.s.dhs.gov>; adam.kirkwood@uss.s.dhs.gov>; adam.kirkwood@uss.s.dhs.gov>; Rosanna.donaghey@uss.s.dhs.gov>; Rosanna.donaghey@uss.s.dhs.gov>; Barmonde, Thomas (WF) (DET) <TBARMONDE@fbi.gov>; Cook, James A. <cookjam@amtrak.com>; Chite, Mark <Mark.Chite@amtrak.com>; DAMON.C.EDWARDS@cbp.dhs.gov>; DAMON.C.EDWARDS@cbp.dhs.gov>; Hawkins, Derron (FEMS) <derron.hawkins@dc.gov>; Jackson, Keishea (FEMS) <keishea.jackson@dc.gov>; Mccray, Jonice <jonice.t.mccray.nfg@mail.mil>; amanda.s.mason4.mil@mail.mil>; amanda.s.mason4.mil@mail.mil>; anh-chi.p.murphy.mil@mail.mil>; anh-chi.p.murphy.mil@mail.mil>; jonathan.s.ebbert.mil@mail.mil>; jonathan.s.ebbert.mil@mail.mil>; benjamin.goldberg@dot.gov>; benjamin.goldberg@dot.gov>; gerrityd@state.gov>; gerrityd@state.gov>; zurburgkinghm@state.gov>; zurburgkinghm@state.gov>; herrerama@state.gov>; herrerama@state.gov>; CeasarDN@state.gov>; CeasarDN@state.gov>; Andres, Alyse <andrewsav@state.gov>; Tu, Raymond H. (BA) (FBI) <rhtu@fbi.gov>; Wightman, Michael C. (BA) (FBI) <mcwrightman@fbi.gov>; Ellis, Loren M. (CIRG) (FBI) <lmellis@fbi.gov>; Erlendson, Jennifer J. (CIRG) (FBI) <jjerlendson@fbi.gov>; Louryk, John B. (WF) (TFO) <jblouryk@fbi.gov>; Marc.L.Bosley@fps.dhs.gov>; Marc.L.Bosley@fps.dhs.gov>; Ed.Wojciechowski@mail.house.gov>; Ed.Wojciechowski@mail.house.gov>; Lauren.Eagan@saa.senate.gov>; Lauren.Eagan@saa.senate.gov>; George.Adams@oig.hhs.gov>; George.Adams@oig.hhs.gov>; James.Lehman@oig.hhs.gov>; James.Lehman@oig.hhs.gov>; mark.a.rasmussen.civ@mail.mil>; mark.a.rasmussen.civ@mail.mil>; andrew.d.hasser.mil@mail.mil>; andrew.d.hasser.mil@mail.mil>; wanda.c.squirewell.civ@mail.mil>; wanda.c.squirewell.civ@mail.mil>; marvin.c.solomon.civ@mail.mil>; marvin.c.solomon.civ@mail.mil>; william.c.furmanski.civ@mail.mil>; william.c.furmanski.civ@mail.mil>; jonathan.m.morgenstein.mil@mail.mil>; jonathan.m.morgenstein.mil@mail.mil>; jessica.curtis@mcac.maryland.gov>; jessica.curtis@mcac.maryland.gov>; Cardella, Alex <alex.cardella@mcac.maryland.gov>; Janczyk, Jeffrey P. (WF) (TFO) <jpjanczyk@fbi.gov>; Barbieri, Michael (MPD) <michael.barbieri@dc.gov>; Alvarez, Daniel (WF) (OGA) <DALVAREZ2@fbi.gov>; ADonald@wmata.com>; ADonald@wmata.com>; MASalata@wmata.com>; MASalata@wmata.com>; EMoscouLewis@wmata.com>; EMoscouLewis@wmata.com>; Marcenelle, Madeline (HSEMA) <madeline.marcenelle@dc.gov>; Mein, John <john.mein@dc.gov>; Donell, Harvin <donell.harvin@dc.gov>; stephebj@nctc.gov>; stephebj@nctc.gov>; PATRJOM@nctc.gov>; PATRJOM@nctc.gov>; Gilliard, Darrell K. <darrell.k.gilliard.civ@mail.mil>; William.grice@ncis.navy.mil>; William.grice@ncis.navy.mil>; lillian.fata@ncis.navy.mil>; lillian.fata@ncis.navy.mil>; Roosevelt.Glover@NCIS.NAVY.MIL>; Roosevelt.Glover@NCIS.NAVY.MIL>; kristoffer.carlson@NCIS.NAVY.MIL>; kristoffer.carlson@NCIS.NAVY.MIL>; KBahe@NCIS.NAVY.MIL>; KBahe@NCIS.NAVY.MIL>; Waller, Markiest <Markiest.Waller@ncis.navy.mil>; paige.vandenheever@NCIS.NAVY.MIL>; paige.vandenheever@NCIS.NAVY.MIL>; isaiah.cooper@NCIS.NAVY.MIL>; isaiah.cooper@NCIS.NAVY.MIL>; nicholas.suszan@NCIS.NAVY.MIL>

<nicholas.suszan@NCIS.NAVY.MIL>; Alexander, Eryn R. (IOD) (FBI) <ERALEXANDER@FBI.GOV>; samuel.g.gross.mil@mail.mil <samuel.g.gross.mil@mail.mil>; Lay, Amy L. <Amy.Lay@vsp.virginia.gov>; jeremy.roush@fairfaxcounty.gov <jeremy.roush@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Miller, Michael T. (WF) (OGA) <MTMILLER3@fbi.gov>; douglas.m.trippamy.mil@mail.mil <douglas.m.trippamy.mil@mail.mil>; Thorward, Brent C. (WF) (DET) <BCTHORWARD@fbi.gov>; catherine.taylor43.mil@mail.mil <catherine.taylor43.mil@mail.mil>; John.Erickson@uscg.gov <John.Erickson@uscg.gov>; marilyn.guzman@uscg.gov <marilyn.guzman@uscg.gov>; Deegan, John <john.deegan@uscg.gov>; David.Millard@uscg.gov <David.Millard@uscg.gov>; Usman.Saleem@uscg.gov <Usman.Saleem@uscg.gov>; john.nugent@uscg.gov <john.nugent@uscg.gov>; ryan.mccamley@uscg.gov <ryan.mccamley@uscg.gov>; john.donohue@uscg.gov <john.donohue@uscg.gov>; julie.farnam@uscg.gov <julie.farnam@uscg.gov>; Dillon, Joseph <joseph.r.dillon@uscg.mil>; CGINTELPLLOT@uscg.mil <CGINTELPLLOT@uscg.mil>; ronald.mcgarvey@usmc.mil <ronald.mcgarvey@usmc.mil>; Smith, Johnnie (USMS) <Johnnie.Smith@usdoj.gov>; Madagu, Jonathan (USMS) <Jonathan.Madagu@usdoj.gov>; Rose, Michael (HQ-JSD) (USMS) <Michael.Rose2@usdoj.gov>; Knutson, Brett (WF) (DET) <BKNUTSON@fbi.gov>; Rossi, Michael A. (CTD) (CON) <marossi@fbi.gov>; Dingeldein, James E. (WF) (DET) <JEDINGELDEIN@fbi.gov>; mark_varanelli@nps.gov <mark_varanelli@nps.gov>; Michael_Libby@nps.gov <Michael_Libby@nps.gov>; elizabeth.adams@vdm.virginia.gov <elizabeth.adams@vdm.virginia.gov>; Gene.E.Roddy@whmo.mil <Gene.E.Roddy@whmo.mil>; Douglas.R.Reedy@whmo.mil <Douglas.R.Reedy@whmo.mil>; Jeffrey.W.Kuck@whmo.mil <Jeffrey.W.Kuck@whmo.mil>; Gary.Halton@whmo.mil <Gary.Halton@whmo.mil>; 'Hessling, Paul E COL USARMY NG NGB (USA)' <paul.e.hessling.mil@mail.mil>
Cc: Stapleton, Hope T. (WF) (FBI) <htstapleton@fbi.gov>; Morris, Tiffany (WF) (FBI) <tmorris@fbi.gov>; Loftus, Ashlea (WF) (FBI) <ALOFTUS@fbi.gov>; Kukowski, Jed (WF) (FBI) <jkukowski@fbi.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] - (U//FOUO//LES) NTIC Sitrep 2100 01-19

Good morning all,

Please see the attached NTIC SITREP from 01-19.

Thank you!

Alexandra Ferraro

Intelligence Analyst

National Capital Region Threat Intelligence Consortium
DC Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency
2720 Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue, SE,
Washington, DC 20032

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alexandra.ferraro@dc.gov

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From: Ferraro, Alexandra (HSEMA)

Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 1:08 PM

To: Ripley, Patricia L. (WF) (DET) <PLRIPLEY@fbi.gov>; §2-534(a)(2) (MPD) <§2-534(a)(2)@dc.gov>; Newman, William J. (WF) (FBI) <wjnewman@fbi.gov>; Phillips, Steve <hphillips@usss.dhs.gov>; michael.ebey@usss.dhs.gov; richard.rogers@usss.dhs.gov; christina.fabac@usss.dhs.gov; matthew.n.phillips@usss.dhs.gov; adam.kirkwood@usss.dhs.gov; Rosanna.donaghey@usss.dhs.gov; Barmonde, Thomas (WF) (DET) <TBARMONDE@fbi.gov>; Cook, James A. <cookjam@amtrak.com>; Chite, Mark <Mark.Chite@amtrak.com>; DAMON.C.EDWARDS@cbp.dhs.gov; Hawkins, Derron (FEMS) <derron.hawkins@dc.gov>; Jackson, Keishea (FEMS) <keishea.jackson@dc.gov>; Mccray, Jonice <jonice.t.mccray.nfg@mail.mil>; amanda.s.mason4.mil@mail.mil; anh-chi.p.murphy.mil@mail.mil; jonathan.s.ebbert.mil@mail.mil; benjamin.goldberg@dot.gov; gerrityd@state.gov;

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Cc: Stapleton, Hope T. (WF) (FBI) <htstapleton@fbi.gov>; tmorris@fbi.gov; Loftus, Ashlea (WF) (FBI) <ALOFTUS@fbi.gov>; Kukowski, Jed (WF) (FBI) <jkukowski@fbi.gov>
Subject: (U//FOUO//LES) January 19 Officer Awareness Inauguration Information

Please see the attached Officer Awareness Information from the NTIC on 01-19.

Alexandra Ferraro

Intelligence Analyst

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Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 12:41 PM

To: §2-534(a)(2) (MPD) <[§2-534\(a\)\(2\)@dc.gov](mailto:§2-534(a)(2)@dc.gov)>; Newman, William J. (WF) (FBI) <wjnewman@fbi.gov>; Phillips, Steve <hphillips@usss.dhs.gov>; michael.ebey@usss.dhs.gov; richard.rogers@usss.dhs.gov;

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Cc: Stapleton, Hope T. (WF) (FBI) <htstapleton@fbi.gov>; tmorris@fbi.gov
Subject: DHS Reports

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§ 2-534(a)10

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§2-534(a)(2),(a)(3)(C),(a)(4) Law
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§ 2-534(a)(3), § 2-534(a)(10)



Sacco, Cristina (EOM)

From: Ripley, Patricia L. (WF) (DET) <PLRIPLEY@fbi.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 20, 2021 1:19 PM
To: Ferraro, Alexandra (HSEMA); §2-534(a)(2) (MPD); Newman, William J. (WF) (FBI); Phillips, Steve; michael.ebey@usss.dhs.gov; richard.rogers@usss.dhs.gov; christina.fabac@usss.dhs.gov; matthew.n.phillips@usss.dhs.gov; adam.kirkwood@usss.dhs.gov; Rosanna.donaghey@usss.dhs.gov; Barmonde, Thomas (WF) (DET); Cook, James A.; Chite, Mark; DAMON.C.EDWARDS@cbp.dhs.gov; Hawkins, Derron (FEMS); Jackson, Keishea (FEMS); Mccray, Jonice; amanda.s.mason4.mil@mail.mil; anh-chi.p.murphy.mil@mail.mil; jonathan.s.ebbert.mil@mail.mil; benjamin.goldberg@dot.gov; gerrityd@state.gov; zurburgkinghm@state.gov; herrera@state.gov; CeasarDN@state.gov; Andres, Alyse; Tu, Raymond H. (BA) (FBI); Wightman, Michael C. (BA) (FBI); Ellis, Loren M. (CIRG) (FBI); Erlendson, Jennifer J. (CIRG) (FBI); Louryk, John B. (WF) (TFO); Marc.L.Bosley@fps.dhs.gov; Ed.Wojciechowski@mail.house.gov; Lauren_Eagan@saa.senate.gov; George.Adams@oig.hhs.gov; James.Lehman@oig.hhs.gov; mark.a.rasmussen.civ@mail.mil; andrew.d.hasser.mil@mail.mil; wanda.c.squirewell.civ@mail.mil; marvin.c.solomon.civ@mail.mil; william.c.furmanski.civ@mail.mil; jonathan.m.morgenstein.mil@mail.mil; jessica.curtis@mcac.maryland.gov; Cardella, Alex; Janczyk, Jeffrey P. (WF) (TFO); Barbieri, Michael (MPD); Alvarez, Daniel (WF) (OGA); ADonald@wmata.com; MASalata@wmata.com; EMoscouLewis@wmata.com; Marcenelle, Madeline (HSEMA); Mein, John; Donell, Harvin; stephebj@nctc.gov; PATRJOM@nctc.gov; Gilliard, Darrell K.; William.grice@ncis.navy.mil; lillian.fata@ncis.navy.mil; Roosevelt.Glover@NCIS.NAVY.MIL; kristoffer.carlson@NCIS.NAVY.MIL; KBahe@NCIS.NAVY.MIL; Waller, Markiest; paige.vandenneever@NCIS.NAVY.MIL; isaiah.cooper@NCIS.NAVY.MIL; nicholas.suszan@NCIS.NAVY.MIL; Alexander, Eryn R. (IOD) (FBI); samuel.g.gross.mil@mail.mil; Lay, Amy L.; jeremy.roush@fairfaxcounty.gov; Miller, Michael T. (WF) (OGA); douglas.m.trippany.mil@mail.mil; Thorward, Brent C. (WF) (DET); catherine.taylor43.mil@mail.mil; John.Erickson@uscg.gov; marilyn.guzman@uscg.gov; Delegan, John; David.Millard@uscg.gov; Usman.Saleem@uscg.gov; john.nugent@uscg.gov; ryan.mccamley@uscg.gov; john.donohue@uscg.gov; julie.farnam@uscg.gov; Dillon, Joseph; CGINTELPLLOT@uscg.mil; ronald.mcgarvey@usmc.mil; Smith, Johnnie (USMS); Madagu, Jonathan (USMS); Rose, Michael (HQ-JSD) (USMS); Knutson, Brett (WF) (DET); Rossi, Michael A. (CTD) (CON); Dingeldein, James E. (WF) (DET); mark_varanelli@nps.gov; Michael_Libby@nps.gov; elizabeth.adams@vdem.virginia.gov; Gene.E.Roddy@whmo.mil; Douglas.R.Reedy@whmo.mil; Jeffrey.W.Kuck@whmo.mil; Gary.Halton@whmo.mil; 'Hessling, Paul E COL USARMY NG NGB (USA)'
Cc: Stapleton, Hope T. (WF) (FBI); Morris, Tiffany (WF) (FBI); Loftus, Ashlea (WF) (FBI); Kukowski, Jed (WF) (FBI)
Subject: JRIC product on TTPs used during Capitol breach
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From: Ferraro, Alexandra (HSEMA) <alexandra.ferraro@dc.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, January 20, 2021 7:19 AM

To: Ripley, Patricia L. (WF) (DET) <PLRIPLEY@fbi.gov>; §2-534(a)(2) (MPD) <§2-534(a)(2)@dc.gov>; Newman, William J. (WF) (FBI) <wjnewman@fbi.gov>; Phillips, Steve <hphillips@usss.dhs.gov>; michael.ebey@usss.dhs.gov <michael.ebey@usss.dhs.gov>; richard.rogers@usss.dhs.gov <richard.rogers@usss.dhs.gov>; christina.fabac@usss.dhs.gov <christina.fabac@usss.dhs.gov>; matthew.n.phillips@usss.dhs.gov <matthew.n.phillips@usss.dhs.gov>; adam.kirkwood@usss.dhs.gov <adam.kirkwood@usss.dhs.gov>; Rosanna.donaghey@usss.dhs.gov <Rosanna.donaghey@usss.dhs.gov>; Barmonde, Thomas (WF) (DET) <TBARMONDE@fbi.gov>; Cook, James A. <cookjam@amtrak.com>; Chite, Mark <Mark.Chite@amtrak.com>; DAMON.C.EDWARDS@cbp.dhs.gov <DAMON.C.EDWARDS@cbp.dhs.gov>; Hawkins, Derron (FEMS) <derron.hawkins@dc.gov>; Jackson, Keishea (FEMS) <keishea.jackson@dc.gov>; Mccray, Jonice <jonice.t.mccray.nfg@mail.mil>; amanda.s.mason4.mil@mail.mil <amanda.s.mason4.mil@mail.mil>; anh-chi.p.murphy.mil@mail.mil <anh-chi.p.murphy.mil@mail.mil>; jonathan.s.ebbert.mil@mail.mil <jonathan.s.ebbert.mil@mail.mil>; benjamin.goldberg@dot.gov <benjamin.goldberg@dot.gov>; gerrityd@state.gov <gerrityd@state.gov>; zurburgkinghm@state.gov <zurburgkinghm@state.gov>; herrerama@state.gov <herrerama@state.gov>; CeasarDN@state.gov <CeasarDN@state.gov>; Andres, Alyse <andrewsav@state.gov>; Tu, Raymond H. (BA) (FBI) <rhtu@fbi.gov>; Wightman, Michael C. (BA) (FBI) <mcwightman@fbi.gov>; Ellis, Loren M. (CIRG) (FBI) <lmellis@fbi.gov>; Erlendson, Jennifer J. (CIRG) (FBI) <jjerlendson@fbi.gov>; Louryk, John B. (WF) (TFO) <jblouryk@fbi.gov>; Marc.L.Bosley@fps.dhs.gov <Marc.L.Bosley@fps.dhs.gov>; Ed.Wojciechowski@mail.house.gov <Ed.Wojciechowski@mail.house.gov>; Lauren_Eagan@saa.senate.gov <Lauren_Eagan@saa.senate.gov>; George.Adams@oig.hhs.gov <George.Adams@oig.hhs.gov>; James.Lehman@oig.hhs.gov <James.Lehman@oig.hhs.gov>; mark.a.rasmussen.civ@mail.mil <mark.a.rasmussen.civ@mail.mil>; andrew.d.hasser.mil@mail.mil <andrew.d.hasser.mil@mail.mil>; wanda.c.squirewell.civ@mail.mil <wanda.c.squirewell.civ@mail.mil>; marvin.c.solomon.civ@mail.mil <marvin.c.solomon.civ@mail.mil>; william.c.furmanski.civ@mail.mil <william.c.furmanski.civ@mail.mil>; jonathan.m.morgenstein.mil@mail.mil <jonathan.m.morgenstein.mil@mail.mil>; jessica.curtis@mcac.maryland.gov <jessica.curtis@mcac.maryland.gov>; Cardella, Alex <alex.cardella@mcac.maryland.gov>; Janczyk, Jeffrey P. (WF) (TFO) <jpjanczyk@fbi.gov>; Barbieri, Michael (MPD) <michael.barbieri@dc.gov>; Alvarez, Daniel (WF) (OGA) <DALVAREZ2@fbi.gov>; ADonald@wmata.com <ADonald@wmata.com>; MASalata@wmata.com <MASalata@wmata.com>; EMoscouLewis@wmata.com <EMoscouLewis@wmata.com>; Marcenelle, Madeline (HSEMA) <madeline.marcenelle@dc.gov>; Mein, John <john.mein@dc.gov>; Donell, Harvin <donell.harvin@dc.gov>; stephebj@nctc.gov <stephebj@nctc.gov>; PATRJOM@nctc.gov <PATRJOM@nctc.gov>; Gilliard, Darrell K. <darrell.k.gilliard.civ@mail.mil>; William.grice@ncis.navy.mil <William.grice@ncis.navy.mil>; lillian.fata@ncis.navy.mil <lillian.fata@ncis.navy.mil>; Roosevelt.Glover@NCIS.NAVY.MIL <Roosevelt.Glover@NCIS.NAVY.MIL>; kristoffer.carlson@NCIS.NAVY.MIL <kristoffer.carlson@NCIS.NAVY.MIL>; KBahe@NCIS.NAVY.MIL <KBahe@NCIS.NAVY.MIL>; Waller, Markiest <Markiest.Waller@ncis.navy.mil>; paige.vandenheever@NCIS.NAVY.MIL <paige.vandenheever@NCIS.NAVY.MIL>; isaiah.cooper@NCIS.NAVY.MIL <isaiah.cooper@NCIS.NAVY.MIL>; nicholas.suszan@NCIS.NAVY.MIL <nicholas.suszan@NCIS.NAVY.MIL>; Alexander, Eryn R. (IOD) (FBI) <ERALEXANDER@FBI.GOV>; samuel.g.gross.mil@mail.mil <samuel.g.gross.mil@mail.mil>; Lay, Amy L. <Amy.Lay@vsp.virginia.gov>; jeremy.roush@fairfaxcounty.gov <jeremy.roush@fairfaxcounty.gov>; Miller, Michael T. (WF) (OGA) <MTMILLER3@fbi.gov>; douglas.m.trippany.mil@mail.mil <douglas.m.trippany.mil@mail.mil>; Thorward, Brent C. (WF) (DET) <BCTHORWARD@fbi.gov>; catherine.taylor43.mil@mail.mil <catherine.taylor43.mil@mail.mil>; John.Erickson@uscg.gov <John.Erickson@uscg.gov>; marilyn.guzman@uscg.gov <marilyn.guzman@uscg.gov>; Deegan, John <john.deegan@uscg.gov>; David.Millard@uscg.gov <David.Millard@uscg.gov>; Usman.Saleem@uscg.gov <Usman.Saleem@uscg.gov>; john.nugent@uscg.gov <john.nugent@uscg.gov>; ryan.mccamley@uscg.gov <ryan.mccamley@uscg.gov>; john.donohue@uscg.gov <john.donohue@uscg.gov>; julie.farnam@uscg.gov <julie.farnam@uscg.gov>; Dillon, Joseph <joseph.r.dillon@uscg.mil>; CGINTELPLLOT@uscg.mil <CGINTELPLLOT@uscg.mil>; ronald.mcgarvey@usmc.mil <ronald.mcgarvey@usmc.mil>; Smith, Johnnie (USMS) <Johnnie.Smith@usdoj.gov>; Madagu, Jonathan (USMS) <Jonathan.Madagu@usdoj.gov>; Rose, Michael (HQ-JSD)

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Subject: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] - (U//FOUO//LES) NTIC Sitrep 2100 01-19

Good morning all,

Please see the attached NTIC SITREP from 01-19.

Thank you!

Alexandra Ferraro

Intelligence Analyst

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From: Ferraro, Alexandra (HSEMA)

Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 1:08 PM

To: Ripley, Patricia L. (WF) (DET) <PLRIPLEY@fbi.gov>; §2-534(a)(2) (MPD) <§2-534(a)(2)@dc.gov>; Newman, William J. (WF) (FBI) <wjnewman@fbi.gov>; Phillips, Steve <hphillips@usss.dhs.gov>; michael.ebey@usss.dhs.gov; richard.rogers@usss.dhs.gov; christina.fabac@usss.dhs.gov; matthew.n.phillips@usss.dhs.gov; adam.kirkwood@usss.dhs.gov; Rosanna.donaghey@usss.dhs.gov; Barmonde, Thomas (WF) (DET) <TBARMONDE@fbi.gov>; Cook, James A. <cookjam@amtrak.com>; Chite, Mark <Mark.Chite@amtrak.com>; DAMON.C.EDWARDS@cbp.dhs.gov; Hawkins, Derron (FEMS) <derron.hawkins@dc.gov>; Jackson, Keishea (FEMS) <keishea.jackson@dc.gov>; Mccray, Jonice <jonice.t.mccray.nfg@mail.mil>; amanda.s.mason4.mil@mail.mil; anh-chi.p.murphy.mil@mail.mil; jonathan.s.ebbert.mil@mail.mil; benjamin.goldberg@dot.gov; gerrityd@state.gov; zurburgkinghm@state.gov; herrerama@state.gov; CeasarDN@state.gov; Andres, Alyse <andrewsav@state.gov>; Tu, Raymond H. (BA) (FBI) <rhtu@fbi.gov>; Wightman, Michael C. (BA) (FBI) <mcwightman@fbi.gov>; Ellis, Loren M. (CIRG) (FBI) <lmellis@fbi.gov>; Erlendson, Jennifer J. (CIRG) (FBI) <jjerlendson@fbi.gov>; Louryk, John B. (WF) (TFO) <jblouryk@fbi.gov>; Marc.L.Bosley@fps.dhs.gov; Ed.Wojciechowski@mail.house.gov; Lauren_Eagan@saa.senate.gov; George.Adams@oig.hhs.gov; James.Lehman@oig.hhs.gov; mark.a.rasmussen.civ@mail.mil; andrew.d.hasser.mil@mail.mil; wanda.c.squirewell.civ@mail.mil; marvin.c.solomon.civ@mail.mil; william.c.furmanski.civ@mail.mil; jonathan.m.morgenstein.mil@mail.mil; jessica.curtis@mcac.maryland.gov; Cardella, Alex <alex.cardella@mcac.maryland.gov>; Janczyk, Jeffrey P. (WF) (TFO) <jpjanczyk@fbi.gov>; Barbieri, Michael (MPD) <michael.barbieri@dc.gov>; Alvarez, Daniel (WF) (OGA) <DALVAREZ2@fbi.gov>; ADonald@wmata.com; MASalata@wmata.com; EMoscouLewis@wmata.com; Marcenelle, Madeline (HSEMA) <madeline.marcenelle@dc.gov>; Mein, John (EOM) <John.Mein@dc.gov>; Harvin, Donell (HSEMA) <Donell.Harvin@dc.gov>; stephebj@nctc.gov; PATRJOM@nctc.gov; Gilliard, Darrell K. <darrell.k.gilliard.civ@mail.mil>; William.grice@ncis.navy.mil;

lillian.fata@ncis.navy.mil; Roosevelt.Glover@NCIS.NAVY.MIL; kristoffer.carlson@NCIS.NAVY.MIL;
KBahe@NCIS.NAVY.MIL; Waller, Markiest <Markiest.Waller@ncis.navy.mil>; paige.vandenneever@NCIS.NAVY.MIL;
isaiah.cooper@NCIS.NAVY.MIL; nicholas.suszan@NCIS.NAVY.MIL; Alexander, Eryn R. (IOD) (FBI)
<ERALEXANDER@FBI.GOV>; samuel.g.gross.mil@mail.mil; Lay, Amy L. <Amy.Lay@vsp.virginia.gov>;
jeremy.roush@fairfaxcounty.gov; Miller, Michael T. (WF) (OGA) <MTMILLER3@fbi.gov>;
douglas.m.trippany.mil@mail.mil; Thorward, Brent C. (WF) (DET) <BCTHORWARD@fbi.gov>;
catherine.taylor43.mil@mail.mil; John.Erickson@uscg.gov; marilyn.guzman@uscg.gov; Deegan, John
<john.deegan@uscg.gov>; David.Millard@uscg.gov; Usman.Saleem@uscg.gov; john.nugent@uscg.gov;
ryan.mccamley@uscg.gov; john.donohue@uscg.gov; julie.farnam@uscg.gov; Dillon, Joseph <joseph.r.dillon@uscg.mil>;
CGINTELPLOT@uscg.mil; ronald.mcgarvey@usmc.mil; Smith, Johnnie (USMS) <Johnnie.Smith@usdoj.gov>; Madagu,
Jonathan (USMS) <Jonathan.Madagu@usdoj.gov>; Rose, Michael (HQ-JSD) (USMS) <Michael.Rose2@usdoj.gov>;
Knutson, Brett (WF) (DET) <BKUTSON@fbi.gov>; Rossi, Michael A. (CTD) (CON) <marossi@fbi.gov>; Dingeldein, James
E. (WF) (DET) <JEDINGELDEIN@fbi.gov>; mark_varanelli@nps.gov; Michael_Libby@nps.gov;
elizabeth.adams@vdm.virginia.gov; Gene.E.Roddy@whmo.mil; Douglas.R.Reedy@whmo.mil;
Jeffrey.W.Kuck@whmo.mil; Gary.Halton@whmo.mil; 'Hessling, Paul E COL USARMY NG NGB (USA)'
<paul.e.hessling.mil@mail.mil>
Cc: Stapleton, Hope T. (WF) (FBI) <htstapleton@fbi.gov>; tmorris@fbi.gov; Loftus, Ashlea (WF) (FBI)
<ALOFTUS@fbi.gov>; Kukowski, Jed (WF) (FBI) <jkukowski@fbi.gov>
Subject: (U//FOUO//LES) January 19 Officer Awareness Inauguration Information

Please see the attached Officer Awareness Information from the NTIC on 01-19.

Alexandra Ferraro

Intelligence Analyst

National Capital Region Threat Intelligence Consortium
DC Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency
2720 Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue, SE,
Washington, DC 20032

Mobile: (202) 255-2013

alexandra.ferraro@dc.gov

NTIC Mainline: (202) 481-3075

NTIC@dc.gov

From: Ripley, Patricia L. (WF) (DET) <PLRIPLEY@fbi.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 12:41 PM

To: §2-534(a)(2) (MPD) <§2-534(a)(2)@dc.gov>; Newman, William J. (WF) (FBI) <wjnewman@fbi.gov>; Phillips,
Steve <hphillips@usss.dhs.gov>; michael.ebey@usss.dhs.gov; richard.rogers@usss.dhs.gov;
christina.fabac@usss.dhs.gov; matthew.n.phillips@usss.dhs.gov; adam.kirkwood@usss.dhs.gov;
Rosanna.donaghey@usss.dhs.gov; Barmonde, Thomas (WF) (DET) <TBARMONDE@fbi.gov>; Cook, James A.
<cookjam@amtrak.com>; Chite, Mark <Mark.Chite@amtrak.com>; DAMON.C.EDWARDS@cbp.dhs.gov; Hawkins, Derron
(FEMS) <derron.hawkins@dc.gov>; Jackson, Keishea (FEMS) <keishea.jackson@dc.gov>; Mccray, Jonice
<jonice.t.mccray.nfg@mail.mil>; amanda.s.mason4.mil@mail.mil; anh-chi.p.murphy.mil@mail.mil;
jonathan.s.ebbert.mil@mail.mil; benjamin.goldberg@dot.gov; gerrityd@state.gov; zurburgkinghm@state.gov;
herrerama@state.gov; CeasarDN@state.gov; Andres, Alyse <andrewsav@state.gov>; Tu, Raymond H. (BA) (FBI)
<rhtu@fbi.gov>; Wightman, Michael C. (BA) (FBI) <mcwightman@fbi.gov>; Ellis, Loren M. (CIRG) (FBI) <lmellis@fbi.gov>;
Erlendson, Jennifer J. (CIRG) (FBI) <jjerlendson@fbi.gov>; Louryk, John B. (WF) (TFO) <jblouryk@fbi.gov>;
Marc.L.Bosley@fps.dhs.gov; Ed.Wojciechowski@mail.house.gov; Lauren_Eagan@saa.senate.gov;
George.Adams@oig.hhs.gov; James.Lehman@oig.hhs.gov; mark.a.rasmussen.civ@mail.mil;
andrew.d.hasser.mil@mail.mil; wanda.c.squirewell.civ@mail.mil; marvin.c.solomon.civ@mail.mil;

william.c.furmanski.civ@mail.mil; jonathan.m.morgenstein.mil@mail.mil; jessica.curtis@mcac.maryland.gov; Cardella, Alex <alex.cardella@mcac.maryland.gov>; Janczyk, Jeffrey P. (WF) (TFO) <jpjanczyk@fbi.gov>; Barbieri, Michael (MPD) <michael.barbieri@dc.gov>; Alvarez, Daniel (WF) (OGA) <DALVAREZ2@fbi.gov>; ADonald@wmata.com; MASalata@wmata.com; EMoscouLewis@wmata.com; Ferraro, Alexandra (HSEMA) <alexandra.ferraro@dc.gov>; Marcenelle, Madeline (HSEMA) <madeline.marcenelle@dc.gov>; Mein, John (EOM) <John.Mein@dc.gov>; Harvin, Donell (HSEMA) <Donell.Harvin@dc.gov>; stephebj@nctc.gov; PATRJOM@nctc.gov; Gilliard, Darrell K. <darrell.k.gilliard.civ@mail.mil>; William.grice@ncis.navy.mil; lillian.fata@ncis.navy.mil; Roosevelt.Glover@NCIS.NAVY.MIL; kristoffer.carlson@NCIS.NAVY.MIL; KBahe@NCIS.NAVY.MIL; Waller, Markiest <Markiest.Waller@ncis.navy.mil>; paige.vandenneever@NCIS.NAVY.MIL; isaiah.cooper@NCIS.NAVY.MIL; nicholas.suszan@NCIS.NAVY.MIL; Alexander, Eryn R. (IOD) (FBI) <ERALEXANDER@FBI.GOV>; samuel.g.gross.mil@mail.mil; Lay, Amy L. <Amy.Lay@vsp.virginia.gov>; jeremy.roush@fairfaxcounty.gov; Miller, Michael T. (WF) (OGA) <MTMILLER3@fbi.gov>; douglas.m.trippany.mil@mail.mil; Thorward, Brent C. (WF) (DET) <BCTHORWARD@fbi.gov>; catherine.taylor43.mil@mail.mil; John.Erickson@uscg.gov; marilyn.guzman@uscg.gov; Delegan, John <john.delegan@uscg.gov>; David.Millard@uscg.gov; Usman.Saleem@uscg.gov; john.nugent@uscg.gov; ryan.mccamley@uscg.gov; john.donohue@uscg.gov; julie.farnam@uscg.gov; Dillon, Joseph <joseph.r.dillon@uscg.mil>; CGINTELPLLOT@uscg.mil; ronald.mcgarvey@usmc.mil; Smith, Johnnie (USMS) <Johnnie.Smith@usdoj.gov>; Madagu, Jonathan (USMS) <Jonathan.Madagu@usdoj.gov>; Rose, Michael (HQ-JSD) (USMS) <Michael.Rose2@usdoj.gov>; Knutson, Brett (WF) (DET) <BKNUTSON@fbi.gov>; Rossi, Michael A. (CTD) (CON) <marossi@fbi.gov>; Dingeldein, James E. (WF) (DET) <JEDINGELDEIN@fbi.gov>; mark_varanelli@nps.gov; Michael_Libby@nps.gov; elizabeth.adams@vdm.virginia.gov; Gene.E.Roddy@whmo.mil; Douglas.R.Reedy@whmo.mil; Jeffrey.W.Kuck@whmo.mil; Gary.Halton@whmo.mil; 'Hessling, Paul E COL USARMY NG NGB (USA)' <paul.e.hessling.mil@mail.mil>

Cc: Stapleton, Hope T. (WF) (FBI) <htstapleton@fbi.gov>; tmorris@fbi.gov

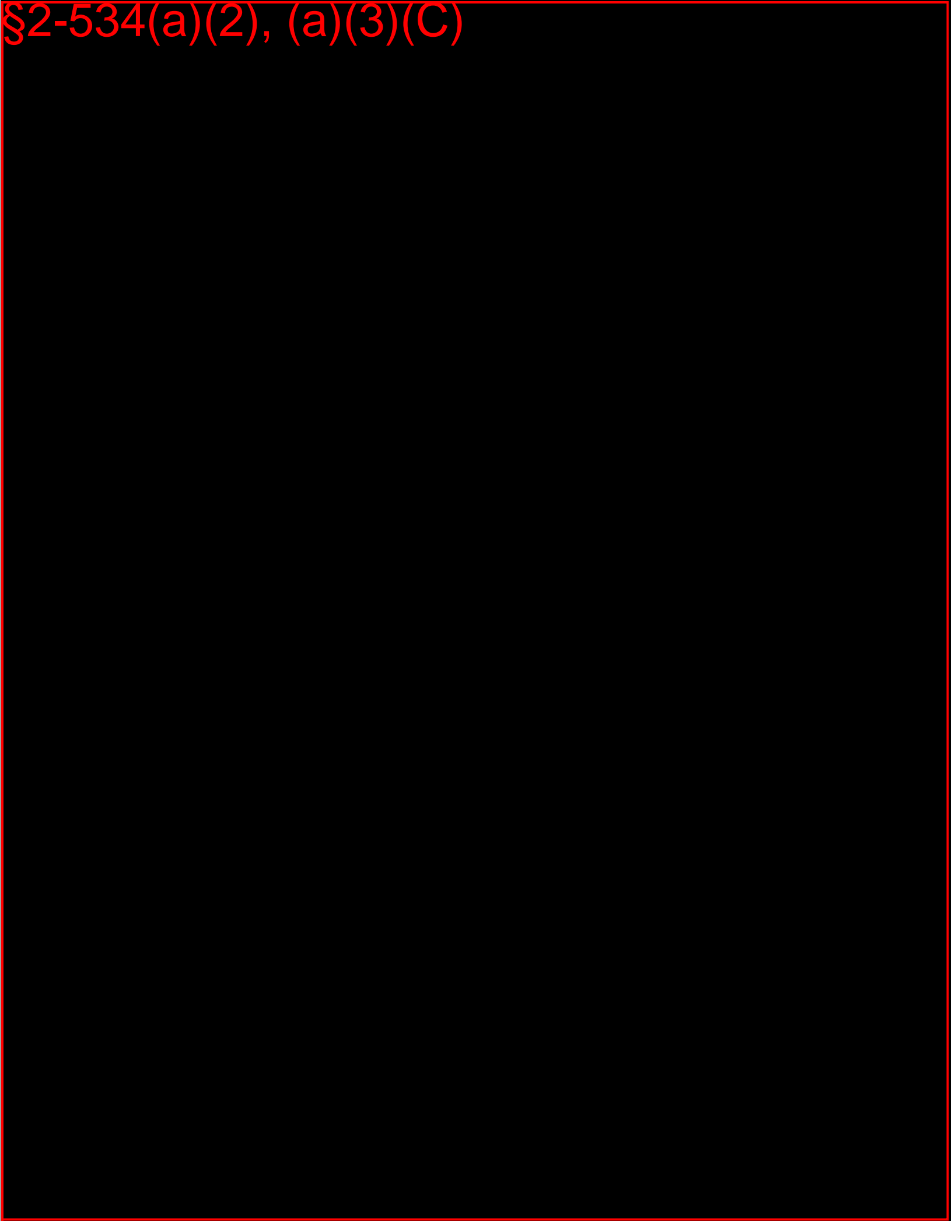
Subject: DHS Reports

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2-534(a)(3)

§2-534(a)(2) (a)(3)(C)

§2-534(a)(2), (a)(3)(C)



Please see attached bulletin from Anne Arundel County PD regarding stolen military uniforms for your awareness.

§2-534(a)(2)

Lieutenant, Intelligence Branch

Homeland Security Bureau

D.C. Metropolitan Police Department

Cell: §2-534(a)(2)

Email: §2-534(a)(2) [dc.gov](mailto:§2-534(a)(2)@dc.gov)

Get important updates on the 59th Presidential Inauguration from DC Government. Text INAUG2021 to 888-777 for updates on public safety, street closures, weather alerts, and more.

Sacco, Cristina (EOM)

From: Graves, David L CIV DTRA OI (USA) <david.l.graves6.civ@mail.mil>
Sent: Wednesday, January 20, 2021 1:15 PM
To: Graves, David L CIV DTRA OI (USA)
Subject: LE-5 [MAY CONTAIN USPER INFO]
Attachments: DSR (0020-21) 20 Jan 21 Final.pdf; MDPD HSB-2021-012 Wanted by FBI - Samuel Camargo CANCEL - IN CUSTODY.pdf; MSP Bulletin Officer Safety HUNT Milton 21-MSP-002437 ARRESTED.pdf; NYSIC CL Q4 2020.pdf; NOAA Daily Weather Briefing - January 20, 2021.pdf; NYSIC OMG Events 01.20.21.pdf; CISA Daily Clips 1-20-2021.pdf; (LES) NVRIC-VFC SITREP 21-25 Impacts to Northern Virginia from Civil Unrest and the 2021 Inauguration.pdf

Categories: Green

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2-534(a)(3)

2-534(a)(10), 2-534(a)(3)



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2-534(a)(10), 2-534(a)(3)



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2-534(a)(10), 2-534(a)(3)



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2-534(a)(10), 2-534(a)(3)



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Graves, David L CIV DTRA OI (USA)

To: Graves, David L CIV DTRA OI (USA)
Subject: FW: CISA Daily Clips

From: Hart, David
Sent: Wednesday, January 20, 2021 7:44 AM
Subject: CISA Daily Clips



DAILY CLIPS January 20th, 2021

CISA

SolarWinds Provides Update on Major Hack Amid New CISA Venture < Caution-
<https://governmentciomedia.com/solarwinds-provides-update-major-hack-amid-new-cisa-venture> > **(01/19)**
GovernmentCIOMedia

In a new blog post, SolarWinds said the company first noticed “suspicious activity” on its Orion platform in September 2019 — more than a year before discovering the malicious code now referred to as SUNBURST, which induced the December 2020 cyberattack. According to SolarWinds, the SUNSPOT malware inserted the SUNBURST backdoor “into software builds of the SolarWinds Orion IT management product.” In other words, the malware mimicked SolarWinds’ own IT product, slipping in during the development process.

CISA’s Kolasky unveils ‘Systemic Cyber Risk Reduction Venture’ for critical infrastructure < Caution-
<https://insidecybersecurity.com/daily-news/cisa%E2%80%99s-kolasky-unveils-%E2%80%98systemic-cyber-risk-reduction-venture%E2%80%99-critical-infrastructure> > **(01/19)** **Inside Cybersecurity**

CISA’s National Risk Management Center is launching a multifaceted “risk reduction venture” to help organize efforts around analyzing, measuring and providing tools to address cybersecurity risks faced by critical infrastructure. “Using enterprise risk management best practices will be a focus for CISA in 2021, and today the National Risk Management Center (NRMC) is launching a Systemic Cyber Risk Reduction Venture to organize our work to reduce shared risk to the Nation’s security and economic security,” NRMC Director Bob Kolasky said Thursday in a blog post.

SolarWinds Hack Costs ‘Growing Every Day,’ CISA Official Says < Caution-
<https://www.meritalk.com/articles/solarwinds-hack-costs-growing-cisa-orion/> > **(01/19)** **MeriTalk**

The costs and consequences of the Russia-backed hack of government and private sector networks via a breach of SolarWinds Orion products are continuing to grow more than a month after the exploit was publicly disclosed, a senior official with the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) said today. “There is no bigger risk” facing critical infrastructure sectors than attacks on their supply chains, said Bob Kolasky, who heads the National Risk Management Center (NRMC) at CISA, at an online event organized by FCW. “We are all living and dealing with the

consequences of perhaps the most significant software supply chain attack" in history, Kolasky said referring to the SolarWinds breach.

COVID-19

Pfizer responds to Cuomo, says HHS approval needed to sell COVID vaccine to NY < Caution-
<https://nypost.com/2021/01/19/pfizer-hhs-approval-needed-to-sell-covid-19-vaccine-to-ny/> > **(01/19) The New York Post**

Pfizer says it would need federal approval to sell its coronavirus vaccine to New York, dashing Gov. Andrew Cuomo's hopes of buying the shots directly. Cuomo asked the Manhattan-based drugmaker about placing a COVID-19 vaccine order on Monday as he complained that the feds had left the state facing a shortage. But Pfizer said the US Department of Health and Human Services would have to approve such an arrangement based on the emergency use authorization that the Food and Drug Administration granted for the groundbreaking vaccine.

CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Can Joe Biden Get Infrastructure Done In 2021? < Caution-
<https://www.benzinga.com/government/21/01/19213829/can-joe-biden-get-infrastructure-done-in-2021> > **(01/19) Benzinga**

Next month before a joint session of Congress, President-elect Joe Biden plans to lay out his Build Back Better recovery plan that he claims will make "historic" investments in infrastructure. "It's time to stop talking about infrastructure and finally start building infrastructure," Biden said while unveiling his \$1.9 trillion COVID relief plan Thursday. "Millions of good-paying jobs putting Americans to work rebuilding our roads, our bridges, our ports to make them more climate resilient, to make them faster, cheaper, cleaner to transport American-made goods across our country and around the world, that's how we compete. Failure to do so will cost us dearly," Biden said.

SOLARWINDS

Fourth malware strain discovered in SolarWinds incident < Caution-<https://www.zdnet.com/article/fourth-malware-strain-discovered-in-solarwinds-incident/> > **(01/19) ZD Net**

Cyber-security firm Symantec said it identified another malware strain that was used during the SolarWinds supply chain attack, bringing the total number to four, after the likes of Sunspot, Sunburst (Solorigate), and Teardrop. Named Raindrop, Symantec said the malware was used only during the very last stages of an intrusion, deployed only on the networks of very few selected targets.

New Raindrop Tool Tied to SolarWinds Attackers < Caution-<https://duo.com/decipher/new-raindrop-tool-tied-to-solarwinds-attackers> > **(01/19) Duo**

Researchers have uncovered another piece of malware used by the SolarWinds attackers to help them move across networks after an initial compromise. The tool is known as Raindrop and while it shares a number of similarities with the Teardrop malware used by the same group, it has some unique capabilities and has only been found on a small number of computers.

Biden DHS, Intel picks stress need to prioritize cybersecurity after SolarWinds Hack < Caution-
<https://thehill.com/policy/cybersecurity/534889-biden-dhs-intel-nominees-stress-need-to-prioritize-cybersecurity-after> > **(01/19) The Hill**

President-elect Joe Biden's nominees to serve as secretary of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and as director of national intelligence (DNI) both said Tuesday that if confirmed they will make a priority out of bolstering the nation's cybersecurity. DHS nominee Alejandro Mayorkas and DNI nominee Avril Haines each pointed to the specific need to secure the federal government against cyber threats following the recently discovered Russian hack of IT group SolarWinds, which compromised many key federal agencies and potentially thousands of businesses.

SolarWinds hack blights the Trump administration's cybersecurity record < Caution-

<https://fcw.com/articles/2021/01/19/trump-mixed-cyber-legacy.aspx> > **(01/19) FCW**

The SolarWinds hack, first detected in December 2020, colors any assessment of the cybersecurity legacy of the administration of President Donald Trump. During Trump's last days in office, as the president pressed to overturn the results of the November election, the federal government scrambled to contain the fallout from an ongoing intelligence operation believed to be the worst intrusion in the country's history.

Symantec connects another hacking tool to SolarWinds campaign < Caution-

<https://www.cyberscoop.com/solarwinds-symantec-raindrop-russia-hacking/> > **(01/19) CyberScoop**

Private sector analysts uncovered a new hacking tool thought to be used in a suspected Russian spying operation in the latest example of how, as the investigation into the SolarWinds breach continues, the plot only thickens. Security firm Symantec on Tuesday said it had found previously undocumented malicious code that the attackers used to move through victim networks and then transmit additional malware onto specific computers. The attackers installed the malicious code, dubbed Raindrop, on a handful of carefully chosen computers in an effort to spy on them, according to the latest findings.

FireEye releases tool for auditing networks for techniques used by SolarWinds hackers < Caution-

<https://www.zdnet.com/article/fireeye-releases-tool-for-auditing-networks-for-techniques-used-by-solarwinds-hackers/> > **(01/19) ZDNet**

Cybersecurity firm FireEye has released today a report detailing the techniques used by the SolarWinds hackers inside the networks of companies they breached. Together with the report, FireEye researchers have also released a free tool on GitHub named Azure AD Investigator that they say can help companies determine if the SolarWinds hackers (also known as UNC2452) used any of these techniques inside their networks.

The big cyber issues Joe Biden will face his first day in office < Caution-<https://www.cyberscoop.com/biden-cybersecurity-russia-solarwinds/> > **(01/19) Cyberscoop**

Joe Biden has his work cut out for him. Biden will be sworn into office on Jan. 20 with a long list of challenges ranging from the coronavirus pandemic to re-considering America's place on the world stage. There's also the fallout from a far-reaching hacking campaign that the U.S. has suggested is the work of the Russian government. Yet the next American president has also chosen top advisers, including his picks to lead the Department of Homeland Security and the CIA, who appear to view digital security as an integral part of policymaking. Their thinking on these issues, and whether they succeed or fail in the face of deep-seated challenges to internet security, could affect the trajectory of Biden's presidency.

CYBERSECURITY

Protective DNS aims to protect remote workers from malware attack < Caution-

<https://www.zdnet.com/article/protective-dns-aims-to-protect-remote-workers-from-malware-attack/> > **(01/19) ZDNet**

Remote working has put people at risk of being targeted by cyber criminals because home networks are rarely set up with enterprise-level security in mind. But a new tool could give home workers the same protections against cyberattacks as they're used to in the office. The UK's National Cyber Security Centre's (NCSC) Protective Domain Name Service (PDNS) has been active since 2017, helping to keep public sector workers as safe as possible from cyberattacks – and now there's a version for remote workers.

Mayorkas calls for review of Einstein, CDM < Caution-<https://fcw.com/articles/2021/01/19/mayorkas-dhs-confirm-cyber.aspx> > **(01/19) FCW**

Alejandro Mayorkas, at his Senate confirmation hearing to lead the Department of Homeland Security, said he will review the federal government's two major cybersecurity programs in the wake of the SolarWinds breach. Mayorkas said he would conduct "a thorough review of Einstein and Continuous Diagnostics and Mitigation [programs] to

understand whether Einstein and CDM ... are appropriately designed and appropriately and effectively executed" to stop a threat such as SolarWinds. "And if not, what other defenses need we develop in the federal government to best protect our very valuable equities and resources?" he added in response to a question from Sen. Maggie Hassan (D-N.H.) during his confirmation hearing before the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee.

Healthcare security challenge: How cyberattacks are evolving < Caution-

<https://www.securitymagazine.com/articles/94381-healthcare-security-challenge-how-cyberattacks-are-evolving> > **(01/19) Security Magazine**

First, it goes without saying that hospitals and frontline workers should be applauded for doing their utmost to ensure staff and patient safety under extraordinary circumstances. Hospitals are under unprecedented stress — and, sadly, it appears that the pandemic will get worse before it gets better. The vaccines are a light at the end of the tunnel, but until they have been widely distributed, hospitals will remain over-extended, making them even more vulnerable to cyberattacks.

Michael Sulmeyer, who held cyber posts under Trump and Obama, gets Biden White House gig < Caution-

<https://www.cyberscoop.com/michael-sulmeyer-senior-director-cyber-biden/> > **(01/19) CyberScoop**

Michael Sulmeyer, a senior adviser to National Security Agency and U.S. Cyber Command leader Gen. Paul Nakasone, will take the position of senior director for cyber in the Biden White House. Sulmeyer's selection came with no formal announcement. Instead, the transition website posted his position Monday evening. Sulmeyer is a cybersecurity veteran with broad experience, one of many to join the Biden administration. He's also one of several whose tenures have included roles in the Trump administration.

Will Your Airliner Get Hacked? < Caution-[https://urldefense.us/v3/__https://Caution-www.airspacemag.com/flight-today/will-your-airliner-get-hacked-180976752/__;!!BCIRuOV5cvtbuNI!Weh9VpUbtPWdaUH1UlsnfryZwdSogd2E3TiG-ZoETT1n-8ny_c__Xtz97Q4_lleUYMITgiU\\$](https://urldefense.us/v3/__https://Caution-www.airspacemag.com/flight-today/will-your-airliner-get-hacked-180976752/__;!!BCIRuOV5cvtbuNI!Weh9VpUbtPWdaUH1UlsnfryZwdSogd2E3TiG-ZoETT1n-8ny_c__Xtz97Q4_lleUYMITgiU$) > **(01/19) AirSpaceMag**

Modern aircraft have sometimes been called computers with wings, and as far back as 1994, long before hacking became high on society's list of everyday worries, Boeing engineers were having discussions about how to keep malicious software from being introduced into the data network of their newest marvel, the 777 airliner. So far, the protections devised by those engineers—and the ones who came after them—have worked. No hacker has ever penetrated the computers of an airliner's flight control system or any part of its avionics. The not-so-shocking news is that hackers have tried. Mike Vanguardia is one of an army of engineers who work to keep them out.

Microsoft Additional Steps to Address ZeroLogon Flaw < Caution-<https://www.govinfosecurity.com/microsoft-taking-additional-steps-to-address-zero-logon-flaw-a-15796> > **(01/19) GovInfoSecurity**

Microsoft is alerting customers that starting Feb. 9, it will enforce domain controller settings within Active Directory to block connections that could exploit the unpatched ZeroLogon vulnerability in Windows Server. The software giant, along with the U.S. Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, has been warning about the urgency of patching the ZeroLogon vulnerability, which is tracked as CVE-2020-1472, for months. The flaw affects Windows Server's Netlogon Remote Protocol, or MS-NRPC - an authentication component of Active Directory that organizations deploy to manage user accounts, including authentication and access (see: Microsoft Issues Updated Patching Directions for 'ZeroLogon').

ELECTION SECURITY

Democrats race to push Biden's agenda after transition delays, GOP infighting < Caution-

<https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/congress/democrats-race-push-biden-s-agenda-after-transition-delays-gop-n1254692> > **(01/19) NBC News**

WASHINGTON — After weeks of Republican infighting over President-elect Joe Biden's victory, which culminated in the deadly siege of the Capitol two weeks ago by supporters of President Donald Trump, Democrats are now racing to help Biden get to work on day one. Democrats will officially capture the Senate on Wednesday when, according to two sources, three new members will be sworn in during the afternoon: Georgia winners Jon Ossoff and Raphael Warnock, and California's Alex Padilla, the appointee to replace Kamala Harris, who resigned on Monday two days before her vice presidential inauguration.

"MyPillow guy" Mike Lindell says he'd welcome suit from voting machines maker Dominion < Caution-

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/mike-lindell-dominion-lawsuit-mypillow-ceo/> > **(01/19) CBS News**

MyPillow CEO Mike Lindell — an ardent supporter of President Trump — says he would "welcome" a threatened lawsuit from voting machines manufacturer Dominion. Lindell told CBS News a suit would enable him to show the world the recent presidential election was rigged. However, the Justice Department found no evidence of widespread voter fraud and Trump administration national security and election officials have called it the "most secure election in American history." In a letter dated December 23, attorneys for Dominion asserted that Lindell has "participated in the vast and concerted misinformation campaign to slander Dominion."

CONGRESSIONAL ACTION

Congress Highlights Agencies' 2020 Cyber Struggles and Need for Reform < Caution-

<https://governmentciomedia.com/congress-highlights-agencies-2020-cyber-struggles-and-need-reform> > **(01/19)**

GovernmentCIOMedia

Legislators are calling for Congress to push IT modernization efforts across federal agencies following the 2020 spike in cybercrime due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Republicans on the House Financial Services Committee say cybercrime increased with the shift to remote work since March 2020 and also with the passage of the CARES Act in April. "Financial institutions were put in a position to balance the government's interest in disbursing money quickly against their long-standing interest in implementing a robust system to prevent cyberattacks and scams," according to the committee's report.

5G SECURITY

NTIA releases national strategy to secure 5G implementation plan < Caution-

<https://www.securitymagazine.com/articles/94379-ntia-releases-national-strategy-to-secure-5g-implementation-plan> > **(01/19) Security Magazine**

Fifth generation wireless technology, or 5G, will be a primary driver of the U.S. prosperity and security in the 21st century, says the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), the agency that is principally responsible for advising the President on telecommunications and information policy issues. The newly released National Strategy to Secure 5G plan by the NTIA details how the United States will lead global development, deployment, and management of secure and reliable 5G infrastructure.

RANSOMWARE

560 Healthcare Providers Fell Victim to Ransomware Attacks in 2020 < Caution-

<https://healthitsecurity.com/news/560-healthcare-providers-fell-victim-to-ransomware-attacks-in-2020> > **(01/19)**

HealthITSecurity

January 19, 2021 - In the midst of responding to COVID-19, the healthcare sector faced a significant number of ransomware attacks in 2020 with 560 healthcare provider facilities falling victim to the malware variant, according to the latest Emsisoft State of Ransomware report. The last quarter of 2019 saw an unprecedented number of ransomware incidents in the healthcare sector. And while the number of reported successful attacks petered off during the first half of 2020, those numbers drastically increased through a coordinated ransomware wave that began in September.

Scottish Environmental Protection Agency confirms 'ongoing' ransomware attack < Caution-

<https://www.computing.co.uk/news/4025963/sepa-ongoing-ransomware-attack> > **(01/19) Computing UK**

The Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) is still responding to an ongoing ransomware attack it identified on Christmas Eve, which has knocked many of its critical IT systems offline. According to SEPA, an initial investigation suggests that a highly organised, international cyber-crime group is behind the attack, intending to disrupt SEPA's public services and extort public funds. The Agency's email system is still down almost a month after the initial attack, and some internal systems and external data products will remain offline in the short term.

SUPPLY CHAIN

Rising Supply Chain Risk Requires Proactive Management (Opinion < Caution-<https://www.infosecurity-magazine.com/opinions/rising-supply-chain-risk-proactive/> > **) (01/19) Infosecurity-Magazine**

As the roughly 18,000 organizations, government agencies and educational institutions continue to recover from last year's SolarWinds nation-state attack, one of the biggest takeaways from this event is that organizations need to be better educated on how to manage their third-party cyber-risks. Currently, the SolarWinds victims are experiencing the effects of what is known as a "supply chain" attack, which means that the attacker targeted a supplier (or "third-party") of an organization instead of directly attacking their target(s). Supply chain attacks are becoming more prevalent because they are an effective way of distributing malware to a large group of targets.

EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

DHS Awards \$1.5M to Small Business for First Responder Emergency Alerts Technology

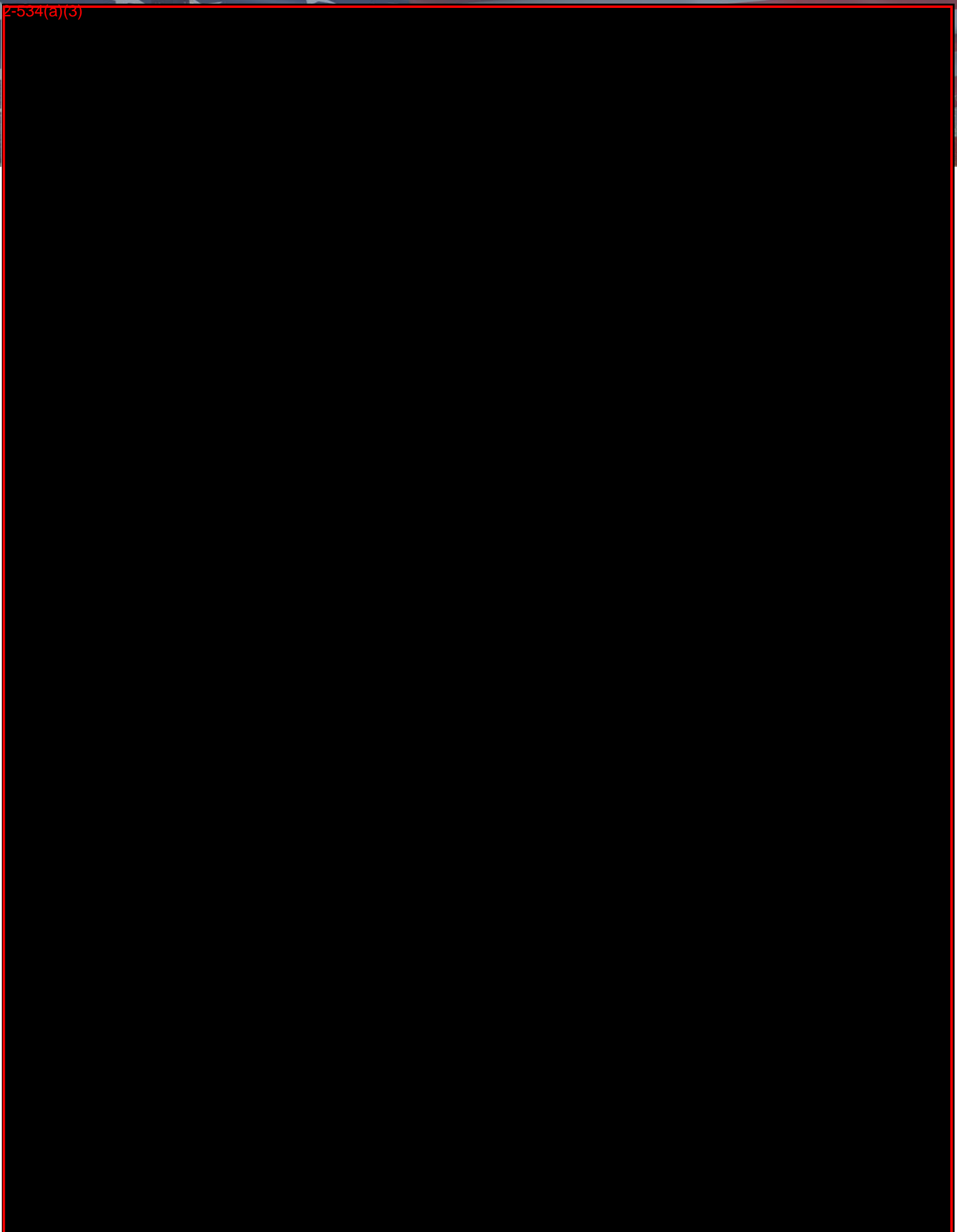
Development < Caution-<https://www.newswise.com/articles/dhs-awards-1-5m-to-small-business-for-first-responder-emergency-alerts-technology-development> > **(01/19) Newswise**

Newswise — WASHINGTON — As emergency communications technologies adapt to an increasingly interconnected nation, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Science and Technology Directorate (S&T) today announced it awarded more than \$1.5 million to develop an Alerts, Warnings, and Notifications (AWN) Guidance Tool. The program planning app, which will be available through a portal at FEMA's website, is expected to provide customized resources, best practices and program templates to address the most pressing challenges of alert originators, helping public safety agencies at the federal, state, local, tribal and territorial levels disseminate emergency and life-saving information.

Motorola (MSI) Teams Up with PRP to Revamp Public Safety in Canada < Caution-

<https://www.nasdaq.com/articles/motorola-msi-teams-up-with-prp-to-revamp-public-safety-in-canada-2021-01-19> > **(01/19) Nasdaq**

In a dedicated effort to strengthen the public safety infrastructure, Motorola Solutions, Inc. MSI recently collaborated with Canada's third largest municipal police service — Peel Regional Police ("PRP"). Notably, the policing services provider has been sharing an active working relationship with Motorola for quite some time now on the back of the latter's integrated software technologies, such as LTE data communications and public safety radio. As part of the recent deal, PRP will capitalize on Motorola's avant-garde CommandCentral software, which will enhance the overall public safety ecosystem with centralized data access and render fast response times to mitigate operating risks.

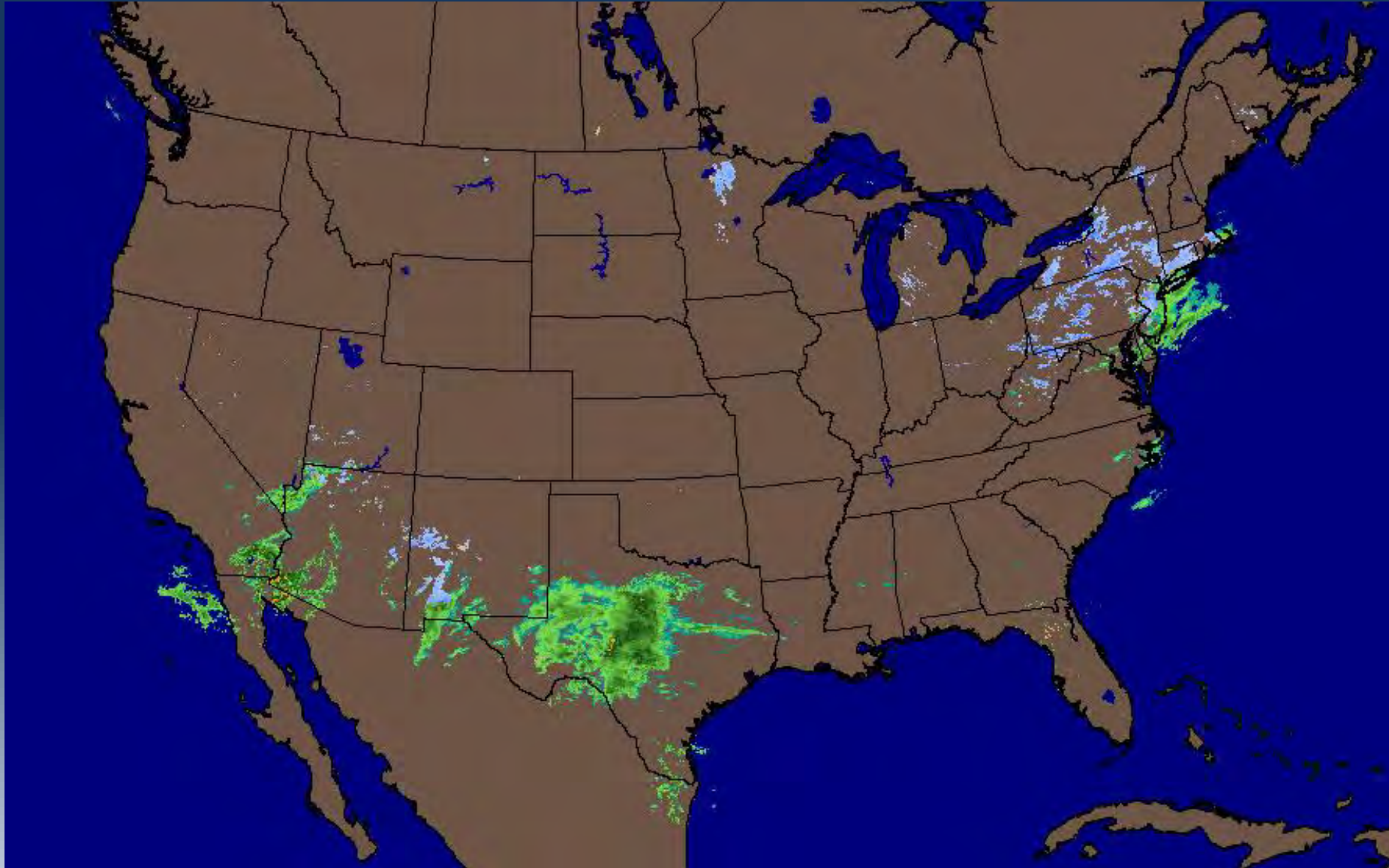


Daily Weather Briefing January 20, 2021



Regis Walter
NOAA Meteorologist

Current Radar



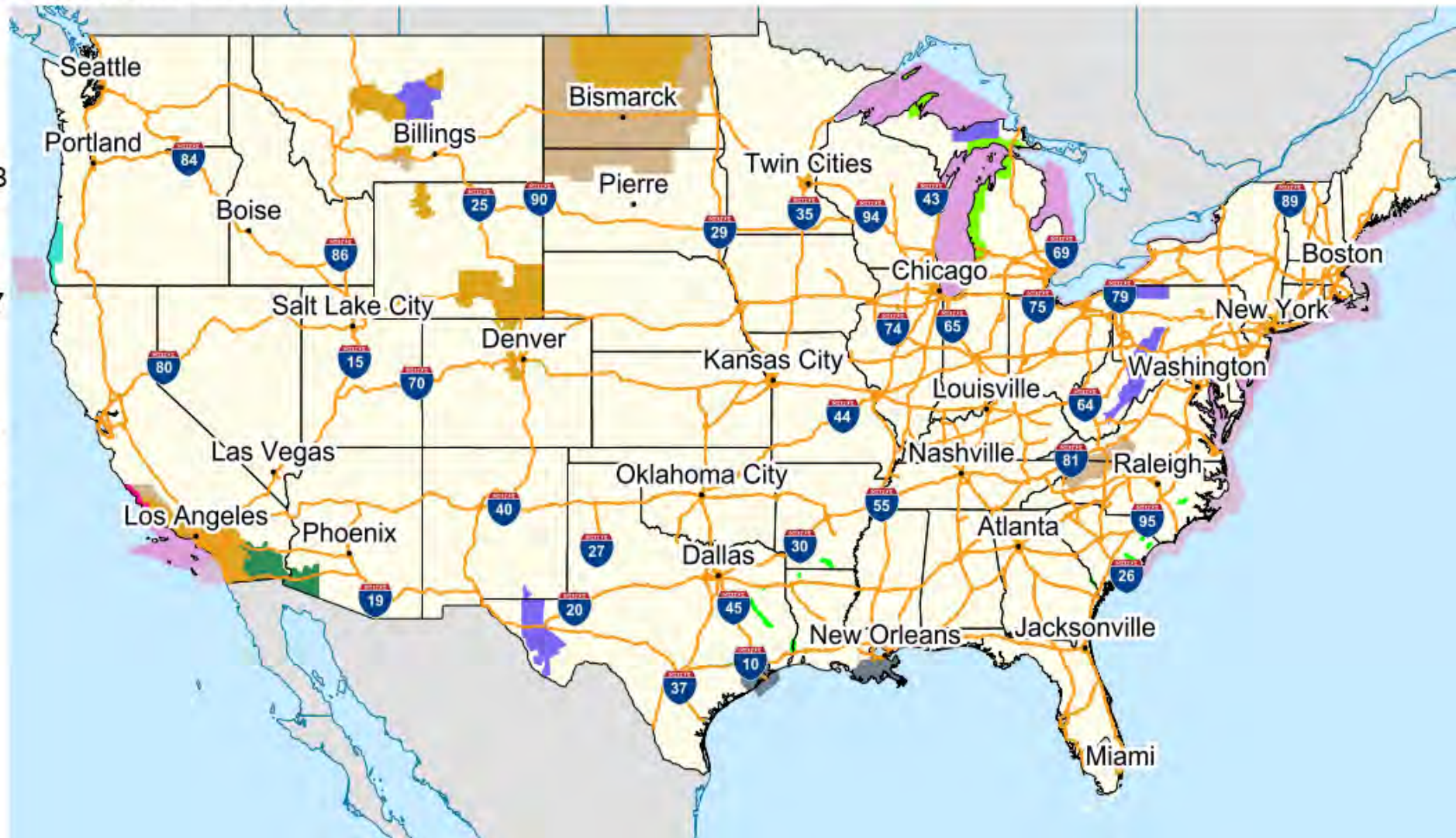
NOAA Daily Weather Briefing

Watches, Warnings and Advisories



Current Watches, Warnings, and Advisories

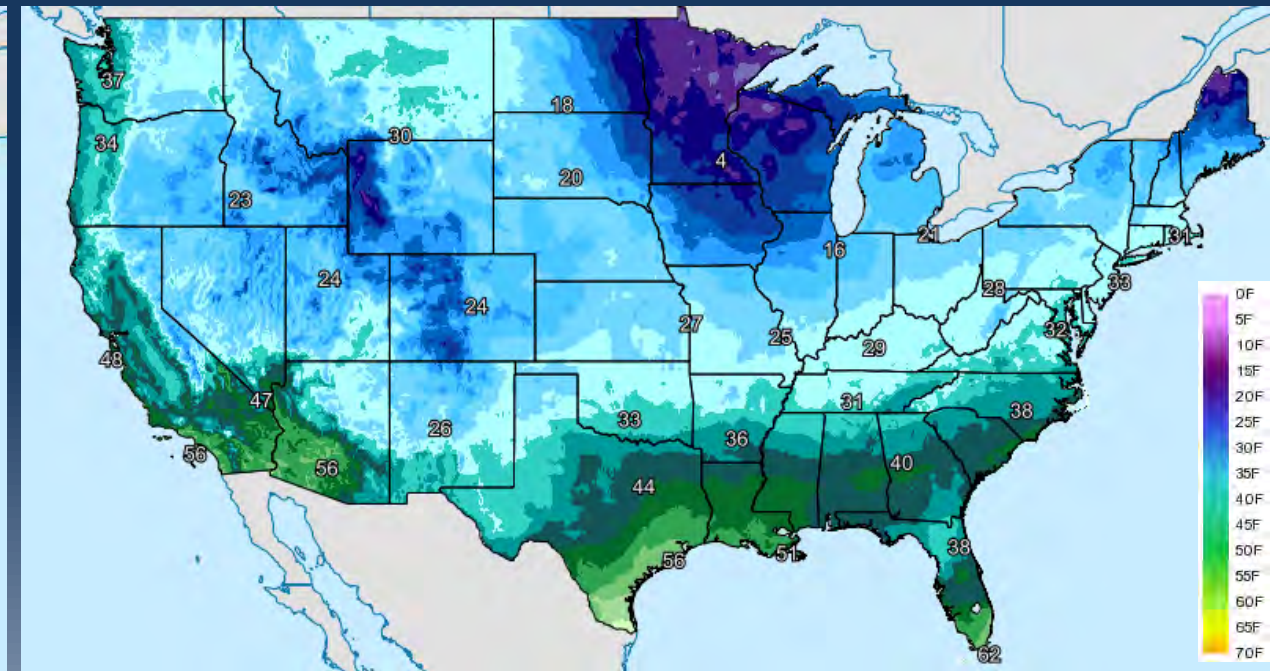
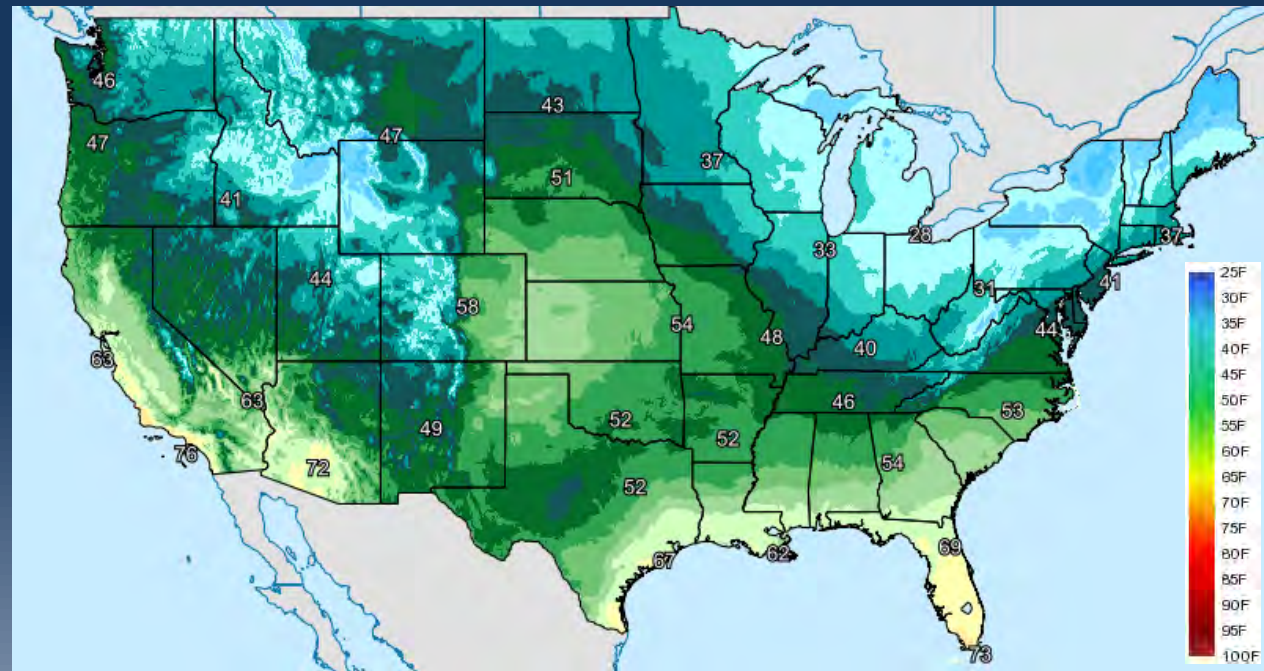
- High Wind Warning Pop: 13,745,644
- Flood Warning Pop: 178,086
- Lake Effect Snow Warning Pop: 104,688
- Gale Warning Pop: 114,276
- Red Flag Warning Pop: 414,913
- Winter Weather Advisory Pop: 721,272
- Lakeshore Flood Advisory Pop: 655,977
- High Surf Advisory Pop: 840,065
- Small Craft Advisory Pop: 517,010
- Dense Fog Advisory Pop: 2,222,595
- Marine Dense Fog Advisory Pop: 9,066
- Wind Advisory Pop: 9,516,495
- Beach Hazards Statement Pop: 89,727
- Flash Flood Watch Pop: 805,582



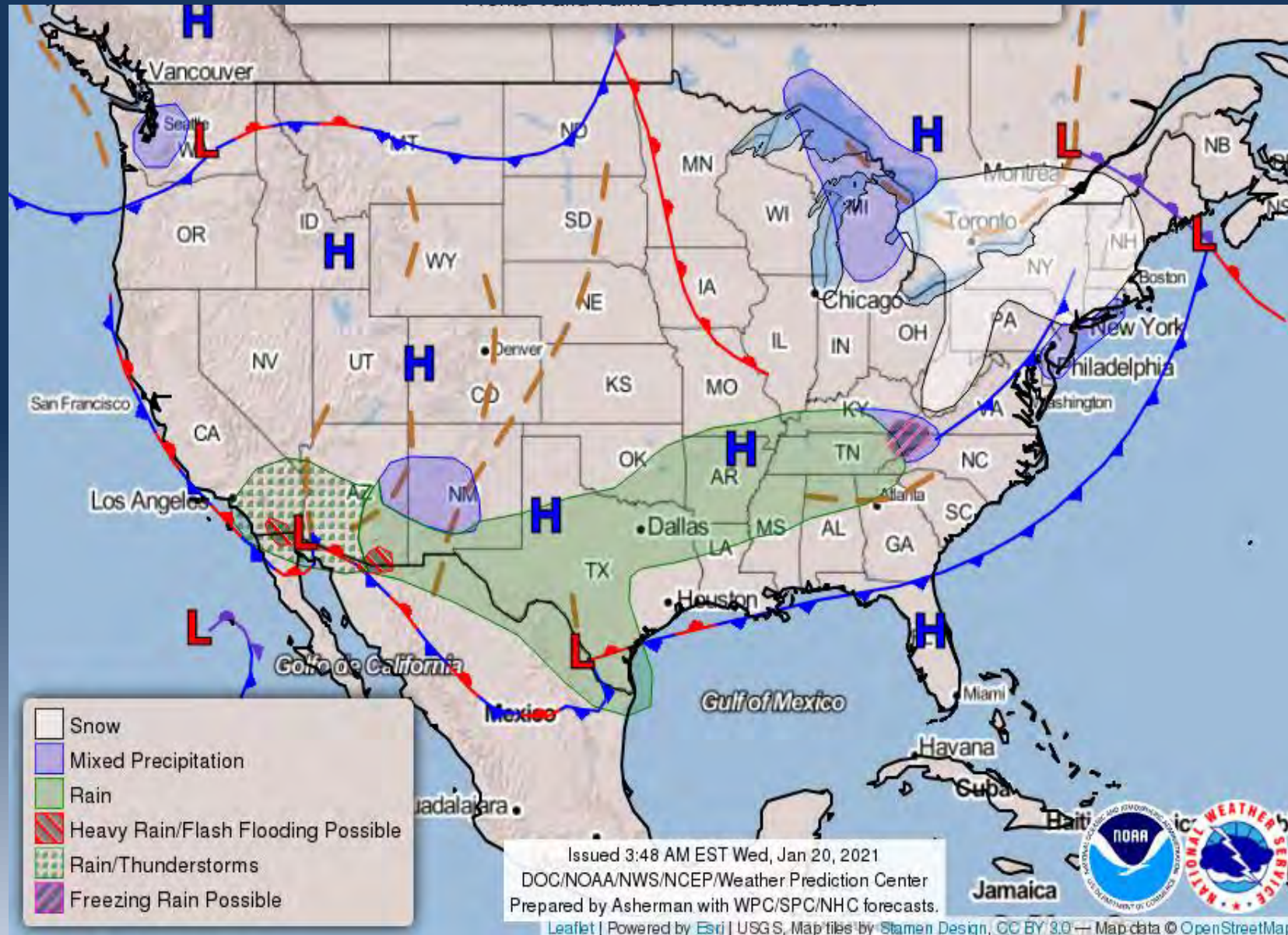
Graphic Created
January 20th, 2021
6:20 AM EST



Today's Highs / Tonight's Lows



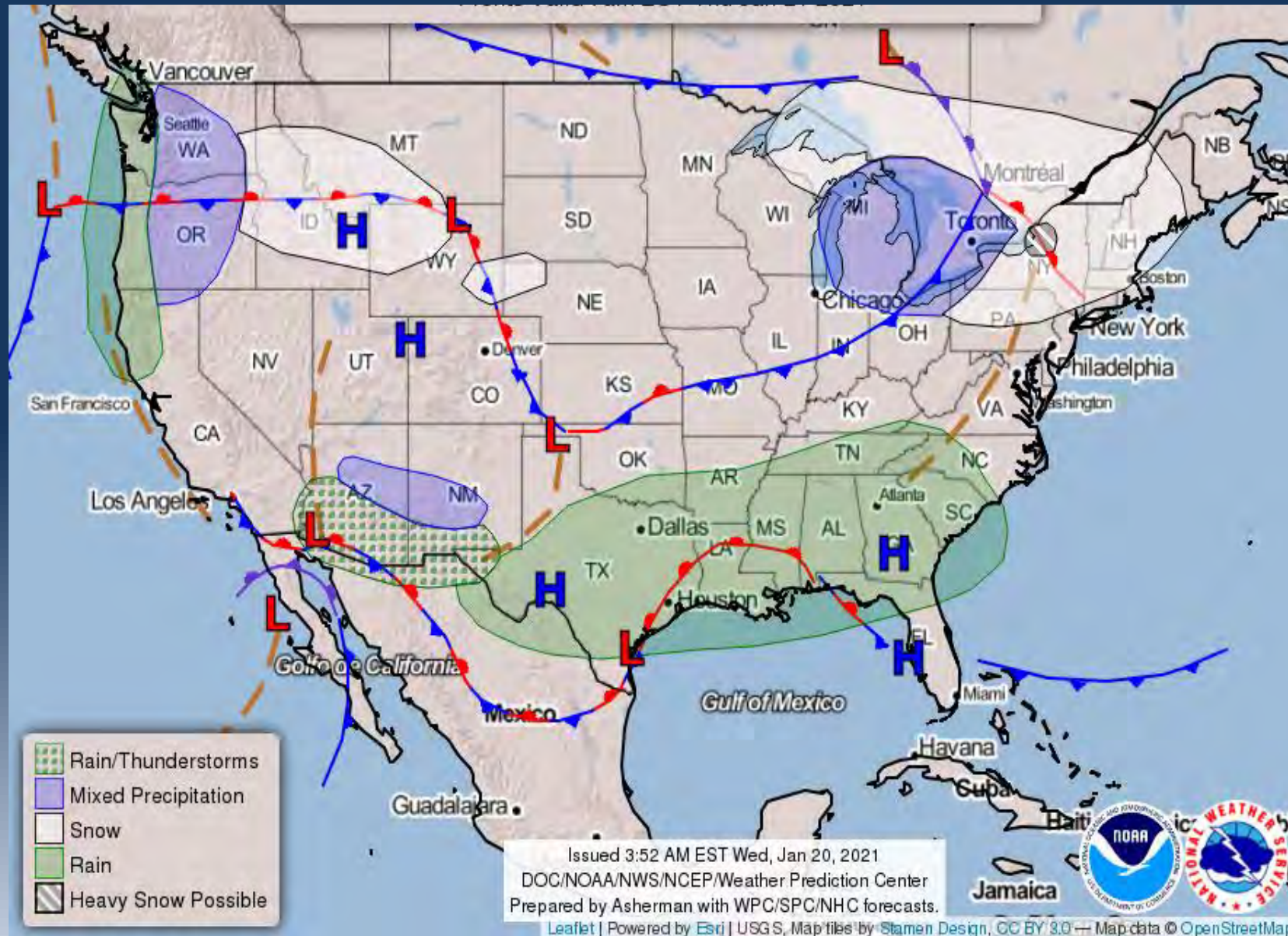
Today's Weather Map



NOAA Daily Weather Briefing



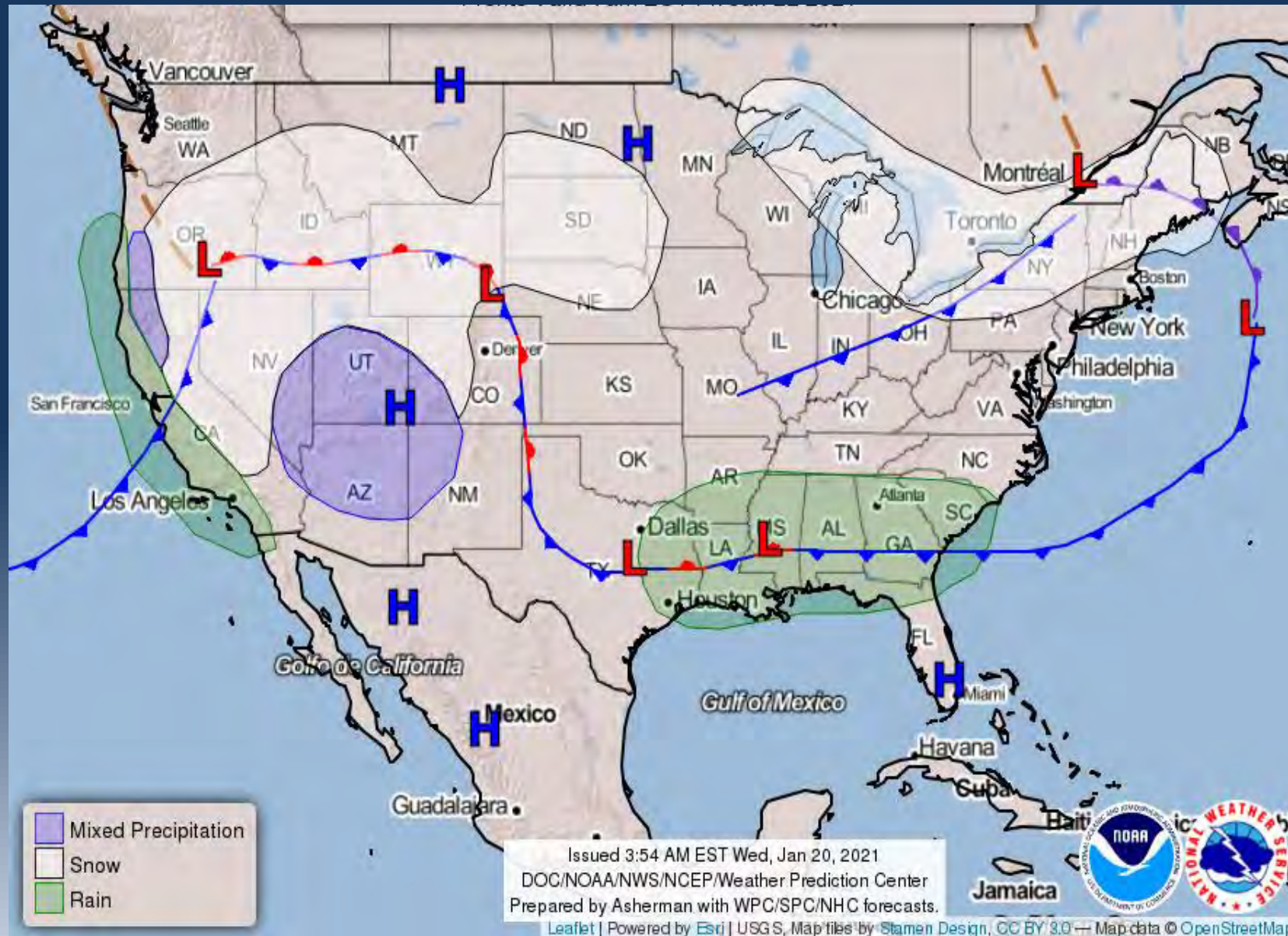
Tomorrow's Weather Map



NOAA Daily Weather Briefing



Day 3 Weather Map

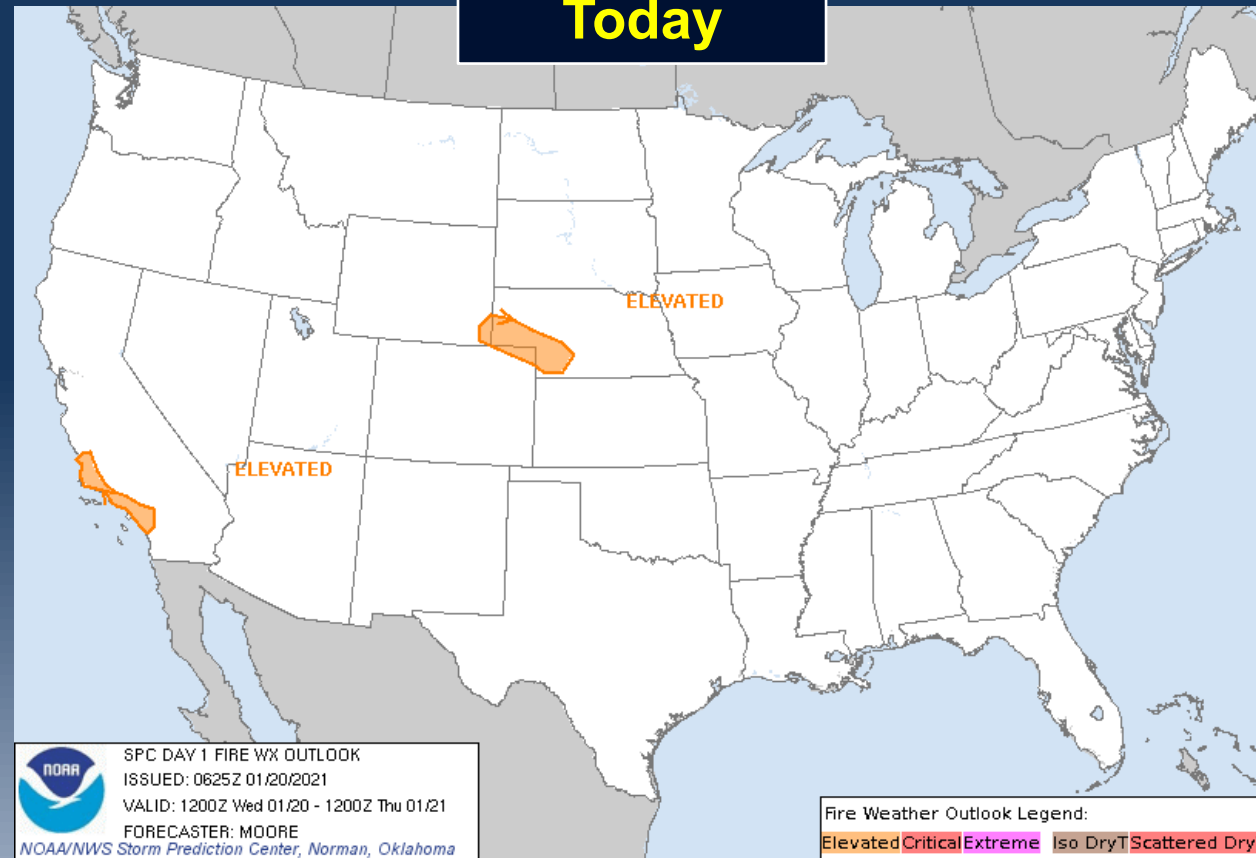


NOAA Daily Weather Briefing

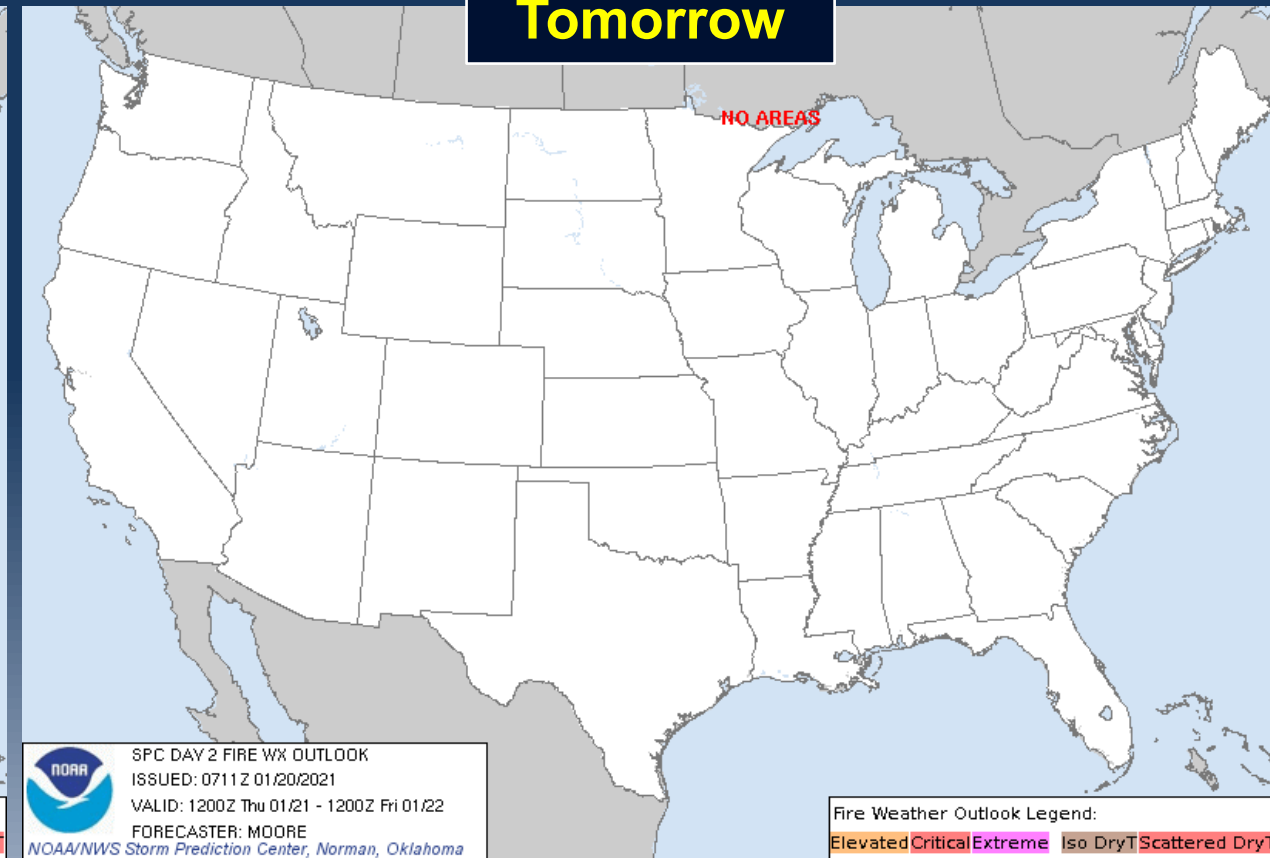


Fire Weather Outlooks

Today



Tomorrow



[Click here for Days 3-8](#)

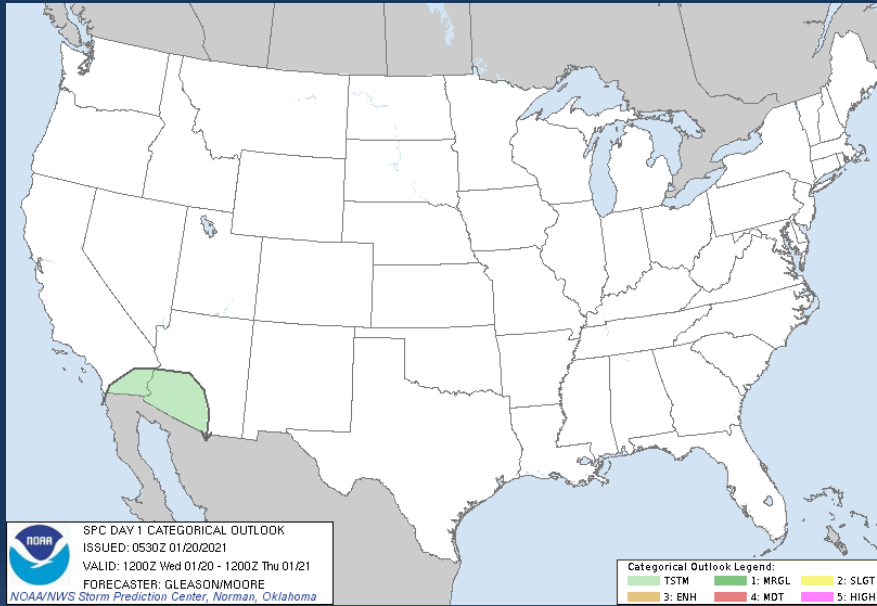
NOAA Daily Weather Briefing



Today's Convective Outlooks

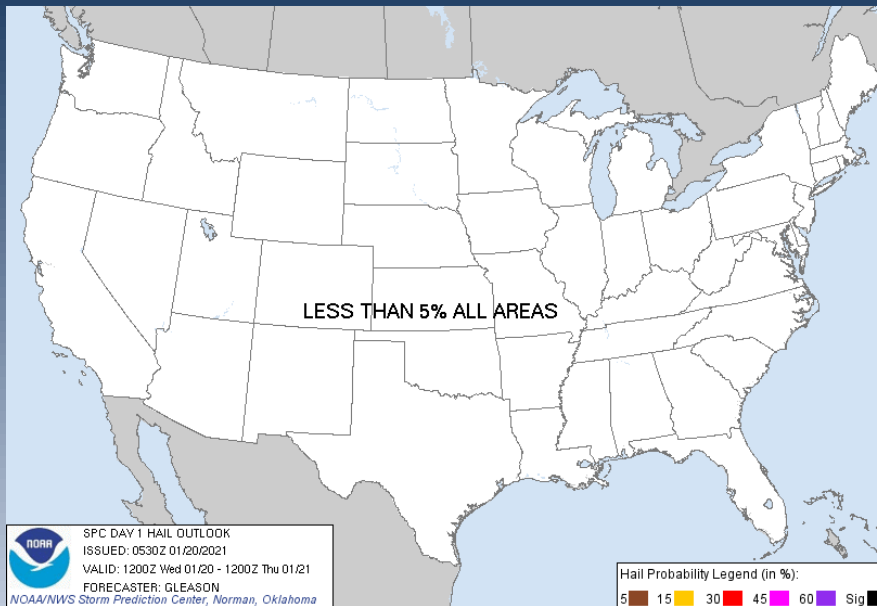
Categorical

- Thunderstorms
- Marginal Risk
- Slight Risk
- Enhanced Risk
- Moderate Risk
- High Risk



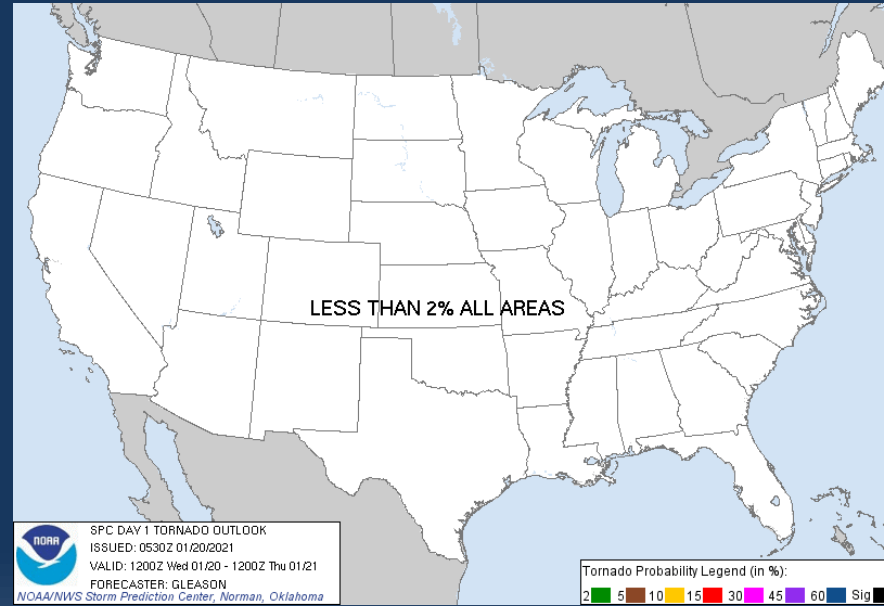
Large Hail

- within 25 mi. of a point
- 5% 1+ inch dia.
- 15%
- 30%
- 45%
- 60%
- 10% 2+ inch dia.



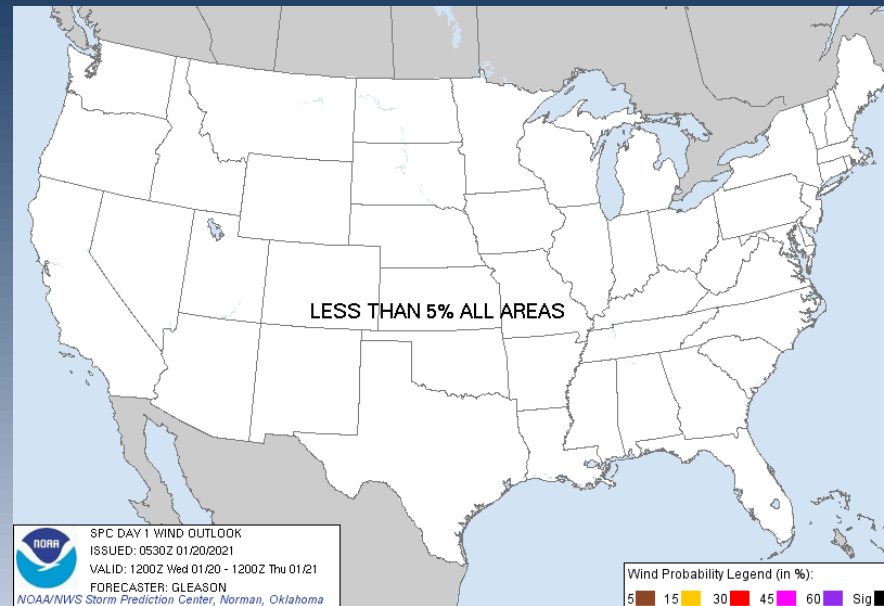
Tornado

- within 25 mi. of a point
- 2% any tornado
- 5%
- 10%
- 15%
- 30%
- 45%
- 60%
- 10% EF2+ tornado



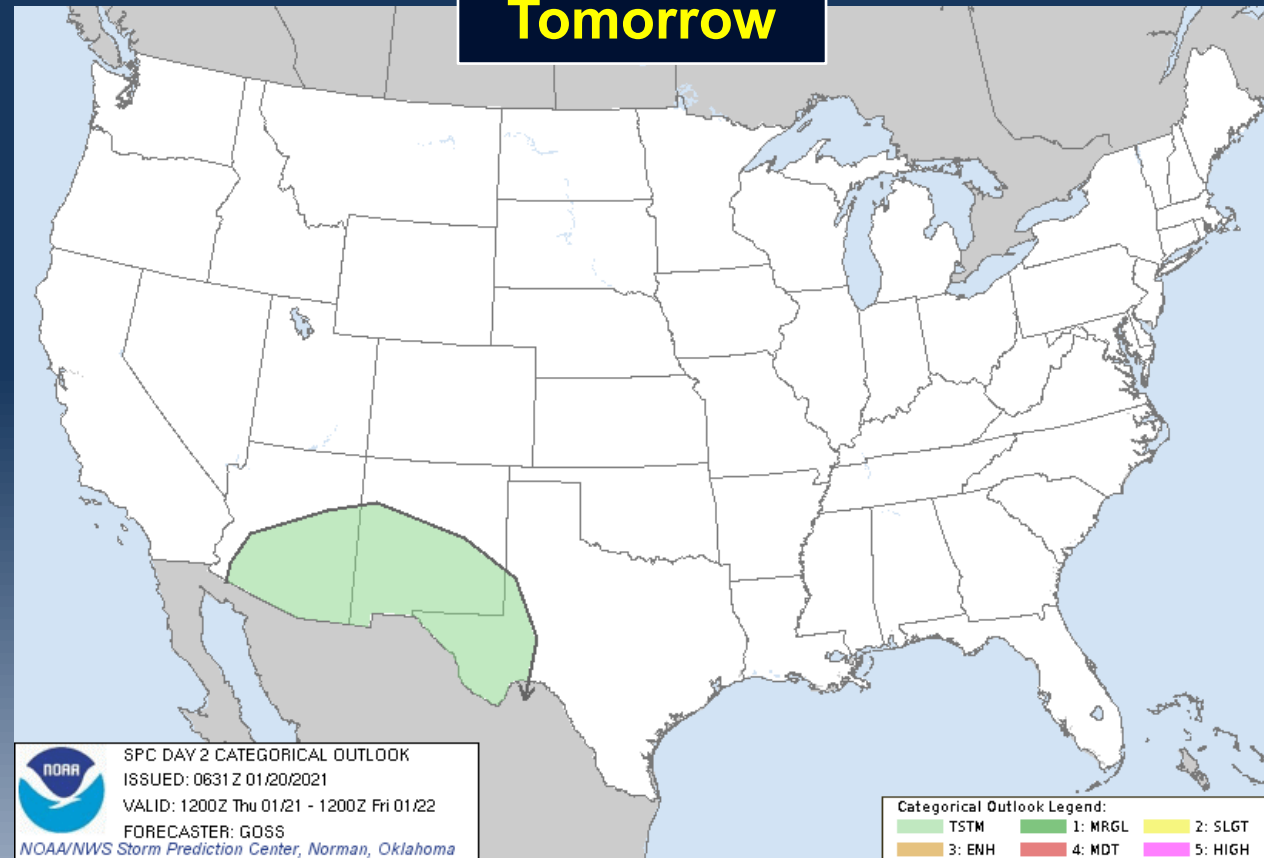
Damaging Wind

- within 25 mi. of a point
- 5% 50+ kts
- 15%
- 30%
- 45%
- 60%
- 10% 65+ kts

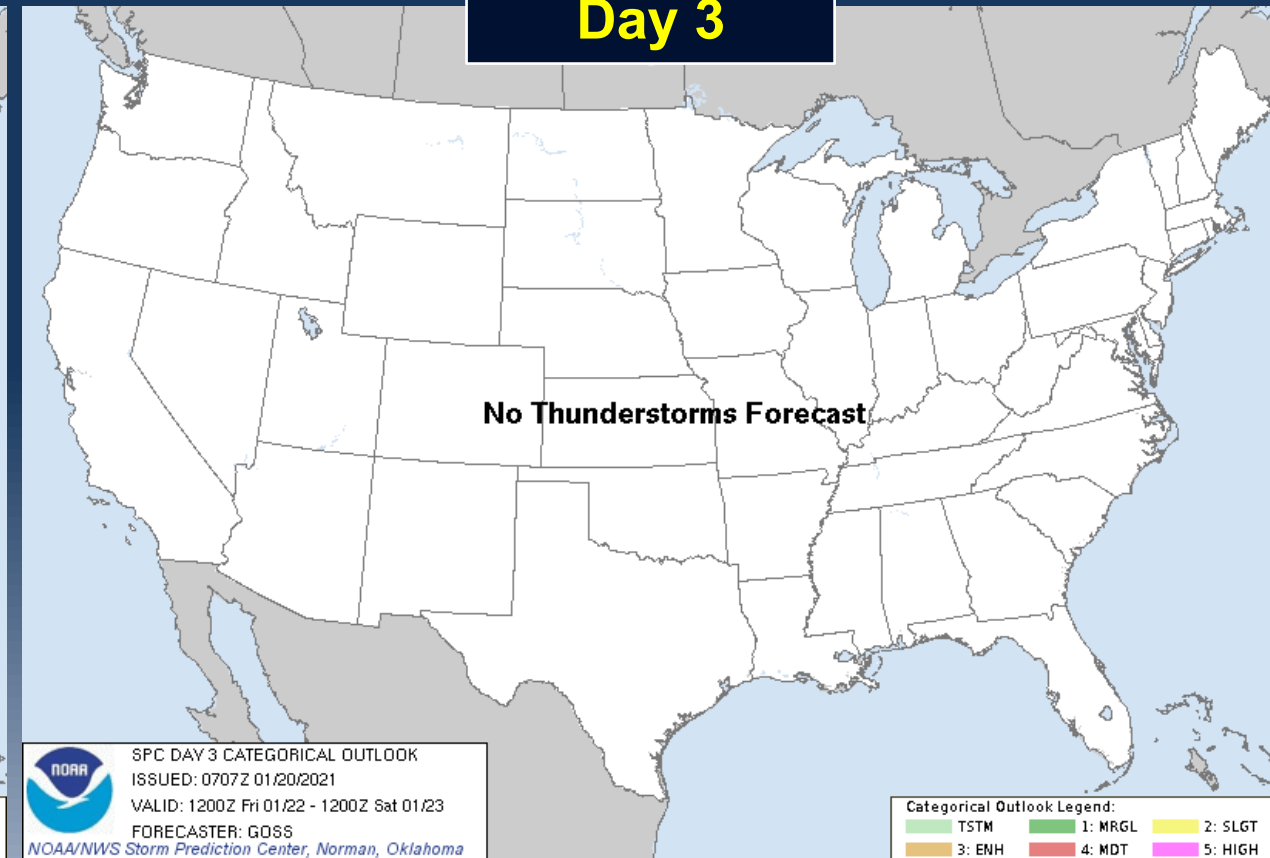


Days 2 & 3 Convective Outlooks

Tomorrow



Day 3



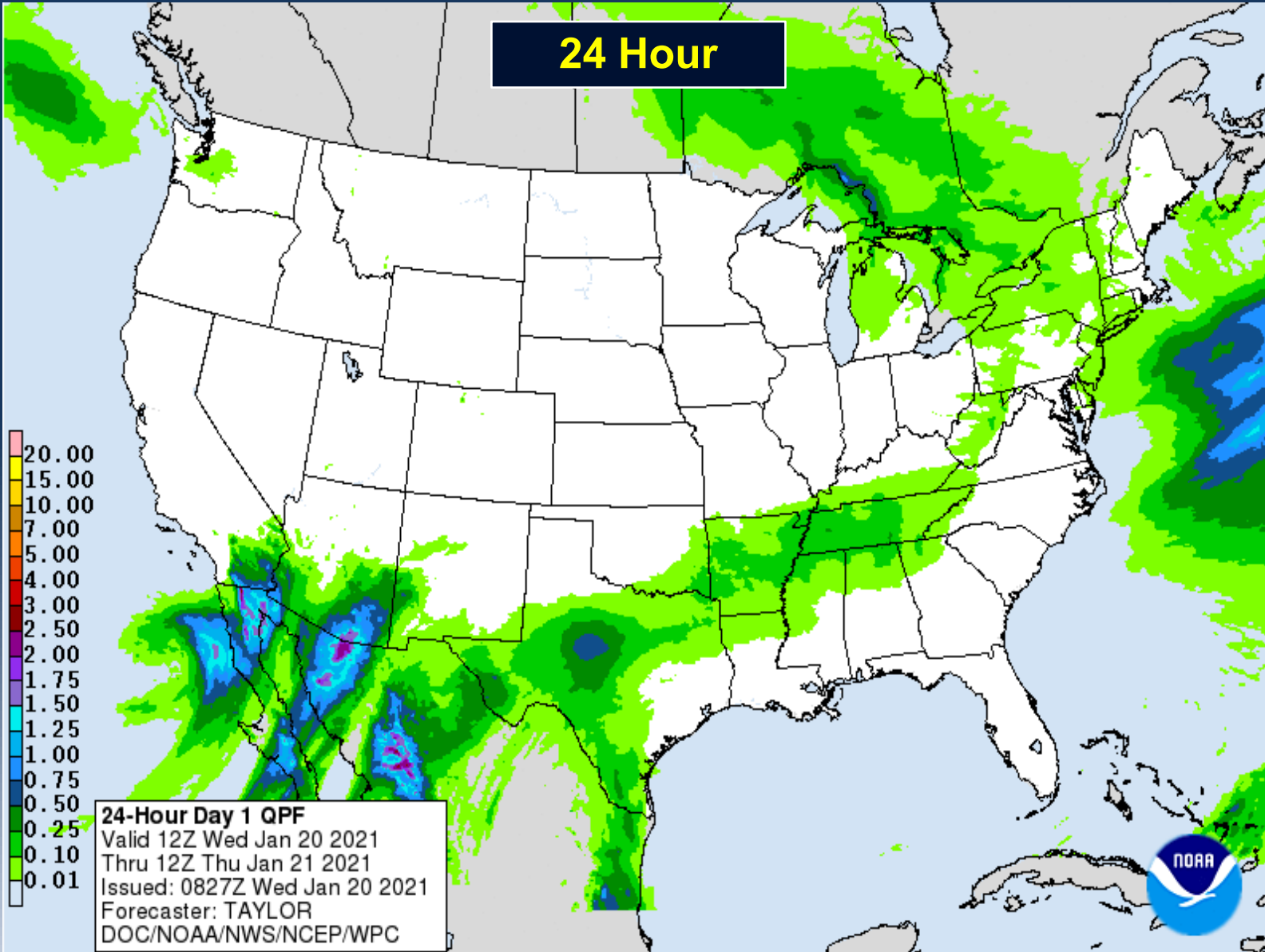
[Click here for Days 4-8](#)

NOAA Daily Weather Briefing

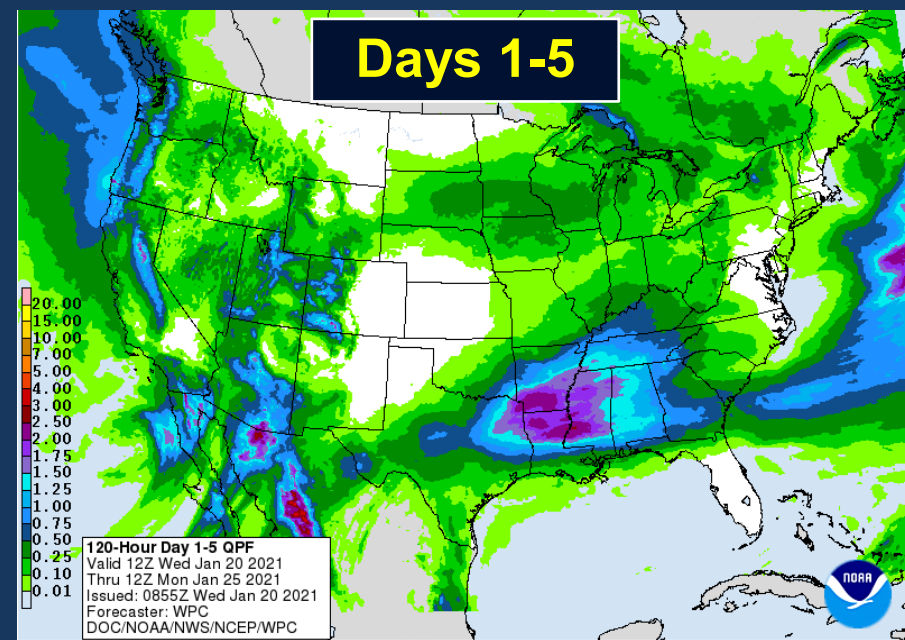


Precipitation Forecast

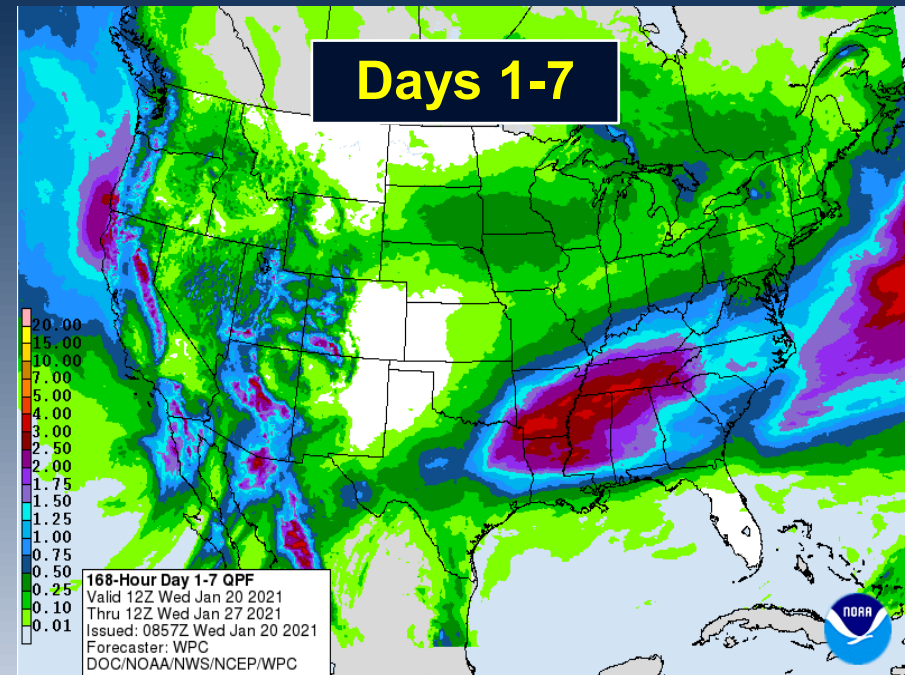
24 Hour



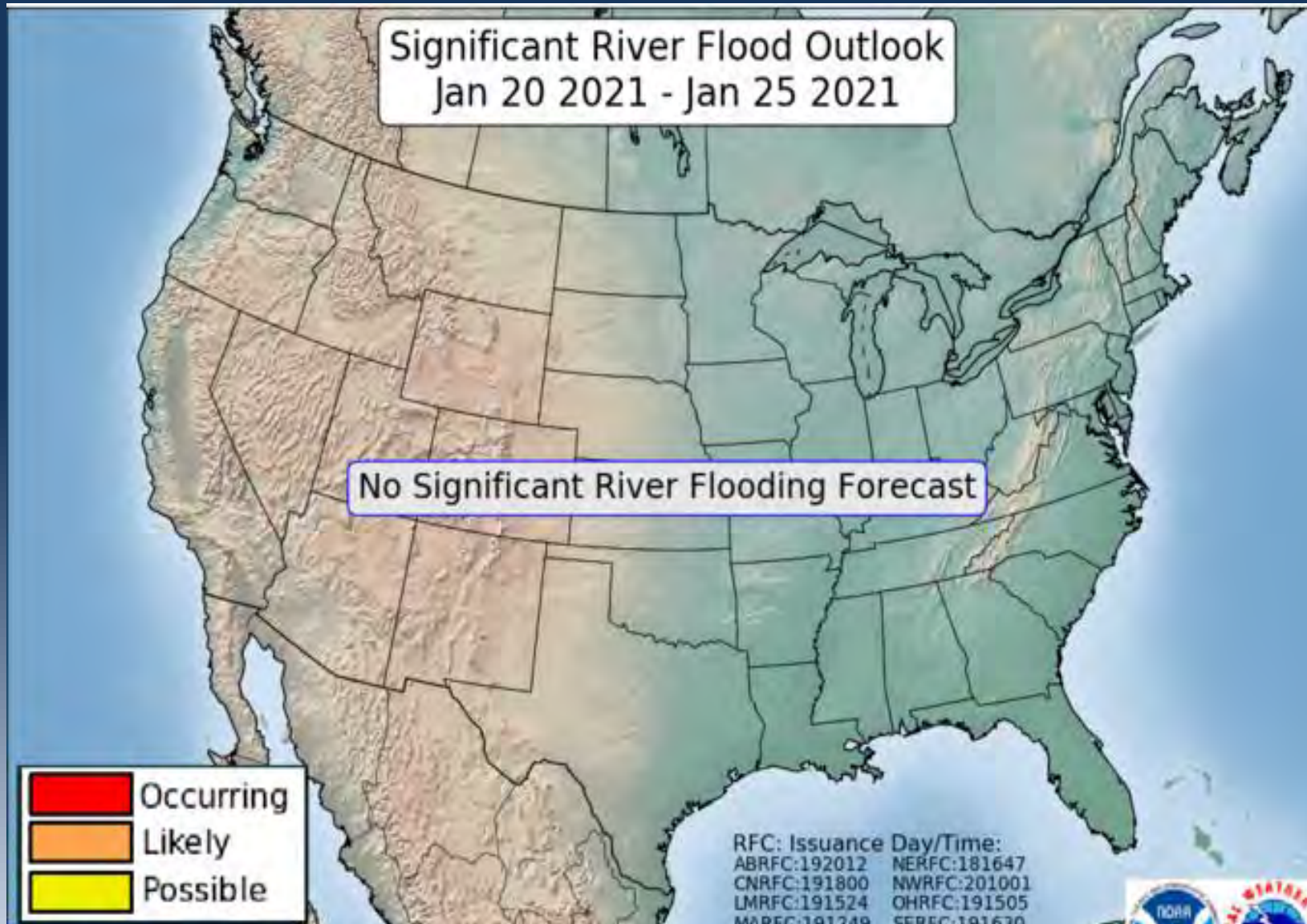
Days 1-5



Days 1-7



Significant River Flood Outlook

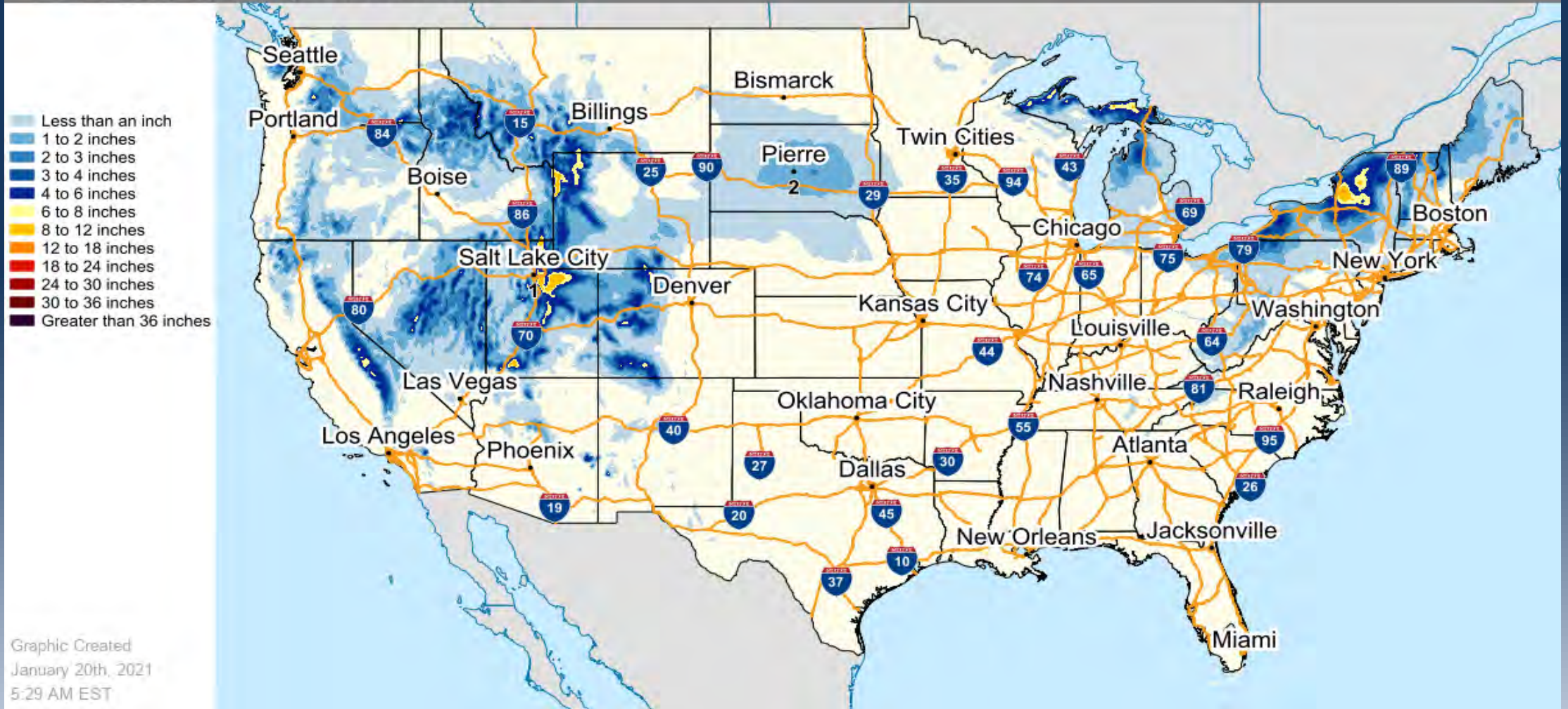


3 Day Total Snowfall Forecast



Forecast Snowfall

Valid Ending Saturday January 23rd, 2021 at 7 AM EST



3 Day Total Ice Accumulation Forecast

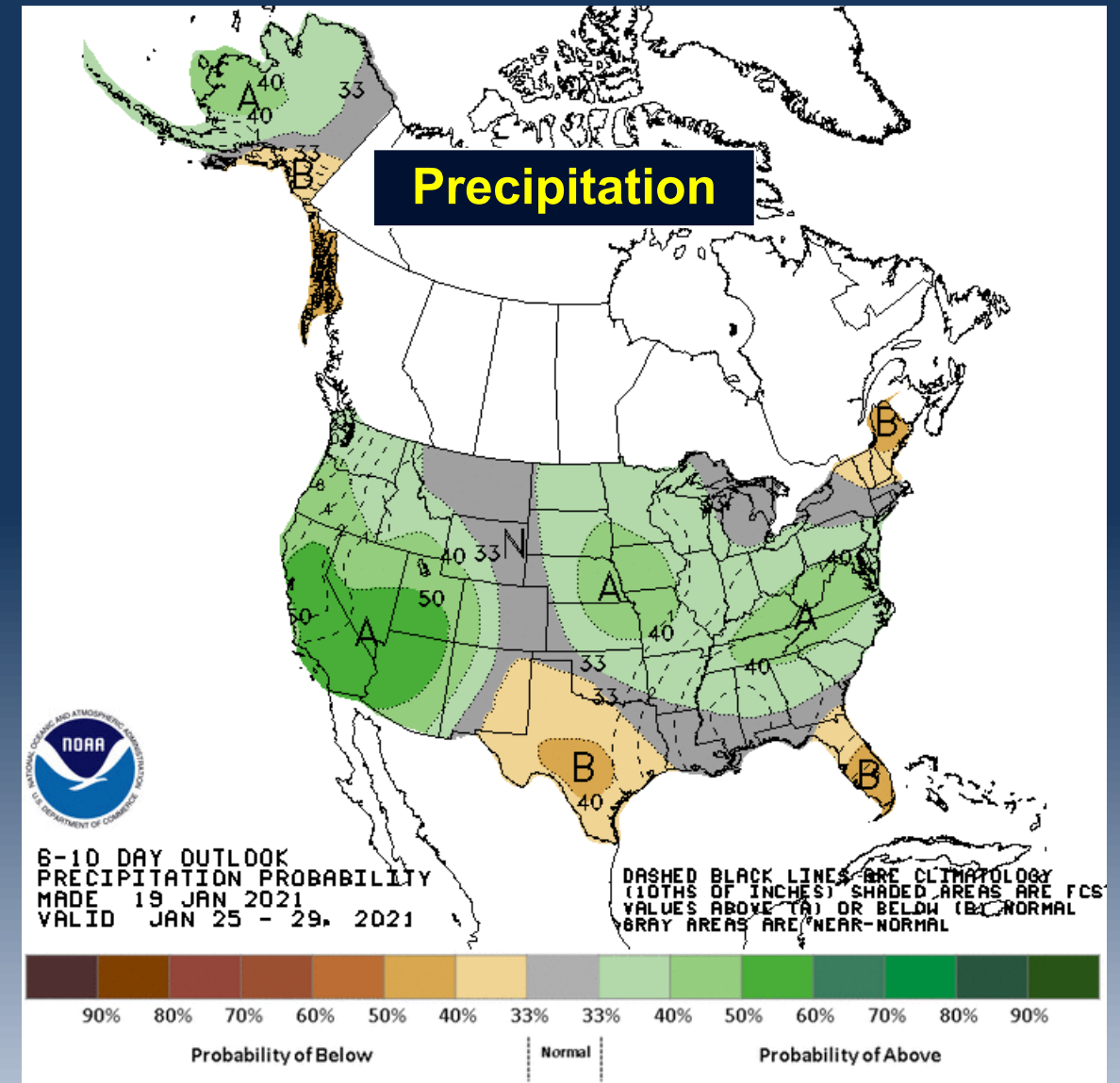
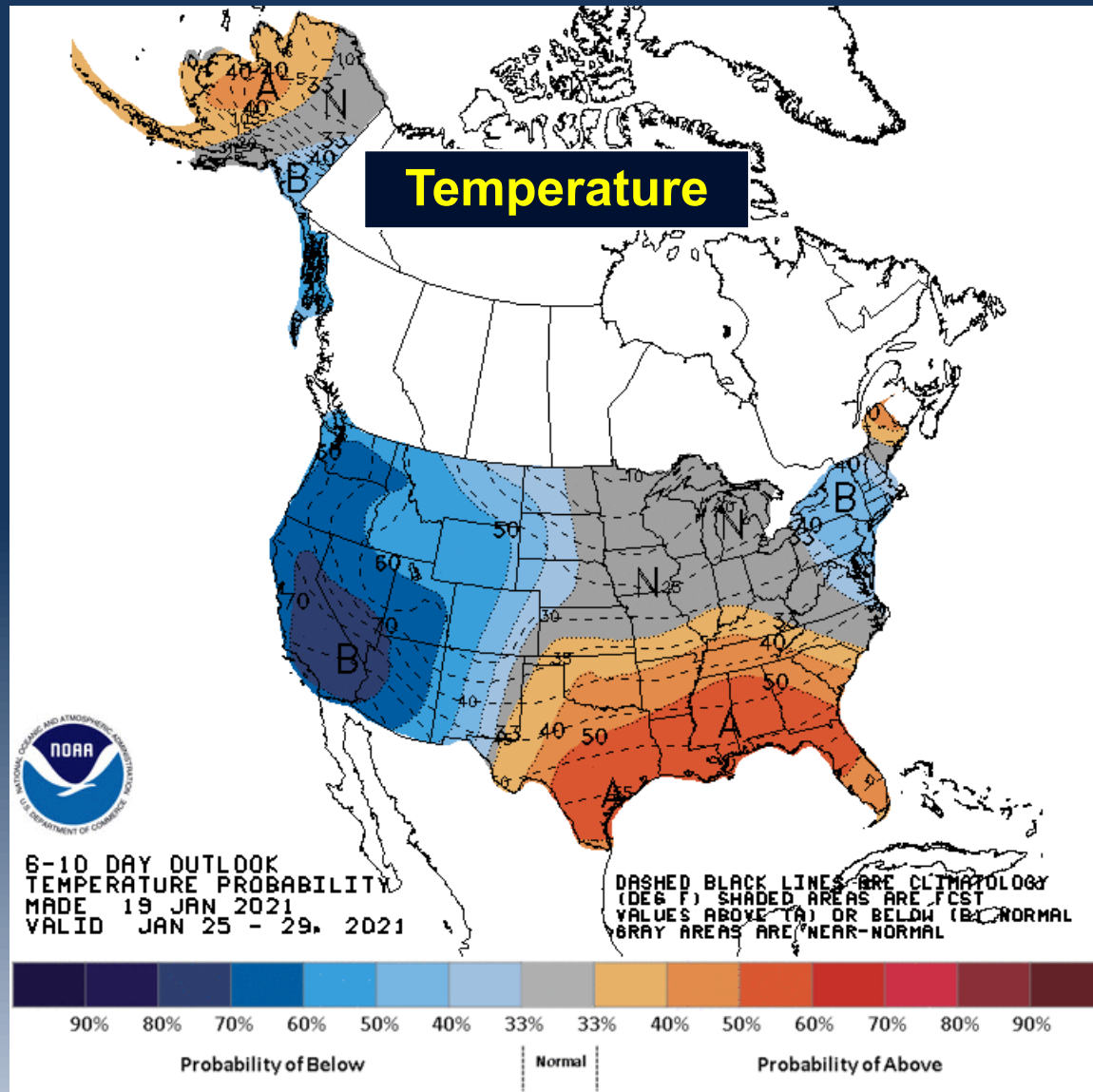


Ice Accumulation Forecast

Valid Ending Saturday January 23rd, 2021 at 7 AM EST



6-10 Day Outlook



[8-14 Day Outlook](#) [One-Month Outlook](#) [Seasonal Outlooks](#)

NOAA Daily Weather Briefing

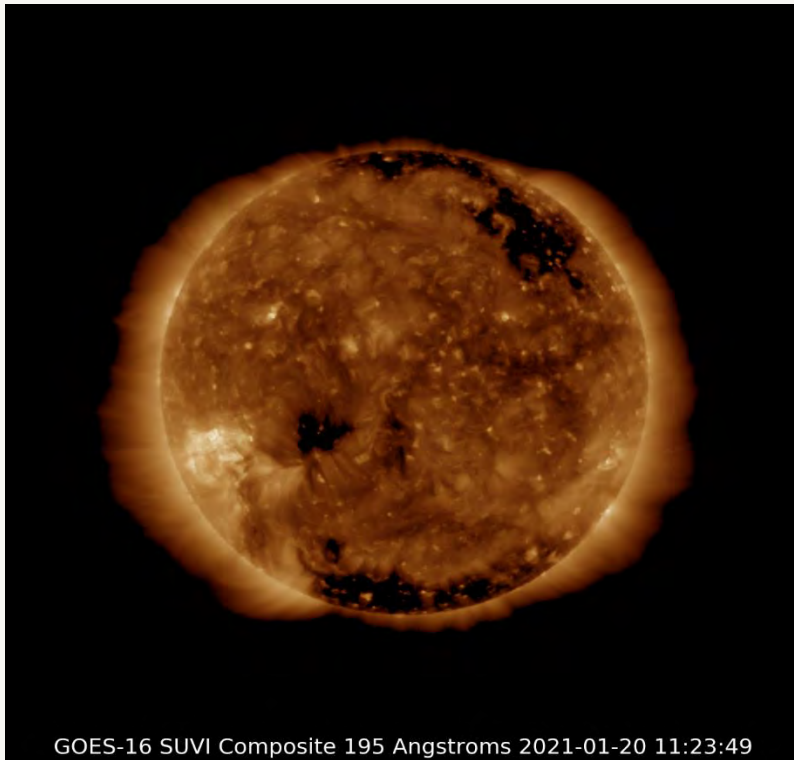


Space Weather Observations

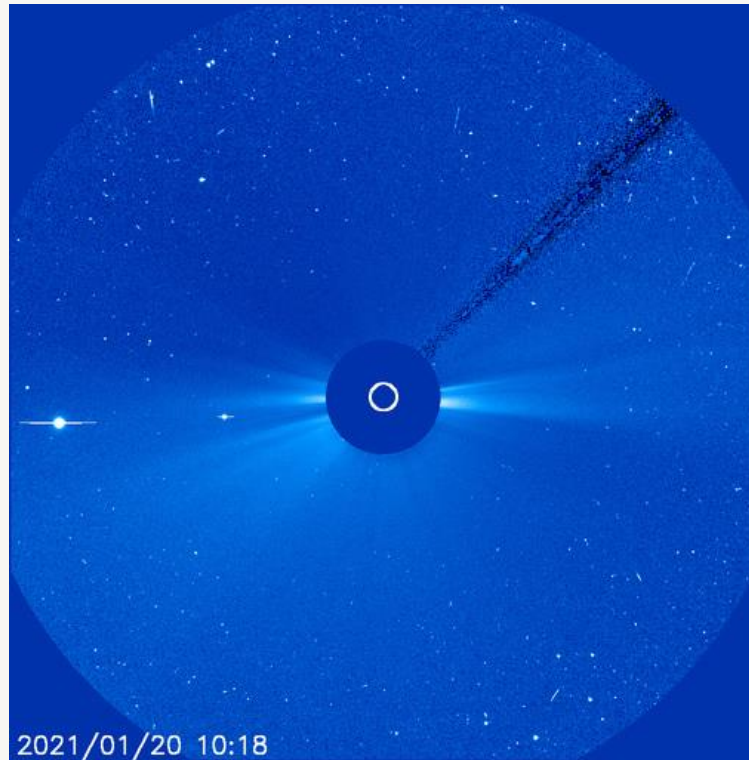
SPACE WEATHER CONDITIONS on NOAA Scales



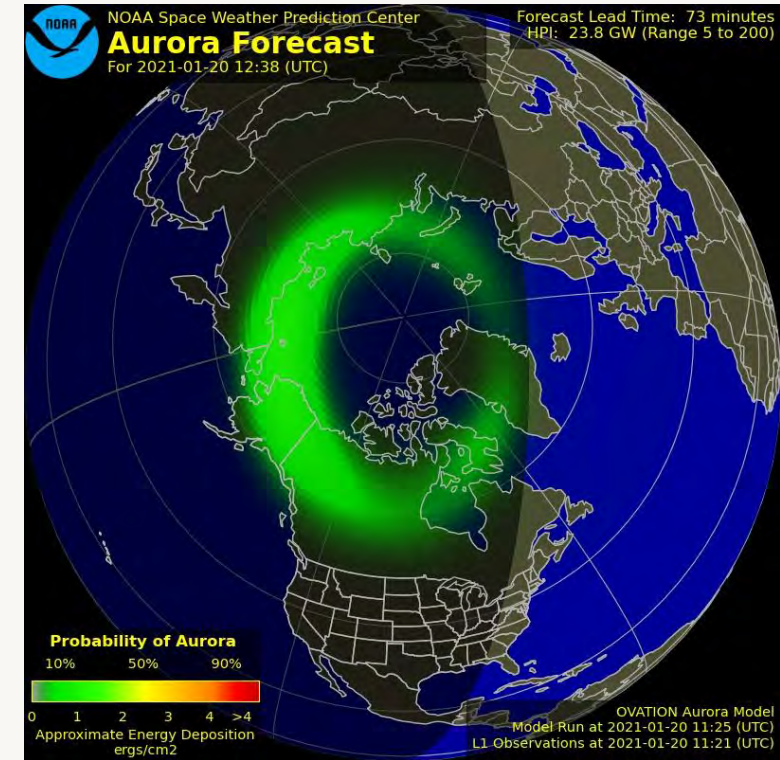
THE SUN'S X-RAYS

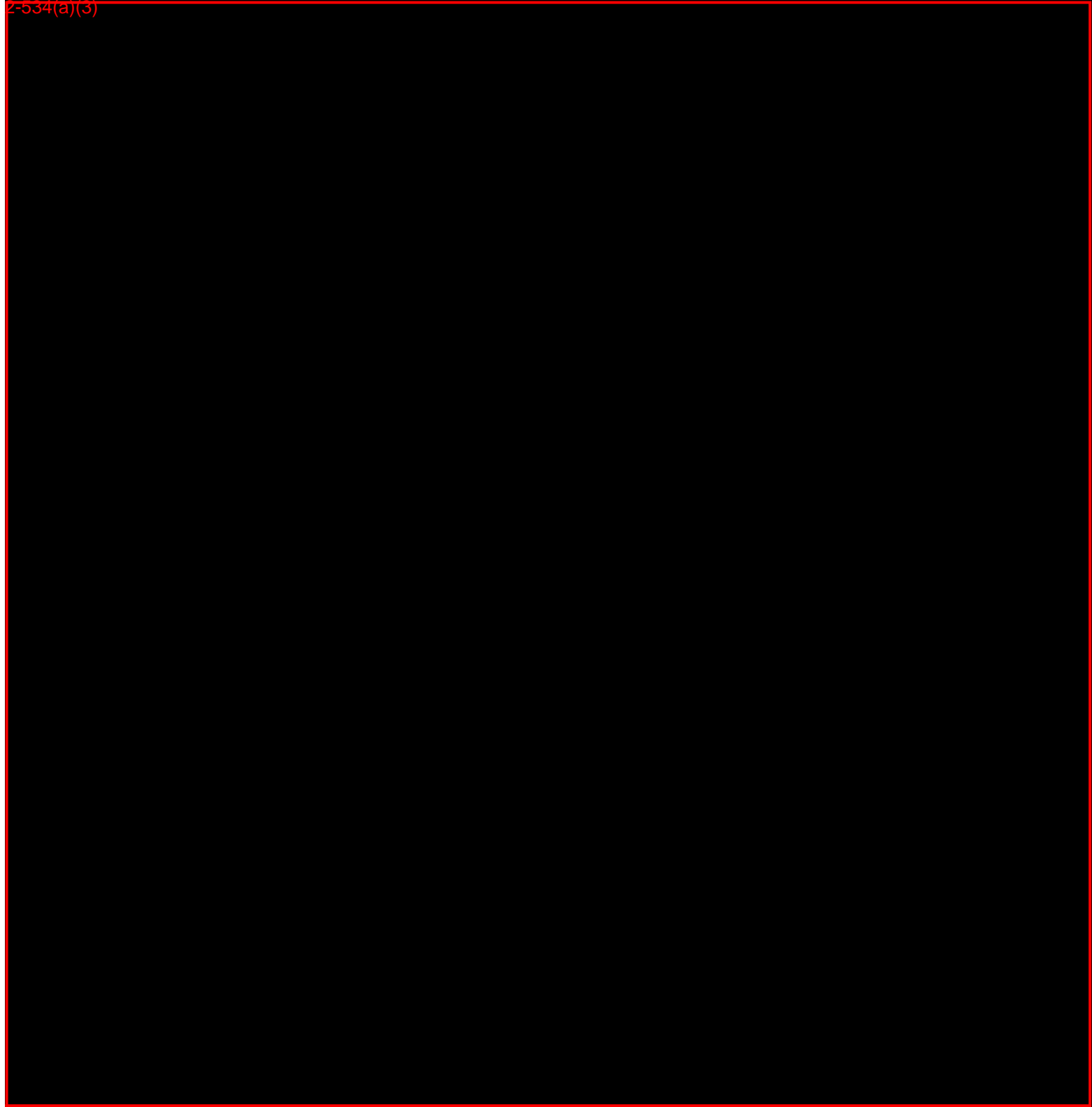


CORONAL MASS EJECTIONS



THE AURORA





LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE

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Sacco, Cristina (EOM)

From: Graves, David L CIV DTRA OI (USA) <david.l.graves6.civ@mail.mil>
Sent: Wednesday, January 20, 2021 11:11 AM
To: Graves, David L CIV DTRA OI (USA)
Subject: LE-4 [MAY CONTAIN USPER INFO]
Attachments: DHS S&T CSAC Chemical Current News Report 20 January 2021.pdf; (U--FOUO) 20 January 2021 NCTC CT Weekly .pdf; TLPAMBER 2021-4569 - NHIAC Pass-Through - OPS 2021 Inauguration Daily Sitrep-20210120_TLP-AMBER.pdf; (LES) NVRIC-VFC SITREP 21-24 Impacts to Northern Virginia from Civil Unrest and the 2021 Inauguration.pdf; At least two dead after blast brings down building in central Madrid - Reuters.pdf; Money-laundering gang with links to South American cartels busted in Spain - Europol.pdf; EU - Review of dual-use export controls.pdf; USFA National Operations Brief - January 20, 2021.pdf; OSAC Morning Newsletter 1-20-2021.pdf; [SEFFC] FFC Situational Awareness - Potential Protests at Florida Correctional Facilities.pdf

Categories: Green

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Wed 1/20/2021 10:06 AM

2-534(a)(3)

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Graves, David L CIV DTRA OI (USA)

To: Graves, David L CIV DTRA OI (USA)
Subject: FW: [SEFFC] FFC Situational Awareness - Potential Protests at Florida Correctional Facilities

From: Southeast Florida Fusion Center

Sent: Wednesday, January 20, 2021 9:44 AM

Subject: FFC Situational Awareness - Potential Protests at Florida Correctional Facilities

Situational Awareness - Potential Protests at Florida Correctional Facilities

SPECIAL ATTENTION LAW ENFORCEMENT & CORRECTIONS PERSONNEL

The Southeast Florida Fusion Center (SEFFC) is forwarding the below information received by the **Florida Fusion Center**. Please share with the appropriate personnel. If you have any questions, please contact the originating agency for more information.



Florida Fusion Center

2-534(a)(3)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

WORLD NEWS

/ UPDATED

At least two dead after blast brings down building in central Madrid

By Nathan Allen, Michael Gore



Slideshow (3 images)

MADRID (Reuters) - At least two people died and several were injured when a building in a central Madrid belonging to the Catholic Church collapsed on Wednesday after an explosion, Mayor Jose Luis Martinez-Almeida told reporters.

Initial investigations suggested that the blast in Calle de Toledo, a street leading out from the city centre, had been caused by a gas leak, he said.

Smoke billowed out of the collapsed building and rescue workers evacuated elderly people from a nearby nursing home.

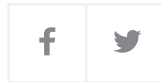
A Church official said one church volunteer was missing.

The building was a complex that provided residential training for priests and also gave meals to homeless people, a neighbour said.

Reporting by Nathan Allen, Inti Landauro, Belen Carreno, Jesus Aguado, Emma Pinedo, Andrei Khalip;
Writing by Ingrid Melander; Editing by Kevin Liffey

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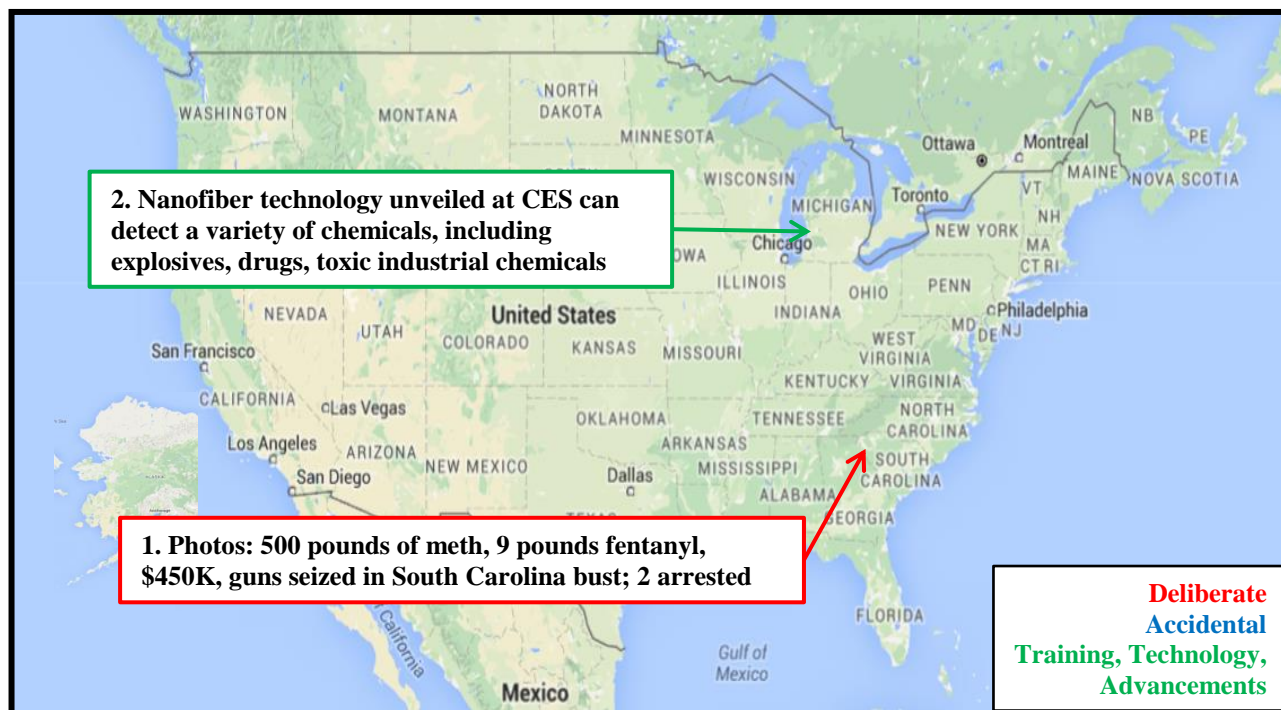


All quotes delayed a minimum of 15 minutes. See [here](#) for a complete list of exchanges and delays.

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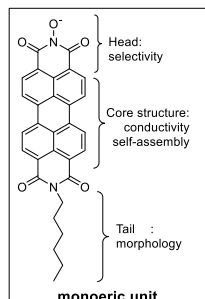


Domestic Open Source News



1. Photos: 500 pounds of meth, 9 pounds fentanyl, \$450K, guns seized in South Carolina bust; 2 arrested. January 16, 2021 (WBTW 13). Cherokee County, SC—The Cherokee County Sheriff's Office announced its largest methamphetamine seizures in the county's history Friday. Investigators said officers from numerous local and federal agencies executed three search warrants on the properties close to the North Carolina state line. According to the sheriff's office, more than 500 pounds of methamphetamine was found in properties on Ross Road in Blacksburg during searches Thursday afternoon. In addition to the methamphetamine, officers also found nine pounds of fentanyl, pills, marijuana, cocaine, several weapons, and more than \$415,000 in cash. The street value of the drugs is estimated to be around \$8 million, according to the Cherokee County Sheriff's Office. Deputies said two people were arrested during the bust: 22-year-old Christian Eduerdo Tinejero Pena and 37-year-old Jairo Martinez Covarrobias. Both are charged with Trafficking Methamphetamine more than 400 grams, Trafficking Fentanyl more than 1500 Grams, Possession of a Weapon During a Violent Crime and Possession of a Firearm by an Illegal Alien. <https://www.wbtw.com/news/photos-500-pounds-of-meth-9-pounds-fentanyl-450k-guns-seized-in-south-carolina-bust-2-arrested/>

2. Nanofiber technology unveiled at CES can detect a variety of chemicals, including explosives, drugs, toxic industrial chemicals. January 12, 2020 (Security Infowatch). Zeeland, Mich. Gentex today announced the acquisition of the Utah-based startup, [Vaporsens](#), which was founded by University of Utah professor Dr. Ling Zang. Gentex's new nanofiber technology can detect a wide variety of chemicals, including explosives, drugs, VOCs, toxic industrial chemicals, amines, and more. The technology and

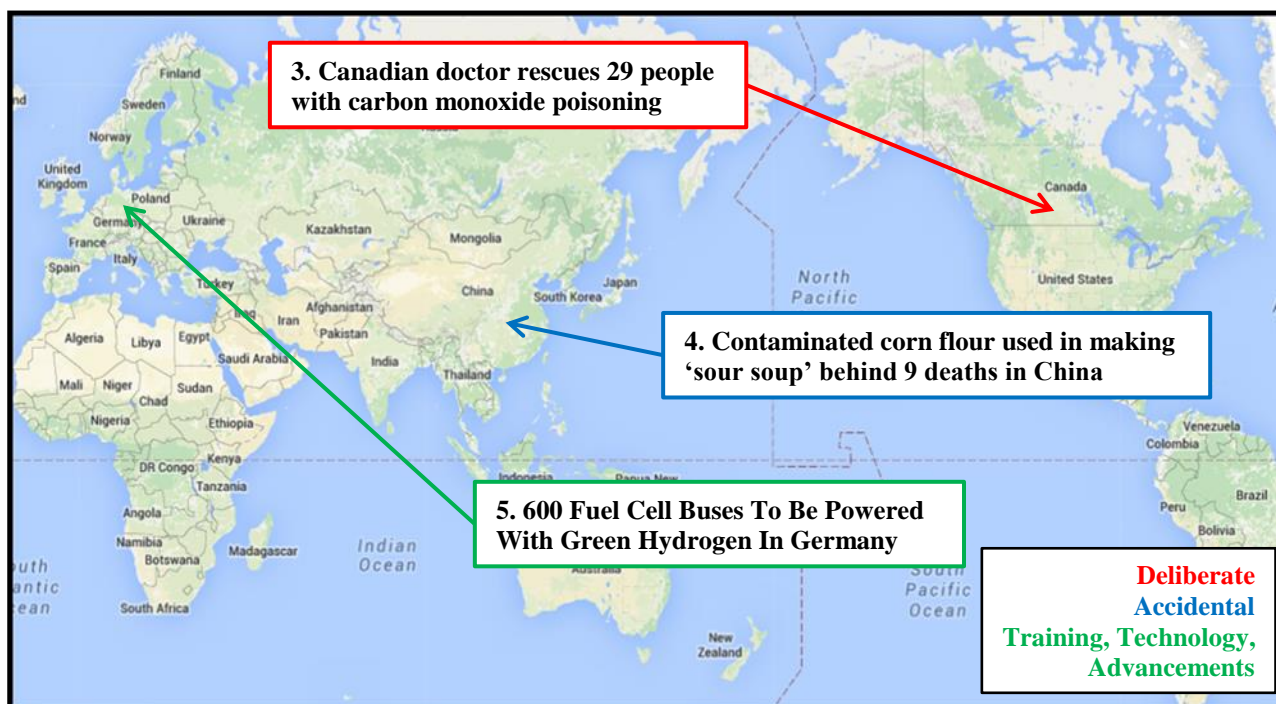


patents were included in Gentex's 2020 acquisition of Vaporsens. The core of Vaporsens' chemical sensor technology is a net of nanofibers approximately one thousand times smaller in size than human hair. Large surface areas and highly porous structures enable nanofiber sensors to deliver rapid response (seconds) and high sensitivity, in the parts per billion and parts per trillion ranges. A sensor array of different nanofibers creates a fingerprint for target chemicals of interest. By customizing the rapid-response sensor arrays to detect specific chemical targets, Vaporsens can provide highly sensitive and selective chemical sensor capable

of detecting a wide variety of chemicals, including industrial chemicals, explosives, drugs, VOCs, TICs, amines and more. <https://www.securityinfowatch.com/perimeter-security/threat-detection-imaging-inspection/product/21205750/gentex-corporation-vaporsens-from-gentex>



Foreign Open Source News

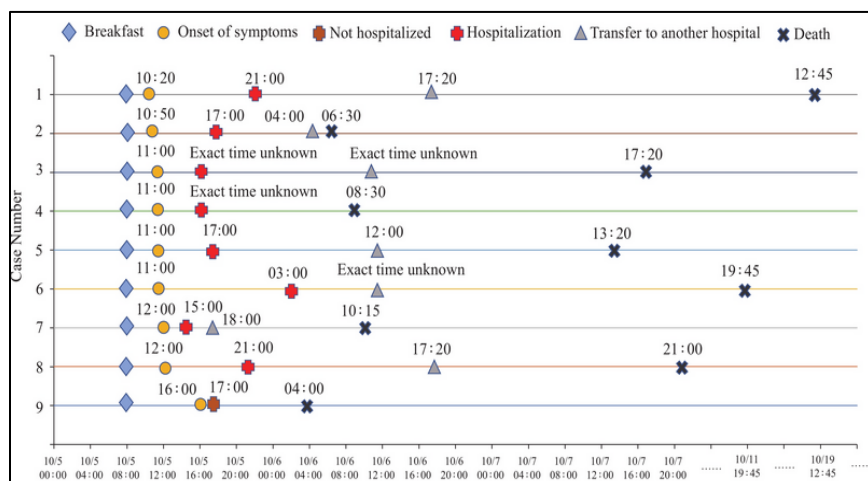


3. Canadian doctor rescues 29 people with carbon monoxide poisoning. January 17, 2021 (Daily News). According to the [CBC](#), Mark Wahba, an emergency room doctor at Royal University Hospital in Saskatoon, was treating a patient on Thursday night and became concerned they had carbon monoxide poisoning. Dr. Wahba called the fire department to report his suspicion so they would check the patient's residence. When firefighters arrived at the patient's apartment building, they found dangerous levels of

carbon monoxide and began hurriedly evacuating the building. More than two dozen people needed to be transported to nearby hospitals, but none of the residents died. An inspection later found that the building did not have a carbon monoxide detector and the boiler was most likely the source of the leak. At least [430 people die](#) in the U.S. from accidental carbon monoxide poisoning every year, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Additionally, approximately 50,000 people in the U.S. are hospitalized every year because of accidental carbon monoxide exposure.

<https://www.nydailynews.com/news/world/ny-canada-doctor-rescue-carbon-monoxide-poisoning-20210117-e6mdj7qgvrbojc6xgclzsj3wge-story.html>

4. Contaminated corn flour used in making 'sour soup' behind 9 deaths in China. January 16, 2020 (Food Safety News). In October 2020, nine people in Jidong County, Heilongjiang Province died after

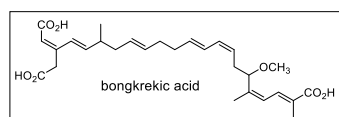


consuming a homemade fermented corn flour product called sour soup for breakfast. The food was contaminated by *Burkholderia cocovenenans*, which can produce bongkreikic acid. In China, *B. cocovenenans* is often called *Pseudomonas cocovenenans*. Bongkreikic acid was detected in food and biological samples at 330 milligrams per kilogram (mg/kg) and 3 milligrams per liter (mg/L), respectively. The

amount of bongkreikic acid consumed by the cases was 22 to 33 times the lethal dose for humans, according to the study [published in China CDC Weekly](#).

https://www.foodsafetynews.com/2021/01/contaminated-corn-flour-used-in-making-sour-soup-behind-9-deaths-in-china/?utm_source=Food+Safety+News&utm_campaign=b9a077796c-RSS_EMAIL_CAMPAIGN&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_f46cc10150-b9a077796c-40371579

Bongkreikic acid (BA), is a mitochondrial toxin produced by the bacterium *Burkholderia gladioli*. Human illness from BA results from consumption of contaminated food, particularly fermented coconut and corn products. Toxicity arises due to its inhibition of ADP/ATP translocase, a transporter protein that shuttles ATP out of the mitochondria and into the cytoplasm. ATP is our body's energy



currency, and bongkreikic acid is literally robbing it of fuel. In a previous case in Mozambique, analyses performed by the US Food and Drug Administration on samples of the beer, fatal concentrations of bongkreikic acid was confirmed. Analysis of the corn flour used to prepare the beer found the bacteria *Burkholderia cocovenenans*, suggesting the mechanism by which the bongkreikic acid made its way into the beer. The intriguing thing about this mass poisoning in Mozambique is that prior, intoxications were isolated to south-east Asia. The arrival in Africa is new and likely the result of increased trade world-wide, allowing microorganisms to be jet setters. <https://naturespoisons.com/2018/03/15/crocodile-bile-pombe-bongkreikic-acid-death/>

See also: *Forensic Sci Int.* 2017 Jan; 270:e5-e11. doi: 10.1016/j.forsciint.2016.10.015. Epub 2016 Oct 23. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/27823840>

5. 600 Fuel Cell Buses To Be Powered With Green Hydrogen In Germany. January 18, 2021 (Clean Technica). Last week the Linde Group announced that it will build, own, and operate the "world's

largest” [electrolyzer for renewable hydrogen](https://cleantechnica.com/2021/01/18/600-fuel-cell-buses-to-be-powered-with-green-hydrogen-in-germany/), at the Leuna Chemical Complex in Germany. The 24 megawatt facility is capable of fueling 600 fuel cell electric buses for a year as Linde estimates. Linde will distribute liquefied green hydrogen to refueling stations and other industrial customers in the region, explains the company. On a per-bus basis, they hit pretty close to the average annual mileage for a transit bus in the US. Until recently it looked like battery technology would hold exclusive title to decarbonizing the transportation sector. However, hydrogen fuel cells have been getting a foothold in heavy-duty applications such as long-haul trucking. Companies like Linde also see application in buses and local delivery, at least in areas where routes and scheduling give the advantage to fuel cells. In terms of accelerating global decarbonization, a thriving green hydrogen transportation sector would help offset any bottlenecks in the battery supply chain, and vice versa. <https://cleantechnica.com/2021/01/18/600-fuel-cell-buses-to-be-powered-with-green-hydrogen-in-germany/>

DHS S&T CSAC provides a robust and reliable 24/7 science-based technical assistance capability, addressing traditional warfare agents and emerging chemical threats. CSAC will also extend to the accidental or intentional release of chemicals. Contact information for CSAC is below.

Technical Assistance Contact Information

§ 2-534(a)(10)

§ 2-534(a)(10)

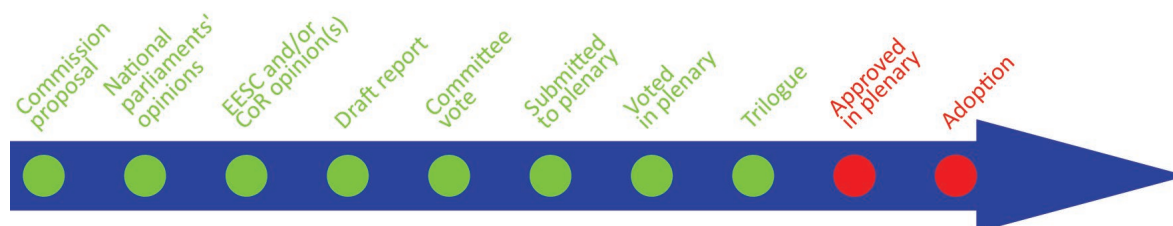
Review of dual-use export controls

OVERVIEW

Certain goods and technologies have legitimate civilian applications but can also be used for military purposes; so-called 'dual-use' goods are subject to the European Union's export control regime. The regime has just been revised, mainly to take account of significant technological developments, increase transparency and create a more level playing field among EU Member States. The proposed regulation will recast the regulation in force since 2009. Among other elements, the proposal explicitly defines cyber-surveillance technology as dual-use technology and introduces human rights violations as an explicit justification for export control. It also includes provisions to control emerging technologies. The proposed regulation introduces greater transparency into dual-use export control by increasing the level of detail Member States will have to provide on exports, licences, licence denials and prohibitions.

On 17 January 2018, based on the INTA committee's report on the legislative proposal, the European Parliament adopted its position for trilogue negotiations. For its part, the Council adopted its negotiating mandate on 5 June 2019, and on the basis of this mandate, the Council Presidency began negotiations with the European Parliament's delegation on 21 October 2019. Trilogue negotiations ended on 9 November 2020, with agreement on a final compromise text. Endorsed by the INTA committee on 30 November, the Parliament is expected to vote in plenary on the text in early 2021.

Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council setting up a Union regime for the control of exports, transfer, brokering, technical assistance and transit of dual-use items (recast).		
<i>Committee responsible:</i>	International Trade (INTA)	COM(2016) 616 28.9.2016
<i>Rapporteur:</i>	Klaus Buchner (Greens/EFA, Germany)	2016/0295(COD)
<i>Shadow rapporteurs:</i>	Sven Simon (EPP, Germany) Bernd Lange (S&D, Germany) Liesje Schreinemacher (Renew Europe, the Netherlands) Geert Bourgeois (ECR, Belgium) Martina Anderson (GUE/NGL, United Kingdom)	Ordinary legislative procedure (COD) (Parliament and Council on equal footing – formerly 'co-decision')
<i>Next steps expected:</i>	Final first-reading vote in plenary	



Introduction

The high-tech nature of dual-use goods and technologies, and the [sizeable volume of trade in them](#), means that the dual-use sector is a very important part of the EU economy. When controlling exports in these goods and technologies, careful attention needs to be paid to striking the right balance between security considerations and imposing unnecessary restrictions on [business activities](#). This close link between security and trade is at the core of dual-use export controls. It also creates particular challenges for implementation within the European Union. On 28 September 2016, the European Commission published a [proposal for a regulation](#) setting up a Union regime for the control of exports, transfer, brokering, technical assistance and transit of dual-use items ('the proposed regulation') (and its Annexes), to replace [Regulation \(EC\) No 428/2009](#) setting up a Community regime for the control of exports, transfer, brokering and transit of dual-use items (Regulation 428/2009), which came into force in 2009.

Parliament, Council and Commission joint statement (2014)

In April 2014, the [European Parliament](#), the [Council](#) and the Commission published a [joint statement](#) on the review of the dual-use export control regime, which recognised the importance of 'continuously enhancing the effectiveness and coherence of the EU's strategic export controls regime, while ensuring a high level of security and adequate transparency without impeding competitiveness and legitimate trade in dual-use items'. The three institutions considered that modernisation and further convergence of the system were needed in order to keep up with new threats and rapid technological changes, to reduce distortions and to create a genuine common market for dual-use items. The statement recognised that controls were needed on the export of certain information and communication technologies (ICT) that can be used in connection with human rights violations and to undermine the EU's security.

Context

The EU export control system was set up in the 1990s under [Regulation \(EC\) No 3381/94](#), setting up a Community regime for the control of exports of dual-use goods, and [Council Decision 94/942/CFSP](#), concerning the control of exports of dual-use goods, and was considerably strengthened with the adoption of [Regulation \(EC\) No 1334/2000](#) setting up a Community regime for the control of exports of dual-use items and technology. Regulation 428/2009 introduced significant improvements to the EU export control regime, in particular in response to the [EU strategy against the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction](#) of December 2003 and in light of reports from exporters and industry. Regulation 428/2009 provides for the free circulation of dual-use items – with some exceptions – within the single market and lays down basic principles and common rules for the control of the export, brokering, transit and transfer of dual-use items, in the framework of common commercial policy. It also provides for administrative cooperation and harmonised policies and tools for implementation and enforcement. The regulation is directly applicable to exporters but requires some additional implementing measures by EU Member States under a mixed system under which national competent authorities are responsible for licensing decisions, for instance.

Existing situation

International level

Regulation 428/2009 implements international commitments under United Nations [Security Council Resolution \(UNSCR\) 1540 \(2004\)](#), international agreements such as the [Chemical Weapons Convention](#) (CWC) and the [Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty](#) (NPT), and multilateral export control regimes such as the [Wassenaar Arrangement](#), the [Nuclear Suppliers Group](#) (NSG), the [Australia Group](#) and the [Missile Technology Control Regime](#) (MTCR).

European level

The impact assessment that was published alongside the proposal on 28 September 2016 noted that the current EU export control system was not fully geared up to keep up with 'today's evolving and new security risks, rapid technological and scientific developments as well as transformations in trade and economic processes'. The current system is described as not taking clearly into consideration the emerging trade in cyber-surveillance technology and the risks it creates for international security and human rights. From an economic perspective, the system is seen as imposing a heavy administrative burden on industry and authorities alike, and as occasionally lacking legal clarity. It is seen as problematic that divergent interpretations and applications among Member States result in asymmetrical implementation and distort competition within the Single Market. The problem is believed to affect a variety of economic operators across numerous industries, including SMEs.

The changes the Commission's proposal would bring

Human rights and cyber-surveillance items

Traditionally, export control seeks to mitigate military risks, especially the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The Commission proposal marks a fundamental shift in this respect, as it introduces the protection of human rights as a 'normative justification'¹ for export control. Moreover, the proposal seeks to set new standards for the control of cyber-surveillance items that go beyond existing multilateral controls.² In doing so, the Commission responds to calls from the European Parliament and Council to address concerns about the proliferation of cyber-surveillance technologies and software that have in the past been misused in violation of human rights and could threaten the EU's digital infrastructure.

Cyber-surveillance items

First, the Commission proposes to expand the definition of dual-use items to include 'cyber-surveillance technologies'. By [explicitly including](#) the term 'cyber-surveillance technology' in the definition of dual-use items, the Commission proposal would bring any such item within the catch-all controls, even if it is not explicitly listed among the items subject to control (Annex I).

Second, the Commission is proposing to create a new EU autonomous list of cyber-surveillance technology subject to export control. [Three types of cyber-surveillance technologies](#) – namely mobile telecommunications interception or jamming equipment, intrusion software, and internet protocol (IP) network communications surveillance systems – are already covered by internationally agreed dual-use controls and already appear in Annex IA of the existing regulation. The Commission is proposing to create a new category of controlled items, entitled 'Other items of cyber-surveillance technology', that would comprise two additional items of cyber-surveillance technology, namely monitoring centres and data retention systems or devices. These two types of cyber-surveillance technology are not yet covered by internationally agreed dual-use controls. However, one EU Member State – Germany – has made those two types of surveillance technology subject to export control under national legislation.

Human rights considerations

The EU has a record of invoking human rights as a ground for restricting exports of technologies, including cyber-surveillance technologies. Nevertheless, according to experts, the Commission proposal still marks a significant change, situating considerations of human rights 'not as a marginal consideration, but as one of the key normative grounds for controlling the export of sensitive items'.³

The Commission is proposing to expand the catch-all provision and make it obligatory to obtain an authorisation for the export of dual-use items not included in the control list destined 'for use by persons complicit in or responsible for directing or committing serious violations of human rights or international humanitarian law in situations of armed conflict or internal repression in the country of final destination' (Article 4(1)(d)). In October 2012, the European Parliament already [proposed](#) a similar catch-all provision, but this was not reflected in the [final legislative act](#) adopted at the time.

The obligation to discover whether items are intended for abuse in the manner described above is to be shared by both the competent authorities *and* the exporter. The latter's obligation to conduct 'due diligence' is stated explicitly in the proposal (Article 4(2)).

Moreover, in deciding whether or not to grant an individual or global export authorisation, competent authorities are henceforth to take into account 'respect for human rights in the country of final destination, as well as respect by that country of international humanitarian law (Article 14(1)(b))', 'the internal situation in the country of final destination' (Article 14(1)(c)), 'preservation of regional peace, security and stability' (Article 14(1)(d)), 'considerations of national foreign and security policy, including security of Member States' (Article 14(1)(e)) and 'considerations about intended end use and the risk of diversion' (Article 14(1)(f)).

It should be noted that Article 8 of the current regulation already allows Member States to prohibit or impose an authorisation requirement on the export of non-listed dual use items for reasons of public security or for human rights considerations. It should also be noted in this context that Article 12 of the existing Regulation 428/2009 already requires competent authorities to take into account 'considerations of national foreign and security policy, including those covered by [Council Common Position 2008/944/CFSP](#) defining common rules governing control of exports of military technology and equipment. Criterion Two of [Council Common Position 2008/944/CFSP](#) requires EU Member States to deny an export licence if the country of final destination fails to respect human rights and international humanitarian law, including if the technology or equipment to be exported might be used for internal repression.

Nevertheless, fears have been voiced that the Commission's proposal to expand the catch-all provision to include human-rights considerations could lead to a greater administrative burden for operators and authorities, at both national and EU level, since a new layer of control is added to the export of such items. This could imply several additional licensing procedures, owing in particular to the lack of experience in implementing these provisions. Critics of the provision also argue that it may also to give rise to distortions of competition at global level, as it cannot be ensured that other key technology suppliers (China, US) would introduce similar controls.⁴

Addition of controls on brokering and technical assistance and harmonisation at EU level

The proposal seeks to amend certain control provisions relating to technology transfer, in order to provide greater clarity with regard to the application of controls on software and technology. In doing so, the Commission is addressing confusion that has arisen in the past over how controls apply when technology is stored and shared via cloud computing, for example. The provision of 'technical assistance' involving a cross-border movement became an EU competence with the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty. Therefore, the proposal adds a definition for 'technical assistance' and clarifies applicable controls. The proposal also provides clarification on 'brokering' and 'brokering services', by extending the definition of 'broker' to subsidiaries of EU companies located outside the EU, and to 'brokering services' supplied by third-country nationals from within the EU territory. The proposal also extends the application of brokering to non-listed items and military end-uses, and extends their violation to terrorism and human rights violations. Controls on brokering and technical assistance are to apply throughout the EU jurisdiction, thus establishing an EU-wide legal basis for the prosecution of export control violations. EU persons located in third countries will become subject to control, and the proposal introduces anti-circumvention clauses.

Optimisation of the EU licensing architecture

The proposal seeks further harmonisation of the licensing processes with the aim of reducing the administrative burden associated with obtaining export licences. Importantly, the draft regulation proposes to introduce new EU general export authorisations (EUGEA) for encryption, low value shipments and intra-company transmissions of software and technology and for 'other dual-use items' on an ad-hoc, as-needed basis. As a pre-requisite for a more harmonised approach, it attempts to harmonise the definitions of a number of the regulation's key concepts, such as, for instance, those of 'exporter', 'export' and 'broker'. The proposal also introduces a new authorisation for 'large projects', where one licence covers export operations related to one project, e.g. the construction of a nuclear power plant, for the entire duration of the project. The Commission also proposes to further harmonise the validity period of licences and to promote e-licensing systems by Member States. Enhancing the exchange of information on licensing decisions, notably denials, is another important element of the Commission proposal.

Intra-EU transfers

In order to take account of technological and commercial developments, the proposal revises the list of items that are subject to control within the EU. Controls are limited to the most sensitive items, in order to minimise the administrative burden and disruption of EU trade.

Enhanced cooperation on implementation and enforcement

In an effort to improve the exchange of information between national authorities and the Commission, the proposal envisages the introduction of electronic licensing systems that are interconnected through the dual-use electronic system (DUES). The proposal also calls for the setting up of 'technical expert groups', bringing together key industry and government experts to determine the technical parameters for controls. The Commission also proposed to develop guidance to support interagency cooperation between licensing and customs authorities. Most importantly, the Commission proposes to create an Enforcement Coordination Mechanism with a view to establishing direct cooperation and exchange of information between competent licensing and enforcement authorities.

Catch-all controls

Catch-all controls allow for the control of exports of non-listed dual-use items or technologies in certain situations, where there is evidence that they may be misused. The proposal clarifies and harmonises the definition and scope of catch-all controls to ensure their uniform application across the EU (Article 4).

Anti-circumvention clause

The Commission proposes to make it illegal to participate 'knowingly and intentionally' in activities the object or effect is to circumvent the licensing and/or catch-all provisions set out in Articles 4 to 7 of the regulation.

Legislative process

European Parliament

The legislative proposal was submitted to the European Parliament on 6 October 2016. The Committee for International Trade (INTA), which is responsible for the file, appointed Klaus Buchner (Greens/EFA, Germany) as rapporteur on 12 October 2016. The rapporteur published his [draft report](#) on 4 April 2017. Following adoption of the report by the INTA committee on 23 November 2017, the Parliament voted in plenary on 17 January 2018 to adopt [amendments to the proposal](#), with an

overwhelming majority in favour of the positions set out in the INTA report. 571 MEPs voted in favour, 29 against, and 29 abstained. Parliament also voted to open interinstitutional negotiations with the Council.

Cyber-surveillance technology

Parliament supports the Commission's proposal to classify certain cyber-surveillance technology as 'dual-use items'. However, Parliament's definition of the kind of cyber-surveillance technology to be covered by the regulation is slightly more comprehensive than that proposed by the Commission (*additions in italics*). The European Parliament's definition comprises 'cyber-surveillance *items including hardware, software and technology, which are specially designed to enable the covert intrusion into information and telecommunication systems and/or the monitoring, exfiltrating, collecting and analysing of data and/or incapacitating or damaging the targeted system without the specific, informed and unambiguous authorisation of the owner of the data, and which can be used in connection with the violation of human rights, including the right to privacy, the right to free speech and the freedom of assembly and association, or which can be used for the commission of serious violations of human rights law or international humanitarian law, or can pose a threat to international security or the essential security of the Union and its Members* (Article 2(1)(1)(b)).

Human rights

Parliament also supports the Commission's proposal to include a 'catch-all' provision that would require an authorisation for the export of dual-use items not included in the control list destined for use in connection with human rights violations (Article 4(1)d)). However, as a compromise, Parliament suggested limiting the human rights catch-all provision to cyber-surveillance items.

The Commission's proposal expanded the list of criteria that competent authorities have to take into account in deciding whether or not to grant an individual or global export authorisation. Parliament proposes to strengthen further the requirement to check the human rights situation in the country of final destination by adding a list of further elements to be taken into account in the licensing decision as assessment criteria (Article 14(1)(ba)). These comprise looking at 'the *behaviour of the country of destination with regard to the international community, as regards in particular its attitude to terrorism, the nature of its alliances and respect for international law*' (Article 14(1)(da), and looking at 'the *compatibility of the exports of the items with regard to the technical and economic capacity of the recipient country*' (Article 14(1)(db)).

Guidance

Parliament has called on the Commission to publish a handbook before the entry into force of the new rules, to assist EU businesses with the interpretation of the new rules, especially more guidance for companies on how to go through the process of due-diligence. Parliament is also calling for better acknowledgment of fundamental rights as licensing criteria, notably for cyber-surveillance.

A level playing field

MEPs are also calling for the creation of a level playing field among Member States, by, for example, introducing similar penalties for non-compliance, along with greater transparency of national authorities' export control decisions.

Encryption

MEPs voted to delete encryption technologies from the list of cyber-surveillance products, as they consider these vital for the self-defence of human rights defenders.

Council

The Council adopted its [negotiating mandate](#) on 5 July 2019. The Council rejected many of the amendments to the regulation proposed by the Commission and endorsed by Parliament, reflecting a desire for a rather limited update to the existing Dual Use Regulation.

Human rights and cyber surveillance technology

Essentially, the Council mandate sought to remove the substantive provisions relating to cyber-surveillance technology and human rights. Notably, it rejected the idea of an EU-autonomous list for controlling cyber-surveillance technology, and did not want to add any explicit references to human rights (while leaving the implicit human rights catch-all through the reference to the Council Common Position 2008/944/CFSP of 8 December intact).

Cyber-surveillance technology

Council was opposed to the idea of introducing unilateral dual use controls for cyber-surveillance technology at EU level. Currently, Member States can take national measures to introduce such controls, and one EU Member State – Germany – is already controlling the cyber-surveillance items that the Commission has proposed for an EU autonomous control list.

The Council advocated that the EU simply revert to transposing the control lists of international regimes into EU legislation, and forgoing the opportunity to set up EU-wide control for certain additional cyber-surveillance items.

The Council mandate dropped 'cyber-surveillance technology' from the definition of 'dual use items'. By explicitly including the term 'cyber-surveillance technology' in the definition of dual-use items, the Commission proposal would have brought any such item – even if it was not explicitly on the list of dual-use items subject to control – within the catch-all controls (see below). As such, the Council removed 'cyber-surveillance technology' from the list of technologies that the regulation explicitly defines as 'dual-use items' in Article 2(1)(b) of the Commission's proposal. The Council also removed the list of technologies that the Commission proposed to define specifically as 'cyber-surveillance technology' for the purpose of the regulation, namely mobile telecommunications interception equipment; intrusion software; monitoring centres; lawful interception systems and data-retention systems; and digital forensics (Article 2(21)).

Moreover, the Council mandate removed the suggested Category 10 to Annex I ('other items of cyber-surveillance technology') covering surveillance systems, equipment, and components for information and communication technology. The Council thus rejected the proposal to create an EU autonomous list that would have added 'monitoring centres' and 'retention systems' to the list of dual-use items subject to control.

Human rights

The Council mandate also disagrees with adding new categories to expand the catch-all provision contained in Article 4, which applies to non-listed dual use items. The Council removed a 'catch-all' provision that would require an authorisation for the export of dual-use items destined for use in connection with human rights or international law violations (no Article 4(1)d)).

The Council does not agree with the Commission's proposal to expand the list of criteria that competent authorities have to take into account in deciding whether or not to grant an individual or global export authorisation (which are listed in Article 14 of the Commission proposal). Instead, the Council refers to the common rules already governing control of exports of military technology and equipment laid down in [Council Common Position 2008/944/CFSP](#), and proposing an Article 14(2) that requires Member States to take into consideration the implementation by the exporter of an internal compliance programme when assessing an application for a global export authorisation.

Addition of controls on brokering and technical assistance and harmonisation at EU level

The Council mandate would limit the harmonisation of brokering and technical assistance controls to listed-items (Article 7).

Optimisation of the EU licensing architecture

The Council mandate proposes to drop two out of four EUGEAs, namely those for 'low value shipments' and 'other dual use items'. Moreover, the Council mandate proposes to introduce stricter licensing conditions with respect to the EUGEA for encryption. It also reduces the number of permitted countries under the 'intra-company' EUGEA. The Council mandate keeps the concept of a 'large project authorisation' (LPA), but dilutes the definition.

Enhanced cooperation on implementation and enforcement

The Council mandate calls only for voluntary exchange of information on enforcement and implementation (Article 20(2)). Moreover, the Council mandate proposes not to require national authorities to share information with the Commission on the average times for processing applications for authorisations. (Article 10(5)). As regards the Commission's proposal to develop guidance on interagency cooperation, the Council mandate asks for this to remain voluntary (Article 18.5).

Anti-circumvention clause

The Council mandate deletes the anti-circumvention clause that the Commission proposed in a new Article 23.⁵

Trilogue agreement

In October 2019, following the European elections, the INTA committee voted to open negotiations with the Council on the basis of the previous Parliament's position. Following trilogue negotiations, the Council and Parliament negotiators agreed on a [compromise text](#), on 9 November 2020. The Ambassadors of the Member States meeting in Coreper endorsed it on 18 November, and the INTA committee did so on 30 November. Parliament is expected to vote in plenary on adopting the agreed text at first reading early in 2021.

Cyber-surveillance items

The Commission's and Parliament's views on the importance of further limiting the export of cyber-surveillance items prevailed during trilogue negotiations. Parliament and Council agreed to expand the definition of dual-use items to include 'cyber-surveillance items' (Article 2.21). By [explicitly including](#) the term 'cyber-surveillance items' in the definition of dual-use items, the proposed regulation brings any such item within the catch-all controls, even if it is not explicitly listed among the items subject to control (which appear in Annex I to the regulation). There is no agreed definition of 'cyber-surveillance items', but experts have in the past [defined](#) these 'as lying at the intersection of the information and communications technology (ICT) sector and the surveillance sector. Hence, cyber-surveillance goods, services and technologies are ICTs that are specifically designed, in whole or in part, for surveillance purposes'.

The proposed regulation notes that cyber-surveillance items that are particularly problematic include those that are 'specially designed to enable intrusion or deep packet inspection into information and telecommunications systems in order to conduct covert surveillance of natural persons by monitoring, extracting, collecting or analysing data, including biometrics data, from these systems' (Recital 5). The proposed regulation does not change the list of cyber-surveillance items listed in Annex IA, and does not add any additional items to this list (beyond the [regular](#)

[update](#) that brings the [EU control list](#) into line with the decisions taken within the framework of the international non-proliferation regimes and export control arrangements). The Commission had originally proposed to create a new category of controlled items, entitled 'Other items of cyber-surveillance technology', that would have comprised two additional items of cyber-surveillance technology, namely monitoring centres and data retention systems or devices. The compromise text agreed between the European Parliament and the Council did not retain this proposition.

Human rights considerations

The Commission's and Parliament's views on strengthening human rights considerations also prevailed over the Council's reluctance to do so. As previously stated, the EU has a record of invoking human rights as a ground for controlling the export of technologies, including cyber-surveillance technologies. However, the proposed regulation expands the catch-all provision and makes it obligatory to obtain an authorisation for the export of dual-use items not included in the control list 'if the items in question are or may be intended ... for use in connection with internal repression and/or the commission of serious violations of international human rights and international humanitarian law (Article 4(a)(1)). In doing so, the proposed regulation explicitly introduces specific human-rights related end-use controls for non-listed cyber-surveillance items.

The obligation to discover whether items are intended for abuse in the manner described above is to be shared by both the competent authorities *and* the exporter. The latter's obligation to conduct 'due diligence' is stated explicitly in the proposal (Article 4(a)(2)). Accordingly, an exporter's internal compliance programme, intended to verify end-use and end-user, has to include human rights considerations and a risk assessment to that effect.

Introducing a coordination mechanism at EU level for controls of non-listed cyber-surveillance items

Parliament and Council agreed to introduce a formal procedure that Member States can invoke to maintain an EU level playing field in the trade of specific non-listed cyber-surveillance items that give rise to concerns (Article 4(a)(4)-(11)). A Member State that identifies and places under control the export of a non-listed cyber-surveillance item can now, under the new mechanism, initiate formal proceedings that aim to make the export of this item subject to licensing requirements across the EU. All other Member States are asked, within a defined time frame, to assess the information and provide their position. If all Member States agree that an authorisation requirement should be imposed for essentially identical transactions, the Commission is to publish in the Official Journal of the European Union information regarding the cyber-surveillance items and, where appropriate, destinations subject to authorisation requirements as notified by the Member States for this purpose. This procedure allows the Member States to create an autonomous list of cyber-surveillance items that are not covered by the international non-proliferation regimes or export control arrangements, with a view to their inclusion in such regimes and arrangements in due course.

Emerging technologies

An issue of increasing importance for dual-use export controls are [emerging technologies](#) such as biotechnology, advanced surveillance technologies, position, timing and navigation technology (PNT), additive manufacturing, artificial intelligence and robotics. [Competition](#) in technology has become a [crucial element](#) of the relationship between [powerful international actors](#). One of the most visible manifestations of this is the rising relevance of technological supremacy in the competition between the USA and China. China's ambition to be a world leader in certain technologies, as laid out in its [Made in China 2025](#) (MIC2025) industrial policy and its [civil-military fusion policy](#), has led to concerns, including about the potential erosion of Western norms governing the use of emerging technologies.

Regulation 428/2009 already granted Member States the right to introduce national legislation to control the export of any non-listed dual-use item for reasons of public security or for human rights considerations. The proposed regulation maintains this possibility, but adds a new legal basis for all other Member States to implement equal controls on the basis of the first Member State's national legislation (Article 8(a) read in combination with Article 8). Referred to as 'a system of transmissible application of national measures', the new mechanism is designed to maintain a level playing field among Member States in an area of technology that is evolving very rapidly. National control lists that control items that do not feature on the EU's control list will be published in the Official Journal of the EU.

Increasing transparency

Parliament and Council agreed to introduce greater transparency as regards the export of dual-use goods, by increasing Member States' reporting obligations (Article 24). Since 2013, the European Commission has compiled an annual report on the implementation of Regulation 428/2009, which it submits to the European Parliament and the Council. The report is public. According to [the 2019 report](#), in 2018, the Regulation primarily applied to the export of about 1 846 dual-use 'items' listed in Annex I (the 'EU Control List') and classified in 10 categories (Figure 1).

The proposed regulation introduces additional reporting requirements, including on authorisations (in particular number and value by types of items and by destinations at EU and Member State levels), denials and prohibitions, as well as on the administration (in particular staffing, compliance and outreach activities, dedicated licensing or classification tools), and on the enforcement of controls (in particular number of infringements and penalties) (Article 24(2)).

Moreover, with regard to cyber-surveillance items, Member States will be required to provide dedicated information per 'item', including on authorisations, in particular the number of applications received by items, the issuing Member State and the destinations concerned by these applications, and on the decisions taken on these applications. By requiring information at the 'items level', the proposed regulation is following the example of the 2019 [Anti-Torture Regulation](#) (Regulation (EU) 2019/125 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 January 2019 concerning trade in certain goods which could be used for capital punishment, torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment).

Terrorism

Despite initial reservations, Parliament and Council agreed to follow the Commission's proposal to extend the catch-all provision to prohibit or impose an authorisation requirement on the export of dual-use items for reasons of public security, 'including the prevention of acts of terrorism' (Article 8(1)).

Addition of controls on brokering and technical assistance and harmonisation at EU level

Parliament and Council agreed to follow the Commission's proposal to amend certain control provisions relating to technology transfer, to provide greater clarity with regard to the application of controls on software and technology. Confusion arose in the past over how controls apply when technology is stored and shared via cloud computing, for example. Therefore, the proposed regulation adds a definition for 'technical assistance' and clarifies applicable controls (Article 2(8) and Article 7). The proposal also provides clarification on 'brokering' and 'brokering services', by extending the definition of 'broker' to subsidiaries of EU companies located outside the EU, and to 'brokering services' supplied by third-country nationals from within the EU territory. The proposal also extends the application of brokering to non-listed items and military end-uses, and extends their violation to terrorism and human rights violations. Controls on brokering and technical assistance are to apply throughout the EU jurisdiction, thus establishing an EU-wide legal basis for

the prosecution of export control violations. EU persons located in third countries will become subject to control, and the proposal introduces anti-circumvention clauses.

Optimisation of the EU licensing architecture

Parliament and Council agreed to introduce new EU general export authorisations (EUGEA) for 'intra-group exports of software and technology' (Annex II G) and for 'encryption'. As a pre-requisite for a more streamlined approach, the proposed regulation attempts to harmonise the definitions of a number of the regulation's key concepts, such as, for instance, those of 'exporter', 'export' and 'broker'. The proposal also introduces a new individual export authorisation for 'large projects', where one licence covers export operations related to one project, e.g. the construction of a nuclear power plant, for the entire duration of the project. Enhancing the exchange of information on licensing decisions, notably denials and prohibitions, is another important element of the proposed regulation.

Enhanced cooperation on implementation and enforcement

Parliament and Council agreed to the Commission's proposal to introduce electronic licensing systems that are interconnected through the dual-use electronic system (Article 20(5)), to improve the exchange of information between national authorities and, where appropriate, the Commission. They also agreed that the regulation would include provisions for setting up 'technical expert groups', bringing together key industry and government experts to determine the technical parameters for controls. They also retained the Commission proposal to develop guidance to support inter-agency cooperation between licensing and customs authorities. Most importantly, the Commission proposes to create an Enforcement Coordination Mechanism with a view to establishing direct cooperation and exchange of information between competent licensing and enforcement authorities, and the Commission.

Guidelines

Following calls by Parliament for greater assistance for EU businesses with the interpretation of the new rules, Parliament and Council agreed that the proposed regulation would invite competent authorities to issue guidelines for internal compliance programmes (ICPs), to contribute to the level playing field between exporters and to enhance the effective application of controls. These guidelines should take into account the differences in sizes, resources, fields of activity and other features and conditions of exporters and subsidiaries such as intra-group compliance structures and standards, thus helping each exporter to find its own solutions for compliance and competitiveness. Exporters using global export authorisations should implement an ICP unless that is considered unnecessary by the competent authority due to other circumstances it has taken into account when processing the application for a global export authorisation submitted by the exporter.

EP SUPPORTING ANALYSIS

[Regulation 428/2009 setting up a Community regime for the control of exports, transfer, brokering and transit of dual-use items: Implementation Appraisal](#), EPRS briefing, Milan Remáč, September 2016.

[Initial Appraisal of the Impact Assessment Report on the EU Export Control Policy Review \(SWD\(2016\)315\)](#), EPRS briefing, Alina Alexandra Georgescu, January 2017.

[Union regime for the control of exports, transfer, brokering, technical assistance and transit of dual-use items](#). Recast, European Parliament, Legislative Observatory (OEL).

ENDNOTES

- ¹ Machiko Kanetake, 'The EU's Export Control of Cyber Surveillance Technology: Human Rights Approaches', *Business and Human Rights Journal*, Vol. 4(1), 2019, pp. 155-162.
- ² For a detailed description of the cyber-surveillance sector, see [Final Report of the Data and information collection for EU dual-use export control policy review](#), prepared by SIPRI and ECORYS for the Commission in November 2015.
- ³ Machiko Kanetake, 'The EU's Export Control of Cyber Surveillance Technology: Human Rights Approaches', *Business and Human Rights Journal*, Vol 4(1), 2019, pp. 155-162.
- ⁴ However, it is worth noting in this context that on 9 October 2019, the US decided to [restrict exports](#) of certain cyber-surveillance technologies to a number of [specific Chinese companies](#) (as end-users), on human rights grounds. These companies will be barred from buying products from US companies without prior approval from the US administration.
- ⁵ For further details on the Council mandate, see [EU Trade Mandate](#), International Trade Alert, 11 June 2019. See also: Mark Bromley and Paul Gerharz, [Revising the EU Dual-use Regulation: Challenges and opportunities for the trilogue process](#), 7 October 2019.

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Sixth edition. The 'EU Legislation in Progress' briefings are updated at key stages throughout the legislative procedure.

MONEY-LAUNDERING GANG WITH LINKS TO SOUTH AMERICAN CARTELS BUSTED IN SPAIN

20 January 2021

Press Release

The criminal group was also involved in debt collection and contract killings

Europol supported the Spanish Civil Guard (Guardia Civil) and the US Drug Enforcement Administration to dismantle an organised crime group laundering money for major South American cartels.

The criminal network was involved in debt collection and laundering of money coming from drug trafficking. They also provided so-called hitman services involving contract killings, threats and violence targeted at other criminal groups. The criminal organisation used the network of hitmen to collect payments across Spain from other criminal groups buying drugs from the South American cartels to redistribute them locally. The investigation identified also a number of 'front men' acquiring luxurious goods for the lifestyles of the group's leaders. This was only a small part of a large money-laundering scheme that traded high-end cars and used smurfing techniques to place criminal profits into the financial system.



Results

- 4 suspects arrested (Colombian, Spanish and Venezuelan nationals)
- 7 suspects charged with criminal offences
- 1 company charged with a criminal offence
- 3 home searches in Spain
- Seizures of high-end cars, luxury items, firearms and ammunition

Europol facilitated the information exchange and provided analytical support during the whole investigation.

[Watch Video](#)

Headquartered in The Hague, the Netherlands, we support the 27 EU Member States in their fight against terrorism, cybercrime and other serious and organised forms of crime. We also work with many non-EU partner states and international organisations. From its various threat assessments to its intelligence-gathering and operational activities, Europol has the tools and resources it needs to do its part in making Europe safer.



In 2010 the European Union set up a [four-year Policy Cycle](#) to ensure greater continuity in the fight against serious international and organised crime. In 2017 the Council of the EU decided to continue the EU Policy Cycle for the 2018 - 2021 period. It aims to tackle the most significant threats posed by organised and serious international crime to the EU. This is achieved by improving and strengthening cooperation between the relevant services of EU Member States, institutions and agencies, as well as non-EU countries and organisations, including the private sector where relevant. [Money laundering](#) is one of the priorities for the Policy Cycle.

CRIME AREAS

[Economic Crime](#) • [Money Laundering](#)

TARGET GROUPS

[General Public](#) • [Law Enforcement](#) • [Academia](#) • [Professor](#) • [Students](#) • [Researcher](#) • [Press/Journalists](#) • [Other](#)

Graves, David L CIV DTRA OI (USA)

To: Graves, David L CIV DTRA OI (USA)
Subject: FW: OSAC Morning Newsletter

From: OSAC Admin
Sent: Wednesday, January 20, 2021 9:01 AM
Subject: OSAC Morning Newsletter



Overseas Security Advisory Council
Research and Information Support
Center
Bureau of Diplomatic Security
U.S. Department of State

Morning Newsletter

Dear David Graves,

Your Morning Newsletter is ready!

01-20-2021

OSAC Reports

Africa

Niger

OSAC Analysis

[Deadly Attack in Niger Highlights Risks in Tri-Border Region](#)

Rwanda

[Health Alert: Kigali \(Rwanda\), Immediate Lockdown of Kigali, Other Updated COVID-19 Prevention Measures](#)

East Asia & Pacific

Vietnam

[Security Alert: Vietnam, Rise in Crime Around Tet Holiday](#)

Europe

Norway

[Security Alert: Oslo \(Norway\), Suspicious Man in Ullern](#)

Poland

[Health Alert: Poland, Update on COVID-19 and Related Restrictions](#)

South & Central Asia

India

OSAC Analysis

[Travel Security Resources for Female Travelers in India](#)

Western Hemisphere

Guatemala

[Health Alert: Guatemala, Availability of COVID-19 Testing for Travelers to the United States](#)

Haiti

[Security Alert: Port-au-Prince \(Haiti\), Planned Demonstrations](#)

Upcoming OSAC Events

East Asia & Pacific

China

[VIRTUAL Country Chapter Meeting: Shanghai, China \(January 28\)](#)

Europe

Hungary

[VIRTUAL Country Chapter Meeting: Budapest, Hungary \(January 26\)](#)

Global

[Women in Security Webinar: Learning the Language of Business \(January 27\)](#)

[Europe Regional Committee Winter Webinar \(January 28\)](#)

[Private Sector Security Overseas Seminar \(PSOS\): VIRTUAL Arlington, VA \(April 14-16, 2021\)](#)

[International Organizations/Non-Governmental Organizations Security Overseas Seminar \(IO/NGO SOS\):VIRTUAL \(May 13-14\)](#)

Western Hemisphere

Venezuela

[VIRTUAL Country Chapter Meeting: Caracas, Venezuela \(January 21\)](#)

External News

Africa

Central African Republic

[In war-weary CAR, humanitarian crisis deepens amid fresh violence](#)

Sudan

[IMF working ‘very intensively’ with Sudan for debt relief](#)

Uganda

[US ambassador blocked from visiting Bobi Wine as official warns 'don't cry for Ugandans'](#)

Zimbabwe

[Zimbabwe’s foreign minister dies of COVID-19 amid resurgence](#)

East Asia & Pacific

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[China builds massive Covid-19 quarantine camp for 4,000 people as outbreak continues](#)

Thailand

[Thai royalists launch political party to protect monarchy](#)

Europe

France

[Coronavirus: French student protests highlight pandemic's mental health toll](#)

Russia

[6 suspected militants killed in Russia's Chechnya](#)

Middle East & North Africa

Libya

[Fire, blast at ammunition warehouse in western Libya kills 3](#)

Tunisia

[Outreach by Tunisian leaders fails to quell youth unrest](#)

South & Central Asia

India

[4 soldiers injured in Pakistani firing along LoC in J&K's Akhnoor sector](#)

Pakistan

[Karachi's gas woes get worse as SSGC reports technical fault in gas field](#)

Western Hemisphere

Guatemala

[Large migrant caravan dissolves in Guatemala](#)

Mexico

[Oxygen thefts mount as Mexico reports record COVID-19 deaths today](#)

Mexico

[4 vaccine doses stolen in Mexico, oxygen tanks spark appeal](#)

Suriname

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Sacco, Cristina (EOM)

From: Loftus, Ashlea (WF) (FBI) <ALOFTUS@fbi.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 20, 2021 11:11 AM
To: Marcenelle, Madeline (HSEMA); darrin.bovia@dc.gov; Donell, Harvin; Randolph, Sedley (HSEMA)
Subject: Fwd: FBI OPS Inauguration Daily SitRep - 20 January 2021 TLP:AMBER
Attachments: OPS 2021 Inauguration Daily Sitrep-20210120_TLP-AMBER.pdf
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Vr,

Ashlea Loftus
Intelligence Analyst
FBI Washington

§ 2-534(a)(2)

Liaison Officer to National Capital Region Threat Intelligence Consortium (NTIC)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: "Snyder, Marc R. (OPE) (FBI)" <MRSnyder@fbi.gov>
Date: Jan 20, 2021 10:05 AM
Subject: FBI OPS Inauguration Daily SitRep - 20 January 2021 TLP:AMBER
To:
Cc:
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Thank you,

FBI Office of Partner Engagement

Sacco, Cristina (EOM)

From: Graves, David L CIV DTRA OI (USA) <david.l.graves6.civ@mail.mil>
Sent: Wednesday, January 20, 2021 8:18 AM
To: Graves, David L CIV DTRA OI (USA)
Subject: LE-2 [MAY CONTAIN USPER INFO]
Attachments: CDC COVID-19 Guidelines - What's New 01-20-2021.pdf; USSS NCR BOLO - CAMARGO.pdf; SECSTATE DSS-OSAC News 1-20-2021.pdf; DHS Morning Briefing - January 20, 2021.pdf; Intelligence Assessment - Bioscience IP Theft_Final_Clean.pdf; 20 January 2021 CBP COVID-19 Update - Mexico and Latin America.pdf; 20 January 2021 CBP Indications and Warnings Daily.pdf; Morning Report 20 January 2021.pdf; MCAC Daily Situation Awareness Report for 20 January 2021.pdf; 01-20-2021 DailyIntelBriefing (FOUO_LES).pdf

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Department of Justice
Office of Public Affairs

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, January 19, 2021

U.S. ARMY SOLDIER ARRESTED FOR ATTEMPTING TO ASSIST ISIS TO CONDUCT DEADLY AMBUSH ON U.S. TROOPS

Provided Tactical Guidance in Attempt to Help ISIS to Attack U.S. Forces in the Middle East

The Justice Department, along with the New York City Police Department (NYPD) and U.S. Army Counterintelligence, announced today the arrest of a private first class in the U.S. Army, on federal terrorism charges based on Bridges' alleged efforts to assist ISIS to attack and kill U.S. soldiers in the Middle East.

Cole James Bridges, aka Cole Gonzales, 20, of Stowe, Ohio, was charged by complaint with attempting to provide material support to a designated foreign terrorist organization and attempting to murder U.S. military service members. The FBI and U.S. Army Counterintelligence arrested Bridges today, and he will be presented later today in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Georgia.

"Bridges is charged with giving military advice and guidance on how to kill fellow soldiers to individuals he thought were part of ISIS," said Assistant Attorney General for National Security John C. Demers. **"This alleged personal and professional betrayal of comrades and country is terrible to contemplate, but fortunately, the FBI was able to identify the threat posed by Bridges, and today's charges are the first step in holding him accountable for his crimes. ISIS ideology continues to infect those who would threaten the nation's security from within and without, and we will continue to fight this threat."**

"As alleged, Cole Bridges betrayed the oath he swore to defend the United States by attempting to provide ISIS with tactical military advice to ambush and kill his fellow service members," said Acting U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York Audrey Strauss. **"Our troops risk their lives for our country, but they should never face such peril at the hands of one of their own. Today, thanks to the efforts of the agents and detectives of the JTTF, and our partners in the Department of Defense, Bridges is in custody and facing federal terrorism charges for his alleged crimes."**

"As we allege today, Bridges, a private in the U.S. Army, betrayed our country and his unit when he plotted with someone he believed was an ISIS sympathizer to help ISIS attack and kill U.S. soldiers in the Middle East," said FBI Assistant Director in Charge of the New York Office William F. Sweeney Jr. **"Fortunately, the person with**



whom he communicated was an FBI employee, and we were able to prevent his evil desires from coming to fruition. Bridges could have chosen a life of honorable service, but instead he traded it for the possibility of life in prison. **This case should serve as a reminder that the FBI's New York JTTF will never quit in its commitment to protect our Nation from all those who seek to do it harm.**"

"Army Counterintelligence's top priority is protecting the force so it can remain committed to fighting and winning our nation's wars," said Army Counterintelligence Coordinating Authority Director Roy T. Cochran. "The results of this investigation show the efforts of Army Counterintelligence agents working alongside our partners in the FBI. We are dedicated to protecting our soldiers, civilians, and families from terrorist acts and insider threats."

According to the criminal complaint charging Bridges, which was unsealed today in Manhattan federal court:

Bridges joined the U.S. Army in approximately September 2019 and was assigned as a cavalry scout in the 3rd Infantry Division based in Fort Stewart, Georgia. Beginning in at least 2019, Bridges began researching and consuming online propaganda promoting jihadists and their violent ideology. Bridges also expressed his support for the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham (ISIS) and jihad on social media. In or about October 2020, Bridges **began communicating with an FBI online covert employee (the "OCE"), who was posing as an ISIS supporter in contact with ISIS fighters in the Middle East.** During these communications, Bridges expressed his frustration with the U.S. military and his desire to aid ISIS. Bridges then provided training and guidance to purported ISIS fighters who were planning attacks, including advice about potential targets in New York City, such as the 9/11 Memorial. Bridges also provided the OCE with portions of a U.S. Army training manual and guidance about military combat tactics, for use by ISIS.

In or about December 2020, Bridges began to supply the OCE with instructions for the purported ISIS fighters on how to attack U.S. forces in the Middle East. Among other things, Bridges diagrammed specific military maneuvers intended to help ISIS fighters maximize the lethality of attacks on U.S. troops. Bridges further provided advice about the best way to fortify an ISIS encampment to repel an attack by U.S. Special Forces, including by wiring certain buildings with explosives to kill the U.S. troops. Then, in January 2021, Bridges provided the OCE with a video of himself in body armor standing before a flag often used by ISIS fighters and making a gesture symbolic of support for ISIS. Approximately a week later, Bridges sent a second video in which Bridges, using a voice manipulator, narrated a propaganda speech in support of the anticipated ambush by ISIS on U.S. troops.

Bridges is charged in the complaint with (1) attempting to provide material support to ISIS, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2339B, which carries a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison; and (2) attempting to murder U.S. military service members, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1114, which carries a maximum sentence of 20 years in



prison. The statutory penalties are prescribed by Congress and are provided here for informational purposes only, as any sentencing of the defendant would be determined by the judge.

The Justice Department praised **the outstanding efforts of the FBI's New York Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF)**, which consists of agents and analysts from the FBI, the NYPD, and over 50 other federal, state, and local agencies, U.S. Army Counterintelligence, the FBI Washington Field Office, the FBI Atlanta Field Office and its Savannah **Resident Agency, the FBI Cleveland Field Office, the FBI's Counterterrorism Division, the U.S. Attorney's Office** for the Southern District of Georgia, the Air Force Office of Special Investigations, U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command, and the U.S. Army 3rd Infantry Division.

This prosecution is being handled by the Office's Terrorism and International Narcotics Unit. Assistant U.S. Attorneys Sam Adelsberg, Matthew Hellman, and Sidhardha Kamaraju are in charge of the prosecution, with assistance from Trial Attorneys Michael Dittoe and Lauren Goddard of the Counterterrorism Section of the **Department of Justice's National Security Division.**

<https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/us-army-soldier-arrested-attempting-assist-isis-conduct-deadly-ambush-us-troops>



NEWS TERRORISM & SECURITY

Regional News:

January 19, 2021

New York, NY

TSA officers at LaGuardia detect ammunition concealed in chewing gum case

Transportation Security Administration (TSA) officers at LaGuardia Airport detected 13 bullets concealed inside a container of chewing gum along with several pieces of gum at one of the security checkpoints.

The incident happened on Jan. 14. Officials say the Miami-bound traveler's carry-on duffle bag contained two large containers of chewing gum and upon closer examination, it was determined that one container was filled with gum and the other was mixed with gum and the ammunition.

The bullets were spotted by a TSA officer as the traveler's belongings passed through the checkpoint X-ray machine. The man, a resident of the Bronx, told officials that the bag belonged to his son, and he claimed he did not know that the containers of gum were in the duffle bag.

TSA officers alerted Port Authority police who confiscated the bullets and cited the man.



<https://hudsonvalley.news12.com/tsa-officers-at-laguardia-detect-ammunition-concealed-in-chewing-gum-case>

January 19, 2021

New York, NY

New York state court employee charged after allegedly threatening to kill several Democratic Congress members

A New York state court employee was charged with threatening to murder a US official after he made online posts threatening to kill several high-level Democratic members of Congress, according to a complaint from the US Attorney's Office in the Eastern District of New York.



Brendan Hunt, who goes by "X-Ray Ultra" on social media and his personal website, posted several times on various social media sites since December saying that Speaker Nancy Pelosi, US Sen. Charles Schumer and US Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez should be killed, and even called for a public execution, according to the complaint.

"And if you dont do it, the citizenry will," Hunt allegedly said in a Facebook post on December 6. "We're not voting in another rigged election. Start up the firing squads, mow down these commies, and lets (sic) take america back!"

The complaint identifies Hunt as a part-time actor and filmmaker and a full-time employee of the New York State Office of Court Administration.

New York State Unified Court spokesman Lucian Chalfen confirmed to CNN that Hunt worked as an assistant court analyst in the Attorney Registration Unit. He will be suspended without pay pending further administrative action, Chalfen said.

Hunt, of Queens, New York, is also the son of New York City Family Court Judge John M. Hunt, Chalfen said.

The complaint does not say if Brendan Hunt [attended the Capitol riot on January 6](#). He was arrested Tuesday morning and in federal court was ordered to be detained until trial due to the "nature and circumstance of the offense," a magistrate judge ruled.

The charge comes amid heightened security in Washington, DC and at state capitols across the country as law enforcement officials have warned of the potential for violent unrest leading up to and on Inauguration Day, particularly among some hard-right extremists who falsely believe Joe Biden's election is illegitimate.

Hunt allegedly advocated for just that. On January 8, two days after the takeover at the Capitol, he allegedly posted a video to the website BitChute titled "KILL YOUR SENATORS" that allegedly shows him speaking to the camera.

"We need to go back to the U.S. Capitol when all of the Senators and a lot of the Representatives are back there" and "slaughter these m*therf**kers," Hunt said, according to the complaint.

"[O]ur government at this point is basically a handful of traitors ... So what you need to do is take up arms, get to D.C., probably the inauguration ... so called inauguration of this m*therf**king communist Joe Biden ... [T]hat's probably the best time to do this, get your guns, show up to D.C., and literally just spray these m*therf**kers ... like, that's the only option."

In federal court Tuesday, Assistant U.S. Attorney David Kessler argued as reasons for his detainment that Hunt is a flight risk and has limited ties to the community, as well as a history of mental illness.



His attorney Leticia Olivera said he has no criminal record and is not a member of any militias or paramilitary groups.

"Without seeking to undermine the seriousness of the allegations in the complaint, there is no allegation here that Mr. Hunt has a history of abuse or ownership of weapons," Olivera said. "He has no plans to travel to Washington, DC, to purchase weapons or to actually even come into contact with any federal officials much less anything that could cause them physical harm."

Olivera declined to comment any further to CNN on the case.

<https://www.cnn.com/2021/01/19/politics/ny-charge-threat-inauguration/index.html>

National News:
January 19, 2021
Washington, DC

FBI searching for seven rioters who savagely beat cop during insurrection on the Capitol

The FBI released photos Tuesday of seven men suspected of beating a Washington, D.C., officer during the Jan. 6 raid on the nation's Capitol.

Metropolitan Police Department Officer Michael Fanone was dragged out of the Capitol, slammed to the ground, tased and stripped of his service weapon by a gang of pro-Trump rioters who threatened to leave him for dead, the cop said in an interview on CNN.

Advertisement

"Some guys started getting a hold of my gun and they were screaming out, you know, 'Kill him with his own gun,' " said Fanone, 40.

"At that point, you know, it's just self preservation — how do I survive this situation?"

Pleading for his life, [the veteran cop said](#) several people in the crowd responded to his cries for mercy when he yelled that he had four children. They ultimately ushered his safe removal from the crowd of bloodthirsty rioters.

"A lot of people have asked me my thoughts on the individuals in the crowd that helped me or tried to offer some assistance. I think kind of the conclusion I've come to is, Thank you — but f--k you for being there."



The seven suspects are accused of unlawful entry into the Capitol and assaulting law enforcement personnel.

Anyone with information is asked to contact the FBI at 1-800-CALL-FBI (1-800-225-5324).

<http://www.nydailynews.com/news/crime/ny-fbi-seven-rioters-mpd-officer-michael-fanone-20210119-h7n75k27xnbkremjpep55afmq4-story.html>

January 19, 2021
Washington, DC

TWELVE National Guardsmen are removed from inauguration security over 'ties to fringe right group militias or extremist online posts'

Twelve National Guardsmen have now been removed from the presidential inauguration security mission after they were found to have ties with right-wing militia groups or posted extremist views online, officials say.

The officials, a senior intelligence official and an Army official briefed on the matter, did not say which fringe group the Guard members belonged to or what unit they served in.

They did say, however, that there was no threat to Joe Biden.

Neither the National Guard or Secret Service would comment on the removal of the Guardsmen.

Their removal from the massive security presence at the nation's capital comes as the FBI worked to vet all of the 25,000 National Guard troops headed to the area for Biden's inauguration amid concerns of insider threats in the wake of the Capitol riots.

It comes after the National Guard chief, General Daniel Hokanson, said earlier on Tuesday that the 25,000 armed troops protecting DC were 'trained and ready for anything' and he wasn't concerned about the potential for insider threat.

The National Guard said troops from all 50 states are supporting law enforcement for the inauguration.

Gen. Hokanson said the vetting of his troops was standard practice but was heightened given the large number of Guardsman brought in to fortify DC in the wake of the insurrection at Capitol by pro-Trump rioters.

In addition to the 25,000 National Guardsman, the Pentagon also authorized 750 active-duty troops with expertise in chemical, biological, nuclear, radiological and explosive weapons to provide additional security in the capital.



'We've done a lot of work. We're making sure that our folks are trained and ready for anything they're going to be asked to do. Our folks are always trained in deescalation techniques,' Gen Hokanson told NBC's [Today](#) on Tuesday.

He said the decision to arm his troops during the inauguration was made by the Secret Service amid the ongoing threats.

National Guard General Daniel Hokanson said the 25,000 armed troops that are now protecting Washington DC are 'trained and ready for anything'

Gen Hokanson said he wasn't concerned about the potential for an insider attack from service members involved in securing the inauguration after defense officials raised concerns.

'It's not a threat for me, I'm not concerned about that at all. If you look at our National Guardsman, we vet them throughout the process. We don't allow extremism of any type in our organization,' he said.

'As we look at this as a national special security event... this type of vetting is standard.'

Gen Hokanson has been meeting with Guard troops as they arrive in DC and as they gather downtown. He said he believes there are good processes in place to identify any potential threats.

It comes after Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy told The Associated Press that officials are conscious of the potential threat and he warned commanders to be on the lookout for any problems within their ranks as the inauguration approaches.

So far, however, he and other leaders say they have seen no evidence of any threats, and officials said the vetting hadn't flagged any issues that they were aware of.

'We're continually going through the process, and taking second, third looks at every one of the individuals assigned to this operation,' McCarthy said.

He said Guard members are also getting training on how to identify potential insider threats.

About 25,000 members of the National Guard are streaming into Washington from across the country - at least two and a half times the number for previous inaugurations.

While the military routinely reviews service members for extremist connections, the FBI screening is in addition to any previous monitoring.

As security continues to intensify in DC ahead of the inauguration, defense officials told [Politico](#) that 750 active-duty troops had been deployed this week to the capital.

Those personnel are experts in handling chemical and nuclear weapons, as well as experience disposing of explosives.



Among the active-duty personnel are medical teams trained in responding to trauma.

It comes as the Capitol complex temporarily locked down on Monday during an inauguration rehearsal after a fire in a homeless encampment roughly a mile away sent a plume of smoke into the air and caused security concerns in the already on-edge city.

Military personnel and staffers could be seen running from the temporary seating on the Capitol Building's West Front as an evacuation warning played in the background.

Law enforcement officials later confirmed there was no threat to the public and the fire was not believed to be a threat to the inauguration.

The evacuation of some participants and the lockdown were ordered by the acting chief of Capitol Police in an abundance of caution.

But the fast decision to lock down underscores the fear that has gripped Washington since the deadly January 6 insurrection at the Capitol by pro-Trump rioters.

Attempts to fortify Washington have been ongoing ever since with the city now an armed fortress fenced off with razor wire.

Armed protests planned for this past weekend around the country were mostly a bust, but anxiety is still skyrocketing.

The major security concern for the inauguration is an attack by armed groups of individuals, as well as planted explosives and other devices.

McCarthy said intelligence reports suggest that groups are organizing armed rallies leading up to Inauguration Day and possibly after that.

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-9163527/National-Guard-General-says-troops-ready-inauguration.html>

January 19, 2021

Florida

Florida deputy arrested after threatening to kill ‘the feds’

A Florida deputy who allegedly told a colleague he wanted to kill federal officials on the same day of the [US Capitol riot](#) was arrested Tuesday.

Peter Heneen, a deputy with the Polk County Sheriff’s Office, sent explicit Facebook messages to a coworker detailing how he would shoot and kill federal officials, the sheriff’s office said Tuesday.



Heneen, 29, who has been with the department for more than six years, was suspended pending his termination.

In the messages, Heneen says his goal was to shoot “the feds” and make sure “the streets of DC run red with the blood of these tyrants,” according to the sheriff’s office.

Heneen also [texted](#), “Should have [dragged] those tyrants out into the streets and executed them,” and “I will slit their throats if they touch my family. I will make them suffer.”

Heneen’s co-worker reported him on Jan. 8 as the messages continued to get more violent, Polk Sheriff Grady Judd said.

He’s been charged with making written threats to kill, conduct a mass shooting or an act of terrorism.

<https://nypost.com/2021/01/19/florida-deputy-arrested-after-threatening-to-kill-the-feds/>

January 19, 2021

Washington, DC

U.S. Classifies China's Policies toward Uighurs as “Genocide”

The United States Tuesday formally labeled the Chinese government’s policies targeting ethnic Uighur Muslims and other minorities in the northwest region of Xinjiang as “genocide.” The United States has for years criticized China’s detention and reeducation policies in Xinjiang but has held off formally declaring the policies as a genocide.

In the final hours of the President Donald Trump’s administration, the United States Tuesday formally labeled the Chinese government’s policies targeting ethnic Uighur Muslims and other minorities in the northwest region of Xinjiang as “genocide.”

“After careful examination of the available facts, I have determined that the PRC [People’s Republic of China], under the direction and control of the CCP [Chinese Communist Party], has committed genocide against the predominantly Muslim Uyghurs and other ethnic and religious minority groups in Xinjiang,” said Secretary of State Mike Pompeo in a statement Tuesday.

The United States has for years criticized China’s detention and reeducation policies in Xinjiang but has held off formally declaring the policies as a genocide.

Reports from non-government organizations, journalists and former detainees have documented a wide-ranging campaign of repression against Uighurs. The United Nations estimated at least one million Muslim Uighurs are held in internment camps.

Chinese officials describe them as “vocational education centers” for job training, rejecting any claim that authorities are engaged in human rights abuses in Xinjiang.



try into the United States. It may also expand the number of Chinese Communist Party (CCP) officials who have been targeted for [visa sanctions](#) and financial sanctions for taking part in the human rights abuses in the region.

The U.S. could also prosecute Chinese officials linked to the genocide in U.S. courts, or bring the issue of oppression against Uighurs before the United Nations Security Council and other human rights bodies.

The U.S. government formally declared China's repression of Uighurs as genocide only after a broad review of evidence. In recent years, the U.S. government issued genocide determinations for atrocities in Sudan's Darfur region in 2004 and the Islamic State terror group's targeted killings of ethnic Yazidis in Iraq and Syria in 2016.

U.S. officials said exhaustive documentation of the PRC's actions in Xinjiang confirms that since at least March 2017, local authorities dramatically escalated their decades-long campaign of repression against Uighur Muslims and members of other ethnic and religious minority groups, including ethnic Kazakhs and ethnic Kyrgyz.

Tuesday's determination comes just one day before the incoming administration of President-elect Joe Biden, who has been critical of Beijing's Xinjiang policies, is set to take office.

"The forced detention of over a million Uighur Muslims in western China is unconscionable. America should speak out against the internment camps in Xinjiang and hold to account the people and companies complicit in this appalling oppression," Biden [told](#) the Council on Foreign Relations in 2019.

Last year, a Biden campaign spokesperson declared the Chinese action against Muslims in the Xinjiang region as "genocide."

"The unspeakable oppression that Uighurs and other ethnic minorities have suffered at the hands of China's authoritarian government is genocide and Joe Biden stands against it in the strongest terms," Biden campaign spokesman Andrew Bates told *Politico* in a statement.

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<http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20210119-u-s-classifies-chinas-policies-toward-ughurs-as-genocide>

International News:

January 19, 2021

Afghanistan

40 Security Force Members Killed in Fighting in Past 24 Hours

Over 40 Afghan security force members have been killed in fighting with the Taliban over the past 24 hours, with the majority of casualties reported in volatile areas in Kunduz, Baghlan and Nimroz province.

Meanwhile, the Afghan Ministry of Defense (MoD) said that the Afghan security forces have made major advances against the Taliban in Kunduz province and have dealt a major human toll to the group.

Over 40 Taliban have been killed in recent clashes in Kunduz, according to the MoD.

The Dash-e-Arshi and Imam Sahib districts in Kunduz and some areas in the suburbs of Kunduz city have seen fierce fighting in the past two days.



In Baghlan province, the Baghlan-e-Markazi district and suburbs of the provincial capital Pul-e-Khumri have seen a fresh spate of violence between the Afghan security forces and the Taliban.

In the southern province of Kandahar, Panjwai and Arghandab have witnessed recent battles between the Afghan security forces and the Taliban.

Khashrud district in Nimroz province also witnessed deadly fighting.

“There is no government rule there,” said Ajmal, a resident in Baghlan.

“There is no good leadership, there is only brutality and oppression,” said Juma Khan, a resident in Baghlan.

On Monday alone, over 10 security force members were killed in Baghlan during the battles.

“It's now two or three nights that ten or twelve of our soldiers are killed or become hostages,” said Safdar Mohseni, the head of Baghlan's provincial council.

“The opponents have a clear address in Baghlan, if they increased their activities, there is fear that the highway to the north will be closed,” said MP Atiq Ramin.

Meanwhile, in Kunduz, the local administration has said that over 20 security force members have been killed in battles with the Taliban in Dasht-e-Archi district and other areas of the province in the past 24 hours.

“There is war every moment,” said Mohammad Daud, a resident in Imam Sahib district.

“The situation has become worse, Imam Sahib will fall if action not taken,” said Gulbuddin, a resident in Imam Sahib.

“The Afghan Security and Defense Forces have dealt a major blow to the Taliban, their key commanders have been eliminated,” said Fawad Aman, a deputy spokesman at the Ministry of Defense.

“The enemy launched some attacks on Kandahar city and some district of Kandahar, they wanted to take over these areas,” said Farid Mashal, the head of the security department of the Kandahar police department.

Typically fighting decreases in the the winter, but this year several provinces of the country have seen continued fighting, and analysts say it is related to the peace talks in Doha.

<https://tolonews.com/afghanistan-169360>



January 19, 2021
Central Africa

U.N. peacekeepers killed in Central African Republic; 2021 toll rises to 9

The United Nations said Tuesday that an armed group in the Central African Republic has killed two peacekeepers, making January an even deadlier month for its forces.

The deaths were the eighth and ninth for U.N. peacekeepers so far in 2021. Officials said the new deaths occurred following an ambush that was blamed on the militant group UPC and anti-Balaka members.

Stephane Dujarric, a spokesperson for U.N. Secretary-general [Antonio Guterres](#), expressed sorrow for the peacekeepers, who were from Gabon and Morocco.

"[Guterres] recalls that attacks against United Nations peacekeepers may constitute a war crime, and appeals to national authorities to investigate these incidents and bring the perpetrators to justice," Dujarric [said](#) in a statement.

The ambush happened near the southeastern city of Bangassou. Violence in the Central African Republic has increased since officials rejected the candidacy of former President Francois Bozize's for national elections late last month.

Bozize took power in a 2003 coup and was removed in a 2013 rebellion. Militia groups, some supporting Bozize, have attacked civilians and peacekeepers in the process.

"The secretary-general ... calls on all parties to immediately cease hostilities and engage in dialogue to advance the political process, preserve fragile gains and fulfill the country's aspiration for lasting peace," Dujarric added.

https://www.upi.com/Top_News/World-News/2021/01/19/UN-peacekeepers-killed-in-Central-African-Republic-2021-toll-rises-to-9/1081611077994/

***** **Significant Dates in History** *****

January 20, 1981
Teheran, Iran
Iran Hostage Crisis Ends

Brief Description: On this day in 1981, minutes after Ronald Reagan's inauguration as the 40th president of the United States, the 52 U.S. captives held at the U.S. embassy in Teheran, Iran, are released, ending the 444-day Iran Hostage Crisis.



On November 4, 1979, the crisis began when militant Iranian students, outraged that the U.S. government had allowed the ousted shah of Iran to travel to New York City for medical treatment, seized the U.S. embassy in Teheran.

The Ayatollah Khomeini, Iran's political and religious leader, took over the hostage situation, refusing all appeals to release the hostages, even after the U.N. Security Council demanded an end to the crisis in an unanimous vote. However, two weeks after the storming of the embassy, the Ayatollah began to release all non-U.S. captives, and all female and minority Americans, citing these groups as among the people oppressed by the government of the United States. The remaining 52 captives remained at the mercy of the Ayatollah for the next 14 months.

President Jimmy Carter was unable to diplomatically resolve the crisis, and on April 24, 1980, he ordered a disastrous rescue mission in which eight U.S. military personnel were killed and no hostages rescued.

Three months later, the former shah died of cancer in Egypt, but the crisis continued. In November 1980, Carter lost the presidential election to Republican Ronald Reagan.

Soon after, with the assistance of Algerian intermediaries, successful negotiations began between the United States and Iran. On the day of Reagan's inauguration, the United States freed almost \$8 billion in frozen Iranian assets, and the hostages were released 444 days. The next day, Jimmy Carter flew to West Germany to greet the Americans on their way home.

*****Significant Terrorist Attack Dates*****

January 20, 2016

Attack at Bacha Khan University in Pakistan

On Wednesday, January 20, at least four gunmen attacked the Bacha Khan University in Charsadda, Pakistan.

- The gunmen entered the University around 9:00 a.m. local time and opened fire, killing 22 and wounding at least 19 others. Victims included students, guards, and faculty members.
- The attackers were wearing suicide vests, but were killed by security forces prior to detonating. A senior leader of the Tehrik-e Taliban Pakistan (TTP) claimed responsibility for the attack

January 20, 2005

Boston, Massachusetts, United States

Radiological Bomb Plot Had Al-Qaeda Connection

Brief Description: The tip providing information of smuggled Mexican and Chinese nationals aiding in the planning of a radiological terrorist attack in Boston, Massachusetts was dismissed; however, new information links the aircraft used in the smuggling, to a person who owns a San Antonio flight school used in the past by an Al-Qaeda terrorist, Abdul Hakim Murad. **Type of Attack:** Hoax **Intended Target:** Boston, Massachusetts, United States **Ultimate Target:** none **Killed:** 0 **Injured:** 0 **Attack Group**



Attribution (primary):Unknown **Attack Group Attribution (secondary):**None **Attack Group Attribution (tertiary):** None **External Aid:** None **Property Damaged:** None **Law Enforcement Response:** Governor Mitt Romney informed Massachusetts' Emergency Management Agency and other law enforcement agencies of the possible activity and suggested they remain at a heightened state of alert. **International Response:** Chinese officials did not offer to verify or deny involvement in the plot. **Lessons Learned:** None **Terrorist Individuals Involved:** None **Victims:** None **Resolution:** Boston Mayor Thomas Menino specifically dismissed reports of a plot involving a radiological "dirty bomb" or fuel tankers. He called on the public to remain calm amid "much misinformation circulating." Among the 10 identified people wanted for questioning, FBI agents arrested a Mexican national and four Chinese nationals on January 24 at an airport in San Antonio, Texas believed to be linked with the radiological terrorist attack plot in Boston. **Historical Implications:** The 1985 single engine Cessna plane owned by Hameed Afzal, the co-owner of the Alpha Tango Flying School in San Antonio, is believed to have carried the smuggled aliens. The Alpha Tango Flying School was used by Abdul Hakim Murad, a co-conspirator in the 1993 World Trade Center bombing and linked by US intelligence to the Philippines-based Al-Qaeda plot to fly a bomb-filled aircraft into CIA headquarters.

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<http://www.cnn.com/2005/US/01/20/boston.threat/>

January 20, 2004

Bacoor, Cavite province, Philippines

US businessman abducted

Brief Description: Alastair Joseph Onglingswan, a businessman from Los Angeles, was thinking of investing in an IT venture in the Philippines when he was abducted in Manila, en route to a gym in a taxi. His abductor posed as a taxi driver and issued a US\$600,000 ransom to his family. His abduction was not reported. **Type of Attack:** Kidnapping **Intended Target:** American citizen **Ultimate Target:** Alastair Joseph Onglingswan **Killed:**0 **Injured:**0 **Attack Group Attribution (primary):** None **Attack Group Attribution (secondary):**None **Attack Group Attribution (tertiary):**None **External Aid:** None **Property Damaged:** None **Law Enforcement Response:** The lone kidnapper, a Hong Kong national named George Yao, was arrested. Yao, confessing to participating in six other kidnappings, said that he was paid by a group to care for Onglingswan. **International Response:** The US Embassy commented that the resolution showed that the Philippine government could "enforce and maintain the country's internal security...We commend the efforts of the (task force) and the Philippine national police, who worked diligently, professionally and highly effectively not only in securing Mr. Onglingswan's rescue, but also in apprehending a key suspect in this kidnap-for-ransom activity." **Lessons Learned:** None **Terrorist Individuals Involved:** George Yao **Victims:** Alastair Joseph Onglingswan, 35 **Resolution:** The Philippine anti-kidnap forces and military intelligence agents rescued him on February 11, 2004. He had been chained by his neck and feet for 22 days. **Historical Implications:** President Gloria Arroyo has issued a hard crackdown on kidnappings in her country. Most are perpetrated by organized groups, like



the Abu Sayyaf or the MILF, rather than lone actors. Arroyo has also lifted a moratorium on the death penalty for convicted kidnappers.

Bibliography: <http://news.yahoo.com/news>

January 20, 2003

Umm al Fahm, Israel

Car bomb discovered and dismantled on Israeli border

Brief Description: Israeli border patrol spotted a suspicious car near Umm al Fahm. As they approached, 4 Palestinians escaped. Car was found to be loaded with explosives. **Type of Attack:** Failed attack **Intended Target:** Israeli civilians **Ultimate Target:** Israeli government **Killed:** 0 **Injured:** 0 **Attack Group Attribution (primary):** Unknown **Attack Group Attribution (secondary):** None **Attack Group Attribution (tertiary):** None **External Aid:** None **Property Damaged:** None **Law Enforcement Response:** Border Patrol spotted the car and thwarted the attack. They did, however, fail to capture any of the 4 car bomb passengers. **International Response:** None **Lessons Learned:** None **Terrorist Individuals Involved:** None **Victims:** None **Resolution:** Attack averted. **Historical Implications:** None **Bibliography:** Explosives-laden car is seized near Umm al Fahm By Jalal Bana and Arnon Regular, Haaretz Daily, Jan 21, 2003

<http://www.haaretzdaily.com/hasen/pages/ShArt.jhtml?itemNo=254680&contrassID=2&subContrassID=1&sbSubContrassID=0>

Date: Jan 20, 2001

Organization: Unknown

Attack Type: Bombing

Target	Type:	Civilian	Location:	Dhaka,	Casualties:		Number of
			Bangladesh		Killed:	6	Terrorists
					Injured:	50	Involved:
							2

Details: At least six people were killed and some 50 others injured Saturday when a bomb exploded during a rally of the Bangladeshi Communist Party (CPB). A second bomb detonated near the headquarters of the ruling Awami League office, killing two men who were apparently preparing the bomb. According to the police, there was no immediate indication the two blasts were related.

January 20, 2000

Long Island, New York

Long Island furriers vandalized

Fur stores vandalized (seven incidents): Garden City—Barbusul Furs—Store and van windows; Elwood—Furs by Demitri—Paint and glue; Westbury—Fur Factory Outlet—Paint, glue, and vandalism; Jericho—Furs by Franklin—Paint, glue, and electric panel smashed; Huntington—Bayshore Furriers—Logs thrown through windows; Westbury—Two fur outlet billboards vandalized; and Cold Spring Hills—Furs of Cold Spring Hills—windows broken.

Date: Jan 20, 1997

Organization: Unknown

Attack Type: Bombing



Target Type: Businessperson **Location:** Bosnia and Herzegovina **Casualties:**
Killed: 1
Injured: 0

Details: A Bosnian-Croatian businessman died after he tripped a booby-trap explosive attached to the front door of his apartment.



COVID-19

What's New

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You can also keep up with CDC updates on Coronavirus Disease 2019 by [signing up for email updates](#), [syndicating available content](#), and subscribing to [Coronavirus Disease 2019 RSS Feed](#).

[EARLY RELEASE: Evaluation of Abbott BinaxNOW Rapid Antigen Test for SARS-CoV-2 Infection at Two Community-Based Testing Sites - Pima County, Arizona, November 3-17, 2020](#)
TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2021

[Long-Term Care Facilities COVID-19 Vaccination](#)
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[Operational Considerations for Schools](#)
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[School Decision-Making Tool for Parents, Caregivers, and Guardians](#)
TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2021

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[US COVID-19 Cases Caused by Variants](#)

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MONDAY, JANUARY 18, 2021

[Cases in the U.S.](#)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 17, 2021

[Dialysis Facilities](#)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 17, 2021

[COVID-19 Vaccination Toolkits](#)

SATURDAY, JANUARY 16, 2021

[COVID-19 Vaccine Communication Toolkit for Community-Based Organizations: Getting Started](#)

SATURDAY, JANUARY 16, 2021

[EARLY RELEASE: Emergence of SARS-CoV-2 B.1.1.7 Lineage - United States, December 29, 2020-January 12, 2021](#)

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[Requirement for Proof of Negative COVID-19 Test for All Air Passengers Arriving from the UK to the US](#)

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[New Variant of Virus that Causes COVID-19 Detected](#)

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[Toolkit for Childcare Programs](#)

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[Different COVID-19 Vaccines](#)

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[Healthcare Facilities That Have Implemented COVID-19 Electronic Case Reporting](#)

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[K-12 Schools COVID-19 Mitigation Toolkit](#)

THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 2021

Participate in Outdoor and Indoor Activities

THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 2021

Toolkit for People 15 to 17

THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 2021

Toolkit for People 18 to 24

THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 2021

Toolkit for Summer Camps

THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 2021

Holiday Celebrations

THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 2021

Toolkit for People Experiencing Homelessness

THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 2021

Toolkit for Retirement Communities

THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 2021

Toolkit for Tribal Communities

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Toolkit for Older Adults and People at Higher Risk

THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 2021

Toolkit for Colleges and Universities

THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 2021

Toolkit for Worker Safety & Support

THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 2021

Toolkit for Parks & Recreational Facilities

THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 2021

Toolkit for Youth Sports

THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 2021

Toolkit for Shared and Congregate Housing

THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 2021

Toolkit for K-12 Schools

THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 2021

Toolkit for Domestic Travelers

THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 2021

Toolkit for Community and Faith-Based Organizations

THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 2021

Toolkit for Businesses and Workplaces

THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 2021

RRT Composition: COVID-19 Considerations

THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 2021

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 2021

Public Service Announcements (PSAs)

THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 2021

Frequently Asked Questions

THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 2021

EARLY RELEASE: COVID-19 Trends Among Persons Aged 0-24 Years - United States, March 1-December 12, 2020

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2021

COVID-19 Vaccination

COVID-19 Vaccination

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2021

Testing and International Air Travel

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2021

COVID-19 Information Metrics for Response Leadership's Decision Making

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2021

Nursing Homes and Long-Term Care Facilities

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2021

Previous COVID-19 Forecasts: Cases

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2021

COVID-19 Forecasts: Cases

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2021

Guidance on Integration of COVID-19 in Existing Acute Febrile Illness (AFI) Surveillance Systems

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2021

Previous COVID-19 Forecasts: Hospitalizations

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2021

COVID-19 Forecasts: Hospitalizations

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2021

How to Select, Wear, and Clean Your Mask

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2021

If You Have Pets

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2021

Previous Forecasts of Total Deaths

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2021

COVID-19 Forecasts: Deaths

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2021

Retirement Communities and Independent Living

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2021

Travel: Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2021

Engaging Community Health Workers to Support Home-based care for people with COVID-19 in low-resource settings

TUESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2021

Clinical Mitigation (Non-US Settings)

TUESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2021

Toolkit for Correctional and Detention Facilities

TUESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2021

Maintaining Essential Services for Malaria in Low-Resource Countries

TUESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2021

Operational Considerations for Immunization Services during COVID-19 in Non-US Settings Focusing on Low-Middle Income Countries

TUESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2021

Markets: Operational considerations for COVID-19 mitigation measures in low resource settings

TUESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2021

Crew Disembarkations through Commercial Travel

TUESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2021

How to Wear Masks

TUESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2021

K-12 Schools and Childcare Programs

TUESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2021

COVID-19 Rapid Assessment of Point of Entry Capacity (RAPC)

MONDAY, JANUARY 11, 2021

COVID-19 Vaccine FAQs in Correctional and Detention Centers

MONDAY, JANUARY 11, 2021

What to Expect after Getting a COVID-19 Vaccine

MONDAY, JANUARY 11, 2021

Importance of COVID-19 Vaccination for Residents of Long-term Care Facilities

MONDAY, JANUARY 11, 2021

Migration and Border Health

MONDAY, JANUARY 11, 2021

Frequently Asked Questions about Coronavirus (COVID-19) for Laboratories

MONDAY, JANUARY 11, 2021

Correctional and Detention Facilities

MONDAY, JANUARY 11, 2021

Health Departments

MONDAY, JANUARY 11, 2021

COVID-19 Science Update released: Jaunary 8, 2021 Edition 71

SATURDAY, JANUARY 09, 2021

Contact Tracing

FRIDAY, JANUARY 08, 2021

When Vaccine is Limited, Who Gets Vaccinated First?

FRIDAY, JANUARY 08, 2021

Providing Spiritual and Psychosocial Support to People with COVID-19 at Home (Non-US Settings)

FRIDAY, JANUARY 08, 2021

How to Make 0.1% Chlorine Solution to Disinfect Surfaces in Healthcare Settings

FRIDAY, JANUARY 08, 2021

How to mitigate COVID-19 transmission in densely populated areas globally

FRIDAY, JANUARY 08, 2021

Handwashing

FRIDAY, JANUARY 08, 2021

Guidance for U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Staff for the Establishment and Management of Public Health Rapid Response Teams for Disease Outbreaks: COVID-19 Disease Supplement Infographic

FRIDAY, JANUARY 08, 2021

Considerations for Events and Gatherings

FRIDAY, JANUARY 08, 2021

Operating schools during COVID-19: CDC's Considerations

FRIDAY, JANUARY 08, 2021

Participation in Fraternity and Sorority Activities and the Spread of COVID-19 Among Residential University Communities - Arkansas, August 21-September 5, 2020

THURSDAY, JANUARY 07, 2021

Opening of Large Institutions of Higher Education and County-Level COVID-19 Incidence - United States, July 6-September 17, 2020

THURSDAY, JANUARY 07, 2021

Assessment of Day-7 Postexposure Testing of Asymptomatic Contacts of COVID-19 Patients to Evaluate Early Release from Quarantine - Vermont, May-November 2020

THURSDAY, JANUARY 07, 2021

- [Time from Start of Quarantine to SARS-CoV-2 Positive Test Among Quarantined College and University Athletes - 17 States, June-October 2020](#)
THURSDAY, JANUARY 07, 2021
- [Improving Ventilation in Your Home](#)
THURSDAY, JANUARY 07, 2021
- [COVID-19 Vaccinations](#)
THURSDAY, JANUARY 07, 2021
- [Vaccination Considerations for People who are Pregnant or Breastfeeding](#)
THURSDAY, JANUARY 07, 2021
- [HHS Announces \\$22 Billion in Funding to Support Expanded Testing, Vaccination Distribution](#)
THURSDAY, JANUARY 07, 2021
- [At-Home Testing](#)
THURSDAY, JANUARY 07, 2021
- [What to Expect at Your Appointment to Get Vaccinated for COVID-19](#)
THURSDAY, JANUARY 07, 2021
- [Considerations for Use of SARS-CoV-2 Antigen Testing in Nursing Homes](#)
THURSDAY, JANUARY 07, 2021
- [Providing Care and Treatment for People Living with HIV in Low-Resource Non-US Settings During COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
THURSDAY, JANUARY 07, 2021
- [Community Mitigation \(Non-US Settings\)](#)
THURSDAY, JANUARY 07, 2021
- [Isolate If You Are Sick](#)
THURSDAY, JANUARY 07, 2021
- [Testing Guidelines for Nursing Homes](#)
THURSDAY, JANUARY 07, 2021
- [Prevent Getting Sick](#)
THURSDAY, JANUARY 07, 2021
- [Cases, Data, and Surveillance](#)
THURSDAY, JANUARY 07, 2021
- [Clinical Questions about COVID-19: Questions and Answers](#)
THURSDAY, JANUARY 07, 2021
- [CDC Media Telebriefing: Update on COVID-19](#)
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 06, 2021
- [Resources for Teachers and Staff](#)
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 06, 2021
- [Returning to Work](#)
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 06, 2021
- [Toolkit for People with Disabilities](#)
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 06, 2021
- [Personal and Social Activities](#)
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 06, 2021
- [COVID-19 Rapid Response Team Guidance](#)
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 06, 2021
- [Guidance for Administrators in Parks and Recreational Facilities](#)
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 06, 2021
- [Interim Laboratory Biosafety Guidelines for Handling and Processing Specimens Associated with Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#)

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 06, 2021

Interim Guidelines for Collecting, Handling, and Testing Clinical Specimens for COVID-19

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 06, 2021

Understanding Viral Vector COVID-19 Vaccines

TUESDAY, JANUARY 05, 2021

Things to Know about the COVID-19 Pandemic

TUESDAY, JANUARY 05, 2021

8 Things to Know about Vaccine Planning

TUESDAY, JANUARY 05, 2021

Considerations for Owners and Operators of Multifamily Housing Including Populations at Increased Risk for Complications from COVID-19

TUESDAY, JANUARY 05, 2021

Federal Register Notice: Temporary Halt in Residential Evictions to Prevent the Further Spread of COVID-19

TUESDAY, JANUARY 05, 2021

Contact Tracing

TUESDAY, JANUARY 05, 2021

FAQs for Wildland Firefighters

TUESDAY, JANUARY 05, 2021

How to Report COVID-19 Laboratory Data

TUESDAY, JANUARY 05, 2021

Reopening Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfecting Public Spaces, Workplaces, Businesses, Schools, and Homes

TUESDAY, JANUARY 05, 2021

Cleaning and Disinfecting Your Facility

TUESDAY, JANUARY 05, 2021

Event Planning and COVID-19: Questions and Answers

TUESDAY, JANUARY 05, 2021

Cleaning And Disinfecting Your Home

TUESDAY, JANUARY 05, 2021

Schools and Childcare Programs

TUESDAY, JANUARY 05, 2021

Construction COVID-19 Checklists for Employers and Employees

MONDAY, JANUARY 04, 2021

Prioritizing Case Investigations and Contact Tracing for COVID-19 in High Burden Jurisdictions

MONDAY, JANUARY 04, 2021

Strategies for Protecting K-12 School Staff from COVID-19

MONDAY, JANUARY 04, 2021

COVID-19 Employer Information for Office Buildings

MONDAY, JANUARY 04, 2021

Interim Guidance on Developing a COVID-19 Case Investigation & Contact Tracing Plan: Overview

MONDAY, JANUARY 04, 2021

Suggestions for Youth and Summer Camps

MONDAY, JANUARY 04, 2021

What Rideshare, Taxi, Limo, and other Passenger Drivers-for-Hire Need to Know about COVID-19

MONDAY, JANUARY 04, 2021

COVID-19 Employer Information for Rail Transit Operators

MONDAY, JANUARY 04, 2021

People at Increased Risk

MONDAY, JANUARY 04, 2021

After You Travel

MONDAY, JANUARY 04, 2021

Considerations for Election Polling Locations and Voters

MONDAY, JANUARY 04, 2021

Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers Responding to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), May 2020

MONDAY, JANUARY 04, 2021

Information about the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine

FRIDAY, JANUARY 01, 2021

Information about the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine

FRIDAY, JANUARY 01, 2021

Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on Global Poliovirus Surveillance

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2020

COVID-19 Stats: COVID-19 Incidence, by Age Group - United States, March 1-November 14, 2020

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2020

Performance of an Antigen-Based Test for Asymptomatic and Symptomatic SARS-CoV-2 Testing at Two University Campuses - Wisconsin, September-October 2020

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2020

Implications of Shortened Quarantine Among Household Contacts of Index Patients with Confirmed SARS-CoV-2 Infection - Tennessee and Wisconsin, April-September 2020

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2020

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices' Updated Interim Recommendation for Allocation of COVID-19 Vaccine - United States, December 2020

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2020

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices' Interim Recommendation for Use of Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine - United States, December 2020

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2020

Raising Defenses against the COVID-19 "Tsunami"

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2020

COVID-19 Vaccines and Severe Allergic Reactions

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2020

Playing Sports

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2020

Considerations for Non-emergency Vehicle Transportation for Tribal Communities During COVID-19

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2020

Living in or Visiting Retirement Communities or Independent Living Facilities

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2020

Considerations for Retirement Communities and Independent Living Facilities

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2020

Youth Sports Program FAQs

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2020

Food and Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2020

Considerations for Casinos and Gaming Operations

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2020

Considerations for Community-Based Organizations

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2020

COVID-19 in Newly Resettled Refugee Populations

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2020

Help Children Learn at Home

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2020

Considerations for Institutes of Higher Education

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2020

Considerations for Youth Sports

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2020

Considerations for Public Pools, Hot Tubs, and Water Playgrounds During COVID-19

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2020

COVID-19 Guidance for Shared or Congregate Housing

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2020

COVID-19 Employer Information for Bus Transit Operators

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2020

Running Essential Errands

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2020

Guidance for Child Care Programs that Remain Open

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2020

Interim Guidance on Management of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in Correctional and Detention Facilities

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2020

What To Do if You Are Sick

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2020

Caring for Someone Sick at Home

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2020

How to Protect Yourself & Others

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2020

Interim Guidance for Case Investigation and Contact Tracing in K-12 Schools

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2020

Guidance for SARS-CoV-2 Point-of-Care Testing

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2020

How CDC Is Making COVID-19 Vaccine Recommendations

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2020

Considerations for Traveling Amusement Parks and Carnivals

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2020

Considerations for Public Beaches

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2020

Support For Teens and Young Adults

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2020

Considerations for Communities of Faith

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2020

Shared and Congregate Housing

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2020

General Business Frequently Asked Questions

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2020

Information for Pediatric Healthcare Providers

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2020

Science Briefs

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2020

COVID-19 Vaccination Considerations for Persons with Underlying Medical Conditions

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2020

Implications of the Emerging SARS-CoV-2 Variant VUI 202012/01

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2020

Toolkit for Clinicians

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2020

10 Things Healthcare Professionals Need to Know about U.S. COVID-19 Vaccination Plans

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2020

COVID-19 Published Science and Research

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2020

Summary for Healthcare Facilities: Strategies for Optimizing the Supply of PPE during Shortages

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2020

People with Certain Medical Conditions

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2020

Support for Veterans

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2020

Summary for Healthcare Facilities: Strategies for Optimizing the Supply of N95 Respirators during the COVID-19 Response

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2020

SARS-CoV-2 Viral Culturing at CDC

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2020

Colleges, Universities, and Higher Learning

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2020

Social Media Toolkit: COVID-19 & Mental Health

MONDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2020

The Importance of COVID-19 Vaccination for Healthcare Personnel

MONDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2020

Coronavirus Self-Checker

MONDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2020

COVID-19 Parental Resources Kit – Young Adulthood

MONDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2020

COVID-19 Parental Resources Kit – Adolescence

MONDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2020

COVID-19 Parental Resources Kit

MONDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2020

National Wastewater Surveillance System (NWSS)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2020

COVID-19 Questions and Answers: For People Who Use Drugs or Have Substance Use Disorder

MONDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2020

What Construction Workers Need to Know about COVID-19

MONDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2020

Funeral Guidance for Individuals and Families

MONDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2020

Training for Healthcare Professionals

MONDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2020

If You Are Pregnant, Breastfeeding, or Caring for Young Children

MONDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2020

Information for Healthcare Professionals about Coronavirus (COVID-19)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2020

Federal Coordination and Partnering for Wastewater Surveillance

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2020

For Specific Industries and Occupations

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2020

Employees: How to Cope with Job Stress and Build Resilience During the COVID-19 Pandemic

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2020

Strategies for Optimizing the Supply of Disposable Medical Gloves

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2020

Communication Resources for Travelers

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2020

COVID-19 Science Update released: December 22, 2020 Edition 70

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2020

COVID-19 Science Update released: August 4, 2020 Edition 36

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2020

Communication Toolkit

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2020

Other People Who Need Extra Precautions

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2020

Symptoms of Coronavirus

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2020

Strategies for Optimizing the Supply of Eye Protection

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2020

Ventilation

MONDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2020

Interim SARS-CoV-2 Testing Guidelines for Patients in Outpatient Hemodialysis Facilities

MONDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2020

Cleaning and Disinfecting

MONDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2020

Use of Masks to Help Slow the Spread of COVID-19

MONDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2020

COVID-19 Vaccination for People Experiencing Homelessness: Frequently Asked Questions

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2020

Understanding mRNA COVID-19 Vaccines

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2020

COVID-19 in Children and Teens

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2020

Guidance for K-12 School Administrators on the Use of Masks in Schools

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2020

Operational Considerations for Infection Prevention and Control in Outpatient Facilities: non-U.S. Healthcare Settings

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2020

Considerations for Wearing Masks

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2020

Testing

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2020

Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for Triage of Suspected COVID-19 Patients in non-US Healthcare Settings: Early Identification and Prevention of Transmission during Triage

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2020

Telehealth Practice Among Health Centers During the COVID-19 Pandemic - United States, July 11-17, 2020

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2020

Health Center Testing for SARS-CoV-2 During the COVID-19 Pandemic - United States, June 5-October 2, 2020

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2020

Factors Associated with Positive SARS-CoV-2 Test Results in Outpatient Health Facilities and Emergency Departments Among Children and Adolescents Aged <18 Years - Mississippi, September-November 2020

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2020

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices' Interim Recommendation for Use of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine - United States, December 2020

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2020

Estimated Resource Costs for Implementation of CDC's Recommended COVID-19 Mitigation Strategies in Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 12 Public Schools - United States, 2020-21 School Year

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2020

Essential Services and Critical Infrastructure

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2020

COVID-19 Webinar and Partner Calls Videos

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2020

Businesses and Workplaces

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2020

Interim Guidance for Rapid Antigen Testing for SARS-CoV-2

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2020

CDC’s Diagnostic Multiplex Assay for Flu *and* COVID-19 and Supplies

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2020

Interim Considerations for Institutions of Higher Education Administrators for SARS-CoV-2 Testing

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2020

Healthcare Personnel and First Responders: How to Cope with Stress and Build Resilience During the COVID-19 Pandemic

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2020

People with Developmental and Behavioral Disorders

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2020

Guidance for Direct Service Providers

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2020

Contact Tracing for COVID-19

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2020

Publications about COVID-19 for Laboratories

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2020

Considerations for Restaurants and Bars

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2020

Stress and Coping

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2020

If You Are Immunocompromised, Protect Yourself From COVID-19

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2020

Youth Experiencing Homelessness

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2020

Checklist for Older Adults

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2020

COVID-19 Science Update released: December 15, 2020

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2020

[Air Travel Toolkit for Airline Partners](#)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2020

[Road Travel Toolkit for Transportation Partners](#)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2020

[Care for Yourself](#)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2020

[Resources for Community Health Workers, Community Health Representatives, and Promotores de la Salud](#)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2020

[Screening K-12 Students for Symptoms of COVID-19: Limitations and Considerations](#)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2020

[Recommendations for Tribal Ceremonies and Gatherings During the COVID-19 Outbreak](#)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2020

[Interim Guidance on Testing Healthcare Personnel for SARS-CoV-2](#)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2020

[Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Healthcare Personnel During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) Pandemic](#)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2020

[Infection Prevention and Control Assessment Tool for Nursing Homes Preparing for COVID-19](#)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2020

[Pets and Other Animals](#)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2020

[Strategies to Mitigate Healthcare Personnel Staffing Shortages](#)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2020

[Media Statement from CDC Director Robert R. Redfield on Signing the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices' recommendation to use Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine in people 16 and older](#)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2020

[Post Vaccine Considerations for Healthcare Personnel](#)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2020

[Post Vaccine Considerations for Residents](#)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2020

[Older Adults](#)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2020

[What In-home Social Service Providers and Clients Need to Know about COVID-19](#)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2020

[Back to School Planning: Checklists to Guide Parents, Guardians, and Caregivers](#)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2020

[COVID-19 Contact Tracing Communications Toolkit for Health Departments](#)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2020

[Contact Tracing Resources for Health Departments](#)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2020

[Print Resources](#)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2020

[Coping with Stress](#)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2020

[COVID-19 Mortality Among American Indian and Alaska Native Persons - 14 States, January-June 2020](#)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2020

Racial and Ethnic Differences in Parental Attitudes and Concerns About School Reopening During the COVID-19 Pandemic - United States, July 2020
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2020
Trends in U.S. Emergency Department Visits Related to Suspected or Confirmed Child Abuse and Neglect Among Children and Adolescents Aged <18 Years Before and During the COVID-19 Pandemic - United States, January 2019-September 2020
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2020
Implementing Mitigation Strategies in Early Care and Education Settings for Prevention of SARS-CoV-2 Transmission - Eight States, September-October 2020
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2020
Summary of Guidance for Public Health Strategies to Address High Levels of Community Transmission of SARS-CoV-2 and Related Deaths, December 2020
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2020
The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices Interim Recommendation for Allocating Initial Supplies of COVID-19 Vaccine - United States, 2020
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2020
COVID-19 Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2020
Social Media Toolkit: Holidays
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2020
Health Equity
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2020
When to Quarantine
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2020
Social Media Toolkit
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2020
Monitoring and Evaluating Mitigation Strategies in Child Care, K-12 Schools, and Institutions of Higher Education
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 09, 2020
Operational Considerations for Adapting a Contact Tracing Program to Respond to the COVID-19 Pandemic
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 09, 2020
Special Populations Data in the U.S.
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 09, 2020
CDC’s Diagnostic Test for COVID-19 Only and Supplies
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 09, 2020
FAQs for Correctional and Detention Facilities
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 09, 2020
COVID-19 Science Update released: December 8, 2020
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 08, 2020
Treatments Your Healthcare Provider Might Recommend for Severe Illness
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 08, 2020
Considerations for Food Pantries and Food Distribution Sites
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 08, 2020
Know When to Delay your Travel to Avoid Spreading COVID-19
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 08, 2020
Evaluation and Management Considerations for Neonates At Risk for COVID-19
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 08, 2020
Interim Clinical Guidance for Management of Patients with Confirmed Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 08, 2020

Developing a Framework for Assessing and Managing Individual-Level Risk of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Exposure in Mobile Populations

MONDAY, DECEMBER 07, 2020

Notification of Exposure: A Contact Tracer's Guide for COVID-19

MONDAY, DECEMBER 07, 2020

COVID-19 Testing Overview

MONDAY, DECEMBER 07, 2020

Kalagayan ng Crew sa Barko sa Panahon ng COVID-19

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 04, 2020

Bem-estar da tripulação do navio durante o coronavírus (COVID-19)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 04, 2020

Ship Crew Well-Being During COVID-19

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 04, 2020

COVID-19 Case Investigation and Contact Tracing among Refugee, Immigrant, and Migrant (RIM) Populations: Important Considerations for Health Departments

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 04, 2020

Interim Considerations for K-12 School Administrators for SARS-CoV-2 Testing

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 04, 2020

Guidance for Dental Settings

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 04, 2020

Information for Clinicians on Therapeutic Options for COVID-19 Patients

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 04, 2020

Disproportionate Incidence of COVID-19 Infection, Hospitalizations, and Deaths Among Persons Identifying as Hispanic or Latino - Denver, Colorado March-October 2020

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 03, 2020

Multidisciplinary Community-Based Investigation of a COVID-19 Outbreak Among Marshallese and Hispanic/Latino Communities - Benton and Washington Counties, Arkansas, March 2020-June 2020

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 03, 2020

Increase in Hospital-Acquired Carbapenem-Resistant Acinetobacter baumannii Infection and Colonization in an Acute Care Hospital During a Surge in COVID-19 Admissions - New Jersey, February-July 2020

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 03, 2020

Information for School Nurses and Other Healthcare Personnel (HCP) Working in Schools and Child Care Settings

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 03, 2020

Contact Tracing by Community Health Workers in Low-Resource, Non-US Settings

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 03, 2020

Know Your Travel Risk

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 03, 2020

Interim Considerations for SARS-CoV-2 Testing in Correctional and Detention Facilities

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 03, 2020

Testing Strategy for Coronavirus (COVID-19) in High-Density Critical Infrastructure Workplaces after a COVID-19 Case Is Identified

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 03, 2020

Toolkit: One Health Approach to Address Companion Animals with SARS-CoV-2

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 03, 2020

Scaling Up Staffing Roles in Case Investigation and Contact Tracing

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 03, 2020

COVID-19 Critical Infrastructure Sector Response Planning

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 03, 2020

Care for Breastfeeding Women

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 03, 2020

FAQs for Law Enforcement Agencies and Personnel

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 03, 2020

Case Investigation and Contact Tracing : Part of a Multipronged Approach to Fight the COVID-19 Pandemic

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 03, 2020

Public Health Guidance for Community-Related Exposure

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 03, 2020

Discontinuation of Isolation for Persons with COVID -19 Not in Healthcare Settings

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 03, 2020

Transcript for CDC Telebriefing on the COVID-19 Outbreak

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 02, 2020

Options to Reduce Quarantine for Contacts of Persons with SARS-CoV-2 Infection Using Symptom Monitoring and Diagnostic Testing

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 02, 2020

Travel during the COVID-19 Pandemic

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 02, 2020

Collection and Submission of Postmortem Specimens from Deceased Persons with Known or Suspected COVID-19

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 02, 2020

COVID-19 Science Update released: December 1, 2020

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 01, 2020

Southern Border Toolkit for Partners

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 01, 2020

Guidance for Health Departments about COVID-19 Testing in the Community

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 01, 2020

COVID-19 One-Stop Shop Toolkits

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 01, 2020

Commercial Laboratory Seroprevalence Survey Data

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 01, 2020

When You Can be Around Others After You Had or Likely Had COVID-19

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 01, 2020

Laboratory Capacity

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 01, 2020

Considerations for Inpatient Obstetric Healthcare Settings

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 01, 2020

What Long-Haul Truck Driver Employers Need to Know about COVID-19

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2020

What Long-Haul Truck Driver Employees Need to Know about COVID-19

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2020

Wear Face Masks on Public Transportation Conveyances and at Transportation Hubs

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2020

COVID-19 Hospitalization and Death by Race/Ethnicity

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2020

COVID-19 Contact Tracing Training

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2020

Assessing Risk Factors for Severe COVID-19 Illness

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2020

Household Checklist

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2020

Cases & Deaths by County

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2020

Protect Yourself When Using Transportation

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2020

How to Make Masks

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2020

SURVEILLANCE SUMMARIES: Abortion Surveillance - United States, 2018

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2020

QuickStats: Percentage of Adults Aged ≥20 Years Who Had Chronic Pain, by Veteran Status and Age Group - National Health Interview Survey, United States, 2019

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2020

Prevalence and Trends in Cigarette Smoking Among Adults with Epilepsy - United States, 2010-2017

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2020

Timing of Introduction of Complementary Foods - United States, 2016-2018

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2020

Implementation of Hospital Practices Supportive of Breastfeeding in the Context of COVID-19 - United States, July 15-August 20, 2020

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2020

Decline in SARS-CoV-2 Antibodies After Mild Infection Among Frontline Health Care Personnel in a Multistate Hospital Network - 12 States, April-August 2020

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2020

Sexual Violence in the Media: An Exploration of Traditional Print Media Reporting in the United States, 2014-2017

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2020

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices' Ethical Principles for Allocating Initial Supplies of COVID-19 Vaccine - United States, 2020

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2020

Trends in County-Level COVID-19 Incidence in Counties With and Without a Mask Mandate - Kansas, June 1-August 23, 2020

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2020

COVID-19 Outbreak Associated with a 10-Day Motorcycle Rally in a Neighboring State - Minnesota, August-September 2020

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2020

How to Select and Use Hand Sanitizer

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2020

About CDC COVID-19 Data

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2020

Preparedness Tools for Healthcare Professionals and Facilities Responding to Coronavirus (COVID-19)

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2020

Know Your Travel Risk - Lodging Infographic

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2020

Know Your Travel Risk - Camping Infographic

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2020

Know Your Travel Risk - Food During Travel Infographic

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2020

Know Your Travel Risk - Transportation Infographic

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2020

COVID-19 Science Update released: November 24, 2020

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2020

Prioritizing COVID-19 Contact Tracing Mathematical Modeling Methods and Findings

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2020

Benefits of Getting a COVID-19 Vaccine

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2020

Targeted Wastewater Surveillance at Facilities, Institutions, and Workplaces

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2020

Developing a Wastewater Surveillance Sampling Strategy

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2020

Wastewater Surveillance Testing Methods

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2020

Wastewater Surveillance Data Reporting & Analytics

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2020

Public Health Interpretation and Use of Wastewater Surveillance Data

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2020

State Public Health Veterinarians and Animal Health Officials

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2020

Investigating a COVID-19 Case

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2020

Community Mitigation

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2020

CDC’s role in helping cruise ship travelers during the COVID-19 pandemic

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2020

Travelers Returning from Cruise Ship and River Cruise Voyages

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2020

Strategies for Optimizing the Supply of Facemasks

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2020

Strategies for Optimizing Supply of N95 Respirators

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2020

How CDC Determines the Level of a Country’s COVID-19 Travel Health Notice

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2020

Frequently Asked Questions about Remote TeleICAR Assessments

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2020

COVID-19 Pandemic Complicates Other Disasters

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2020

Scientific Brief: Community Use of Cloth Masks to Control the Spread of SARS-CoV-2

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2020

Maintaining Essential Health Services During COVID-19 in Low Resource, Non-U.S. Settings

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2020

COVID-19 Communication Plan for Select Non-healthcare Critical Infrastructure Employers

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2020

Preparing for COVID-19 in Nursing Homes

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2020

Responder Stories

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2020

Operational Considerations for Containing COVID-19 in non-US Healthcare Settings

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2020

People with Moderate to Severe Asthma

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2020

If You Are Sick or Caring for Someone

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2020

Transcript for CDC Telebriefing on the COVID-19 Outbreak

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2020

COVID-19-Stats: COVID-19 Incidence, by Urban-Rural Classification - United States, January 22-October 31, 2020

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2020

Characterization of COVID-19 in Assisted Living Facilities - 39 States, October 2020

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2020

COVID-19 Outbreak - New York City, February 29-June 1, 2020

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2020

Implementation of a Pooled Surveillance Testing Program for Asymptomatic SARS-CoV-2 Infections on a College Campus - Duke University, Durham, North Carolina, August 2-October 11, 2020

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2020

Travel Planner

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2020

Cleaning, Disinfection, and Hand Hygiene in Schools – a Toolkit for School Administrators

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2020

Operational Considerations for Personal Protective Equipment in the Context of Global Supply Shortages for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic: non-US Healthcare Settings

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2020

Interim Operational Considerations for Public Health Management of Healthcare Workers Exposed to or Infected with COVID-19: non-US Healthcare Settings

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2020

COVID-19 Science Update released: November 17, 2020

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2020

Tribal Communities

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2020

Social Distancing

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2020

Monitoring and Evaluating Covid-19 Mitigation Strategies in K-12 Schools: Interview Guide

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2020

Monitoring and Evaluating Covid-19 Mitigation Strategies In K-12 Schools: Focus Group Guide

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2020

Monitoring and Evaluating Mitigation Strategies in Child Care Programs

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2020

Late Sequelae of COVID-19

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2020

Airport Personnel and COVID-19

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2020

Clinical decision algorithm to guide care advice messages

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2020

Considerations for Monitoring and Evaluation of Mitigation Strategies Implemented in K-12 Schools

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2020

Long-Term Effects of COVID-19

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2020

What Utility Workers Need to Know about COVID-19

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 13 2020

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2020

Investigating the Impact of COVID-19 during Pregnancy

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2020

COVID-19 Employer Information for Offshore Oil and Gas

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2020

What Offshore Oil and Gas Workers Need to Know about COVID-19

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2020

COVID-19 Employer Information for Warehousing

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2020

What Warehousing Workers Need to Know about COVID-19

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2020

eCR Now: COVID-19 Electronic Case Reporting

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2020

Multistate Assessment of SARS-CoV-2 Seroprevalence in Blood Donors

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2020

An Approach for Monitoring and Evaluating Community Mitigation Strategies for COVID-19

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2020

Open Burning during the COVID-19 Pandemic

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2020

Meat and Poultry Processing Facility Assessment Toolkit

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2020

Guidance for Pharmacies

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2020

Community, Work, and School

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2020

Erratum: Vol 69, No 43

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2020

Erratum: Vol 69, No 43

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2020

Multiple COVID-19 Outbreaks Linked to a Wedding Reception in Rural Maine - August 7-September 14, 2020

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2020

Risk Assessment and Management of COVID-19 Among Travelers Arriving at Designated U.S. Airports, January 17-September 13, 2020

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2020

COVID-19 Outbreak in an Amish Community - Ohio, May 2020

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2020

Characteristics of Hospitalized COVID-19 Patients Discharged and Experiencing Same-Hospital Readmission - United States, March-August 2020

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2020

Declines in SARS-CoV-2 Transmission, Hospitalizations, and Mortality After Implementation of Mitigation Measures - Delaware, March-June 2020

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2020

COVID-19 Employer Information for Beauty Salons and Barbershops

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2020

CDC Science Agenda for COVID-19

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2020

What Hotel, Resort, and Lodge Workers Need to Know about COVID-19

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2020

What Beauty Salon and Barbershop Employees Need to Know about COVID-19

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2020

What Gym and Fitness Center Employees Need to Know about COVID-19

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2020

COVID-19 Employer Information for Gyms and Fitness Centers

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2020

What Bus Transit Operators Need to Know about COVID-19

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2020

What Nail Salon Employees Need to Know about COVID-19

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2020

What Long-haul Truck Drivers Need to Know about COVID-19

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2020

What School Nutrition Professionals and Volunteers at Schools Need to Know about COVID-19

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2020

Meat and Poultry Processing Workers and Employers

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2020

What Food and Grocery Pick-up and Delivery Drivers Need to Know about COVID-19

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2020

COVID-19 Science Update released: November 10, 2020

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2020

Funeral Home Workers

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2020

Protecting Seafood Processing Workers from COVID-19

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2020

Agriculture Workers and Employers

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2020

Contact Tracing

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2020

What Maritime Pilots Need to Know about COVID-19

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2020

Manufacturing Workers and Employers

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2020

What Airline Customer Service Representatives and Gate Agents Need to Know about COVID-19

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2020

Community and Faith-Based Organizations

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2020

Stop the Spread of Rumors

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2020

Worker Support

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 09, 2020

Resources for Laboratories Working on Coronavirus (COVID-19)

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 09, 2020

Guidance Documents

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 09, 2020

COVID-19 Science Update released: November 6, 2020

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 06, 2020

What Firefighters and FMS Providers Need to Know about COVID-19

What Firefighters and EMS Providers Need to Know about COVID-19

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 06, 2020

What Law Enforcement Personnel Need to Know about Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 06, 2020

Communication Resources

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 06, 2020

Notes from the Field: Development of an Enhanced Community-Focused COVID-19 Surveillance Program - Hopi Tribe, June-July 2020

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 05, 2020

A SARS-CoV-2 Outbreak Illustrating the Challenges in Limiting the Spread of the Virus - Hopi Tribe, May-June 2020

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 05, 2020

Telework Before Illness Onset Among Symptomatic Adults Aged ≥18 Years With and Without COVID-19 in 11 Outpatient Health Care Facilities - United States, July 2020

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 05, 2020

Update: Characteristics of Symptomatic Women of Reproductive Age with Laboratory-Confirmed SARS-CoV-2 Infection by Pregnancy Status - United States, January 22-October 3, 2020

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 05, 2020

Birth and Infant Outcomes Following Laboratory-Confirmed SARS-CoV-2 Infection in Pregnancy - SET-NET, 16 Jurisdictions, March 29-October 14, 2020

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 05, 2020

Transmission of SARS-COV-2 Infections in Households - Tennessee and Wisconsin, April-September 2020

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 05, 2020

Network Characteristics and Visualization of COVID-19 Outbreak in a Large Detention Facility in the United States - Cook County, Illinois, 2020

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 05, 2020

Maternal, Neonatal, and Child Health Services during COVID-19

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 05, 2020

Text Illness Monitoring (TIM)

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 05, 2020

Toolkit for People 15 to 21

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 05, 2020

Children, Teens, and Young Adults

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 05, 2020

COVID-19 Science Update released: November 3, 2020

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 03, 2020

I wear a mask because...

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 03, 2020

Additional Tools and Resources

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 03, 2020

Your Health

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 03, 2020

Using Antibody Tests for COVID-19

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 03, 2020

Considerations for Optimizing the Supply of Powered Air-Purifying Respirators (PAPRs)

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 03, 2020

Serology Testing for COVID-19 at CDC

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 03, 2020

Interim Guidance for Homeless Service Providers to Plan and Respond to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 03, 2020

[EARLY RELEASE: Update: Characteristics of Symptomatic Women of Reproductive Age with Laboratory-Confirmed SARS-CoV-2 Infection by Pregnancy Status - United States, January 22-October 3, 2020](#)
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 02, 2020

[EARLY RELEASE: Birth and Infant Outcomes Following Laboratory-Confirmed SARS-CoV-2 Infection in Pregnancy - SET-NET, 16 Jurisdictions, March 29-October 14, 2020](#)
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 02, 2020

[Understanding How COVID-19 Vaccines Work](#)
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 02, 2020

[About COVID-19 vaccines](#)
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 02, 2020

[FAQs for Medicolegal Death Investigators](#)
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 02, 2020

[COVID-19 Electronic Laboratory Reporting Implementation by State](#)
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 02, 2020

[Evidence used to update the list of underlying medical conditions that increase a person’s risk of severe illness from COVID-19](#)
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 02, 2020

[Frequently Asked Questions: Funeral and Burial Services for American Indians and Alaska Natives](#)
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 02, 2020

[Covid-19 Videos](#)
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 02, 2020

[Tips for Voters to Reduce Spread of COVID-19](#)
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 01, 2020

[EARLY RELEASE: Transmission of SARS-COV-2 Infections in Households - Tennessee and Wisconsin, April-September 2020](#)
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2020

[COVID-19 Science Update released: October 30, 2020](#)
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2020

[Sick Parents and Caregivers](#)
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2020

[COVID-19 Employer Information for Transit Maintenance Workers](#)
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2020

[SARS-CoV-2 Exposure and Infection Among Health Care Personnel - Minnesota, March 6-July 11, 2020](#)
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2020

[COVID-19 Outbreak at an Overnight Summer School Retreat - Wisconsin, July-August 2020](#)
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2020

[Trends in the Use of Telehealth During the Emergence of the COVID-19 Pandemic - United States, January-March 2020](#)
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2020

[COVID-19 Outbreak Among a University's Men's and Women's Soccer Teams - Chicago, Illinois, July-August 2020](#)
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2020

[COVID-19 Mitigation Behaviors by Age Group - United States, April-June 2020](#)
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2020

[COVID-19-Associated Hospitalizations Among Health Care Personnel - COVID-NET, 13 States, March 1-May 31, 2020](#)
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2020

[Adoption of Strategies to Mitigate Transmission of COVID-19 During a Statewide Primary Election - Delaware, September 2020](#)
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2020

[COVID-19 Employer Information for Public Health Inspectors](#)
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2020

[COVID-19 Employer Information for Banks](#)

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2020

COVID-19 Employer Information for Nail Salons

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2020

Test for Past Infection

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2020

Implementation of Mitigation Strategies for Communities with Local COVID-19 Transmission

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2020

Deciding to Go Out

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2020

How to Wash Masks

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2020

Living in Shared Housing

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2020

How COVID-19 Spreads

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2020

Common Investigation Protocol for Investigating Suspected SARS-CoV-2 Reinfection

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2020

Investigative Criteria for Suspected Cases of SARS-CoV-2 Reinfection (ICR)

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2020

COVID-19 Science Update released: October 27, 2020

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2020

Reinfection of the Virus that Causes COVID-19

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2020

“Excess Death” Data Point to Pandemic’s True Toll

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2020

COVID-19 Employer Information for Utility Workers

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2020

Novel COVID-19 survey takes nation’s social, mental “Pulse”

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2020

Flowchart for management of HCWs with exposure to a person with COVID-19

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2020

CDC Media Telebriefing Transcript on Operation Warp Speed

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2020

COVID-19 Science Update released: October 23, 2020

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2020

Targeted Wastewater Surveillance at Facilities, Institutions, and Workplaces

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2020

Guide to Global Digital Tools for COVID-19 Response

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2020

Interim Guidance for Use of Pooling Procedures in SARS-CoV-2 Diagnostic, Screening, and Surveillance Testing

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2020

Rapid Adaptation of HIV Treatment Programs in Response to COVID-19 - Namibia, 2020

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2020

First 100 Persons with COVID-19 - Zambia, March 18-April 28, 2020

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2020

Mitigating a COVID-19 Outbreak Among Major League Baseball Players - United States, 2020

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2020

Association Between Social Vulnerability and a County's Risk for Becoming a COVID-19 Hotspot - United States, June 1-July 25, 2020
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2020
Risk for In-Hospital Complications Associated with COVID-19 and Influenza - Veterans Health Administration, United States, October 1, 2018-May 31, 2020
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2020
Excess Deaths Associated with COVID-19, by Age and Race and Ethnicity - United States, January 26-October 3, 2020
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2020
Race, Ethnicity, and Age Trends in Persons Who Died from COVID-19 - United States, May-August 2020
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2020
Toolkit for Reducing the Spread of COVID-19 During Elections
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2020
Case Investigation and Contact Tracing in Non-healthcare Workplaces: Information for Employers
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2020
Early Release: COVID-19 in a Correctional Facility Employee Following Multiple Brief Exposures to Persons with COVID-19 - Vermont, July-August 2020
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2020
For COVID-19 Clues, Researchers Look to the Sewer
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2020
Considerations for Monitoring and Evaluation of Mitigation Strategies Implemented in Institutions of Higher Education
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2020
Contact Tracing Workflow in a non-US setting
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2020
COVID-19 Employer Information for Paratransit Operators
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2020
What Paratransit Operators Need to Know about COVID-19
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2020
Prioritizing non-healthcare worksite assessments for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2020
Contact Tracing: Frequently Asked Questions
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2020
SARS-CoV-2 Testing Strategy: Considerations for Non-Healthcare Workplaces
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2020
Investigating and responding to COVID-19 cases in non-healthcare work settings
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2020
Overview of Testing for SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19)
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2020
Appendices
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2020
Key Information to Collect During a Case Interview
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2020
Identify Strategies to Reduce Spread of COVID-19
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2020
Test for Current Infection
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2020
HHS Secretary Alex Azar and CDC Director Dr. Robert R. Redfield to give update on COVID-19 response, Operation Warp Speed
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2020

COVID-19 Science Update released: October 20, 2020

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2020

COVID-19 Employer Information for Hotels, Resorts, and Lodges

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2020

Duration of Isolation and Precautions for Adults with COVID-19

MONDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2020

Interim Considerations for Health Departments for SARS-CoV-2 Testing in Homeless Shelters and Encampments

MONDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2020

Implementing Filtering Facepiece Respirator (FFR) Reuse, Including Reuse after Decontamination, When There Are Known Shortages of N95 Respirators

MONDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2020

Frequently Asked Questions: Right of Reference to the CDC Influenza SARS-CoV-2 (Flu SC2) Performance Data for Manufacturers and Test Developers

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2020

COVID-19 Science Update released: October 16, 2020

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2020

COVID-19 Case Investigation and Contact Tracing in Non-Healthcare Workplaces

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2020

Interim Guidance for Implementing Home Care of People Not Requiring Hospitalization for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2020

Information for Laboratories about Coronavirus (COVID-19)

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2020

An Outbreak of COVID-19 Associated with a Recreational Hockey Game - Florida, June 2020

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2020

Demographic Characteristics, Experiences, and Beliefs Associated with Hand Hygiene Among Adults During the COVID-19 Pandemic - United States, June 24-30, 2020

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2020

Factors Influencing Risk for COVID-19 Exposure Among Young Adults Aged 18-23 Years - Winnebago County, Wisconsin, March-July 2020

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2020

Transmission Dynamics by Age Group in COVID-19 Hotspot Counties - United States, April-September 2020

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2020

Sharing and Shifting Tasks to Maintain Essential Healthcare During COVID-19 in Low Resource, non-US settings

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2020

Previous U.S. COVID-19 Case Data

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2020

COVID-19 Science Update released: October 13, 2020

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2020

Elastomeric Respirators: Strategies During Conventional and Surge Demand Situations

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2020

COVID-19 Science Update released: October 9, 2020

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 09, 2020

Wildfire Smoke and COVID-19: Frequently Asked Questions and Resources for Air Resource Advisors and Other Environmental Health Professionals

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 09, 2020

Clinical Care Guidance for Healthcare Professionals about Coronavirus (COVID-19)

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 09, 2020

Guidance and Tips for Tribal Community Living During COVID-19

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 09, 2020

Strategies for Optimizing the Supply of Isolation Gowns

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 09, 2020

Characteristics Associated with Adults Remembering to Wash Hands in Multiple Situations Before and During the COVID-19 Pandemic - United States, October 2019 and June 2020

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 08, 2020

Trends in COVID-19 Incidence After Implementation of Mitigation Measures - Arizona, January 22-August 7, 2020

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 08, 2020

Adolescent with COVID-19 as the Source of an Outbreak at a 3-Week Family Gathering - Four States, June-July 2020

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 08, 2020

Case Series of Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Adults Associated with SARS-CoV-2 Infection - United Kingdom and United States, March-August 2020

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 08, 2020

Why COVID-19 Will Hit “Marjorie” Harder

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 08, 2020

CDC’s Interim Guidance for General Population Disaster Shelters During the COVID-19 Pandemic

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 08, 2020

COVID-19 Science Update released: October 6, 2020

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 06, 2020

COVID-19 Forecasting: Background Information

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 06, 2020

CDC Updates “How COVID is Spread” Webpage

MONDAY, OCTOBER 05, 2020

Scientific Brief: SARS-CoV-2 and Potential Airborne Transmission

MONDAY, OCTOBER 05, 2020

Research Use Only CDC Influenza SARS-CoV-2 (Flu SC2) Multiplex Assay Real-Time RT-PCR Primers and Probes

MONDAY, OCTOBER 05, 2020

COVID-19 Science Update released: October 2, 2020

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 02, 2020

Large-scale Geographic Seroprevalence Surveys

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 02, 2020

Recent Increase in COVID-19 Cases Reported Among Adults Aged 18-22 Years - United States, May 31-September 5, 2020

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 01, 2020

Multiple COVID-19 Clusters on a University Campus - North Carolina, August 2020

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 01, 2020

COVID-19 Trends Among School-Aged Children - United States, March 1-September 19, 2020

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 01, 2020

Changing Age Distribution of the COVID-19 Pandemic - United States, May-August 2020

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 01, 2020

Cruise Ship No Sail Order Extended Through October 31, 2020

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

Interim Guidance for Case Investigation and Contact Tracing in Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs)

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

Cruise Ship Crew Member Disembarkations

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

COVID-19 Science Update released: September 29, 2020

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2020

COVID-19 Science Update released: September 25, 2020

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2020

Disparities in COVID-19 Incidence, Hospitalizations, and Testing, by Area-Level Deprivation - Utah, March 3-July 9, 2020

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2020

Update: Characteristics of Health Care Personnel with COVID-19 - United States, February 12-July 16, 2020

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2020

COVID-19 Contact Tracing in Two Counties - North Carolina, June-July 2020

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2020

SARS-CoV-2 Infection Among Hospitalized Pregnant Women: Reasons for Admission and Pregnancy Characteristics - Eight U.S. Health Care Centers, March 1-May 30, 2020

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2020

Characteristics and Maternal and Birth Outcomes of Hospitalized Pregnant Women with Laboratory-Confirmed COVID-19 - COVID-NET, 13 States, March 1-August 22, 2020

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2020

Administration Announces \$200 million from CDC to Jurisdictions for COVID-19 Vaccine Preparedness

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2020

COVID-19 Science Update released: September 22, 2020

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2020

CDC COVID Data Tracker Update

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2020

Dispatches from the Data Jungle of COVID-19

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2020

Guidance for Reopening Buildings After Prolonged Shutdown or Reduced Operation

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2020

Monitoring and Evaluation Checklist for K-12 Schools

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2020

COVID-19 Science Update released: September 18, 2020

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2020

Considerations for Outdoor Learning Gardens and Community Gardens

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2020

Decreased Influenza Activity During the COVID-19 Pandemic - United States, Australia, Chile, and South Africa, 2020

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2020

Association Between CMS Quality Ratings and COVID-19 Outbreaks in Nursing Homes - West Virginia, March 17-June 11, 2020

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2020

Preventing COVID-19 Outbreaks in Long-term Care Facilities Through Preemptive Testing of Residents and Staff Members - Fulton County, Georgia, March-May 2020

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2020

Serial Testing for SARS-CoV-2 and Virus Whole Genome Sequencing Inform Infection Risk at Two Skilled Nursing Facilities with COVID-19 Outbreaks - Minnesota, April-June 2020

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2020

SARS-CoV-2-Associated Deaths Among Persons Aged <21 Years - United States, February 12-July 31, 2020

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2020

Transmission Dynamics of COVID-19 Outbreaks Associated with Child Care Facilities - Salt Lake City, Utah, April-July 2020

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2020

At-Home Scavenger Hunt

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2020

Considerations for Outdoor Farmers Markets

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2020

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2020

Help Stop the Spread of COVID-19 in Children

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2020

Keep Children Healthy during the COVID-19 Outbreak

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2020

Infographic: Basic do's and don'ts for employees to prevent workplace violence

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2020

COVID-19 Partner Update Call - Women, Caregiving, and COVID-19: A Delicate Balancing Act - September 14, 2020

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2020

Emergency Shelters in Disaster Response in Global, Low Resource Settings

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2020

Frequently Asked Questions: Calculating Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) RT-PCR Laboratory Test Percent Positivity

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2020

N95 and Other Respirators

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2020

Technical Assistance Note

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2020

COVID-19 Parental Resources Kit – Childhood

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2020

Ten Clinical Tips on COVID-19 for Healthcare Providers Involved in Patient Care

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2020

Homelessness and COVID-19 FAQs

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2020

CDC Releases Indicators for Dynamic School Decision-Making

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2020

Indicators for Dynamic School Decision-Making

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2020

COVID-19 Science Update released: September 15, 2020

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2020

What is Telemedicine in a non-US Setting

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2020

Management of Visitors to Healthcare Facilities in the Context of COVID-19: Non-US Healthcare Settings

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2020

Travelers Prohibited from Entry to the United States

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2020

COVID-19 Science Update released: September 11, 2020

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2020

People Who Live in a Nursing Home or Long-Term Care Facility

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2020

People Who Are at Increased Risk for Severe Illness

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2020

Doctor Visits and Getting Medicines

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2020

Additional COVID-19 Guidance for Caregivers of People Living with Dementia in Community Settings

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2020

Households Living in Close Quarters

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2020

Implementing Safety Practices for Critical Infrastructure Workers Who May Have Had Exposure to a Person with Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2020

People with Disabilities

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2020

Community and Close Contact Exposures Associated with COVID-19 Among Symptomatic Adults ≥18 Years in 11 Outpatient Health Care Facilities - United States, July 2020

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2020

Prevalence of Underlying Medical Conditions Among Selected Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers - Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 31 States, 2017-2018

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2020

Delay or Avoidance of Medical Care Because of COVID-19-Related Concerns - United States, June 2020

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2020

How are COVID-19 Burials Different from Ebola burials

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2020

Operational Considerations for Community Isolation Centers for COVID-19 in Low-Resource Settings

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2020

COVID-19 Pandemic Planning Scenarios

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2020

What to Do if Your Pet Tests Positive for the Virus that Causes COVID-19

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2020

Guidance for Institutions of Higher Education with Students Participating in International Travel or Study Abroad Programs

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2020

Attending Sporting Events

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 09, 2020

Make a Handwashing Solution For Use in Global, Low-Resource Settings

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 09, 2020

COVID-19 Science Update released: September 8, 2020

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 08, 2020

COVID-19 Science Update released: September 4, 2020

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 04, 2020

Hydroxychloroquine and Chloroquine Prescribing Patterns by Provider Specialty Following Initial Reports of Potential Benefit for COVID-19 Treatment - United States, January-June 2020

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 03, 2020

Timing of State and Territorial COVID-19 Stay-at-Home Orders and Changes in Population Movement - United States, March 1-May 31, 2020

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 03, 2020

Seroprevalence of SARS-CoV-2 Among Frontline Health Care Personnel in a Multistate Hospital Network --- 13 Academic Medical Centers, April--June 2020

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 03, 2020

Preventing and Mitigating SARS-CoV-2 Transmission - Four Overnight Camps, Maine, June-August 2020

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 03, 2020

Calculating Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) Laboratory Test Percent Positivity: CDC Methods and Considerations for Comparisons and Interpretation

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 03, 2020

Worker Safety and Support

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 03, 2020

COVID-19 Science Update released: September 1, 2020

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 01, 2020

What to do if a Student Becomes Sick at School or Reports a New COVID-19 Diagnosis Flowchart

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 01, 2020

Limiting Workplace Violence Associated with COVID-19 Prevention Policies in Retail and Services Businesses

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 01, 2020

About COVID-19

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 01, 2020

Rolling With the Changes

MONDAY, AUGUST 31, 2020

Testing Data in the U.S.

MONDAY, AUGUST 31, 2020

COVID-19 Recommendations for Pet Stores, Pet Distributors, and Pet Breeding Facilities

SATURDAY, AUGUST 29, 2020

eCR Now: COVID-19 Electronic Case Reporting for Healthcare Providers

FRIDAY, AUGUST 28, 2020

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)-Associated Hospitalization Surveillance Network (COVID-NET)

FRIDAY, AUGUST 28, 2020

Notes from the Field: Universal Statewide Laboratory Testing for SARS-CoV-2 in Nursing Homes - West Virginia, April 21-May 8, 2020

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27, 2020

Primary Indicators to Systematically Monitor COVID-19 Mitigation and Response - Kentucky, May 19-July 15, 2020

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27, 2020

Limited Secondary Transmission of SARS-CoV-2 in Child Care Programs - Rhode Island, June 1-July 31, 2020

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27, 2020

COVID-19 Among American Indian and Alaska Native Persons - 23 States, January 31-July 3, 2020

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27, 2020

Hospitalization & Emergency Dept Visits

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27, 2020

COVID-19 Accomplishments

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27, 2020

Dr. Robert R. Redfield Statement on “Preventing and Mitigating SARS-CoV-2 Transmission — Four Overnight Camps, Maine, June–August 2020”

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2020

What Workers Need to Know about Heat Stress Prevention during the COVID-19 Pandemic

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2020

Employer Information for Heat Stress Prevention during the COVID-19 Pandemic

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2020

From Research to Response: Survey Shifts Gears During COVID-19

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2020

The Kindness of Strangers

TUESDAY, AUGUST 25, 2020

Guidance for General Laboratory Safety Practices during the COVID-19 Pandemic

MONDAY, AUGUST 24, 2020

CDC Media Telebriefing: Update on COVID-19

FRIDAY, AUGUST 21, 2020

CDC Media Telebriefing: Update on COVID-19

FRIDAY, AUGUST 21, 2020

[CDC COVID-19 Response Health Equity Strategy: Accelerating Progress Towards Reducing COVID-19 Disparities and Achieving Health Equity](#)

FRIDAY, AUGUST 21, 2020

[Notes from the Field: COVID-19 Prevention Practices in State Prisons - Puerto Rico, 2020](#)

THURSDAY, AUGUST 20, 2020

[Mass Testing for SARS-CoV-2 in 16 Prisons and Jails - Six Jurisdictions, United States, April-May 2020](#)

THURSDAY, AUGUST 20, 2020

[Racial and Ethnic Disparities Among COVID-19 Cases in Workplace Outbreaks by Industry Sector - Utah, March 6-June 5, 2020](#)

THURSDAY, AUGUST 20, 2020

[Trends in Number and Distribution of COVID-19 Hotspot Counties - United States, March 8-July 15, 2020](#)

THURSDAY, AUGUST 20, 2020

[Disparities in Incidence of COVID-19 Among Underrepresented Racial/Ethnic Groups in Counties Identified as Hotspots During June 5-18, 2020 - 22 States, February-June 2020](#)

THURSDAY, AUGUST 20, 2020

[COVID-19 Parental Resources Kit – Early Childhood](#)

THURSDAY, AUGUST 20, 2020

[CDC data show disproportionate COVID-19 impact in American Indian/Alaska Native populations](#)

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19, 2020

[CDC data show disproportionate COVID-19 impact in American Indian/Alaska Native populations](#)

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19, 2020

[Toolkit for General Public](#)

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19, 2020

[Monitoring and Evaluation Action Guide: Wearing Masks as a COVID-19 Community Mitigation Strategy](#)

TUESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2020

[COVID-19 Contact Tracing Communications Graphics](#)

TUESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2020

[COVID-19 Hospitalization and Death by Age](#)

TUESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2020

[Operational Considerations for Maintaining Essential Services and Providing Prevention, Care, and Treatment for Tuberculosis \(TB\) in Low-Resource non-US Settings During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

MONDAY, AUGUST 17, 2020

[Notes from the Field: Seroprevalence Estimates of SARS-CoV-2 Infection in Convenience Sample - Oregon, May 11-June 15, 2020](#)

THURSDAY, AUGUST 13, 2020

[Mental Health, Substance Use, and Suicidal Ideation During the COVID-19 Pandemic - United States, June 24-30, 2020](#)

THURSDAY, AUGUST 13, 2020

[Facility-Wide Testing for SARS-CoV-2 in Nursing Homes - Seven U.S. Jurisdictions, March-June 2020](#)

THURSDAY, AUGUST 13, 2020

[Transmission of SARS-CoV-2 Involving Residents Receiving Dialysis in a Nursing Home - Maryland, April 2020](#)

THURSDAY, AUGUST 13, 2020

[Hospitalization Rates and Characteristics of Children Aged <18 Years Hospitalized with Laboratory-Confirmed COVID-19 - COVID-NET, 14 States, March 1-July 25, 2020](#)

THURSDAY, AUGUST 13, 2020

[COVID-19-Associated Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children - United States, March-July 2020](#)

THURSDAY, AUGUST 13, 2020

[Adverse Health Events, Including Death, Associated with Ingesting Alcohol-Based Hand Sanitizers Containing Methanol - Arizona and New Mexico, May-June 2020](#)

THURSDAY, AUGUST 13, 2020

Providing Family Planning Services

THURSDAY, AUGUST 13, 2020

Resources for Refugee Resettlement Service Providers

THURSDAY, AUGUST 13, 2020

Hiring In-home services or repairs

THURSDAY, AUGUST 13, 2020

Communication Resources for Health Departments

THURSDAY, AUGUST 13, 2020

COVID-19 and Seasonal Allergies FAQs

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2020

COVID-19 Overview and Infection Prevention and Control Priorities in Non-US Healthcare Settings

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2020

Interim Infection Prevention and Control Guidance for Veterinary Clinics Treating Companion Animals During the COVID-19 Response

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2020

Evaluation for SARS-CoV-2 Testing in Animals

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2020

COVID-19 Science Update released: August 11, 2020 Edition 38

TUESDAY, AUGUST 11, 2020

Donate Blood Plasma and Help Save Lives

TUESDAY, AUGUST 11, 2020

Joint Statement from the Census Bureau and Centers for Disease Control on Conducting 2020 Census Non-Response Follow-Up Interviews

MONDAY, AUGUST 10, 2020

A “Capital” Assignment for CDC Lab Specialist

MONDAY, AUGUST 10, 2020

People Experiencing Homelessness

MONDAY, AUGUST 10, 2020

Criteria for Return to Work for Healthcare Personnel with Confirmed or Suspected COVID-19 (Interim Guidance)

MONDAY, AUGUST 10, 2020

What Transit Station Workers Need to Know about COVID-19

FRIDAY, AUGUST 07, 2020

What Transit Maintenance Workers Need to Know about COVID-19

FRIDAY, AUGUST 07, 2020

COVID-19 Mathematical Modeling

FRIDAY, AUGUST 07, 2020

Notes from the Field: Characteristics of Meat Processing Facility Workers with Confirmed SARS-CoV-2 Infection - Nebraska, April-May 2020

THURSDAY, AUGUST 06, 2020

COVID-19 Outbreak Among Employees at a Meat Processing Facility - South Dakota, March-April 2020

THURSDAY, AUGUST 06, 2020

Alcohol Use and Co-use of Other Substances Among Pregnant Females Aged 12-44 Years - United States, 2015-2018

THURSDAY, AUGUST 06, 2020

Characteristics and Outcomes of Contacts of COVID-19 Patients Monitored Using an Automated Symptom Monitoring Tool - Maine, May-June 2020

THURSDAY, AUGUST 06, 2020

SARS-CoV-2 Transmission and Infection Among Attendees of an Overnight Camp - Georgia, June 2020

THURSDAY, AUGUST 06, 2020

What Rail Transit Operators Need to Know about COVID-19

THURSDAY, AUGUST 06, 2020

Environmental Health Practitioners

THURSDAY, AUGUST 06, 2020

Interim Guidance on Unsheltered Homelessness and Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) for Homeless Service Providers and Local Officials

THURSDAY, AUGUST 06, 2020

CDC COVID-19 Global Response

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 05, 2020

CDC Diagnostic Test for COVID-19

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 05, 2020

Key Resources

TUESDAY, AUGUST 04, 2020

Stopping an Outbreak Behind Bars

MONDAY, AUGUST 03, 2020

Recommendations for Disaster Sheltering of Household Pets, Service Animals, and Support Animals during the COVID-19 Pandemic

MONDAY, AUGUST 03, 2020

Rural Communities

MONDAY, AUGUST 03, 2020

Screening Clients for COVID-19 at Homeless Shelters or Encampments

MONDAY, AUGUST 03, 2020

COVID-19 Resources for Tribes

SATURDAY, AUGUST 01, 2020

Manufacturing Facility Assessment Toolkit

SATURDAY, AUGUST 01, 2020

Interim Guidelines for COVID-19 Antibody Testing

SATURDAY, AUGUST 01, 2020

Study highlights importance of CDC mitigation strategies

FRIDAY, JULY 31, 2020

Guidance for Healthcare Workers about COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) Testing

FRIDAY, JULY 31, 2020

Managing Investigations During an Outbreak

FRIDAY, JULY 31, 2020

CMS and CDC announce provider reimbursement available for counseling patients to self-isolate at time of COVID-19 testing

THURSDAY, JULY 30, 2020

Notes from the Field: Public Health Efforts to Mitigate COVID-19 Transmission During the April 7, 2020 Election - City of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, March 13-May 5, 2020

THURSDAY, JULY 30, 2020

Notes from the Field: Rebound in Routine Childhood Vaccine Administration Following Decline During the COVID-19 Pandemic - New York City, March 1-June 27, 2020

THURSDAY, JULY 30, 2020

Deaths and Years of Potential Life Lost From Excessive Alcohol Use - United States, 2011-2015

THURSDAY, JULY 30, 2020

Symptom Duration and Risk Factors for Delayed Return to Usual Health Among Outpatients with COVID-19 in a Multistate Health Care Systems Network - United States, March-June 2020

THURSDAY, JULY 30, 2020

Key Considerations for Transferring Patients to Relief Healthcare Facilities when Responding to Community Transmission of COVID-19 in the United States

THURSDAY, JULY 30, 2020

Visiting Parks and Recreational Facilities

THURSDAY, JULY 30, 2020

COVID-19 Response is a Family Affair for EIS Alums

WEDNESDAY, JULY 29, 2020

Operational Considerations for the Identification of Healthcare Workers and Inpatients with Suspected COVID-19 in non-US Healthcare Settings

TUESDAY, JULY 28, 2020

What to Know About HIV and COVID-19

TUESDAY, JULY 28, 2020

Operational Considerations for Maintaining Essential Services for and Providing Maternal, Newborn, and Child Healthcare in Low-Resource Countries

MONDAY, JULY 27, 2020

SPHERES

MONDAY, JULY 27, 2020

Interim Operational Considerations for Implementing the Shielding Approach to Prevent COVID-19 Infections in Humanitarian Settings

SUNDAY, JULY 26, 2020

Transcript for CDC Telebriefing on New Resources and Tools to Support Opening Schools

FRIDAY, JULY 24, 2020

What Public Health Inspectors Need to Know about COVID-19

FRIDAY, JULY 24, 2020

Health Equity Considerations and Racial and Ethnic Minority Groups

FRIDAY, JULY 24, 2020

What We Can Do

FRIDAY, JULY 24, 2020

FAQ for School Administrators on Reopening Schools

FRIDAY, JULY 24, 2020

Notes from the Field: Effects of the COVID-19 Response on Tuberculosis Prevention and Control Efforts - United States, March-April 2020

THURSDAY, JULY 23, 2020

Estimated County-Level Prevalence of Select Underlying Medical Conditions Associated with Increased Risk of Severe COVID-19 Illness - United States, 2018

THURSDAY, JULY 23, 2020

Estimated Community Seroprevalence of SARS-CoV-2 Antibodies - Two Georgia Counties, April 28-May 3, 2020

THURSDAY, JULY 23, 2020

Population Point Prevalence of SARS-CoV-2 Infection Based on a Statewide Random Sample - Indiana, April 25-29, 2020

THURSDAY, JULY 23, 2020

The Importance of Reopening America’s Schools this Fall

THURSDAY, JULY 23, 2020

Dr. Robert R. Redfield Statement on SARS-CoV-2 infections

WEDNESDAY, JULY 22, 2020

Testing demand keeps CDC lab fellow on the go

WEDNESDAY, JULY 22, 2020

Interactive Serology Dashboard for Commercial Laboratory Surveys

TUESDAY, JULY 21, 2020

Ways to safely seek care during COVID-19

TUESDAY, JULY 21, 2020

Uses of Telehealth during COVID-19 in Low Resource Non-U.S. Settings

TUESDAY, JULY 21, 2020

Toolkit for Childcare Programs and Summer Camps

TUESDAY, JULY 21, 2020

COVID-19 Serology Surveillance

TUESDAY, JULY 21, 2020

Contact Tracing Steps - Infographic

FRIDAY, JULY 17, 2020

CDC Director Dr. Robert R. Redfield and HHS Chief Information Officer Jose Arrieta Remarks on HHS Protect

THURSDAY, JULY 16, 2020

Cruise ship No Sail Order extended through September 2020

THURSDAY, JULY 16, 2020

Detection and Genetic Characterization of Community-Based SARS-CoV-2 Infections - New York City, March 2020

THURSDAY, JULY 16, 2020

Symptom Profiles of a Convenience Sample of Patients with COVID-19 - United States, January-April 2020

THURSDAY, JULY 16, 2020

Factors Associated with Cloth Face Covering Use Among Adults During the COVID-19 Pandemic - United States, April and May 2020

THURSDAY, JULY 16, 2020

Absence of Apparent Transmission of SARS-CoV-2 from Two Stylists After Exposure at a Hair Salon with a Universal Face Covering Policy - Springfield, Missouri, May 2020

THURSDAY, JULY 16, 2020

Characteristics of Persons Who Died with Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) - United States, February 12-May 18, 2020

THURSDAY, JULY 16, 2020

Optimizing Supply of PPE and Other Equipment during Shortages

THURSDAY, JULY 16, 2020

CDC Director Dr. Robert R. Redfield and HHS Chief Information Officer Jose Arrieta Remarks on HHS Protect

THURSDAY, JULY 16, 2020

Infographic: Early Cases of MIS-C: Multi-System Inflammatory Syndrome in U.S. Children

THURSDAY, JULY 16, 2020

When to wear gloves

THURSDAY, JULY 16, 2020

Optimizing Supply of PPE and Other Equipment during Shortages

THURSDAY, JULY 16, 2020

"Every day, I walk away amazed"

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15, 2020

Interim Recommendations for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Systems and 911 Public Safety Answering Points/Emergency Communication Centers (PSAP/ECCs) in the United States During the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Pandemic

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15, 2020

CDC calls on Americans to wear masks to prevent COVID-19 spread

TUESDAY, JULY 14, 2020

CDC calls on Americans to wear masks to prevent COVID-19 spread

TUESDAY, JULY 14, 2020

COVID-19 Graphics and Buttons

TUESDAY, JULY 14, 2020

Guidance for U.S. Healthcare Facilities about Coronavirus (COVID-19)

SUNDAY, JULY 12, 2020

Seroprevalence Surveys in Special Populations

FRIDAY, JULY 10, 2020

Cleaning and Disinfection for Households

FRIDAY, JULY 10, 2020

Race/Ethnicity, Underlying Medical Conditions, Homelessness, and Hospitalization Status of Adult Patients with COVID-19 at an Urban Safety-Net Medical Center - Boston, Massachusetts, 2020

THURSDAY, JULY 09, 2020

Provision of Pediatric Immunization Services During the COVID-19 Pandemic: an Assessment of Capacity Among Pediatric Immunization Providers Participating in the Vaccines for Children Program - United States, May 2020

THURSDAY, JULY 09, 2020

Increases in Health-Related Workplace Absenteeism Among Workers in Essential Critical Infrastructure Occupations During the COVID-19 Pandemic - United States, March-April 2020

THURSDAY, JULY 09, 2020

Update: COVID-19 Among Workers in Meat and Poultry Processing Facilities - United States, April-May 2020

THURSDAY, JULY 09, 2020

Initial and Repeated Point Prevalence Surveys to Inform SARS-CoV-2 Infection Prevention in 26 Skilled Nursing Facilities - Detroit, Michigan, March-May 2020

THURSDAY, JULY 09, 2020

Getting the word out to protect meat and poultry plant workers

THURSDAY, JULY 09, 2020

What COVID-19 Seroprevalence Surveys Can Tell Us

WEDNESDAY, JULY 08, 2020

CDC in Action

WEDNESDAY, JULY 08, 2020

Considerations for Providing Hemodialysis to Patients with Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19 in Acute Care Settings

TUESDAY, JULY 07, 2020

About Serology Surveillance

MONDAY, JULY 06, 2020

Social Media Toolkit: Daily Life & Going Out

MONDAY, JULY 06, 2020

Social Media Toolkit: Communities, Schools & Workplaces

MONDAY, JULY 06, 2020

COVID-19 Response Highlights

MONDAY, JULY 06, 2020

COVID-19 Considerations for Animal Activities at Fairs, Shows, and Other Events

MONDAY, JULY 06, 2020

Screening for SARS-CoV-2 Infection Within a Psychiatric Hospital and Considerations for Limiting Transmission Within Residential Psychiatric Facilities - Wyoming, 2020

THURSDAY, JULY 02, 2020

Exposures Before Issuance of Stay-at-Home Orders Among Persons with Laboratory-Confirmed COVID-19 - Colorado, March 2020

THURSDAY, JULY 02, 2020

Characteristics of Adult Outpatients and Inpatients with COVID-19 - 11 Academic Medical Centers, United States, March-May 2020

THURSDAY, JULY 02, 2020

Serial Laboratory Testing for SARS-CoV-2 Infection Among Incarcerated and Detained Persons in a Correctional and Detention Facility - Louisiana, April-May 2020
THURSDAY, JULY 02, 2020
COVID-19 Outbreak Among College Students After a Spring Break Trip to Mexico - Austin, Texas, March 26-April 5, 2020
THURSDAY, JULY 02, 2020
Changing Paths During the Pandemic
THURSDAY, JULY 02, 2020
Visiting Beaches and Pools
WEDNESDAY, JULY 01, 2020
Studying the disease
WEDNESDAY, JULY 01, 2020
Monitoring and tracking the disease
WEDNESDAY, JULY 01, 2020
Identifying the source of the outbreak
WEDNESDAY, JULY 01, 2020
Developing Guidance to Protect the Public’s Health
WEDNESDAY, JULY 01, 2020
About COVID-19 Epidemiology
WEDNESDAY, JULY 01, 2020
Helping Children Cope
WEDNESDAY, JULY 01, 2020
Framework for Healthcare Systems Providing Non-COVID-19 Clinical Care During the COVID-19 Pandemic
TUESDAY, JUNE 30, 2020
Community Mitigation Resources
MONDAY, JUNE 29, 2020
Surveillance and Data Analytics
MONDAY, JUNE 29, 2020
Preventing the Spread of COVID-19 in a Variety of Settings Throughout Your Community
MONDAY, JUNE 29, 2020
What Bank Employees Need to Know about COVID-19
SUNDAY, JUNE 28, 2020
Performing Broad-Based Testing for SARS-CoV-2 in Congregate Settings
SATURDAY, JUNE 27, 2020
Transcript for the CDC Telebriefing Update on COVID-19
FRIDAY, JUNE 26, 2020
Framework for Implementation of COVID-19 Community Mitigation Measures for Lower-Resource Countries
FRIDAY, JUNE 26, 2020
CDC updates, expands list of people at risk of severe COVID-19 illness
THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 2020
Notes from the Field: E-cigarette, or Vaping, Product Use-Associated Lung Injury Cases During the COVID-19 Response - California, 2020
THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 2020
Characteristics of Women of Reproductive Age with Laboratory-Confirmed SARS-CoV-2 Infection by Pregnancy Status - United States, January 20-June 7, 2020
THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 2020
Potential Indirect Effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Use of Emergency Departments for Acute Life-Threatening Conditions - United States, January-May 2020
THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 2020

Characteristics Associated with Hospitalization Among Patients with COVID-19 - Metropolitan Atlanta, Georgia, March - April 2020

THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 2020

CDC Media Telebriefing: Update on COVID-19

THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 2020

COVID-19 Serology Surveillance Strategy

THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 2020

Safe Watering Points During COVID-19

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24, 2020

More Resources about COVID-19

TUESDAY, JUNE 23, 2020

Deployment Processes: COVID-19 Considerations

TUESDAY, JUNE 23, 2020

Post-Deployment Processes: COVID-19 Considerations

TUESDAY, JUNE 23, 2020

Pre-Deployment Processes: COVID-19 Considerations

TUESDAY, JUNE 23, 2020

Monitoring and Evaluation Logic Model

SATURDAY, JUNE 20, 2020

Coronavirus Disease 2019 Case Surveillance - United States, January 22-May 30, 2020

THURSDAY, JUNE 18, 2020

Public Attitudes, Behaviors, and Beliefs Related to COVID-19, Stay-at-Home Orders, Nonessential Business Closures, and Public Health Guidance - United States, New York City, and Los Angeles, May 5-12, 2020

THURSDAY, JUNE 18, 2020

Guidance for Handlers of Service and Therapy Animals

TUESDAY, JUNE 16, 2020

A Sort of Homecoming

MONDAY, JUNE 15, 2020

CDC releases consolidated COVID-19 testing recommendations

SATURDAY, JUNE 13, 2020

CDC releases consolidated COVID-19 testing recommendations

SATURDAY, JUNE 13, 2020

Transcript - CDC Media Telebriefing: Update on COVID-19

FRIDAY, JUNE 12, 2020

CDC Media Telebriefing: Update on COVID-19

FRIDAY, JUNE 12, 2020

SARS-CoV-2 Infections and Serologic Responses from a Sample of U.S. Navy Service Members - USS Theodore Roosevelt, April 2020

THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 2020

First Reported Cases of SARS-CoV-2 Infection in Companion Animals - New York, March-April 2020

THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 2020

Knowledge and Practices Regarding Safe Household Cleaning and Disinfection for COVID-19 Prevention - United States, May 2020

THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 2020

Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Emergency Department Visits - United States, January 1, 2019-May 30, 2020

THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 2020

Support for People Experiencing Abuse

THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 2020

Grief and Loss

THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 2020

Interim Guidance for SARS-CoV-2 Testing in North American Wildlife

THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 2020

Reducing Stigma

THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 2020

Using Telehealth to Expand Access to Essential Health Services during the COVID-19 Pandemic

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10, 2020

Financial Resources

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10, 2020

Talking with the Patient – A Case Investigator’s Guide to COVID-19

SUNDAY, JUNE 07, 2020

Research Use Only 2019-Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) Real-time RT-PCR Primers and Probes

SATURDAY, JUNE 06, 2020

COVID-19 Monitoring and Response Among U.S. Air Force Basic Military Trainees - Texas, March-April 2020

THURSDAY, JUNE 04, 2020

Evidence for Limited Early Spread of COVID-19 Within the United States, January--February 2020

THURSDAY, JUNE 04, 2020

COVID-19 Staffing Guidance for State, Tribal, Local, and Territorial Health Departments

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 03, 2020

Special Considerations for Patients on Home Dialysis

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 03, 2020

A Marathoner’s Take on COVID-19

MONDAY, JUNE 01, 2020

Community-level Seroprevalence Surveys

MONDAY, JUNE 01, 2020

Support Services

MONDAY, JUNE 01, 2020

Schools and Day Camps

SATURDAY, MAY 30, 2020

Guidance for Group Homes for Individuals with Disabilities

SATURDAY, MAY 30, 2020

Childcare Programs

FRIDAY, MAY 29, 2020

Considerations for Preventing Spread of COVID-19 in Assisted Living Facilities

FRIDAY, MAY 29, 2020

United States Coronavirus (COVID-19) Death Toll Surpasses 100,000

THURSDAY, MAY 28, 2020

Universal and Serial Laboratory Testing for SARS-CoV-2 at a Long-Term Care Skilled Nursing Facility for Veterans --- Los Angeles, California, 2020

THURSDAY, MAY 28, 2020

United States Coronavirus (COVID-19) Death Toll Surpasses 100,000

THURSDAY, MAY 28, 2020

Interim Guidance for Mass Transit Administrators

THURSDAY, MAY 28, 2020

Information for Sanitation and Wastewater Workers on COVID-19

THURSDAY, MAY 28, 2020

First Responders, Law Enforcement, and Public Services

THURSDAY, MAY 28, 2020

Guidance for Direct Service Providers, Caregivers, Parents, and People with Developmental and Behavioral Disorders

WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, 2020

Building Community Support

TUESDAY, MAY 26, 2020

Data Management for Assigning and Managing Investigations

TUESDAY, MAY 26, 2020

Evaluating Case Investigation and Contact Tracing Success

TUESDAY, MAY 26, 2020

Confidentiality and Consent

TUESDAY, MAY 26, 2020

Digital Contact Tracing Tools

TUESDAY, MAY 26, 2020

Training Case Investigators and Contact Tracers

TUESDAY, MAY 26, 2020

When to Initiate Case Investigation and Contact Tracing Activities

TUESDAY, MAY 26, 2020

Special Considerations for Health Departments

TUESDAY, MAY 26, 2020

COVID-19 Surge

MONDAY, MAY 25, 2020

CDC Releases Recommendations for Communities of Faith

FRIDAY, MAY 22, 2020

CDC Releases Recommendations for Communities of Faith

FRIDAY, MAY 22, 2020

Data Visualization: How to Align Manufacturing Workstations, If Feasible

FRIDAY, MAY 22, 2020

High COVID-19 Attack Rate Among Attendees at Events at a Church --- Arkansas, March 2020

THURSDAY, MAY 21, 2020

Decline in Child Vaccination Coverage During the COVID-19 Pandemic --- Michigan Care Improvement Registry, May 2016--May 2020

THURSDAY, MAY 21, 2020

Rodent Control

THURSDAY, MAY 21, 2020

Resuming Business Toolkit

THURSDAY, MAY 21, 2020

CDC releases resources to assist states to open

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 2020

For Parents: Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C) associated with COVID-19

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 2020

Talking with children about Coronavirus Disease 2019

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 2020

Performing Facility-wide SARS-CoV-2 Testing in Nursing Homes

TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2020

What Workers and Employers Can Do to Manage Workplace Fatigue during COVID-19

TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2020

HHS Delivers Funding to Expand Testing Capacity for States, Territories, Tribes

MONDAY, MAY 18, 2020

HHS Delivers Funding to Expand Testing Capacity for States, Territories, Tribes

MONDAY, MAY 18, 2020

Looking for Clues

MONDAY, MAY 18, 2020

CDC Seroprevalence Survey Types

SUNDAY, MAY 17, 2020

Mass Transit Decision Tool

SATURDAY, MAY 16, 2020

Checklist for Homeless Service Providers During Community Re-opening

SATURDAY, MAY 16, 2020

Interim Guidance for Syringe Services Programs

FRIDAY, MAY 15, 2020

Factors to Consider When Planning to Purchase Respirators from Another Country

FRIDAY, MAY 15, 2020

CDC Response Corps to Support State, Tribal, Local, and Territorial Health Departments

FRIDAY, MAY 15, 2020

Interim Guidance for Public Health Professionals Managing People With COVID-19 in Home Care and Isolation Who Have Pets or Other Animals

FRIDAY, MAY 15, 2020

High SARS-CoV-2 Attack Rate Following Exposure at a Choir Practice --- Skagit County, Washington, March 2020

THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2020

Preliminary Estimate of Excess Mortality During the COVID-19 Outbreak --- New York City, March 11--May 2, 2020

THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2020

Identification and Monitoring of International Travelers During the Initial Phase of an Outbreak of COVID-19 --- California, February 3--March 17, 2020

THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2020

Public Health Response to COVID-19 Cases in Correctional and Detention Facilities - Louisiana, March-April 2020

THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2020

Effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Routine Pediatric Vaccine Ordering and Administration --- United States, 2020

THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2020

COVID-19 in Correctional and Detention Facilities --- United States, February--April 2020

THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2020

Apply COVID-19 Online Knowledge and Case Investigating Protocol to Realistic Scenarios

THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2020

CDC Laboratory Work for Coronavirus (COVID-19)

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 2020

Media Statement from Dr. Robert Redfield, CDC Director; Dr. Steve Hahn, FDA Commissioner; and Dr. Anthony Fauci, NIAID Director

TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2020

Considerations for Memory Care Units in Long-term Care Facilities

TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2020

A different kind of outbreak

TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2020

List Requirements for Protecting Health Information

FRIDAY, MAY 08, 2020

Contact Tracing Training Plan

FRIDAY, MAY 08, 2020

What Waste Collectors and Recyclers Need to Know about COVID-19

THURSDAY, MAY 07, 2020

Arriving Passengers Health Card

WEDNESDAY, MAY 06, 2020

What to Know About Liver Disease and COVID-19

TUESDAY, MAY 05, 2020

Information for Health Departments on Reporting Cases of COVID-19

TUESDAY, MAY 05, 2020

Riding the first wave of CDC’s COVID-19 response at ports of entry

SATURDAY, MAY 02, 2020

CDC launches national viral genomics consortium to better map SARS-CoV-2 transmission

FRIDAY, MAY 01, 2020

Public Health Response to the Initiation and Spread of Pandemic COVID-19 in the United States, February 24--April 21, 2020

FRIDAY, MAY 01, 2020

COVID-19 Among Workers in Meat and Poultry Processing Facilities --- 19 States, April 2020

FRIDAY, MAY 01, 2020

Ten Ways Healthcare Systems Can Operate Effectively during the COVID-19 Pandemic

FRIDAY, MAY 01, 2020

CDC shares 9 tons of protective gear with responders

FRIDAY, MAY 01, 2020

COVID-19 Considerations for Cleaner Air Shelters and Cleaner Air Spaces to Protect the Public from Wildfire Smoke

FRIDAY, MAY 01, 2020

COVID-19 Outbreak Among Three Affiliated Homeless Service Sites --- King County, Washington, 2020

THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 2020

Assessment of SARS-CoV-2 Infection Prevalence in Homeless Shelters --- Four U.S. Cities, March 27--April 15, 2020

THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 2020

Responding to Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Nursing Homes

THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 2020

EARLY RELEASE: Characteristics and Clinical Outcomes of Adult Patients Hospitalized with COVID-19 --- Georgia, March 2020

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29, 2020

HHS Announces CARES Act Funding Distribution to States and Localities in Support of COVID-19 Response

THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2020

Erratum: Vol. 69, No. SS-4

THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2020

Cleaning and Disinfectant Chemical Exposures and Temporal Associations with COVID-19 --- National Poison Data System, United States, January 1, 2020--March 31, 2020

THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2020

Confirmation of COVID-19 in Two Pet Cats in New York

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 2020

What Mail and Parcel Delivery Drivers Need to Know about COVID-19

FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2020

Geographic Differences in COVID-19 Cases, Deaths, and Incidence --- United States, February 12--April 7, 2020

THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2020

Hospitalization Rates and Characteristics of Patients Hospitalized with Laboratory-Confirmed Coronavirus Disease 2019 --- COVID-NET, 14 States, March 1--30, 2020

THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2020

Community Transmission of SARS-CoV-2 at Two Family Gatherings --- Chicago, Illinois, February--March 2020

THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2020

What Airport Retail or Food Service Workers Need to Know about COVID-19

THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2020

What Airline Catering Kitchen Workers Need to Know about COVID-19

THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2020

Cleaning and Disinfection for Non-emergency Transport Vehicles

TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 2020

What Aircraft Maintenance Workers Need to Know about COVID-19

TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 2020

EARLY RELEASE: Timing of Community Mitigation and Changes in Reported COVID-19 and Community Mobility --- Four U.S. Metropolitan Areas, February 26--April 1, 2020

MONDAY, APRIL 13, 2020

Interim Guidance for Conserving and Extending Filtering Facepiece Respirator Supply in Non-Healthcare Sectors

SUNDAY, APRIL 12, 2020

COVID-19 and Cooling Centers

SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 2020

Interim Infection Control Guidance for Public Health Personnel Evaluating Persons Under Investigation (PUIs) and Asymptomatic Close Contacts of Confirmed Cases at Their Home or Non-Home Residential Settings

FRIDAY, APRIL 10, 2020

CDC Announces Modifications and Extension of No Sail Order for All Cruise Ships

THURSDAY, APRIL 09, 2020

CDC Announces Modifications and Extension of No Sail Order for All Cruise Ships

THURSDAY, APRIL 09, 2020

Coronavirus Disease 2019 in Children --- United States, February 12--April 2, 2020

THURSDAY, APRIL 09, 2020

Rapid Sentinel Surveillance for COVID-19 - Santa Clara County, California, March 2020

THURSDAY, APRIL 09, 2020

Detection of SARS-CoV-2 Among Residents and Staff Members of an Independent and Assisted Living Community for Older Adults --- Seattle, Washington, 2020

THURSDAY, APRIL 09, 2020

Presymptomatic Transmission of SARS-CoV-2 - Singapore, January 23-March 16, 2020

THURSDAY, APRIL 09, 2020

HHS Announces Upcoming Funding Action to Provide \$186 Million for COVID-19 Response

TUESDAY, APRIL 07, 2020

Snapshot of CDC Guidance for Homeless and Meal Service Providers for Emergency and Day Shelters

TUESDAY, APRIL 07, 2020

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Burn Rate Calculator

TUESDAY, APRIL 07, 2020

Strategic Priority Infection Prevention and Control Activities for Non-US Healthcare Settings

MONDAY, APRIL 06, 2020

CDC Launches New Weekly COVID-19 Surveillance Report

SATURDAY, APRIL 04, 2020

CDC Launches New Weekly COVID-19 Surveillance Report

SATURDAY, APRIL 04, 2020

Prepare your Small Business and Employees for the Effects of COVID-19

SATURDAY, APRIL 04, 2020

COVID-19-Related Phone Scams and Phishing Attacks

FRIDAY, APRIL 03, 2020

Preliminary Estimates of the Prevalence of Selected Underlying Health Conditions Among Patients with Coronavirus Disease 2019 - United States, February 12-March 28, 2020

THURSDAY, APRIL 02, 2020

Asymptomatic and Presymptomatic SARS-CoV-2 Infections in Residents of a Long-Term Care Skilled Nursing Facility - King County, Washington, March 2020

THURSDAY, APRIL 02, 2020

CDC Issues Domestic Travel Advisory for New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut

SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 2020

CDC Issues Domestic Travel Advisory for New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut

SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 2020

CDC Statement on Self-Quarantine Guidance for Greater New York City Transportation and Delivery Workers

THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2020

Public Health Responses to COVID-19 Outbreaks on Cruise Ships - Worldwide, February-March 2020

THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2020

Severe Outcomes Among Patients with Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) - United States, February 12-March 16, 2020

THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2020

COVID-19 in a Long-Term Care Facility - King County, Washington, February 27-March 9, 2020

THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2020

Florida Community Mitigation

MONDAY, MARCH 23, 2020

Related Materials

MONDAY, MARCH 23, 2020

Information for Clinicians on Therapeutic Options for COVID-19 Patients

SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 2020

Steps Healthcare Facilities Can Take Now to Prepare for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 2020

Strategies to Allocate Ventilators from Stockpiles to Facilities

FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 2020

Retirement Communities and Independent Living Facilities

FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 2020

Tuberculosis - United States, 2019

THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2020

Global Epidemiology of Tuberculosis and Progress Toward Meeting Global Targets - Worldwide, 2018

THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2020

World TB Day - March 24, 2020

THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2020

Initial Investigation of Transmission of COVID-19 Among Crew Members During Quarantine of a Cruise Ship - Yokohama, Japan, February 2020

THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2020

Evaluation of the Effectiveness of Surveillance and Containment Measures for the First 100 Patients with COVID-19 in Singapore - January 2-February 29, 2020

THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2020

COVID-19 in a Long-Term Care Facility — King County, Washington, February 27–March 9, 2020

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2020

Severe Outcomes Among Patients with Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) — United States, February 12–March 16, 2020

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2020

Situation Summary

TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2020

Initial Investigation of Transmission of COVID-19 Among Crew Members During Quarantine of a Cruise Ship — Yokohama, Japan, February 2020

TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2020

Massachusetts Community Mitigation

TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2020

Santa Clara County, California Community Mitigation

TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2020



DHS MORNING BRIEFING

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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: Wednesday, January 20, 2021 6:00 AM ET

Top News

Sen. Hawley moves to block swift confirmation for Biden's homeland security pick (Washington Post) 7

Senate Committee Holds Hearing for DHS Nominee Alejandro Mayorkas (Breitbart) 9

Homeland Security nominee Alejandro Mayorkas gives opening statement (Washington Post) 9

Senators vet Mayorkas to take lead at DHS (The Hill) 9

From Border Wall To Capitol Riot, Homeland Security Nominee Takes Senate Questions (NPR) 12

Biden's Homeland Security secretary pick faces range of questions before lawmakers (ABC News) 14

'Will Not Happen Again': Mayorkas Vows to Keep Capitol Safe (New York Times) 15

GOP senators question Biden's DHS nominee Alejandro Mayorkas over immigration enforcement, visas (USA Today) 16

Biden DHS, Intel picks stress need to prioritize cybersecurity after SolarWinds hack (The Hill) 18

Joe Biden's DHS Nominee Won't Promise to Exclude Caravan Job-Seekers (Breitbart) 19

Biden's DHS pick on migrant caravan: 'There is a commitment to follow our asylum laws' (FOX News) 22

DHS nominee rejects defunding ICE (Washington Times) 23

Biden's DHS Nominee Mayorkas Does Not Say if E-Verify Should Be Mandatory (Breitbart) 24

Biden's Choice for U.S. Homeland Security Chief Pledges to Confront 'Domestic Extremism' (Reuters) 25

Republicans grill Biden DHS nominee Mayorkas on migrants fleeing economic hardship (Washington Examiner)	26
Homeland Security nominee pressed on past favoritism claims (Roll Call)	28
Biden DHS nominee Alejandro Mayorkas challenged by Republicans over allegations of abuse (Washington Examiner)	30
After Homeland Security nominee's hearing, Hawley slows down process (Los Angeles Times)	32
Hawley delays quick confirmation of Biden's DHS nominee (The Hill)	34
Hawley blocks quick consideration of Biden DHS nominee, citing 'amnesty' plan (FOX News)	35
Sen Josh Hawley Blocks Quick Consideration Of Biden's Homeland Security Nominee (Daily Caller)	36
Director of national intelligence nominee Avril Haines's opening statement (Washington Post)	37
Haines pledges to 'speak truth to power' if confirmed as Biden's intel chief (Politico)	37
Biden Pick For Intel Chief: 'Biggest Challenge Is Building Trust And Confidence' (NPR)	40
Biden's DNI pick vows to help investigate any foreign role in Capitol siege, warns of China's rise (ABC News)	41
Director of National Intelligence nominee Avril Haines vows to keep politics out of intelligence (CBS News)	44
Sen. Durbin And Bipartisan Lawmakers Reintroduce Domestic Terrorism Prevention Act (Northern Public Radio)	45
ACLU sues feds over withholding records in immigration cases (AP)	45

US passes 400,000 coronavirus deaths (The Hill)	46
U.S. Coronavirus Death Toll Tops 400,000 Day Before Biden's Inauguration (US News & World Report)	47
Cornyn presses Psaki on coronavirus rules for migrant caravan after transition resists ending travel limits (FOX News)	48
Biden plans 'dozens' of executive actions in first days (ABC News)	49
Biden charts new US direction, promises many Trump reversals (AP)	52
Trump grants clemency to 143 people in late-night pardon blast (Washington Post)	54
Trump pardons dozens, including Steve Bannon, as he exits White House (Politico)	57
Donald Trump Announces Pardons and Commutations for 143 People in Last Hours of Presidency (Breitbart)	60
Trump grants clemency to more than 100 people, including Bannon (The Hill)	63
[DC] 12 members of the National Guard removed from inauguration duty (Washington Post)	65
[DC] Pentagon Removes 12 From Capitol Duty After Background Checks (Bloomberg)	67
[DC] 12 National Guard members removed from Biden inauguration duties (The Hill)	68
[DC] 12 National Guard members removed from inauguration security mission (ABC News)	69
[DC] 12 Army National Guard members removed from inauguration duty (CNN)	70
[DC] National Guardsmen removed from U.S. capital ahead of inauguration (FOX News)	73

[DC] 12 Army National Guard troops dropped from Capitol security mission, including 2 for ties to right-wing militias (USA Today)	73
[DC] 12 Guard members removed from Biden inauguration (AP)	74
[DC] Pentagon confirms 12 Guard members have been removed from inauguration security (Washington Examiner).....	75
[DC] National Guard soldiers removed from D.C. security detail over alleged militia membership (Washington Times)	76
[DC] Capitol Police Reportedly Ban Reporters From Having Body Armor, Gas Masks And Helmets (Daily Caller)	77
[DC] Ken Cuccinelli Claims Pelosi Asked For 'Crew-Manned Machine Guns' In Washington (Daily Caller)	77
[DC] Prosecutors say Oath Keepers militia members conspired in U.S. Capitol siege (Reuters)	78
[CA] California hits 3 million coronavirus cases; roughly 1 out of 13 in state have been infected (Los Angeles Times)	80
[Guatemala] U.S.-bound caravan thwarted in Guatemala as pressure against migrants continues (Washington Post)	82
[Guatemala] Guatemala Breaks Up Migrant Caravan and Deports Thousands (Bloomberg)	84
[Guatemala] Guatemalan security forces break up Honduran caravan headed to US (The Hill)	85
[Guatemala] Guatemalan forces clear road of migrants bound for US, some agree to return to Honduran border (FOX News)	85
[Guatemala] Large migrant caravan dissolves in Guatemala (San Francisco Chronicle).....	86

[Guatemala] Guatemala turns more migrants back to Honduras, thinning U.S.-bound caravan (Reuters)	88
---	----

[Guatemala] Some in Migrant Caravan Carry Fake COVID-19 Test Results, Say Guatemalan Officials (Breitbart) ..	89
---	----

Immigration and Customs Enforcement

Biden DHS nominee Mayorkas says ICE should not be defunded, despite liberal calls (FOX News)	90
--	----

Biden DHS Nominee Says He Does Not Support Abolishing ICE, CBP (Daily Caller)	92
---	----

Biden's DHS nominee says 'cages' were built on Obama's watch (Washington Times)	93
---	----

Citizenship and Immigration Services

Trump grants Venezuelans temporary legal status on his way out (Politico) ..	93
--	----

Trump Issues 18-Month Amnesty for Thousands of Venezuelans in U.S. (Breitbart)	94
--	----

White House approves deferred deportations for Venezuelans (The Hill)	95
---	----

Trump blocks Venezuelans' deportation in last political gift (AP)	96
---	----

Biden's immigration bill faces difficult path in Senate (Roll Call)	98
---	----

Biden Plans Day-One Immigration Overhaul, Testing Senate Comity (Bloomberg)	101
---	-----

Biden to propose sweeping immigration bill on first day in office (CNN)	103
---	-----

Biden immigration bill would put millions of illegal immigrants on 8-year fast-track to citizenship (FOX News)	104
--	-----

Asylum seekers call on Biden to reverse Trump immigration policies, protect 'vulnerable' populations (FOX News)	106
---	-----

Joe Biden To Propose Citizenship Plan For 11 Million Illegal Immigrants In US (Daily Caller) 107

Biden looks to grant citizenship to most illegal immigrants, DHS pick says (Washington Times) 108

Biden's DHS Nominee Alejandro Mayorkas Promises to Help Pass an Amnesty for Illegal Aliens (Breitbart) 111

[TX] Biden's immigration plan would provide path to citizenship for 1.7 million Texans (Houston Chronicle) 112

[Tanzania] U.S. Imposes Visa Restrictions on Tanzanian Officials Over Vote (Bloomberg) 115

[Tanzania] US puts visa restrictions on Tanzanian officials over vote (AP) 115

Customs and Border Protection

CBP acting commissioner: Biden sending 'loud and clear' message for migrants (FOX News) 116

[OH] Customs seizes \$8 million in counterfeit Cartier bracelets, rings (FOX News) 117

[TX] Migrant Body Found on Texas Ranch 90 Miles from Southern Border (Breitbart) 118

[CA] Border Patrol: 15 aboard boat detained in thwarted smuggling attempt (San Diego Union Tribune)..... 119

Transportation Security Administration

More than 1.6M passengers screened at airports nationwide over past 3 days (FOX News) 119

TSA investigating 'hundreds of names' linked to Capitol riots for possible inclusion on no-fly list (USA Today) . 120

Thousands of US travelers on major airlines' no-fly lists as TSA vets Capitol rioters (Washington Examiner) 121

[NY] Traveler at NYC's LaGuardia airport had bullets inside gum container, TSA says (FOX News)..... 122

[IL] Orange County man lived in Chicago airport for three months, fearing COVID-19 (Los Angeles Times) 123

Federal Emergency Management Agency

FEMA denies requests by Maryland, Virginia to cover costs of Capitol riot response, inauguration security (The Hill)..... 124

FEMA denies Maryland and Virginia requests for emergency declarations (Washington Examiner) 124

Senate proposal would end COVID-19 emergency decree, rules (AP) 125

As California sees dangerous wind gusts, Hawaiian islands hit with flash flooding (FOX News)..... 126

[LA] Corps gets \$12M, could pay \$2.1B for hurricane protection (AP) 127

[MI] Dearborn police looking for woman who passed fake bills at JCPenney (Dearborn Press & Guide) 128

[CA] High winds buffet California, raising wildfire danger and cutting power (Washington Post) 128

[CA] 55,000 lose power as Southland winds increase wildfire risk (Los Angeles Times) 130

[CA] Hurricane-force winds lash California, knocking out power to thousands and sparking new wildfires (USA Today) 131

[CA] Powerful winds topple trees, power lines, sparking fires and prompting evacuations near Santa Cruz (San Francisco Chronicle) 132

[CA] Two wildfires in Santa Cruz County trigger evacuations (San Francisco Gate)..... 133

[CA] Wildfire west of Yosemite, near Camp Mather, grows to 70 acres (San Francisco Chronicle) 136

Federal Protective Service

[DC] Inauguration security around US Capitol tightens as hunt for DC pipe bomb suspect continues (FOX News)	137
[DC] FBI says finding pipe bomb maker a 'top priority' before Biden inauguration, official reveals (FOX News)	138
[DC] Self-styled militia members planned on storming the U.S. Capitol days in advance of Jan. 6 attack, court documents say (Washington Post)...	138
[DC] Members of extremist Oath Keepers group planned attack on US Capitol, prosecutors say (CNN)	141
[DC] Alleged militia leader arrested, officials say, as FBI eyes extremist group suspects after Capitol riot (FOX News)	144
[DC] Maryland man who wanted to be 'lone wolf killer' tracked by parole-monitoring device to Capitol, FBI says (FOX News)	145

Secret Service

Joe Biden gives emotional farewell to Delaware as he departs for Washington on eve of his inauguration (CNN)	146
File details investigation into John Mulaney 'SNL' monologue (AP).....	149
[NY] Federal agent reportedly turned in sister's boyfriend for attending Capitol riot (The Hill)	150
[PA] Bucks County man charged with threatening violence toward Biden, Harris (FOX 43)	151
[DC] DC on lockdown and on edge before Biden's inauguration (AP).....	151
[DC] Secret Service reopens bridges connecting communities east of Anacostia River (WUSA 9)	153
[GA] SCSO investigating counterfeit money incident (Griffin Daily News) .	154

[FL] Moving trucks spotted at Mar-a-Lago ahead of Trump White House departure (Washington Examiner)....	154
[FL] President Trump Is Coming Home to Palm Beach (NBC Miami)	155
[OH] Elyria man charged with making terrorist threats toward Biden, Democrat leaders (Lorain Morning Journal).....	156
[IN] Vincennes police seeking suspects in counterfeit investigation (WTWO). 156	
[NE] Counterfeit currency passed twice over weekend in Grand Island (Grand Island Independent)	157
[AZ] Video shows Arizona's horned rioter writing Pence threat, leading prayer (KTAR)	157

Coast Guard

[MI] EGLE mitigating fuel, oil spill after tugboat sinks in Marquette (Public Radio 90 WNMU-FM)	158
[CA] California boy, 12, missing after being swept into the Pacific Ocean, search suspended: report (FOX News)	159
[CA] Search suspended for 12-year-old swept out to sea (San Francisco Chronicle).....	160

CISA/Cybersecurity

Ransomware hit 2,300+ U.S. government, health care and school facilities in 2020: Report (Washington Times)	161
Parler tries to survive with help from Russian company (San Francisco Chronicle).....	162
[Russia] Russia-Linked Hack Spread Via New Malware, Security Experts Say (Bloomberg)	164
[Russia] Suspected Russian Hackers Targeted Security Firm Malwarebytes (Bloomberg)	164

[Russia] Malwarebytes says its emails were breached by SolarWinds hackers (Reuters) 165

Terrorism Investigations

[NY] National Digest: Soldier arrested in plot to blow up 9/11 museum in N.Y. (Washington Post)..... 166

[NY] US Army private facing terrorism charges over alleged efforts to help ISIS ambush troops (The Hill) 167

[NY] US Army soldier allegedly attempted to help plan attack on soldiers abroad and 9/11 Memorial (CNN) 168

[NY] Authorities Arrest Soldier Accused Of Trying To Help ISIS Ambush US Troops, Attack NYC 9/11 Memorial (Daily Caller) 169

[NY] US soldier arrested in plot to blow up NYC 9/11 Memorial (AP)..... 170

[NY] U.S. Army soldier accused of plotting with ISIS to blow up 9/11 Memorial, kill U.S. troops overseas (Washington Times)..... 171

National Security News

Biden taps former aide as top Pentagon adviser on China (Politico) 172

Senate presses Biden's pick for secretary of State on Iran, China, Russia and Yemen (The Hill) 173

15 former Defense officials back waiver for Austin to serve as Defense secretary (The Hill)..... 175

Senate Democrats call on Biden to immediately invoke Defense Production Act (The Hill) 176

Pelosi urges Pentagon to block 'Trump loyalist' from national security role before Biden's inauguration (FOX News) 177

Trump Signs Order to Restrict Foreign Use of Cloud Companies (Bloomberg) 179

[Mexico] Mexico's Attorney General Escalates Fight With U.S. Over Former Minister (Reuters)..... 180

[Israel] Israeli strikes on Iranian targets in Syria: An important joint U.S.-Israeli effort (Washington Times) 181

[Iran] Iran Blacklists Trump, U.S. Officials as His Term Nears End (Reuters) 182

[Iran] Political Scientist Was 'Secret Employee' Of Iran, US Says (Daily Caller) 183

[Russia] Biden Will Seek to Extend New START Treaty, Must Decide How Long (Reuters) 185

[Russia] Trump Declassifies Russia Investigation Documents, Says He Accepted FBI Request To Keep Some Secret (Daily Caller) 185

[China] State Department accuses China of genocide against Uighur Muslims (Politico) 186

[China] Pompeo Accuses China of 'Genocide,' With Support From Successor (Bloomberg) 187

[China] U.S. declares China's treatment of Uyghurs 'genocide' (Breitbart) 188

[China] Pompeo Accuses China Of Genocide Against Muslim Uighurs In Xinjiang (NPR) 190

[China] US calls China's abuses of Muslim minorities 'genocide' and 'crimes against humanity' (ABC News) 191

[China] Pompeo says China's policies on Muslims amount to 'genocide' (AP) 193

Top News

Sen. Hawley moves to block swift confirmation for Biden's homeland security pick (Washington Post)

[Washington Post](#) [1/19/2021 6:11 PM, Nick Miroff and Maria Sacchetti, 13480K]

Homeland security nominee Alejandro Mayorkas told senators he would carry out President-elect Joe Biden's immigration overhaul while intensifying efforts to combat domestic extremism, during a hearing Tuesday that highlighted Republican opposition to his confirmation.

Testifying before the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, Mayorkas wore a blue mask and listened impassively to questions about his management style and involvement in a visa program for wealthy investors.

Mayorkas, 61, is expected to win confirmation since the Democrats picked up two additional Senate seats this month in Georgia. But legislative aides from both parties said it is unclear how quickly that will occur.

Democrats are pushing for Mayorkas's rapid confirmation, saying it is crucial to have top national security officials in place given the recent siege on the U.S. Capitol, cyberattacks on federal agencies, and the coronavirus pandemic.

But Sen. Josh Hawley (R-Mo.), the focus of deep resentment for challenging Biden's election and, critics say, helping to incite the violent mob who attacked the Capitol, moved later Tuesday to block the fast-track confirmation process, saying he was dissatisfied with Mayorkas's responses to questions about the Biden immigration agenda. Hawley is a member of the homeland security committee.

A spokesman for Mayorkas, Sean Savett, called Hawley's move "dangerous, especially in this time of overlapping crises when there is not a moment to waste." And Democrats on the House Homeland Security Committee responded bitterly, tweeting, "His games are, AGAIN, putting our national security at risk."

Some Senate Republicans raised concerns about a 2015 Inspector General report that said Mayorkas intervened in a visa program for wealthy investors at the behest of politically connected Democrats. The report found that Mayorkas, then head of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, did not break any laws but created the appearance of "special access" because he got involved in three projects that were headed for rejection, and all were approved.

Mayorkas told senators that he fixed problems in a troubled government agency that was supposed to create American jobs, and that the cases were among "hundreds" he examined at the request of lawmakers from both political parties.

Amid questioning from the committee's top Republican, Sen. Rob Portman of Ohio, Mayorkas said he took issue with the term "intervene," because he said it was his job to get involved.

"I don't drive to be a government servant and serve the American public to cut ribbons around the country and have fun," Mayorkas said. "I work really hard. And I worked really, really, hard throughout my nearly 20 years of government service to bring honor to the office that I have been privileged to occupy."

Sen. Mitt Romney (R-Utah) also raised the report as a concern, saying he wondered why Mayorkas, when approached by politically connected people, did not say to himself, "Holy cow, I've got to step back."

Mayorkas told Romney that he had learned from the episode. "I did in fact learn, Senator, how to better guard against the perception" of favoritism, he said.

Mayorkas also testified on the issue in 2013 before he was confirmed for the No. 2 job at Homeland Security; Republicans boycotted that hearing and voted against him that year.

Immigration enforcement was the other major theme of the hearing. Asked whether he thought the U.S.-Mexico border needed more barriers, Mayorkas told senators border security is "not a monolithic challenge," quoting the late Republican Sen. John McCain, whom he called "an American hero."

"The border is varied," he said, and enforcement should be determined by "geography, the venue and conduct of individuals around it."

Mayorkas was pressed repeatedly by GOP senators about whether he believed migrants seeking better economic opportunities were eligible for asylum in the United States. The law does not cover applicants seeking humanitarian protections on those grounds, Mayorkas said.

"We are a nation of immigrants," Mayorkas said. "We are also a nation of laws. I intend to apply the law."

Mayorkas said he did not support "defunding" U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, which has become a target of liberal Democrats upset by the agency's aggressive approach under President Trump. But Mayorkas deferred questions about whether he supported the emergency enforcement measures the Trump administration implemented at the border during the coronavirus pandemic that allow U.S. agents to rapidly "expel" most illegal crossers to Mexico.

"Our highest priority is to protect the health and well-being of the American public," said Mayorkas, adding he needed more time to study the emergency measures.

When Romney asked about a large caravan of Honduran migrants who have been attempting to travel north in recent days, telling some reporters they believe Biden will allow them to enter the United States, Mayorkas declined to say whether U.S. authorities should help try to stop them. Guatemalan riot police have blocked the migrants along the highway, clubbing and arresting them.

"If people qualify under the law to remain in the United States, we will apply the law," Mayorkas said. "If they do not qualify, then they won't."

Sen. Jacky Rosen (Nev.) was one of several Democrats who expressed concerns about the Jan. 6 mob attack on the Capitol and the growing threat of anti-Semitic and white supremacist groups.

"I am profoundly aware of the threat and existence of anti-Semitism in our country and the world," said Mayorkas, whose Romanian-born mother's relatives were killed in the Holocaust. "I have dedicated a considerable amount of my career to battling anti-Semitism and discrimination in all forms."

Mayorkas called the Capitol siege "horrifying," vowing to senators that the "terror" they and staffers felt "will not happen again."

Romney said at the hearing that the United States is "woefully unprepared" on cybersecurity, and urged Mayorkas to bring a "whole different level of expertise" to confront such attackers. Authorities said in recent weeks that cyberspies, probably the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service, breached networks at the departments of Homeland Security, Justice, Treasury, Commerce, State and Energy.

Mayorkas said cybersecurity has long been a priority for him, including when he served as the deputy to then-Secretary Jeh Johnson during the Obama administration.

"The threat has only evolved and only grown since then," Mayorkas said. "I can assure you that the cybersecurity of our nation will be one of my highest priorities because I concur with you that the threat is real and the threat is every day, and we have to do a much better job than we are doing now."

DHS has not had a Senate-confirmed leader in nearly two years, a striking vacuum in an agency created after the 9/11 attacks to combat terrorism. DHS is the third-largest federal agency, with 240,000 employees, a \$50 billion budget and a broad national security mandate to safeguard ports and borders, enforce immigration laws, and defend against attacks on U.S. cyber networks.

Senate Committee Holds Hearing for DHS Nominee Alejandro Mayorkas (Breitbart)

[Breitbart](#) [1/19/2021 10:42 AM, John Binder, 1912K] Video: [HERE](#)

Former Obama administration official Alejandro Mayorkas is speaking before the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee on Tuesday.

Mayorkas was nominated to be the Secretary for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) by President-Elect Joe Biden after serving in the agency during the Obama administration.

Homeland Security nominee Alejandro Mayorkas gives opening statement (Washington Post)

[Washington Post](#) [1/19/2021 11:10 AM, Staff, 13480K] Video: [HERE](#)

Alejandro Mayorkas, the nominee to head the Department of Homeland Security, spoke before the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee on Jan. 19.

Senators vet Mayorkas to take lead at DHS (The Hill)

[The Hill](#) [1/19/2021 4:36 PM, Rebecca Beitsch, 2343K]

Senators on Tuesday spent the last full day of the Trump administration vetting Alejandro Mayorkas, President-elect Joe Biden's pick to lead a major turnaround at the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

A Cuban immigrant whose mother fled the Holocaust, Mayorkas has often said his family's journey to America influences his drive for service in an agency with responsibilities for both securing the border and managing immigration.

If confirmed, he would come to the job with substantial experience in the department, having served as deputy DHS secretary during the Obama administration and the head of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

"The principles of homeland and security have been tremendously important in shaping my life. My father and mother brought me to this country to escape communism, and to provide me with the security, opportunity, and pride that American citizenship brings to each of us," Mayorkas told the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. "I was raised to appreciate each day what this country has meant for our family, and the blessing it is to know it is our homeland."

Mayorkas appeared before senators on Tuesday along with a slate of officials tapped to head national security positions within the Biden administration, with lawmakers on other committees weighing the nominations of director for national intelligence pick Avril Haines, Tony Blinken to lead the State Department and retired Gen. Lloyd Austin to head up the Pentagon.

But his nomination has already hit a rocky path, with Sen. Josh Hawley (R-Mo.) placing a hold on it, arguing that Mayorkas "has not adequately explained how he will enforce federal law and secure the southern border."

His hold could stall a nomination otherwise expected to advance once Democrats gain control of the Senate on Wednesday. Defeating the hold will require a 50-vote threshold cloture vote and eats up days of floor time, complicating the process.

Homeland Security is one of several agencies that has faced criticism in the days after the deadly riots at the Capitol, one of many factors that Biden and Democrats argue makes the DHS post a top priority.

"We've seen this department [in] turmoil over the last four years," said Sen. John Tester (D-Mont.).

"Ali Mayorkas will bring the kind of steady hand that this department needs," Tester added, using a nickname as he introduced Mayorkas. "I would hope this committee would ... get him to the Senate floor so we can get confirmed. Because honestly, after the events on Jan. 6, we have no time to waste."

Mayorkas vowed to protect the Capitol and deal with threats ranging from cyberattacks to the dangers of extremism and domestic terrorism, along with assisting with the coronavirus pandemic and climate change.

"If I should have the honor of being confirmed, I will do everything I can to ensure that the tragic loss of life, the assault on law enforcement, the desecration of the building that stands as one of the three pillars of our democracy, and the terror felt by you, your colleagues, staff, and everyone present, will not happen again," he said.

Mayorkas would take over the reins at DHS after the department has churned through six leaders under the Trump administration and separated more than 600 immigrant children from their parents as they crossed the border.

He has won accolades from Democrats for spearheading the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, a program that allows children brought into the U.S. by their parents the chance to get a work visa.

Mayorkas has most recently worked at law firm WilmerHale and was previously a federal prosecutor before working his way up the ranks at DHS.

He has not embraced calls from the left to abolish Immigration and Customs Enforcement, an agency overseen by DHS that was accused of being too aggressive during the Trump years.

But Mayorkas said he would resist efforts to expand President Trump's border wall and said he does not view a lack of opportunity as a reason for immigrant hopefuls to claim asylum.

"It's not a monolithic challenge, the border. The border is varied depending on the geography, depending on the specific venue, and depending on the conduct of individuals around it. We don't need, nor should we have a monolithic answer to that varied and diverse challenge," he said, adding that he sees aid to other nations to improve their own economies as part of the U.S. strategy to address immigration.

But many Republicans in the hearing focused on a 2015 inspector general report that found that Mayorkas got involved in immigration cases with ties to Democrats.

The report concerns the EB-5 Immigrant Investor Visa Program, which gives visas to those expected to make major investments in the U.S.

The report highlights three cases where Mayorkas intervened, each tied to high-ranking Democrats: a Las Vegas casino pushed by then-Sen. Harry Reid (D-Nev.), a film project tied to former Pennsylvania Gov. Ed Rendell (D), and an electric car company connected to former Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe (D) and Anthony Rodham, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's brother. The report notes investor visas tied to each project would have been unlikely to be approved without Mayorkas's involvement.

The inspector general report concluded that Mayorkas's action gave the "appearance of favoritism and special access," but that the then-USCIS leader's decisions were "legitimately within his purview." It also noted that Mayorkas declined to become involved in matters where he did not think his influence would be appropriate.

In response to questions from multiple Republican lawmakers, Mayorkas said on Tuesday that he stepped into a visa program that was "plagued by problems," adding that it is the responsibility of leaders to step in and fix problems within their agency.

"I fixed problems through the cases that the agency handled. The cases that you mentioned, the three cases that are cited in the inspector general's report, are three of hundreds and hundreds of cases that I became involved in at the request of senators and members of the House of Representatives on both sides of the aisle," he said.

The nearly 100-page inspector general report includes a roughly 30-page rebuttal by Mayorkas, outlining his rationale for involvement.

Sen. Mitt Romney (R-Utah) asked Mayorkas if he had learned anything from the episode.

"Looking back on these circumstances, should you have not said 'Because I had been called by a leading Democrat' whether Gov. Rendell, or others of that nature, but in a circumstance like this 'because of my political connection I should recuse myself and let others take that responsibility.' Is that not the appropriate action to take when something has the very distinct appearance of political favoritism?" Romney asked Mayorkas.

Mayorkas credited the report with helping to establish better guardrails for involvement in such cases.

"I did, in fact, learn, senator, how to better guard against a perception, and I agree with you, 100 percent that it is our obligation to guard against that perception, so that there is trust and confidence in the decisionmaking of government leaders," he replied.

Some Democrats pushed back on Republicans' focus on the report.

"To allow these unfounded allegations to cloud @AliMayorkas' unblemished career in public service — at a time when the Department so critically needs a qualified and capable leader — is irresponsible at best, and dangerous at worst," Sen. Tom Carper (D-Del.) said of his Republican colleagues on Twitter.

From Border Wall To Capitol Riot, Homeland Security Nominee Takes Senate Questions (NPR)

[NPR](#) [1/19/2021 3:49 PM, Brian Naylor and Barbara Sprunt, 5227K]

President-elect Joe Biden's nominee to head the Department of Homeland Security, Alejandro Mayorkas, appeared before a Senate panel Tuesday to begin his confirmation process, vowing to do everything he can so that an attack on the Capitol like the one on Jan. 6 "will not happen again."

Mayorkas, who would be the first Latino and first immigrant to lead that department, was previously the head of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, a DHS agency, during the Obama administration. He then served as deputy secretary of DHS.

Mayorkas also faced questions on immigration and the border wall, cybersecurity and his prior actions as head of USCIS.

In announcing his nominee in November, Biden said Mayorkas "will play a critical role in fixing our broken immigration system and understands that living up to our values and protecting our nation's security aren't mutually exclusive — and under his leadership, they'll go hand-in-hand."

Biden has pushed for swift confirmation of his nominees. He is on pace to have few, if any, Cabinet members confirmed on Inauguration Day.

After the deadly insurrection at the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, however, there's been increased pressure to get national security officials confirmed quickly to prevent any gap during the transfer of power.

In his opening statement Tuesday, Mayorkas called the events of Jan. 6 "horrificing" and said that if confirmed, he will do "everything I can to ensure that the tragic loss of life, the assault on law enforcement, the desecration of the building that stands as one of the three pillars of our democracy, and the terror felt by you, your colleagues, staff, and everyone present, will not happen again."

On immigration, senators asked Mayorkas if he believed the border wall constructed by the Trump administration should be taken down. Mayorkas said that he agreed with the late Sen. John McCain, whom he called "an American hero," that the border is not a "monolithic challenge."

Mayorkas said the border "is varied, depending on the geography, depending on the specific venue, and depending on the conduct of individuals around it." He said that "we don't need nor should we have a monolithic answer to that varied and diverse challenge."

And he said he would be studying the legal authority the incoming administration has to end construction of the barrier wall, something the president-elect has pledged to do, and which Mayorkas said he would implement.

Mayorkas was also pressed on what he would do if confirmed about a caravan of Honduran refugees now said to be headed toward the southern border. He said the Biden administration would be committed to following asylum laws and that if the refugees were found to qualify "under the law to remain in the United States, then we will apply the law accordingly. If they do not qualify to remain in the United States," Mayorkas said, "then they won't."

Mayorkas said he did not support defunding Immigration and Customs Enforcement, ICE, as some progressive Democrats have called for.

He said he also supported a comprehensive immigration reform plan that President-elect Biden is expected to announce soon after he's inaugurated and said the U.S. has to focus more resources toward providing economic assistance to countries such as Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador.

Asked about the cybersecurity challenge facing the U.S., Mayorkas told senators that "the cybersecurity of our nation will be one of my highest priorities," adding that he concurs that "the threat is real and the threat is every day, and we have to do a much better job than we are doing now."

Several Republicans on the committee called on Mayorkas to explain his actions as USCIS chief, after an inspector general's report found he intervened to help prominent Democrats, including then-Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's

brother, with a visa program.

"These weren't the only three cases I was involved in," Mayorkas said. "There were dozens and dozens, whether they involved the rich or the poor, the enfranchised or disenfranchised. I became involved to be sure that our agency improved each day, that I learned of the problems we were confronted with and that I did everything to fix them."

Most senators, however, seemed to have a favorable view of the nominee — several on both sides of the aisle telling him they looked forward to working with him in the new administration.

But the prospects for a quick confirmation for Mayorkas disappeared when after the hearing, Sen. Josh Hawley, R-Mo., said he would object to fast-tracking the nomination because of Biden's immigration proposal.

Biden's nominee for secretary of defense, retired Army Gen. Lloyd Austin, and others in his security team also have Senate hearings Tuesday.

Biden's Homeland Security secretary pick faces range of questions before lawmakers (ABC News)

[ABC News](#) [1/19/2021 7:28 PM, Quinn Owen, 29K]

Lawmakers evaluated Alejandro Mayorkas to lead the Department of Homeland Security on Tuesday and grilled the hopeful future secretary on a range of issues focused on immigration enforcement and his time at the highest ranks of the department in 2015.

Sen. Mitt Romney, R-Utah, asked about the caravan of migrants reportedly heading north from the southern border of Guatemala.

In 2019, immigration authorities at the border were overwhelmed by an influx of migrant families fleeing dangerous conditions of Central America's Northern Triangle -- Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador. And according to the International Organization for Migration, thousands of migrants from Honduras fleeing violence, devastation caused in the aftermath of two devastating hurricanes and economic hardships due to the COVID-19 pandemic were in Guatemala and moving towards Mexico, hoping to ultimately reach the U.S. Depending on how this situation develops, it may turn into one of the earlier immigration issues the Biden administration faces.

Border Patrol has seen spikes in unauthorized border crossing attempts in recent months and Senate Republicans at the hearing appeared to cast the primary drivers of migration in economic terms.

Mayorkas confirmed that they, along with anyone approaching the U.S. border, would be processed on a case-by-case basis. "Senator, we are a nation of immigrants, we are also a nation of laws," Myorkas said.

Immigration enforcement has come under deep scrutiny as President Donald Trump instituted hard-line policies which limited access to humanitarian and refugee protections. As a principal agency in these efforts, Immigration and Customs Enforcement became a lightning rod for backlash among Democrats and immigrant advocates with lawmakers including Sen. Elizabeth Warren and a handful of House members calling for its

dismantlement.

Mayorkas maintained on Tuesday that ICE should not be de-funded and that it would require further study to determine whether additional ICE resources are necessary.

Republican Sen. Ron Johnson aggressively questioned the nominee about the southern border.

After avoiding explicitly answering whether a person seeking financial gain presents a qualifying asylum claim, Mayorkas generally acknowledged that searching for employment advancement is not grounds for asylum under current law.

"Senator, the asylum laws are well established and they provide that an individual who is fleeing persecution by reason of his or her member in a particular social group is deserving of protection," Mayorkas said.

Asked whether any of the barriers on the southern border should be dismantled, Mayorkas also said it would require further examination to determine how the administration is legally required to use money previously allocated by Congress to construct a "border-wall system."

Asked to address the recent mob attack on the U.S. Capitol and ongoing domestic terrorism threats, Mayorkas said DHS had room for improvement with information dissemination to aid front-line officers. He was supportive an inter-agency terror intelligence commission as a way to bolster the department's lead role in responding to domestic terror threats.

"I think that we can do a lot better in the distribution of that information to our brave first responders in local communities throughout the country," Mayorkas said.

Mayorkas was also asked about a federal watchdog report from 2015 in which he was accused of improperly meddling with visa applications for wealthy business people. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services employees cited in the report said the then-deputy homeland security secretary was in touch with applicants outside of normal channels.

The Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General review, which relies on accounts from more than a dozen Homeland Security employees, found that Mayorkas' actions "created an appearance of favoritism and special access."

In response, Mayorkas said senators and House members asked for his intervention and he maintained that his involvement was aimed at improving the applications process.

"When a leader enters federal service with the authority to fix problems, that leader has the responsibility to fix problems," Mayorkas said.

He pointed out his involvement in "dozens and dozens" more cases beyond the those mentioned in the report. The inspector general was tasked with reviewing just three of the thousands of high-profile visas issued each year and did not conclude that anything improper occurred in the handling of the applications.

'Will Not Happen Again': Mayorkas Vows to Keep Capitol Safe (New York Times)

[New York Times](#) [1/19/2021 4:34 PM, Staff, 28290K]

Alejandro N. Mayorkas, the secretary of homeland security nominee, said he would work to ensure that the U.S is protected from domestic threats and another attack on the Capitol.

[Editorial note: consult video at source link]

GOP senators question Biden's DHS nominee Alejandro Mayorkas over immigration enforcement, visas (USA Today)

[USA Today](#) [1/19/2021 4:45 PM, Bart Jansen, 5823K]

Senate Republicans asked pointed questions about immigration Tuesday to Alejandro Mayorkas, President-elect Joe Biden's nominee to lead the Department of Homeland Security, but didn't hint at outright opposition to his nomination during a confirmation hearing Tuesday..

The harshest questions focused on an inspector general's report found that an "appearance of favoritism" in how Mayorkas settled disputes in a visa program during a previous stint with the department. Members of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee also posed contentious questions about how to combat illegal immigration, always a divisive subject between Republicans and Democrats.

Mayorkas said in response to the visa questions that he fixed a broken program during his previous term as director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. He openly contrasted Biden's positions seeking to overhaul immigration law with creating a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants.

"I would be privileged to work with Congress to pass immigration reform legislation that provides that path and provides a clear solution to what is clearly a broken system," Mayorkas said.

Biden has asked for swift confirmation of his Homeland Security, Defense, State and Treasury nominees when his term begins Wednesday. Senate panels held five confirmation hearings Tuesday. Democrats argued that stable, Senate-confirmed leadership was needed atop DHS after years of turnover and temporary officials during the Trump administration.

"Over the last four years, the department has endured some chaos, mismanagement and instability," said Sen. Gary Peters of Michigan, the top Democrat on the panel.

But Sen. Josh Hawley, R-Neb., said in a statement after the hearing he would block fast-tracking of the nomination because of his concerns about how Mayorkas will enforce immigration law and border security measures. Hawley said "so many questions remain unanswered."

If confirmed, Mayorkas would become the first immigrant and first Latino to lead the department. He arrived with his parents from Cuba as refugees from Fidel Castro's regime in 1960. He has been deputy secretary of the department and headed its citizenship agency.

The visa dispute dealt with the EB-5 program that encourage business investment to create jobs. The committee chairman, Sen. Rob Portman, R-Ohio, cited an inspector general's report that found Mayorkas communicated with stakeholders outside the normal process

and without his intervention cases “would have been decided differently.”

Portman noted that the stakeholders involved included former Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev.; former Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe and former Pennsylvania Gov. Ed Rendell. The process “created an appearance of favoritism and special access,” the report said.

But the report also said that Mayorkas’s actions were legal and “legitimately within his purview” as director. Mayorkas said it was his job to resolve disputes in a complex bureaucracy. He said he dealt with hundreds of cases, responding to requests from lawmakers of both parties.

“I fixed problems through the cases that the agency handled,” Mayorkas said. “I do, I must say, senator, take issue with the use of the term intervene. It is my job to become involved, to learn the problems that an agency confronts and to fix them.”

He helped create a new office to oversee EB-5 reviews, revamped the evaluation process and enhanced the program’s fraud and security safeguards.

Sen. Tom Carper, D-Del., who previously headed the committee, called the inspector general’s report part of an effort “to smear” Mayorkas. He said the issues were fully discussed and litigated seven years ago.

“It’s easy to get things messed up,” Carper said of the bureaucracy. “We’re expected as representatives from our states to stand up for people and try to straighten things out.”

After some liberals called for defunding Immigration and Customs Enforcement, several Republican senators asked whether Mayorkas would do that. He said he wouldn’t abolish ICE or Customs and Border Protection.

“I would not abolish them,” Mayorkas said.

Hawley asked whether Mayorkas would spend \$1.4 billion on the southern border wall system that Congress recently appropriated.

Biden has committed to cease funding for further construction of the wall. Mayorkas said he would explore ways to discontinue spending money on the wall, if allowed under the law.

Hawley also asked whether Mayorkas would continue a Trump administration program that processes asylum applications along the southern border while refugees remain in Mexico.

Biden has said he would end the program and Mayorkas agreed.

Hawley also asked whether Mayorkas supported amnesty for an estimated 11 million illegal immigrants already in the United States.

“Do you support mass amnesty on that scale?” Hawley asked.

Biden has said he would propose an overhaul of immigration law on his first day in office for Congress to debate. Mayorkas said he would pursue a path to citizenship for

undocumented immigrants, based on previous bipartisan legislation in the Senate.

Mayorkas now awaits votes in the committee and on the Senate floor to determine whether he will be confirmed, but the timing of those votes hasn't been announced.

Biden DHS, Intel picks stress need to prioritize cybersecurity after SolarWinds hack (The Hill)

[The Hill](#) [1/19/2021 5:03 PM, Maggie Miller, 2343K]

President-elect Joe Biden's nominees to serve as secretary of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and as director of national intelligence (DNI) both said Tuesday that if confirmed they will make a priority out of bolstering the nation's cybersecurity.

DHS nominee Alejandro Mayorkas and DNI nominee Avril Haines each pointed to the specific need to secure the federal government against cyber threats following the recently discovered Russian hack of IT group SolarWinds, which compromised many key federal agencies and potentially thousands of businesses.

"I can assure you that the cybersecurity of our nation will be one of my highest priorities because I concur with you that the threat is real and the threat is every day and we have to do a better job than we are doing now," Mayorkas said during his nomination hearing before the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee.

Haines in her testimony before the Senate Intelligence Committee also described the SolarWinds hack as a "major concern," but noted that she had not yet received a classified briefing on the incident, which is so far confirmed to have compromised agencies including the Commerce, Defense, Justice, Homeland Security and Treasury departments.

"I think the Department of Homeland Security already indicated publicly that this is a grave risk," Haines said. "This an area where we obviously have to focus."

If confirmed, Mayorkas will head a sprawling department that includes the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), the main federal group responsible for securing the nation's critical infrastructure, including elections.

CISA has been without most of its top leaders since November, when President Trump fired former CISA Director Christopher Krebs and three other senior leaders stepped down following pressure from the White House.

Those moves came after CISA put out a joint statement with other election officials describing the 2020 election as the "most secure in American history," and after it stood up a "rumor control" webpage to debunk election disinformation and misinformation, much of which came from the president's supporters.

When asked by Sen. Rob Portman (R-Ohio), soon to take over as ranking member of the committee, about CISA's failure to detect the SolarWinds breach's impact on federal systems, Mayorkas stressed that he would work, if confirmed, to strengthen the agency.

"CISA must improve the cyber hygiene of the federal government, the many departments and agencies throughout it, it must strengthen the public-private partnership, not only for the benefit of course of the federal government, but the benefit of the private sector itself," he

testified.

“I think this is going to require an all-of-government approach, and there is a great amount that will rest on the shoulders of CISA, and I hope I have the privilege to lead the department and support CISA in meeting those obligations,” he added.

Mayorkas also promised to review legislation that would create a grant program to help state and local governments fund cybersecurity improvements, with officials increasingly begging for assistance during the COVID-19 pandemic as hackers took advantage of overstressed and vulnerable systems.

While Mayorkas’s confirmation may be slowed down due to an objection lodged over an immigration-related issue by Sen. Josh Hawley (R-Mo.) on Tuesday afternoon, Politico reported in December that he had been endorsed by almost three dozen top cybersecurity leaders, including former CISA leadership.

Haines was no less strong on her stance to ensure that cybersecurity-related intelligence issues would be prioritized, and in particular argued in favor of exploring ways to ensure adversaries including Russia would be less tempted to attack the U.S. in cyberspace in the future.

“I think one of the great challenges that we face in the United States in particular is the asymmetry of the threat in cyber,” Haines testified. “I think it is relatively easy for adversaries to hold at risk what are high value assets to the United States, given how much we rely on cyber to work for our economy, security, for so many different issues, at relatively low risk to them.”

Biden has described the SolarWinds breach as a “grave threat to national security,” and earlier this month gave a speech calling for the modernization of the nation’s defenses to respond to growing threats. He also included more than \$10 billion in cyber and information technology funds for the federal government in his \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 relief proposal, announced last week.

Haines voiced support for Biden’s comments last month calling for the U.S. and allied nations to work together to create rules of the road in cyberspace, noting the need for an “imposition of costs” and promising to provide intelligence around attributing cyberattacks if confirmed as DNI.

“I think that working with allies and partners in order to impose costs can actually raise the cost essentially, and therefore help to promote deterrence and pushback,” she testified.

Joe Biden’s DHS Nominee Won’t Promise to Exclude Caravan Job-Seekers (Breitbart)
[Breitbart](#) [1/19/2021 3:21 PM, Neil Munro, 1912K]

Joe Biden’s nominee to run the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) refused to tell senators that he would exclude caravans of economic migrants from getting asylum and taking wages from American citizens.

Sen. Ron Johnson (R-WI) asked the nominee, Alejandro Mayorkas, during the January 19 nomination hearing, “Do you believe coming into this country illegally for economic improvement, is that a valid asylum claim? “

Mayorkas responded, "Senator, the asylum laws are well established, and they provide that an individual who's fleeing persecution by reason of his or her membership in a particular social group is deserving of protection."

"Okay, but coming here for economic gain is not a valid asylum claim: Would you agree with that?" Johnson shot back.

"I believe I articulated the legal theory in it," Mayorkas dodged.

Mayorkas did not mention that administration officials have much legal authority to expand or narrow asylum rules.

For example, President Barack Obama's deputies widened the definitions to create a new asylum-ready "particular social group" for women who claimed they were beaten by their husbands. President Donald Trump's deputies removed that definition. Similarly, Trump's deputies narrowed Obama's asylum rules to end the catch and release of roughly 3 million migrants into Americans' labor and housing markets. That Trump decision helped raise blue-collar wages and boosted his support among blacks, Latinos, and other blue-collar voters.

"Biden, he's going to help all of us," one English-speaking Honduran in the caravan told CNN on Sunday. "He's given us 100 days to get to the U.S. and give us legal [unintelligible] paper so we can get a better life for our kids and family."

Sen. James Lankford (R-OK) followed up on Johnson's question by asking, "As a leader of DHS, it's pretty likely you're going to have 1000s of people coming across the border and a migrant caravan from Honduras pretty rapidly. What message would you want to give to those folks right now that are traveling north in that migrant caravan?"

Mayorkas told Lankford he would allow the caravan of Honduran economic migrants into the United States for "humanitarian relief," including jobs. He said:

President-elect Biden and people who will be joining us in the incoming administration have spoken about the fact that there's a commitment to follow our asylum laws, to enforce our asylum laws, and that means to provide humanitarian relief for those individuals who qualify for it under the law.

Mayorkas also hinted the administration would try to minimize the political blowback from Americans by delaying the inflow of foreign workers, saying, "That cannot be accomplished with just a flick of a switch and turned on on Day One [January 20]. That it will take time to build the infrastructure and capacity so that we can enforce our laws as Congress intended."

A unified, pro-American GOP likely has the ability to block Mayorkas' confirmation, even though Sen. Kamala Harris will hold the swing vote in a 50-50 Senate once she is confirmed as vice president. Under Senate rules, 60 votes are needed to move forward with debates, allowing just 41 of the 50 GOP senators to block a final vote on Mayorkas.

Sen. Mitt Romney (R-UT) tried to get an answer from Mayorkas. "What is your intention with

regards to that caravan that is coming to our border? Is your intention to allow them to come into the country? Will they be stopped? What's the plan?" The exchange continued:

Mayorkas: We are a nation of immigrants, and we are also a nation of laws, and I intend to apply the law in the execution of my responsibilities as the Secretary of Homeland Security should I have that privilege.

Romney: What does that mean in this regard? Does it mean that the [caravan migrants] will be interdicted and rejected from coming into the country, evaluated one by one? What's the plan?

Mayorkas: When people present themselves at our border, we apply the laws of our nation to determine whether they qualify for relief under our humanitarian laws or whether they don't.

Romney: Kind of uncertain there, but I presume that means that they will not be allowed just to come into the country, that these people will be stopped at the border and processed one by one. Is that correct?

Mayorkas: I apologize if I was uncertain. If people qualify under the law to remain in the United States, then we will apply the law accordingly. If they do not qualify to remain in the United States, they won't.

Lankford prodded Mayorkas about his welcome for economic migrants:

You and Senator Johnson had an interchange back and forth on this very straightforward question: Is economic opportunity a valid reason for asylum? You quoted the asylum statute on that, but I guess the yes-or-no question on that is economic opportunity doesn't seem to be in the statute, as a valid reason for asylum, so I guess the question I have for you still is: "Is economic opportunity a reason that should be added to it?" It is not there. Do you believe it's there?

Mayorkas continued to muddy the legal waters:

I'm a lawyer by profession. So I take a look at the laws and I enforce them as both a lawyer and as a law enforcement officer for nearly 20 years of my career. When one speaks of economic opportunity, what does one mean? Just generally an opportunity to make a better living? If that is what you are referring to that, my understanding is that that is not a legitimate asylum claim make.

Lankford responded:

That's our understanding of the law as well, and it seems a pretty plain reading of it that if someone is coming to increase their economic opportunity. Obviously, almost any country in the world, any city you live in in the world, there's improved opportunities in the United States and we're grateful for that in the United States. But just saying hey you don't have a lot of economic opportunities where you live doesn't mean you open up our borders for asylum claims or say we're gonna somehow release you into the United States and debate it.

Two GOP senators were absent from the hearing, Sen. Mike Enzi (R-WY) and Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY).

Many pollsters show Americans' deep and broad opposition to cheap-labor migration — and the inflow of temporary contract workers, into the jobs needed by young and old Americans.

The multi-racial, cross-sex, non-racist, class-based opposition to cheap-labor migration co-exists with generally favorable personal feelings toward legal immigrants and toward immigration in theory — despite the media magnification of many skewed polls and articles which still push the 1950's "Nation of Immigrants" claim.

Migration moves money from employees to employers, from families to investors, from young to old, from children to their parents, from homebuyers to real estate investors, and from the central states to the coastal states.

Mayorkas has argued that Americans' wages will rise once an amnesty means employers' illegal workers become Americans with full legal rights.

So far, he has not explained why the flood of legalized labor — and the subsequent flood of more illegal and legal labor — will help raise wages for marginalized Americans, including mothers with small children, older people with disabilities, alienated drug addicts, and ex-convicts.

The population of marginalized Americans also includes the tens of millions of Americans stranded in the heartland states that get little funding from coastal investors who prefer to hire legal immigrants as they arrive at LAX or Newark airport.

In 2016, the voters' understandable solidarity with their fellow Americans carried Donald Trump's pro-American policies into the White House. Those policies helped shrink American unemployment, raise Americans' wages, and — if Democratic analysts are to be believed — can bring the GOP back into power in 2024.

Biden's DHS pick on migrant caravan: 'There is a commitment to follow our asylum laws' (FOX News)

[FOX News](#) [1/19/2021 4:01 PM, Adam Shaw, 10362K]

President-elect Joe Biden's nominee for homeland security secretary said Tuesday that the Biden administration has a "commitment to follow our asylum laws," when asked about a caravan of thousands of migrants moving north to the U.S. border.

"I think President-elect Biden and people who will be joining his incoming administration have spoken about the fact that there is a commitment to follow our asylum laws, to enforce our asylum laws, and that means to provide humanitarian relief to those individuals who qualify for it under the law," Alejandro Mayorkas said at his confirmation hearing.

"That cannot be accomplished with just a flick of a switch and turned on day one, it will take time to build the infrastructure and capacity so we can enforce our laws as Congress intended," he said.

Mayorkas was asked about a caravan of migrants coming north from Honduras that reportedly consisted of approximately 6,000 migrants at one point. The Associated Press

reported Tuesday that the caravan was broken up by authorities in Guatemala, but that small groups were still pressing north toward Mexico.

Trump administration officials have accused Biden of encouraging such migration with its more liberal language on migration and asylum. Biden is proposing a pathway to citizenship for illegal immigrants in the country, but in a nod to fears of a border surge, it would reportedly only apply to those in the country at the beginning of the year.

The caravan had demanded the Biden administration "honors its commitments" in a statement last week, but Biden officials have warned that the situation at the border won't change right away -- with policies such as the Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP) expected to take a while to reverse.

Mayorkas downplayed the threat from the caravan, saying "this is not the first caravan that has approached the border over the last four years or 12 years."

"The phenomenon of a caravan is something we've confronted in DHS for many years, the former U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) director said.

Grilled later by Sen. Mitt Romney, R-Utah, on the caravan and what his plans were for how to handle it, he said: "We are a nation of immigrants, we are also a nation of laws and I intend to apply the law in the execution in my responsibilities as the secretary of Homeland Security if I have that privilege."

Asked to be more specific about whether people will be let in or not, Mayorkas said that when people present themselves at the border "we apply the laws of our nation to determine whether they qualify for relief under our humanitarian laws or whether they don't."

"If people qualify under the law, then we will apply the law accordingly. If they do not qualify then they won't," he said.

DHS nominee rejects defunding ICE (Washington Times)

[Washington Times](#) [1/19/2021 6:27 AM, Stephen Dinan, 459K]

President-elect Joseph R. Biden's pick to lead Homeland Security flatly rejected defunding ICE, telling senators on Tuesday he is committed to enforcing the laws on the books.

But Alejandro Mayorkas, the prospective nominee, would not commit to expanding U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, saying instead that he needs "to study the condition" of the agency and how it's using its resources.

He said he's not yet ready to commit to a position on President Trump's border wall construction, nor whether he would recommend taking down some of the more than 450 miles of new wall erected under Mr. Trump.

"I haven't looked at that," he said, adding that he doesn't see the border as "monolithic" and said solutions may differ across the 1,950-mile boundary with Mexico.

He also sidestepped questions about a new migrant caravan heading north toward the U.S., saying only that the laws will be applied to them and those who qualify for a place in the U.S. will be admitted.

Mr. Mayorkas was testifying to the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee ahead of his expected nomination when Mr. Biden takes office on Wednesday.

If confirmed, Mr. Mayorkas will be under intense pressure from immigrant-rights groups to reel in the immigration enforcement agencies he would oversee, including ICE.

Some of those groups, who are challenging in court the funding Mr. Trump has used to erect some of his border wall, have said if they prevail in those cases they will ask that wall built with that money be torn down.

That could put Mr. Biden and his team in a tricky position.

The president-elect has said he won't build any more wall, but suggested he doesn't want to erase existing barriers.

Biden's DHS Nominee Mayorkas Does Not Say if E-Verify Should Be Mandatory (Breitbart)

[Breitbart](#) [1/19/2021 3:58 PM, John Binder, 1912K]

President-elect Joe Biden's nominee to lead the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Alejandro Mayorkas, will not say if he supports mandatory E-Verify to prohibit businesses from hiring illegal aliens over American citizens.

During his confirmation hearing before the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee on Tuesday, Mayorkas would not answer whether he supports making E-Verify mandatory. The federal program allows businesses to screen whether their hires are legal residents in the United States so as not to force illegal labor market competition against America's working and middle class.

The exchange went as follows:

ROMNEY: Do you support the E-Verify program? Is it an important tool? Should it be mandatory? Should it be permanent? Is this an essential element of protecting our nation and the opportunities of employment for so many of our people today who've been put out of work because of the COVID crisis? [Emphasis added]

MAYORKAS: Senator, when I was the director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, under my leadership we made tremendous improvements through the E-Verify program, and under my leadership, enrollment, voluntary enrollment ... increased dramatically. I would look forward to studying the utilization now of the E-Verify program, its effectiveness in the business community, its effectiveness in achieving its intended purposes and I would look forward to working with you as I study the effectiveness of that program. [Emphasis added]

Similarly, when asked if economic migrants have a valid asylum claim — though U.S. makes explicitly clear that they do not — Mayorkas tiptoed around the question.

"Do you believe coming into this country illegally for economic improvement, is that a valid asylum claim?" Sen. Ron Johnson (R-WI) asked.

“Senator, the asylum laws are well established, and they provide that an individual who’s fleeing persecution by reason of his or her membership in a particular social group is deserving of protection,” Mayorkas said.

Mayorkas’ unwillingness to support mandatory E-Verify comes even as the overwhelming majority of Americans have supported the program. The most recent polling on the issue, from July 2019, found that 75 percent of voters in swing states support banning employers from hiring illegal aliens over Americans.

In states where mandatory E-Verify has been implemented, the program is widely effective in protecting those states’ labor markets, the most recent study has shown.

Since 2012, Alabama, Georgia, Michigan, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, and West Virginia have all implemented one form or another of mandatory E-Verify. In some of these states, such as Alabama, all public and private employers must screen potential employees to weed out illegal alien applicants. In other states, such as North Carolina, all public employers and government contractors are required to use E-Verify.

All of these states, except for Tennessee, saw their unemployment rate decline a year after implementing mandatory E-Verify. Likewise, when Florida, Louisiana, and Indiana implemented forms of mandatory E-Verify, all three states saw a decline in unemployment at a greater rate than the national average at the time.

Biden’s Choice for U.S. Homeland Security Chief Pledges to Confront ‘Domestic Extremism’ (Reuters)

[Reuters](#) [1/19/2021 1:20 PM, Mica Rosenberg and Kristina Cooke, 3498K]

President-elect Joe Biden’s nominee to lead the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Alejandro Mayorkas, said on Tuesday he would empower intelligence staff at the agency to gather information on extremist threats in “an apolitical, nonpartisan way” following a violent attack on the U.S. Congress.

“The threat of domestic extremism is one of the greatest challenges that the Department of Homeland Security confronts,” Mayorkas told the Senate Homeland Security Committee in a confirmation hearing before Biden is set to take office on Wednesday.

If confirmed, Mayorkas, who served as deputy secretary at the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) under President Barack Obama, will start the job days after the Jan. 6 riot at the U.S. Capitol staged by supporters of outgoing Republican President Donald Trump.

He also would take the helm of the sprawling agency - with 240,000 employees responsible for border security, immigration enforcement, cybersecurity, and disaster readiness and relief - in the midst of a raging coronavirus pandemic and on the heels of a massive hack of government agencies.

One of the first major challenges for Mayorkas would be delivering on Biden’s promises to reverse many of the restrictionist immigration policies put in place by Trump. He also faces the prospect of thousands of migrants traveling in caravans through Central America arriving at the U.S.-Mexico border.

Complicating his confirmation, however, Republican Senator Josh Hawley - who sits on the committee - said he objected to fast-tracking Mayorkas' confirmation, citing concerns about Biden's immigration plans.

Mayorkas needs a majority of the committee to approve his nomination, which then moves on to a full Senate vote where there is effectively a 50-50 split Democrats and Republicans. Vice President-elect Kamala Harris would hold the tie-breaking vote.

At the hearing, Mayorkas said changes to Trump's border policies "cannot be accomplished with just the flick of a switch on day one, it will take time to build the infrastructure capacity so we can enforce our laws."

He said he would not do away with the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency. "Abolish ICE" has been a rallying cry for some immigrant advocates.

Mayorkas said he would study sweeping pandemic-era restrictions put in place by Trump that currently allow officials to expel most migrants arriving at the Southwest border.

IMMIGRANT HERITAGE

If approved, Mayorkas, 61, would become the first Latino and first foreign-born leader of the department created in the aftermath of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the United States. He highlighted his heritage as a Cuban immigrant in his opening statement to the Senate committee.

"My father and mother brought me to this country to escape communism," he said. "I was raised to appreciate each day what this country has meant for our family." He also invoked his family history in a pledge to fight anti-Semitism, saying his mother lost relatives in the Holocaust during World War Two.

Mayorkas, a former federal prosecutor in California, faced questioning from Republican lawmakers over his handling of an investor visa program during his time leading the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services agency under Obama.

A 2015 DHS Inspector General report found that certain applicants to the EB-5 program, which grants green cards to foreigners promising to invest in U.S. businesses, received special access and preferential treatment in the handling of their applications under Mayorkas' leadership.

Mayorkas said he learned a lot from the report and that his efforts were a good faith effort to improve a program that had long been plagued by problems.

Republicans grill Biden DHS nominee Mayorkas on migrants fleeing economic hardship (Washington Examiner)

[Washington Examiner](#) [1/19/2021 1:29 PM, Anna Giaritelli, 394K]

Senate Republicans pushed President-elect Joe Biden's nominee for the Department of Homeland Security to state whether he would ease asylum policies to cater to migrants seeking economic help as thousands caravan from Central America to the United States.

Republicans on the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee

repeatedly questioned Alejandro Mayorkas during his confirmation hearing Tuesday in an attempt to see if he will detain illegal immigrants who are encountered at the U.S.-Mexico border or allow families to be released into the country.

Sen. Ron Johnson of Wisconsin asked Mayorkas if he believed that “coming into this country illegally for economic improvement” was a valid reason to ask for asylum.

“The asylum laws are well-established, and they provide that an individual who’s fleeing persecution by reason of his or her membership in a particular social group is deserving of protection,” said Mayorkas.

“Is economic opportunity a valid reason for asylum?” asked Sen. James Lankford, an Oklahoma Republican.

“My understanding is that that is not a legitimate assignment,” said Mayorkas, referring to the reasons outlined by the U.S. government as legitimate reasons to claim asylum after fleeing one’s country.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services policy states that refugees who have fled their country may see asylum at a port of entry or once they are in custody if they have “suffered persecution or fear that they will suffer persecution due to race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion.”

“I would hope that we wouldn’t have different rules for people flying in from Honduras than we have illegally traveling from Honduras, because right now, we have pretty strict travel restrictions coming in if you’re flying in legally, and if somehow we have a different set of rules (it’s lax if you’re traveling, you’re illegally [entering]) that would be quite a quandary for us to be able to explain to everyone,” said Lankford.

Sen. Mitt Romney, a Utah Republican, pushed the former Obama-era DHS official on whether Border Patrol would detain or release into the U.S. people who are arrested after illegally crossing the border, but Mayorkas spoke vaguely, not making promises.

“[If] people qualify under the law to remain in the United States, then we will apply the law accordingly,” Mayorkas said. “If they do not qualify to remain in the United States, then they won’t stay here.”

The Republican senators’ concerns come in the midst of rising arrests at the southern border and a 9,000-person caravan traversing Central America on its way to Mexico before reaching the U.S. Johnson, the previous committee chairman, tried to push Mayorkas to give the specific point at which the number of people arrested daily by Border Patrol would be considered a “crisis.”

“Secretary [Jeh] Johnson, who you served under, said that 1,000 people per day was a bad day. We have been consistently over 2,000 a day for the last number of years, over 4,000 a day in March 2019. Right now, we’re back over 2,000 per day,” said Sen. Ron Johnson. “Do you consider that a problem what is going to be a bad day if you’re secretary?”

He then asked Mayorkas to state for the record that the Obama administration erected a massive Border Patrol detention facility in McAllen, Texas. Mayorkas confirmed that the

facility, lamented by congressional Democrats during the Trump administration, was put up before Trump.

“That’s the same facility that has the chain-link fences that people on the other side of the aisle have referred to as putting children in cages, correct?” Johnson asked.

Mayorkas agreed, and Johnson asked if the facility was created because a rising number of families and children were coming over the southern border in the early and mid-2010s. Mayorkas defended it and said federal law enforcement “existed long before” the one building was stood up.

Of the 475,000 people who were arrested at the southern border with a family member during the government’s fiscal 2019 year, roughly three-quarters did not seek asylum and were released into the U.S.

Biden has vowed to end a slew of asylum reforms that the Trump administration implemented in an effort to deter the number of people who come to the U.S. border.

Homeland Security nominee pressed on past favoritism claims (Roll Call)

[Roll Call](#) [1/19/2021 12:03 PM, Camila DeChalus, 87K]

Senate Republicans on Tuesday grilled President-elect Joe Biden’s pick to head the Department of Homeland Security, Alejandro Mayorkas, over “troubling issues” in how he handled the visa program for wealthy foreign investors during the Obama administration.

At the confirmation hearing before the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, Ohio Sen. Rob Portman asked about a Homeland Security inspector general report issued in 2015, when Mayorkas served as deputy Homeland Security secretary.

The report concluded that Mayorkas “exerted improper influence in the normal processing and adjudication” of EB-5 visas in cases that involved high-profile individuals, including Harry Reid, the Senate majority leader at the time.

“These were politically connected individuals, where you were in direct contact with them, going around the typical judicatory process,” Portman said. “Did you have concerns that your actions might be viewed as favoritism and special access?”

Wisconsin Sen. Ron Johnson, the panel’s outgoing chairman, chimed in about “some pretty troubling issues” raised in a letter at the time by Sen. Charles E. Grassley, R-Iowa, about the way Mayorkas handled the EB-5 investor program, which offers visa holders and their families the chance to seek permanent residency in exchange for investing heavily in U.S.-based job-creating enterprises.

“[Grassley’s] main issue in writing the letter to you is that you have not been forthright, you’ve not answered questions dating back to his oversight letters 2013,” Johnson said to Mayorkas.

Utah Republican Mitt Romney also questioned whether Mayorkas would recuse himself in future cases that may cast the appearance of favoritism in the investor program.

Mayorkas defended his actions, saying the EB-5 program had been “plagued by problems”

when he originally took the helm of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, the DHS agency responsible for adjudicating immigration benefits.

“I became involved in a lot of cases because, as I said, the work of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services is casework. And I did my job. And I learned of problems, and I fixed it,” said Mayorkas, a Cuban refugee who would be the first Latino to lead the Homeland Security Department if confirmed.

Mayorkas said he had gotten involved in handling certain cases to ensure that the cases were being dealt with properly.

Senate Democrats, including Delaware’s Thomas R. Carper, defended the nominee.

“Mr. Mayorkas was found to be guilty of one thing, and that’s creating an appearance of favoritism,” Carper said. “If we will be honest with one another, every single member of this committee and in the Senate could be accused of the same thing at one time or another.”

The last time Mayorkas faced a Senate confirmation hearing — in 2013, to become deputy Homeland Security secretary — not one Republican voted in favor of his nomination because of the active investigation into his handling of the EB-5 program.

Mayorkas was previously confirmed by the Senate to become director of the USCIS, where he served from 2009 to 2013. In that role, he led the implementation of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, program that has allowed immigrants who came to the U.S. unlawfully as children to live and work in the country without fear of deportation.

The Senate also confirmed Mayorkas as U.S. attorney for the Central District of California earlier in his career.

Lawmakers on both sides of the aisle peppered Mayorkas with questions on border security and how he would handle asylum-seeking migrants reportedly heading in caravans to the U.S.-Mexico border.

Mayorkas said his plans include investing in more technology rather than spending money on border wall construction.

“The use of technology and use of air and marine assets would be most effective and I look forward to studying the challenges at the border and developing a sophisticated approach to meet those challenges to be sure that we’re harnessing innovation and technology to the best of our abilities,” he said.

Congress has appropriated nearly \$1.4 billion in the current fiscal year for President Donald Trump’s border wall. Mayorkas said he would need to research laws about discontinuing funds allocated for a specific purpose.

On asylum, Mayorkas remained firm on upholding Biden’s commitment to ensuring that asylum seekers are humanely processed at the border.

“That means to provide humanitarian relief for those individuals who qualify for under the law, and that could not be accomplished with just a flick of a switch and turned on in Day

One. ... It will take time to build the infrastructure and capacity so that we can enforce our laws as Congress intended,” he said.

Incoming Senate Homeland Security Chairman Gary Peters urged his colleagues to immediately confirm Mayorkas because of ongoing threats the U.S. faces both at the border and within the country.

“There is no question, we need strong and stable leadership at the Department of Homeland Security, now more than ever,” the Michigan Democrat said. “Certainly, the threats that we face across all these borders happen daily, which is why his appointment to this position is absolutely critical to do it as quickly as possible.”

It was not immediately clear when the committee planned to hold a confirmation vote and send Mayorkas’ nomination to the full Senate.

In addition to Mayorkas, other Biden picks receiving Senate hearings Tuesday included Defense Secretary nominee Lloyd Austin; Secretary of State nominee Antony Blinken; and Avril Haines, the nominee for director of national intelligence.

Biden DHS nominee Alejandro Mayorkas challenged by Republicans over allegations of abuse (Washington Examiner)

[Washington Examiner](#) [1/19/2021 4:44 PM, Anna Giaritelli, 394K]

President-elect Joe Biden’s nominee for secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, Alejandro Mayorkas, defended himself from Senate Republicans’ questions about allegations that he abused his power while at the DHS during the Obama administration.

Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Chairman Rob Portman, an Ohio Republican, opened the hearing with questions into multiple findings by the DHS inspector general that he said were “concerning.”

The DHS inspector general found that in three incidents, Mayorkas communicated with applicants or their sponsors in a way that was not normal and “intervened” in career United States Citizenship and Immigration Services staff’s reviews of applications, Portman said.

The report stated that Mayorkas did not follow normal procedures for deciding the cases and personally redecided cases that had been decided unfavorably. When asked by Republicans about the three incidents, Mayorkas admitted to getting involved in “hundreds” of cases that had been denied. He later said he looked over “dozens and dozens” of denied cases.

“The case that you mentioned and three cases that are cited in the inspector general’s report are three of hundreds and hundreds of cases that I became involved in at the request of senators and members of the House of Representatives on both sides of the aisle,” Mayorkas said. “I must say, senator, [I] take issue with the use of the term ‘intervene.’ It is my job to become involved.”

Mayorkas, 61, was USCIS director from 2009 to 2013 and then DHS deputy director until resigning in 2016. While there, the DHS Office of Inspector General accused Mayorkas of creating the appearance of “favoritism and special access” by ordering staff to fast-track visa applications that benefited Democratic sponsors, including former Sen. Harry Reid of

Nevada, Gov. Terry McAuliffe of Virginia, and Hillary Clinton's brother Anthony. Mayorkas stepped down from his post in October 2016, months shy of former President Barack Obama's departure.

The EB-5 program was created in 1990 to give immigrants a pathway to citizenship if they agree to create 10 full-time jobs for U.S. workers. The investor, as well as his or her immediate family, is eligible for a green card, which allows him or her to reside permanently in the country for several years before applying for citizenship. The program is overseen by the USCIS within the DHS. Portman inquired why Mayorkas had created a review board to reconsider certain cases that had been denied by agency staff.

"This board did not previously exist and was never used again after it voted to reverse the adjudicators' proposed denials," Portman said. "Remarkably, there's no record of the proceedings of this board."

"When the agency made a decision in an EB-5 investor visa case and millions and millions of dollars of investor capital and the creation of jobs for U.S. workers was dependent upon that decision, was it fair for the agency to, later in the adjudicative process, change its mind and kill the business development?" Mayorkas replied. "I created the deference review board as one fix to the many problems that we encountered in that agency."

Sen. Mitt Romney, a Utah Republican, was unsatisfied with Mayorkas's repeated statements that he had "learned" from the incident.

"I would have anticipated that when Sen. Portman asked you what have you learned from this process, that you might say, 'I have learned from the process that when something appears to be political, I should recuse myself.' Is that not a lesson you learned?" Romney asked.

Mayorkas said he "prided himself" in his "responsiveness" when working one-on-one with lawmakers who referred cases to him and that USCIS established "guardrails" to protect "against the appearance of favoritism," though he did not reveal those procedures.

Sen. Tom Carper, a Delaware Democrat, was chairman in 2013 when Mayorkas was being considered by the same committee for DHS deputy secretary.

"I remember very well the effort to smear this man's character based on the 2013 inspector general investigation, which was leaked to the press again before his confirmation here," Carper said. "The claims made were fully investigated by a subsequent inspector general, and Mr. Mayorkas was found to be guilty of one thing: that's creating an appearance of favoritism."

Carper added that the government official who initiated the investigation was responsible for the leak, resigned under allegations of misconduct, and was charged last year with fraud.

Portman pushed back, stating that the third-largest federal department needed a person of the "utmost integrity" as its leader and that DHS whistleblowers had reported him for other problems.

"One witness stated that encounters with Mr. Mayorkas 'were uncomfortable, aggressive,

unusual, and unsettling,” Portman said. “The [inspector general] noted that the variety of witnesses that came forward was unusual. Individuals who raised concerns were ‘throughout the ranks of USCIS in different locations engaged in different functions with different experience levels.’”

After Homeland Security nominee’s hearing, Hawley slows down process (Los Angeles Times)

[Los Angeles Times](#) [1/19/2021 5:16 PM, Brian Contreras, 1825K]

In the wake of a largely cordial confirmation hearing for Alejandro Mayorkas, President-elect Joe Biden’s nominee for secretary of Homeland Security, Sen. Josh Hawley (R-Mo.) announced Tuesday that he was putting a hold on a procedure that would have bypassed full committee consideration of Mayorkas’ nomination.

“I cannot consent to skip the standard vetting process and fast-track this nomination when so many questions remain unanswered,” Hawley said in a statement.

The move is a break from practice in recent years, during which Homeland Security leadership was typically approved at the start of a new president’s term.

At the tail end of the Tuesday morning hearing, in which Mayorkas spoke before the Senate’s Homeland Security Committee as part of his confirmation process, Hawley asked him where money Congress has already appropriated for President Trump’s border wall would go. The nominee responded that he would follow the law if he became department leader, but would also need to understand what that law allowed for with respect to discontinuing the funding.

Hawley also asked about Biden’s plans to pursue legal status for an estimated 11 million immigrants in the country illegally.

Mayorkas replied that the president-elect “has spoken of the need for a path to citizenship for the individuals who have been in this country for many years, who have contributed to our communities and to this nation’s economic prosperity.”

“I would be privileged to work with Congress to pass immigration reform legislation that provides that path and provides a permanent solution,” Mayorkas said.

Concerns about these immigration policies seemed to be at the root of Hawley’s procedural block.

“Mr. Mayorkas has not adequately explained how he will enforce federal law and secure the southern border given President-elect Biden’s promise to roll back major enforcement and security measures,” Hawley said in his statement. “Just today, he declined to say he would enforce the laws Congress has already passed to secure the border wall system.”

Mayorkas’ hearing came in the wake of the insurrection at the U.S. Capitol, while a pandemic rages on and the impact of an enormous federal hack continues to reverberate through Washington — all crises Mayorkas will have a hand in dealing with if approved as Biden’s Homeland Security secretary.

The hearing emphasized immigration policy but also explored counter-terrorism, emergency

management and cybersecurity, all of which are within the Department of Homeland Security's broad portfolio.

Born in Havana, Mayorkas grew up in Los Angeles and graduated from UC Berkeley. He would be the first Latino and first immigrant to serve as Homeland Security secretary, and already has been confirmed by the Senate three times for prior positions.

The Cuban American and former federal prosecutor was named by Biden in November. If confirmed, he would oversee the federal government's third-largest department, where he almost certainly would roll back parts of Trump's multi-pronged campaign to restrict both legal and illegal immigration.

Under skeptical questioning from Hawley and other committee Republicans critical of Biden's immigration plans, Mayorkas maintained support for key aspects of the president-elect's immigration agenda, while affirming that he would implement them within the bounds of the law.

"President-elect Biden has committed to presenting Congress on Day One with a permanent solution, an immigration reform bill, and I would be privileged to ... work with Congress in passing legislation to fix our much-broken immigration system," Mayorkas said.

One initial action will probably be to reinstate the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, or DACA, which shields immigrants brought to America as children from deportation. Trump tried to end the policy, which Biden promises to fully restore. Mayorkas helped implement DACA when he served as the director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services during the Obama administration.

Mayorkas also reiterated Biden's plans to cease further funding for Trump's border wall and to create a path to citizenship for immigrants already in America, and emphasized the importance of addressing "push factors" — violence, corruption, extreme poverty, persecution — that compel immigrants to leave their homelands in the first place.

"We must address the root causes to solve the problem," Mayorkas said. "That is what President-elect Biden's vision does, and I hope I have the privilege to execute it."

If Mayorkas is confirmed as department leader, his wide purview would extend well beyond immigration and border security.

To that point, Mayorkas cited the department's "significant capabilities" to execute Biden's coronavirus response through the Federal Emergency Management Agency; to play a "leadership role" in collecting and disseminating information about foreign and domestic terrorism through the Office of Intelligence and Analysis; and to strengthen American cybersecurity through the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency.

"The threat is real, and the threat is everyday, and we have to do a much better job than we are doing now," he said of cybersecurity concerns.

The hearing contained few rhetorical fireworks, although several Republicans raised concerns about allegations that Mayorkas "exerted improper influence" over an employment visa program while working as director of USCIS, the Homeland Security agency in charge

of legal immigration, a charge that Mayorkas disputes.

In addition to smoothing the pathway to citizenship for immigrants who are in the country illegally, Biden has called for a shift in focus from Trump's border wall to security enhancement at ports of entry, and more oversight of Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Border Patrol. Biden's incoming Chief of Staff Ron Klain has said the president-elect will move to end Trump's restrictions on immigration from several Muslim-majority countries on Inauguration Day, and will quickly move to accelerate the reunification of families separated at the southern border under Trump.

Hawley delays quick confirmation of Biden's DHS nominee (The Hill)

[The Hill](#) [1/19/2021 5:04 PM, Rebecca Beitsch, 2343K]

Sen. Josh Hawley (R-Mo.) announced on Tuesday he would place a hold on Alejandro Mayorkas, President-elect Joe Biden's choice to lead the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

Hawley, who has come under fire recently amid allegations that he played a role in the Capitol riot early this month, made the announcement just hours after the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs wrapped its hearing with Mayorkas. The move delays the nomination of a post Democrats have argued is critical to fill immediately to protect national security.

"Mr. Mayorkas has not adequately explained how he will enforce federal law and secure the southern border given President-elect Biden's promise to roll back major enforcement and security measures," Hawley said in a statement.

"Just today, he declined to say he would enforce the laws Congress has already passed to secure the border wall system. Given this, I cannot consent to skip the standard vetting process and fast-track this nomination when so many questions remain unanswered," he added.

Hawley's opposition comes as Biden and Democrats argue the attacks on the Capitol make the post a top priority. Hawley was the first senator to announce he would vote against certification of the 2020 election results.

His hold could stall a nomination otherwise expected to advance once Democrats gain control of the Senate on Wednesday. Defeating the hold will require a 50 vote threshold cloture vote and eats up days of floor time, complicating the process.

Mayorkas, who previously served as the deputy secretary of DHS under the Obama administration, did not earn any Republican votes when he was confirmed in 2013.

"We are facing unprecedented challenges and threats to our national security, and our country urgently need a confirmed Secretary of Homeland Security in place on day one to protect the American people. Alejandro Mayorkas is one of the most knowledgeable homeland security experts in the country," Biden transition spokesman Sean Savett said in a statement to The Hill.

"The Senate held swift confirmation votes for the DHS Secretary nominee in 2009 and 2017 in order for them to start on day one for good reason. Senator Hawley's threat to disrupt historical practice and try to leave this vital position vacant is dangerous, especially in this

time of overlapping crises when there is not a moment to waste."

Hawley's opposition stems from an exchange where the lawmaker asked Mayorkas if he would obligate \$1.4 billion in funds set aside for Trump's border wall.

"If I may strike at the fundamental point that I believe you were inquiring of, which is will I follow the law and the execution of my responsibilities should I have the privilege of serving as the Secretary of Homeland Security. And the answer is yes I will follow the law. And what I would need to do is to understand what the law provides with respect to the obligation of funds to construct a border wall, and then see what the opportunities are to discontinue any such obligations," Mayorkas said.

Hawley then thanked Mayorkas for getting "right to the nub" of his question.

He also asked Mayorkas about Biden's plans to give legal status to 11 million people residing in the U.S., something Hawley said concerned him "especially in this time of severe economic distress that has fallen disproportionately on working class Americans."

Mayorkas called the move a "path to citizenship for the individuals who have been in this country for many years, who have contributed to our communities, and to this nation's economic prosperity."

"I would be privileged to work with Congress to pass immigration reform legislation that provides that path, and provides a permanent solution to what is clearly a broken system," he added.

Hawley blocks quick consideration of Biden DHS nominee, citing 'amnesty' plan (FOX News)

[FOX News](#) [1/19/2021 6:17 PM, Adam Shaw, 10362K]

Sen. Josh Hawley, R-Mo., blocked quick consideration of President-elect Joe Biden's pick to lead the Department of Homeland Security, citing Biden's proposals for "amnesty" for illegal immigrants and answers about border security.

Alejandro Mayorkas had answered questions earlier in the day at his confirmation hearing before the Senate Homeland Security Committee. When committee members moved to bypass full committee consideration to speed up his confirmation, Hawley objected.

"On Day 1 of his administration, President-elect Biden has said he plans to unveil an amnesty plan for 11 million immigrants in this nation illegally," the populist senator said in a statement. "This comes at a time when millions of American citizens remain out of work and a new migrant caravan has been attempting to reach the United States. Mr. Mayorkas has not adequately explained how he will enforce federal law and secure the southern border given President-elect Biden's promise to roll back major enforcement and security measures."

Hawley was referring to Biden's plan to provide a pathway to citizenship for those in the country illegally. Expected to be unveiled on Wednesday, the plan reportedly includes an eight-year path to citizenship, along with other measures, including green cards for recipients of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and Temporary Protected Status (TPS) programs.

Simon & Schuster cancels book deal with Sen. Josh Hawley after Capitol Hill riots

The Washington Post reported that the bill also includes expanded forms of legal immigration, provisions to address "push" factors south of the border, and some border security measures.

At the hearing, Mayorkas spoke positively about the legislation and told Hawley it would fix a "broken immigration system."

"I would be privileged to work with Congress to pass immigration reform legislation that provides that path and provides a permanent solution to what is clearly a broken system," he said.

Hawley had asked Mayorkas whether he would allow funding that had already been designated for the wall at the southern border to be used. President Trump's administration built approximately 450 miles of wall, and officials say there are approximately 350 extra miles funded.

Mayorkas noted that Biden has promised not to allow any more wall to be built under his administration.

"I would execute President-elect Biden's commitment in adherence to the laws that guide us," he said. He later said he would follow the law, and he would need to see if DHS was permitted to stop the funding and what the options were.

Hawley was not impressed with his answers.

"Just today, he declined to say he would enforce the laws Congress has already passed to secure the border wall system," Hawley said in his statement. "Given this, I cannot consent to skip the standard vetting process and fast-track this nomination when so many questions remain unanswered."

The block means it will take longer to get Mayorkas' confirmation out of the Homeland Security Committee onto the Senate floor for a confirmation vote.

Four years ago, the Senate confirmed President Trump's first DHS secretary, John Kelly, on Inauguration Day -- he was one of two cabinet secretaries confirmed that day.

Sen Josh Hawley Blocks Quick Consideration Of Biden's Homeland Security Nominee (Daily Caller)

[Daily Caller](#) [1/19/2021 4:23 PM, Andrew Trunsky, 321K]

Missouri Sen. Josh Hawley said that he would object to the expedited consideration of Alejandro Mayorkas, President-elect Joe Biden's nominee to lead the Department of Homeland Security.

Hawley's announcement came hours after Mayorkas's confirmation hearing Tuesday morning, and will delay the confirmation of a post that Democrats have argued is absolutely imperative to fill as soon as possible given the heightened risks to national security.

"Mr. Mayorkas has not adequately explained how he will enforce federal law and secure the

southern border given President-elect Biden's promise to roll back major enforcement and security measures," Hawley said in a statement.

"Just today, he declined to say he would enforce the laws Congress has already passed to secure the border wall system. Given this, I cannot consent to skip the standard vetting process and fast-track this nomination when so many questions remain unanswered," Hawley said.

Hawley has come under fire from Democrats and fellow Republicans in the wake of the Capitol riot after leading the Senate effort to object to Pennsylvania's election results. His latest move could temporarily stall Mayorkas's confirmation since defeating the hold would require 60 votes, meaning that 10 Republicans would have to join Democrats after they officially take control of the chamber on Wednesday.

During the hearing Tuesday, Hawley pressed Mayorkas over how he would allocate \$1.4 billion in congressionally-appropriated funds towards President Donald Trump's border wall. While Mayorkas said that he would "follow the law," he declined to say whether the funds would ultimately go towards the wall's further construction.

The two also discussed Biden's proposed pathway to citizenship for the approximately 11 million unauthorized immigrants living in the country.

While Hawley said that the plan was "especially" concerning given the increased hardship millions of Americans are facing, Mayorkas said that he would be "privileged to work with Congress to pass immigration reform legislation that provides that path, and provides a permanent solution to what is clearly a broken system."

Director of national intelligence nominee Avril Haines's opening statement (Washington Post)

[Washington Post](#) [1/19/2021 12:12 PM, Staff, 13480K]

President-elect Biden's nominee for director of national intelligence Avril D. Haines delivered her opening statement to the Senate Intelligence Committee on Jan. 19.

[Editorial note: consult video at source link]

Haines pledges to 'speak truth to power' if confirmed as Biden's intel chief (Politico)

[Politico](#) [1/19/2021 2:44 PM, Martin Matishak, 2751K]

Avril Haines, President-elect Joe Biden's pick to be the nation's top intelligence official, promised Tuesday to "speak truth to power" and resist any effort to politicize the work of the country's intelligence agencies.

"To safeguard the integrity of our intelligence community, the DNI must insist that, when it comes to intelligence, there is simply no place for politics — ever," said Haines, a former CIA deputy director and former deputy national security adviser in the Obama administration, in her confirmation hearing to become the first female director of national intelligence.

The hearing was just one in a slew of proceedings held Tuesday for Biden's incoming Cabinet the day before his inauguration as the 46th president, including his picks to lead the

Homeland Security, State and Defense departments.

Much of the session dwelt on bipartisan concerns that Haines would be sufficiently independent and serve as an apolitical provider of intelligence following the turbulent Trump era, as well as issues like domestic terrorism and the rise of China.

The outgoing administration saw the last two top intelligence chiefs get their jobs not because of their experience but due to their loyalty to President Donald Trump.

Sen. Susan Collins (R-Maine) asked Haines if she would commit to publishing analytic products in the president's daily brief — a summary of high-level national security intelligence — even if they didn't align with the new administration's policies.

"I do. Absolutely, senator," Haines replied, adding she has witnessed the practice in the past. She later said Biden has "just about" ordered her to tell him the truth on intelligence matters.

Sen. Angus King (I-Maine), who attended the hearing virtually from his car, asked Haines if she planned to make any changes "structurally" to rid the nation's 18 intelligence agencies of politicization.

Haines acknowledged she didn't have "specific" recommendations at the stage but said one of her first acts would be to send a clear message to the rank-and-file that they are "expected to produce apolitical, unvarnished" intelligence products. She suggested it might be useful to conduct a "climate survey" to understand the experiences and pressures analysts have faced recently.

Haines said she has a "number of questions" about a recent report by the intelligence community's ombudsman that found that current DNI John Ratcliffe and other political appointees had clashed with career intelligence analysts over the scope of Russia and China's interference, or attempted interference, in the 2020 election.

Lawmakers repeatedly asked Haines to weigh in on domestic terrorism in light of the Jan. 6 deadly assault on the Capitol by a throng of the president's supporters. She called that day's events "truly disturbing" but noted the primary responsibility for U.S.-based threats belong to the FBI and DHS, though the intelligence community would "support their work and look at connections" between people who took part in the insurrection and foreign extremists.

Haines later committed to working with the FBI and DHS to produce a public threat assessment on the dangers of QAnon, the online conspiracy theory popular with many Trump backers.

Lawmakers on both sides of the aisle asked Haines how the U.S. should address the growing global power of China, with some admitting that their hopes that Beijing would become a more open government are a thing of the past.

"I'll be the first to acknowledge that I was part of that consensus and I think I was wrong," said Sen. Mark Warner of Virginia, the panel's top Democrat. He will receive the Intelligence committee gavel later this week after Democrats retake the Senate majority.

Haines noted she hasn't had an in-depth classified hearing on China, but said the two countries are "adversarial on some issues" while cooperating on others, like climate change. She framed China, as Biden himself has, as a "global competitor."

She committed to Sen. Ben Sasse (R-Neb.) — who complained that the intelligence community has been "way too slow to pivot" in addressing Beijing's behavior — to deliver a strategic plan to boost the spy community's hiring pipeline for people such as Mandarin speakers.

Pressed by Republicans about the Iran nuclear deal, Haines initially said the U.S. is a "long ways" from rejoining the agreement and needs to look at Tehran's ballistic missile program and other destabilizing activities.

"Do you believe Iran should ever be allowed to get nuclear weapons?" Sen. John Cornyn (R-Texas) asked her.

"No, senator, I do not believe Iran should ever be allowed to get a nuclear weapon," she replied.

Cornyn also asked Haines to commit to releasing the last three years of her tax returns. He asked whether any of Haines' income came from foreign sources, noting she was a "principal" when she worked for WestExec, a D.C.-based consulting firm that has provided a home to much of Biden's national security team.

"It's just a title," she said, adding she worked maybe one day a month for the firm as a consultant.

Haines also committed to complying with a law requiring an unclassified report on who is responsible for the murder of the Saudi dissident and journalist Jamal Khashoggi, which the CIA has reportedly concluded was ordered by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

She also said she would work to better understand the full impact of the SolarWinds breach, a mammoth hacking campaign that has affected a number of federal agencies and which the intelligence community has tentatively linked to Russian operatives.

"This is the greatest cyber intrusion, perhaps, in the history of the world," said Sen. Jack Reed (R.I.), who will become chair of the Senate Armed Services Committee this week.

"This is a major concern," Haines said, adding it was "pretty alarming" the compromise was discovered thanks to a private cybersecurity company rather than being detected by the U.S. government.

Haines also vowed to appear before the committee for its annual Worldwide Threats hearing. The session had been a source of tension throughout 2020 between Congress and the security agencies after the previous year's installment drew public rebukes from Trump for contradicting his positions on Iran, North Korea, Russia and other national security issues.

POLITICO first reported last year that ODNI was pushing for the hearing, which features

both public and classified sessions, to be moved entirely behind closed doors over fears their bosses might provoke Trump's ire.

The massive spending and coronavirus relief bill signed into law last month made the session a requirement for intelligence leaders.

Biden Pick For Intel Chief: 'Biggest Challenge Is Building Trust And Confidence' (NPR)

[NPR](#) [1/19/2021 1:03 PM, Mark Katkov, 5227K]

Avril Haines, President-elect Joe Biden's nominee for director of national intelligence, opened her confirmation hearing Tuesday morning with an implicit criticism of President Trump's management of the country's vast intelligence network.

"When it comes to intelligence," Haines said in her opening statement, "there is simply no place for politics, ever."

Haines, if confirmed, will assume control of an intelligence community that Trump viewed with suspicion from his first days in office, frequently dismissing its work or even accusing it of being part of a "deep state" cabal intent on destroying his presidency. Trump's departing director of national intelligence, John Ratcliffe, is a fierce ally of the president who as a Republican congressman from Texas had served on the contentious House Intelligence Committee but otherwise had scant relevant experience.

Unlike its House counterpart, the Senate Intelligence Committee is known for largely bipartisan, cooperative oversight of U.S. spy agencies, and the questioning of Haines reflected that.

Both the Republican acting chairman, Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida, and the Democratic vice chairman, Sen. Mark Warner of Virginia, said they viewed China as the key geopolitical adversary of the United States. Warner said the country had for decades embraced a "bipartisan consensus" that engagement with China would lead to its integration into the West. "I was part of that consensus," Warner said, "and I was wrong."

Haines promised an "aggressive response" to China and to counter its "illegal and unfair practices." But she said the U.S. should try to cooperate with Beijing on areas such as climate change.

Sen. Angus King, independent of Maine, said the U.S. operates at a disadvantage because of a short-term view of world affairs versus China's 25- or 50-year approach. Haines agreed.

"China is capable and focused on a long-term horizon and the United States is not," she said in response to King. "No place else other than the [intelligence community] is well-positioned to [provide that perspective] for the president and his advisers and I hope to do this."

Haines is a veteran of the Obama administration who is widely described as professional and nonpartisan, and her appearance in open session was without controversy. The hearing continued in closed session in the afternoon to discuss classified matters.

The nominee's journey to this moment in her career has been circuitous. Haines grew up an only child in Manhattan, caring for an ailing mother who died when Haines was 15. After high school she spent a year in Tokyo studying judo, then received an undergraduate degree in physics at the University of Chicago. In her 20s she learned to fly, and with her husband ran an independent bookstore in Baltimore. Haines earned a law degree from Georgetown when she was 31.

When Biden introduced Haines as his nominee in November, he noted her unusual background.

"Brilliant, humble. Can talk literature and theoretical physics, fixing cars, flying planes, running a bookstore-cafe, all in a single conversation, because she's done all that," Biden said.

Her ascent in government was rapid. She began in the State Department's Office of the Legal Adviser, then moved to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, where she came to know Biden. Haines followed Biden to the White House when he became vice president, working on the National Security Council. In 2013, despite her never having worked at the agency, Barack Obama named Haines deputy CIA director, making her the first woman to hold the No. 2 job.

"I think all of us probably had a bit of a question mark because [Haines] didn't have a background in the agency," Jeanne Tisinger, a senior CIA official, told NPR when Haines was appointed.

That changed quickly.

"I became a fan within weeks," Tisinger said.

Haines does have critics, particularly over her role in Obama's aggressive use of assassination-by-drone abroad. She also was at the CIA when it was found to have hacked the computers of Senate Intelligence Committee staffers. She recommended no disciplinary action be taken.

Democratic Sen. Ron Wyden of Oregon asked whether she agreed with the CIA inspector general's conclusion that the hack was wrong. Haines said she agreed with the IG's apology.

Haines kept a low public profile during her years in government. But when nominated by Biden, she pledged to be a powerful internal voice for unbiased intelligence.

"Mr. President-elect, you know I've never shied away from speaking truth to power," she said. "I accept this nomination knowing that you would never want me to do otherwise ... even when what I have to say may be inconvenient or difficult, and I assure you, there will be those times."

Biden's DNI pick vows to help investigate any foreign role in Capitol siege, warns of China's rise (ABC News)

[ABC News](#) [1/19/2021 2:31 PM, Mike Levine, 29K]

President-elect Joe Biden's choice to lead the U.S. intelligence community vowed Tuesday

to help the FBI uncover any role that foreign nations like Russia may have played in radicalizing the violent mob that stormed the U.S. Capitol two weeks ago, even as she assured lawmakers that politics would have no place in her office.

"I've certainly seen Russia's use of active measures and a variety of influence campaigns to exacerbate some of the divisions in this country and to promote extremism," Avril Haines, the nominee to become director of national intelligence who served as a senior national security adviser in the Obama administration, told the Senate Intelligence Committee during her confirmation hearing on Tuesday.

Haines was pressed over concerns that the DNI's office had at times become too political, with the committee's top Democrat and soon-to-be chairman, Sen. Mark Warner, D-Va., saying that most recently the U.S. intelligence community had been "unfairly maligned" and questioned by President Donald Trump.

Haines said any effective DNI "must never shy away from speaking truth to power -- even, especially, when doing so may be inconvenient or difficult."

"To safeguard the integrity of our intelligence community, the DNI must insist that, when it comes to intelligence, there is simply no place for politics -- ever," she added.

Politics, though, drove the violent Trump supporters who attacked the Capitol and assaulted law enforcement officers on Jan 6. They were motivated by unfounded claims -- made by Trump himself -- that the 2020 presidential election was illegitimate and stolen from him.

Haines said that, if confirmed, she hopes the U.S. intelligence community can play "an important role" in supporting investigations by the FBI and Department of Homeland Security into whether any foreign actors may have helped inject those unfounded claims into the American bloodstream, and whether there may be any other "connections" between those who participated in the siege and individuals abroad.

Warner said the Capitol had been overrun by "insurrections [from] a whole series of violent right-wing extremist groups -- Proud Boys, Oath Keepers, Three Percenters, other so-called militia groups."

But Warner noted such right-ring extremism is "not a problem that is unique to America," saying, "We've seen similar right-wing groups spring up across many European nations, and some level of networking between what's happening in Europe and what's happening in this country."

In fact, the FBI has identified several cases of white supremacists in America who have been in contact with like-minded extremists overseas, with some of the Americans even traveling to Europe to train with right-wing radicals there.

"This is a major issue for the country," Haines said of domestic terrorism coming from the fringes of the right and left.

Both Republican and Democratic senators on the committee expressed concern over what the committee's outgoing chairman, Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Florida, called "the challenge" of preventing foreign countries from trying "to get us to fight with each other."

"Not that we don't do a pretty good job of it on our own," Rubio quipped.

Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, said he wants the FBI to brief the committee on what it's found so far about foreign influence in the Jan. 6 siege, which left five Americans dead, including a U.S. Capitol Police officer.

In an intelligence assessment issued last week, several federal law enforcement agencies noted that since the Capitol assault, "Russian, Iranian, and Chinese influence actors have seized the opportunity to amplify narratives in furtherance of their policy interest."

In at least one instance, a "Russian proxy" claimed that members of the radical left-wing group antifa had "disguised themselves as supporters of President Trump, and were responsible for storming the Capitol building," the intelligence assessment said.

Similarly, "Iranian state media has continued to stoke claims that President Trump encouraged and incited the violence," while Chinese media "have seized the story to denigrate US democratic governance—casting the United States as broadly in decline," according to the intelligence assessment.

Haines and the lawmakers on the committee agreed that China poses one of the greatest overall threats to U.S. national security, with Haines describing China as an "adversary" when it comes to espionage and protecting America's secrets.

Warner said government officials and the public need to be "clear-eyed about China."

"Perhaps the greatest challenge facing you as DNI will be a rising China that is committed to surpassing and eclipsing the U.S. militarily, economically, and technologically," Warner told Haines during Tuesday's hearing.

With the array of threats to U.S. interests emanating from around the world, "You'll not have an easy job," Warner warned Haines.

Still, Haines said the fact that she could sit before the lawmakers after the events of the past two weeks was "truly remarkable."

"I just want to say how eerie it was even coming here today to see how, uh, to see the National Guard out across Washington and in these halls," she said, referring to massive security measures put in place ahead of Wednesday's inauguration. "And my first reaction in watching the events was really concern and obviously empathy for all of you ... and how truly disturbing it was to see what was done to these sacred halls, frankly, and sort of the heart of our democracy."

But, she told the lawmakers, she was "proud to be part of a country where I saw all of you not let it affect your work, not let you miss a beat, and come back in and do the work of the American people."

For the last two years of President Barack Obama's presidency, Haines, 51, served as the White House's deputy national security adviser. Before that, she served as the CIA's deputy director and in other senior national security roles.

Director of National Intelligence nominee Avril Haines vows to keep politics out of intelligence (CBS News)

[CBS News](#) [1/19/2021 5:23 PM, Olivia Gazis, 2540K]

President-elect Joe Biden's nominee to lead the U.S. intelligence community vowed to keep politics out of intelligence and to focus on building "trust and confidence" in the 18 agencies that would fall under her purview, according to her public testimony before the Senate Intelligence Committee on Tuesday.

Avril Haines, 51, told the panel that there was "no place for politics" in intelligence.

"To be effective, the DNI must never shy away from speaking truth to power," she said in her opening statement. "[E]ven, especially, when doing so may be inconvenient or difficult."

Haines' confirmation hearing was one of five that took place in the Senate on Tuesday, as the Biden administration pushed to assemble key cabinet officials before the president-elect's inauguration Wednesday.

Biden Cabinet Haines

If confirmed, Haines will make history as the first woman to serve as director of national intelligence. She set a similar precedent in 2013, when President Obama named her deputy director of the CIA – and she became the first woman to hold that role.

During Tuesday's hearing, Senators pressed Haines on how the intelligence community would address the threat of domestic extremists – including far-right conspiracy groups like QAnon, some of whose followers took part in the attack on the Capitol on January 6.

Haines said U.S. intelligence agencies would be prepared to identify links between domestic and international terrorists, but that the FBI and Department of Homeland Security would otherwise lead on investigations of domestic matters. She committed to producing, alongside FBI and DHS, a public, written assessment of the threat from QAnon.

Haines also promised to appear publicly at an annual Worldwide Threats hearing, a seminal congressional event that for years was held annually but which failed to take place in 2020 under DNI Ratcliffe or his acting predecessors, Richard Grenell and Joseph Maguire.

She told Oregon Senator Ron Wyden that she would release a public, unclassified report on the killing of Saudi dissident Jamal Khashoggi, which has been stymied for months by Trump administration officials.

Haines also told the panel her top three priorities would be "institutional" in nature, and that she would start by rebuilding trust in and among intelligence ranks; aligning the community's resources to counter traditional and non-traditional threats; and building partnerships across the public and private sector.

A career national security official, Haines served as a Senate Foreign Relations Committee staffer, where she worked with its then-chairman Joe Biden. She served as the White House Deputy National Security Advisor from 2015 to 2017.

A flight enthusiast and former independent bookstore owner, Haines' eclectic interests were affectionately outlined at the beginning of the hearing by former DNI Dan Coats, himself

once a Republican member of the Senate panel. In his introduction, Coats called Haines an "exceptional choice" for the role.

"After several conversations with Avril, there is no doubt in my mind that President-elect Biden has chosen someone who has all the capabilities and qualities, experience, and leadership to be the next director of national intelligence," said Coats, who served as the Trump administration's first DNI. Coats ran afoul of President Trump after publicly offering national security assessments that Mr. Trump did not like, and he was replaced in 2019.

Democratic Senator Mark Warner, who is set to assume the chairmanship of the committee, urged a swift confirmation for Haines, who is not expected to encounter meaningful opposition from either party.

"Ms. Haines demonstrated professionalism, commitment to the men and women of the Intelligence Community, and a keen grasp of the challenges facing our national security," Warner said in a statement following Tuesday's hearing. "The Intelligence Community needs a strong, Senate-confirmed leader and Ms. Haines will be that leader."

Sen. Durbin And Bipartisan Lawmakers Reintroduce Domestic Terrorism Prevention Act (Northern Public Radio)

[Northern Public Radio](#) [1/19/2021 5:29 PM, Chase Cavanaugh, 3K]

A group of U.S. lawmakers announced the reintroduction Tuesday of the Domestic Terrorism Prevention Act.

The bill was originally authored by Senator Dick Durbin. It passed in the House but failed in the Senate. In the wake of the recent attack on the Capitol, Durbin said addressing the hazards of domestic terrorism is a bipartisan issue.

"We can no longer take it for granted that we're safe in the United States and just have to watch the incoming people," he said. "There are dangers within. Let's take them seriously and pass this legislation as quickly as possible."

Representative Brad Schneider of Illinois concurred.

"Combating the threat of domestic terrorism and racially motivated violence, including specific threats by white supremacists, is not a Democratic or Republican issue. Not a left versus right or urban versus rural issue. It is an American issue."

The bill has multiple measures to track and combat domestic terrorism. Some include the creation of dedicated offices in the Department of Homeland Security, Department of Justice and the FBI -- and an executive committee that would promote information and coordination among agencies. There would also be a task force to root out white supremacy in the uniformed services.

ACLU sues feds over withholding records in immigration cases (AP)

[AP](#) [1/19/2021 1:21 PM, Staff, 2481K]

The federal government routinely denies access to records that may help defendants in immigration cases, putting immigrants facing court action at a disadvantage from the start, the American Civil Liberties Union said in a lawsuit filed in Boston.

The organization's Massachusetts chapter argues in the suit filed Friday that the Department of Homeland Security systematically withholds records of immigrants facing detention, deportation and other actions.

The agency's nondisclosure policy violates federal law and forces immigration lawyers to defend their clients with incomplete information, the ACLU said.

The organization also argued the coronavirus pandemic has only exacerbated the problem in Boston. It said a court order currently prevents immigrants and attorneys who appear by teleconference from examining any documents or evidence introduced by DHS in court.

The ACLU argues that oftentimes the records sought are not confidential and could bolster a defendant's case, yet DHS requires defendants to file Freedom of Information Act requests.

Such public records requests take so long that the immigrants can be deported long before the information is provided, the organization said.

Spokespersons for DHS didn't respond to a message seeking comment Tuesday. The lawsuit has been filed on behalf Greater Boston Legal Services and other immigration law firms and lawyers.

US passes 400,000 coronavirus deaths (The Hill)

[The Hill](#) [1/19/2021 2:41 PM, Peter Sullivan, 2343K]

The United States on Tuesday passed 400,000 deaths from COVID-19, a stunning total that is only climbing as the crisis deepens.

The country is now averaging more than 3,000 coronavirus deaths every day, according to Johns Hopkins University data, more than the number of people killed in the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks, and the daily death toll has been rising. The effects of a surge in gatherings and travel over the holidays are now coming into focus.

The grim milestone of 400,000 deaths came on the last full day in office for President Trump, who has long rejected criticism of his handling of the pandemic.

The situation threatens to get even worse as a new, more contagious variant of the virus becomes more prevalent. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) warned last week that one of the new variants, first discovered in the United Kingdom, could be the predominant strain in the U.S. by March.

Vaccines offer hope, but it is crucial for the inoculation campaign to progress as quickly as possible to get as many people protected before the new variant takes greater hold.

The U.S. vaccination campaign has started slowly, though there are signs it is beginning to pick up some speed. President-elect Joe Biden has pledged a more aggressive federal role in the vaccination effort, including using the National Guard and the Federal Emergency Management Agency to set up more vaccination sites.

In the short term, however, the country is in for a bleak period.

Biden's incoming CDC director, Rochelle Walensky, said Sunday on CBS's "Face the Nation" that she expects 500,000 COVID-19 deaths by the middle of February.

"I think we still have some dark weeks ahead," she said.

The country passed 300,000 deaths in mid-December.

At the end of March, as the crisis was beginning, Trump said that if deaths were limited to between 100,000 and 200,000 "we all, together, have done a very good job." The country has long ago exceeded those numbers.

The U.S. has by far the most COVID-19 deaths of any country in the world. Brazil follows with around 210,000, and India and Mexico are around 150,000, according to Johns Hopkins University.

More than 124,000 people are in the hospital with coronavirus in the U.S., according to the COVID Tracking Project, though the number is starting to decline somewhat from a peak of more than 130,000 about a week ago.

The spread of the more contagious variant, however, threatens to send that number spiking again.

U.S. Coronavirus Death Toll Tops 400,000 Day Before Biden's Inauguration (US News & World Report)

[US News & World Report](#) [1/19/2021 2:47 PM, Cecelia Smith-Schoenwalder, 3498K]

On the last full day of President Donald Trump's administration and the day before President-elect Joe Biden's inauguration, the death toll from the coronavirus hit 400,000 in the U.S.

The grave milestone comes roughly a year after the first case of the virus was identified in the U.S. Now the country has the most cases and deaths of any nation by far, according to Johns Hopkins University.

A post-holiday surge in the U.S. has overwhelmed some hospitals, and experts expect the outbreak to get worse before vaccinations can offer some relief.

Biden has promised that the pandemic will be his top priority once he takes office. He plans to ask every American to wear a mask for his first 100 days in office and will deploy the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the National Guard to assist in vaccination efforts.

The former vice president will spend the night before his inauguration leading a ceremony to remember the lives lost from the virus. Four-hundred lights – each meant to represent roughly 1,000 Americans who have died – will be illuminated at the Lincoln Memorial, according to The New York Times.

While vaccinations in the U.S. got off to a slow start, Biden's incoming administration has said it is still possible to reach the president-elect's goal of 100 million vaccinations during his first roughly three months in office. According to a database from the Centers for

Disease Control and Prevention, over 10.5 million people have received their first dose of the vaccine.

Trump on Monday lifted a travel ban on Europe and Brazil that was intended to slow the spread of the virus, but an official for the incoming Biden administration said the order would be rescinded.

"With the pandemic worsening, and more contagious variants emerging around the world, this is not the time to be lifting restrictions on international travel," Jennifer Psaki, who will be Biden's White House Press Secretary, tweeted on Monday.

Cornyn presses Psaki on coronavirus rules for migrant caravan after transition resists ending travel limits (FOX News)

[FOX News](#) [1/19/2021 10:06 PM, Tyler Olson, 10362K]

Sen. John Cornyn on Tuesday pressed incoming White House press secretary Jen Psaki on how the Biden administration will handle the migrant caravan headed to the U.S. from Central America after she announced the new president would tighten international travel limits on the pandemic.

The exchange came after President Trump in an executive order Monday said that the U.S. would roll back travel restrictions imposed last year for air passengers who recently were in the United Kingdom, Europe and Brazil.

The restrictions would be lifted on Jan. 26, the same date as a new requirement for a negative coronavirus test for air travelers into the United States would go into effect. The reasoning behind the lifting of the earlier restrictions, according to Trump's order, was that the U.S. can expect those jurisdictions to comply with the new requirement for a negative test.

But Psaki quickly said that President-elect Biden, rather than loosening travel restrictions for foreign countries, will clamp down.

"With the pandemic worsening, and more contagious variants emerging around the world, this is not the time to be lifting restrictions on international travel," she said. "On the advice of our medical team, the Administration does not intend to lift these restrictions on 1/26. In fact, we plan to strengthen public health measures around international travel in order to further mitigate the spread of COVID-19."

Cornyn responded Tuesday: "Does that include caravans of migrants from Central America?"

One of the first major challenges the Biden administration will face is a massive migrant caravan currently making its way to the U.S. from Central America.

Friday, two groups of more than 3,000 Honduran migrants each pushed their way into Guatemala without registering as part of a larger caravan headed to the United States, the Associated Press reported. A third group entered Guatemala on Saturday. The migrants aim to reach Mexico, which is north of Guatemala, and eventually make their way to the United States border.

Republicans have blamed the Biden campaign's rhetoric for attracting the caravan. Biden promised a pathway for citizenship for 11 million people during his campaign and the organization Pueblos Sin Fronteras, on behalf of the caravan, called on the incoming Biden administration to "honor its commitments."

Videos show that the caravan is traveling in tightly-packed crowds with sparse mask-wearing.

Biden's planned nominee for secretary of Homeland Security, the agency that oversees border security, is Alejandro Mayorkas. At a Senate hearing Tuesday, Mayorkas was pressed on how he would handle the caravan by Sen. Mitt Romney, R-Utah.

"What is your intention with regards to that caravan, that is coming to our border. Is your intention to allow them just to come into our country? Will they be stopped?" Romney asked.

"When people present themselves at our border, we apply the laws of our nation and determine whether they qualify for relief under our humanitarian laws or whether they don't," Mayorkas said.

Romney responded that his answer appeared "uncertain."

"I apologize if I was uncertain. If people qualify under the law to remain in the United States, then we will apply the law accordingly. If they do not qualify to remain in the United States, then they won't," Mayorkas said.

Romney didn't specifically push Mayorkas on how he would handle the potential coronavirus threat from the caravan.

The Biden transition team did not respond to questions from Fox News Monday about whether it thinks Biden's campaign rhetoric caused the caravan and whether Biden plans to allow those in the caravan into the U.S. It also didn't say whether those entering the U.S. from the caravan will be subject to the same coronavirus protocols as air travelers.

Biden plans 'dozens' of executive actions in first days (ABC News)

[ABC News](#) [1/19/2021 4:48 PM, Devin Dwyer, 29K]

Not long after he takes the presidential oath Wednesday, Joe Biden will use the power of his pen to begin a sweeping transformation of U.S. policy through dozens of executive orders, presidential memoranda and other official directives.

The wave of executive action will unfold over Biden's first 10 days, according to incoming administration officials. If the plan plays out as expected, the number, scope and impact of the new president's early moves would exceed those undertaken by his three most recent predecessors.

"On Inauguration Day, President-elect Biden will sign roughly a dozen actions," incoming White House chief of staff Ron Klain wrote in a memo to senior staff last week. "While the policy objectives in these executive actions are bold, I want to be clear: the legal theory behind them is well-founded and represents a restoration of an appropriate, constitutional role for the President."

Donald Trump on his first day in office in 2017 signed a single executive order to begin rolling back the Affordable Care Act. He signed four more orders and 8 presidential memoranda in his first week, according to a review of the Federal Register. By the 100 day mark, Trump had signed 33 executive orders.

Neither Barack Obama nor George W. Bush signed any executive orders or other presidential directives on their first day on the job. Obama signed 11 executive actions in his first week while Bush did none, according to the Federal Register.

"We're going to act. On Day One, we're going to act to get COVID under control," Biden declared in November ahead of Election Day.

Aides to the president-elect say unprecedented and urgent action is justified in the face of four concurrent national crises: the pandemic, a historic recession, climate change and deep racial inequality.

"We're gonna get to work on Day One. We're gonna reverse Trump's rollbacks of 100 public health and environmental rules," Biden said in July of his plans.

One of the first Biden orders will be a nationwide mask mandate for all federal property and interstate travel that will last for 100 days, aides say.

"Federal buildings, interstate travel on planes, trains and buses," Biden said in December of where it will be enforced. "Wear a mask for just 100 days. It's the easiest thing you can do to reduce COVID cases, hospitalizations and death."

As the nation's testing and vaccination system continues to falter, Biden also plans to immediately activate emergency resources to establish thousands of community vaccination centers.

"On my first day in office, I will instruct the Federal Emergency Management Agency, FEMA, to begin setting up the first of these centers," the president-elect said last week.

Klain said Biden would also unveil new, consistent federal guidelines for safely reopening schools and businesses by "establishing clear public health standards."

With widespread financial hardship from the pandemic, the administration plans to quickly extend a federal moratorium on evictions and foreclosures and an Education Department suspension of payments for federal student loan debt.

A number of actions will dramatically overhaul the government's approach to immigration.

Biden will immediately end the national emergency declaration at the southern border, freezing new construction of the wall and ceasing the use of Pentagon funds to pay for it.

He will reauthorize the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program for young undocumented immigrants; pause all deportations; and, reverse a travel ban on visitors from 13 predominantly-Muslim countries, Klain explained in the memo.

"On Day One, I'll end Trump's unconstitutional Muslim ban. I'll push Congress to pass hate crimes legislation," Biden said in October.

Two years after Trump ended the controversial child separation policy on the border, Biden has also vowed to create a task force to reunite hundreds of children and parents and help heal families still broken apart.

"Immediately on Day One, I'm setting up a special commission," Biden said late last year.

Sources say President Biden on Day One will reaffirm global alliances, like NATO and the United Nations, which Trump openly criticized. He plans to immediately rejoin America to the World Health Organization and re-sign the Paris climate agreement.

On civil rights, Biden will reinstate protections for transgender Americans which Trump rolled back in health care, education and the military.

Some of Biden's biggest campaign promises won't come quickly or easily.

New gun controls, elimination of the 2017 Trump tax cuts, forgiveness of student loans, and a pathway to citizenship for millions of undocumented immigrants will all require approval from a narrowly-divided Congress.

Biden says he will send a comprehensive draft immigration reform bill to Congress on Wednesday.

"The Democrats only control the Senate 50-50 with the tie breaking vote going to Vice President elect Kamala Harris. So, the question of whether they can do everything they want to do is very much up in the air. And in fact, they probably can't do everything they want to do," said Nathaniel Rakich, an elections analyst with FiveThirtyEight.

And first, Biden will need his nominees for the Cabinet confirmed by the Senate. The confirmation process is already lagging behind, delayed by runoff elections in Georgia and a changeover in party control to Democrats.

Biden will likely be the first president in decades to have none of his Cabinet picks confirmed on Day One. The Senate confirmed Trump's defense and homeland security secretaries on his first day in office; Obama saw seven of his cabinet picks installed on Inauguration Day.

"President-elect Biden will really work to try to turn the page on the divisiveness and the hatred over the last four years and really lay out a positive, optimistic vision for the country, and lay out a way, lay out a path forward that really calls on all of us to work together," incoming White House communications director Kate Bedingfield said on ABC's "This Week" of Biden's inaugural message.

After his inaugural address, Biden will take a symbolic step toward setting a new tone, joining the Obamas, Bushes and Clintons for a tribute at Arlington National Cemetery.

Biden's first day as president will commence with a salute to the service and sacrifice that make this country great before quickly pivoting to an ambitious agenda for his first term.

Biden charts new US direction, promises many Trump reversals (AP)

[AP](#) [1/20/2021 12:16 AM, Bill Barrow, 422K]

Stop. Stabilize. Then move — but in a vastly different direction.

President-elect Joe Biden is pledging a new path for the nation after Donald Trump's four years in office. That starts with confronting a pandemic that has killed 400,000 Americans and extends to sweeping plans on health care, education, immigration and more.

The 78-year-old Democrat has pledged immediate executive actions that would reverse Trump's decision to withdraw the U.S. from the Paris climate agreement and rescind the outgoing president's ban on immigration from certain Muslim nations.

His first legislative priority is a \$1.9 trillion pandemic response package, but there are plans to send an immigration overhaul to Capitol Hill out of the gate, as well.

He's also pledged an aggressive outreach to American allies around the world who had strained relationships with Trump. And though one key initiative has been overshadowed as the pandemic has worsened, Biden hasn't backed away from his call to expand the 2010 Affordable Care Act with a public option, a government-insurance plan to compete alongside private insurers.

It's an unapologetically liberal program reflecting Biden's argument that the federal government exists to help solve big problems. Persuading enough voters and members of Congress to go along will test another core Biden belief: that he can unify the country into a governing consensus.

What a Biden presidency could look like:

ECONOMY, TAXES AND THE DEBT

Biden argues the economy cannot fully recover until the coronavirus is contained.

He argues that his \$1.9 trillion response plan is necessary to avoid extended recession. Among other provisions, it would send Americans \$1,400 relief checks, extend more generous unemployment benefits and moratoriums on evictions and foreclosures, and boost businesses. Biden also wants expanded child tax credits, child care assistance and a \$15-an-hour minimum wage — a provision sure to draw fierce Republican opposition.

Biden acknowledges his call for deficit spending but says higher deficits in the near term will prevent damage that would not only harm individuals but also weaken the economy in ways that would be even worse for the national balance sheet.

He also calls his plan a down payment on his pledge to address wealth inequality that disproportionately affects nonwhite Americans. He plans a second major economic package later in 2021; that's when he'd likely ask Congress to consider his promised tax overhauls to roll back parts of the 2017 GOP tax rewrite benefiting corporations and the wealthy.

Biden wants a corporate income tax rate of 28% — lower than before but higher than now — and broad income and payroll tax increases for individuals with more than \$400,000 of annual taxable income. That would generate an estimated \$4 trillion or more over 10 years,

money Biden would want steered toward his infrastructure, health care and energy programs.

Before Biden proposed his pandemic relief bill, an analysis from the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget estimated that Biden's campaign proposals would increase the national debt by about \$5.6 trillion over 10 years, though that would be a significantly slower rate of increase than what occurred under Trump.

The national debt now stands at more than \$25 trillion.

CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

Biden promises a more robust national coronavirus vaccination system. Ditching Trump's strategy of putting most of the pandemic response on governors' desks, Biden says he'll marshal the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the National Guard to distribute vaccines while using the nation's network of private pharmacies.

As he said as a candidate, Biden plans to invoke the Defense Production Act, aimed at the private sector, to increase vaccine supplies and related materials. The wartime law allows a president to direct the manufacture of critical goods.

Much of Biden's plans depend on Congress approving financing, such as \$130 billion to help schools reopen safely.

Beyond legislation, Biden will require masks on all federal property, urge governors and mayors to use their authority to impose mask mandates and ask Americans for 100 days of mask-wearing in an effort to curb the virus.

Biden also promises to deviate from Trump by putting science and medical advisers front and center to project a consistent message. Meanwhile, Biden will immediately have the U.S. rejoin the World Health Organization.

The incoming White House has tried to manage expectations. Biden said several times in recent weeks that the pandemic would likely get worse before any changes in policy and public health practices show up in COVID-19 statistics.

HEALTH CARE

Biden wants to build on President Barack Obama's signature health care law through a "Medicare-like public option" to compete alongside private insurance markets for working-age Americans. He'd also increase premium subsidies many people already use.

Biden's approach could get a kick-start in the pandemic response bill by expanding subsidies for consumers using existing ACA exchanges. The big prize, a "public option," remains a heavy lift in a closely divided Congress. Biden has not detailed when he'd ask Congress to consider the matter.

Biden estimates his public option would cost about \$750 billion over 10 years. It still stops short of progressives' call for a government-run system to replace private insurance altogether.

The administration also must await a Supreme Court decision on the latest case challenging the 2010 health care law known as “Obamacare.”

On prescription drugs, Biden supports allowing Medicare to negotiate prices for government programs and private payers. He’d prohibit drug companies from raising prices faster than inflation for people covered by Medicare and other federal programs; and he’d cap initial prices for “specialty drugs” to treat serious illnesses.

Biden would limit annual out-of-pocket drug costs for Medicare enrollees, a change Trump sought unsuccessfully in Congress. And Biden also wants to allow importation of prescription drugs, subject to safety checks.

IMMIGRATION

Biden plans to immediately reinstate the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, or DACA, which allowed people brought to the U.S. illegally as children to remain as legal residents. He’s also planning an Inauguration Day executive order rolling back Trump’s ban on certain Muslim immigrants and has pledged to rescind Trump’s limits on asylum slots.

Additionally, Biden will send Congress, out of the gate, a complex immigration bill offering an eight-year path to citizenship for the estimated 11 million people living in the U.S. without legal status.

As a candidate, Biden called Trump’s hard-line policies on immigration an “unrelenting assault” on American values and promised to “undo the damage” while maintaining border enforcement. Notably, the outline of Biden’s immigration bill doesn’t deal much, if at all, with border enforcement. But his opening maneuver sets a flank with plenty of room to negotiate with Republicans.

Biden also pledged to end the Trump’s “public charge rule,” which would deny visas or permanent residency to people who use public-aid programs. Biden has called for a 100-day freeze on deportations while considering long-term policies. Still, Biden would eventually restore an Obama-era policy of prioritizing removal of immigrants who have come to the U.S. illegally and have been convicted of crimes or pose a national security threat. Biden has said he would halt all funding for construction of new walls along the U.S.-Mexico border.

[Editorial note: consult source link for extended commentary]

Trump grants clemency to 143 people in late-night pardon blast (Washington Post)
[Washington Post](#) [1/20/2021 5:05 AM, Rosalind S. Helderman, Josh Dawsey and Beth Reinhard, 13480K]

President Trump on Tuesday granted clemency to 143 people, using a final act of presidential power to extend mercy to former White House strategist Stephen K. Bannon, well-connected celebrities and nonviolent drug offenders — but did not preemptively pardon himself or his family.

Among those who were pardoned or who had their sentences commuted on Trump’s final full day in office were the rapper Lil Wayne and former Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick, who

has been serving a 28-year prison sentence on corruption charges.

Trump also pardoned two former Republican members of Congress, Rick Renzi of Arizona and Randall “Duke” Cunningham of California. Both had completed prison terms that stemmed from corruption convictions. A third, Robert “Robin” Hayes of North Carolina, was also pardoned after finishing a probation sentence for making a false statement during a federal investigation.

Before finally signing the paperwork shortly before midnight, the president spent part of Tuesday consumed with indecision over whether to pardon Bannon, according to two aides. The former Trump adviser was charged last year with defrauding donors to a charity established to privately fund the building of a wall on the southern border.

Some inside the White House believed Monday that Bannon would not get a pardon, but Trump continued to weigh the matter — balancing Bannon’s previous help to him, and potential to help him in the future, versus what he viewed as disloyal behavior at times.

Bannon, 67, and three others were accused of making fraudulent representations as they solicited more than \$25 million in donations for a fundraising campaign called “We Build the Wall,” much of it from Trump’s supporters.

The former Breitbart News chairman had served as chief executive of Trump’s 2016 campaign and then White House chief strategist until he was ousted in August 2017 amid clashes with other aides. In recent months, Bannon had reestablished ties with Trump, vocally supporting his reelection and attempts to overturn the November results and speaking to him in recent weeks, officials said.

The last-minute clemency extended to Bannon underscores how Trump has used his presidential power to benefit allies and political backers. He had previously pardoned or commuted the sentences of his former campaign chairman, former national security adviser and a former campaign foreign policy adviser.

On Tuesday, Trump also granted a pardon to GOP megadonor Elliott Broidy, 64, who pleaded guilty in October to acting as an unregistered foreign agent and lobbying the Trump administration on behalf of Malaysian and Chinese interests. A Los Angeles-based investor, Broidy helped raise millions for Trump’s campaign before serving as the Republican National Committee’s national deputy finance chairman.

“Even Nixon didn’t pardon his cronies on the way out,” Noah Bookbinder, executive director of the government watchdog group Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, said in a statement. “Amazingly, in his final 24 hours in office, Donald Trump found one more way to fail to live up to the ethical standard of Richard Nixon.”

Many of those who received clemency Tuesday had the backing of an ally of the president, such as former adviser Kellyanne Conway, Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.), former House Speaker Newt Gingrich or newly elected Sen. Tommy Tuberville (R - Al.), who were among those cited in the White House statement as supporters of various pardons.

Advocates for criminal justice reform lamented that many deserving people were overlooked in the clemency process because the president appeared focused on handing out political

favours.

“They all had something Trump wanted or benefited him in some kind of way,” Nichole Forde, 40, who hand-wrote her clemency petition in 2016 and is serving a 27-year sentence for nonviolent drug crimes, wrote in an email from federal prison in Pekin, Ill. “I am not part of the Trump elite.”

While Trump in recent weeks had been strongly considering extending preemptive pardons to his adult children or even to himself in the wake of the attack on the U.S. Capitol, White House counsel Pat Cipollone and other advisers persuaded him that doing so would amount to an unnecessary admission of guilt, given that none has been charged with any crime or is known to be under federal investigation.

Trump’s lawyers argued to him that he could not pardon people without naming the potential crimes for which they were being pardoned and that preemptively granting people mercy before they were formally accused of a crime would set a bad precedent, a senior administration official said.

Advisers had been particularly opposed to Trump attempting to become the first president in history to pardon himself, believing the move might be unconstitutional and could further tarnish his legacy as he leaves office. They feared it could also antagonize Senate Republicans before they vote at his upcoming impeachment trial for allegedly inciting the Jan. 6 storming of the Capitol.

A Washington Post-ABC poll released this week found significant public opposition to the move as well, with 68 percent of adults — including 34 percent of Republicans — opposed to a presidential self-pardon.

The president’s pardon power does not extend to investigations by state authorities, such as one underway by the Manhattan District Attorney’s Office into the business practices of the Trump Organization.

Trump ultimately decided against a series of other controversial pardons that he had also been considering, including for WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange, ex-NSA contractor Edward Snowden and the president’s own personal attorney, Rudolph W. Giuliani, who has not been charged with a crime but whose consulting business has come under scrutiny as part of an investigation by federal prosecutors in Manhattan.

Trump had also contemplated pardoning Sheldon Silver, the powerful former Democratic speaker of the New York State Assembly who was convicted of corruption. But the final list did not include his name.

And the president decided against a pardon for the star of the Netflix reality show “Tiger King,” known as “Joe Exotic,” despite high optimism from the zookeeper’s camp. On Tuesday, his supporters stationed a stretch limo near the prison where he is incarcerated to squire him home had his pardon been granted.

For weeks, Trump had queried aides, friends and associates about whether they would like a pardon, reasoning that his political enemies are likely to investigate anyone associated with his administration after he leaves office.

The process by which the final list came together was scattershot but ostensibly led by Cipollone, his White House counsel, who repeatedly sought to talk the president out of some of pardons he considered particularly problematic, aides said. Many of the acts of clemency that Trump did grant were recommended by his daughter Ivanka Trump, her husband Jared Kushner and Alice Johnson, the woman whose own sentence for a drug conviction was commuted by Trump in 2018 following lobbying by the celebrity Kim Kardashian West.

Trump relished his pardon powers and in recent days, as his term came to a close, appeared to use lengthy discussions about who deserved clemency as a distraction from thinking about his election loss, officials said.

Aides described a last-minute scramble Tuesday, with the mercurial president still weighing individual cases and lawyers racing to prepare the paperwork as the night grew late. Officials were still prepping a news release about potential pardons after 11 p.m., trying to discern which ones Trump had signed. The final list was released after 1 a.m. Wednesday.

Among those who received a full pardon was Dwayne Carter Jr., better known as the rapper Lil Wayne, who pleaded guilty in December to carrying a loaded gold-plated .45 caliber Glock handgun from California to Florida on his private jet. He was barred from owning the gun due to a past felony conviction. He had not yet been sentenced.

Trump also granted clemency to Casey Urlacher, brother of former NFL star Brian Urlacher, who pleaded not guilty in March to charges that he helped run an illegal offshore gambling ring.

Trump also commuted the sentence of Salomon Melgen, a West Palm Beach eye doctor who was sentenced in 2018 to 17 years in prison, accused of stealing \$73 million from Medicare by persuading elderly patients to undergo unnecessary procedures.

Separately, Melgen had been accused of bribing Sen. Bob Menendez (D-N.J.) to intercede on his behalf in the Medicare investigation. Menendez, who denied the charges, was indicted on corruption charges but his 2017 trial resulted in a hung jury and the Justice Department dropped the case. Menendez supported clemency for Melgen, the White House said.

Another commutation went to Sholam Weiss, 66, who was serving an 835-year prison sentence stemming from his 2000 conviction in Florida for racketeering, wire fraud and money fraud related to his role in the collapse of the National Heritage Life Insurance Company. Weiss' sentence was believed to be the longest ever given to a defendant convicted of white-collar crime.

[Editorial note: consult source link for extended commentary]

Trump pardons dozens, including Steve Bannon, as he exits White House (Politico)
[Politico](#) [1/20/2021 3:12 AM, Josh Gerstein and Kyle Cheney, 2751K]

Steve Bannon, the alt-right provocateur and former White House aide who spent recent weeks amplifying President Donald Trump's false claims that the 2020 election was stolen, headlined a final, parting-shot pardon spree that Trump issued just hours before he leaves

the White House.

The last-minute clemency grant to Bannon, a right-wing firebrand and former Trump strategist facing trial on charges of swindling donors to a private group raising money for border wall construction, may prove to be the most controversial of the 73 pardons and 70 commutations Trump granted late Tuesday.

Trump's pardon of Bannon may also have an unintended effect on his upcoming impeachment trial in the Senate on a charge of inciting the Jan. 6 insurrection at the Capitol. While Trump did not issue a self-pardon covering his own actions that day, and he turned aside pardon requests from others accused of inciting or participating in the assault on Congress, Bannon was also among those who stoked anger in advance of the riots.

"All hell will break loose tomorrow. It will be quite extraordinarily different. All I can say is strap in," Bannon said on his "War Room" podcast on Jan. 5. "Tomorrow is game day. So many people said, man, if I was in revolution I would be in Washington. Well, this is your time in history."

Bannon frequently used similar wartime imagery to urge Trump supporters to contest the 2020 election results. He has also been a frequent antagonist of Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.), the Republican leader, most notably when he helped propel the doomed candidacy of Republican Roy Moore — derailed by sexual assault allegations — over McConnell's preferred candidate Luther Strange in an Alabama special election.

With Trump's impeachment trial looming, the Bannon pardon could push some Republican senators toward convicting Trump and potentially banning him from running for president again, but will probably be seen as less provocative than would a self-pardon or pardons for his closest family members.

Trump's wave of clemency included a broad range of beneficiaries, from nonviolent drug offenders sentenced to lengthy jail terms, to the man whose relationship with Russian spy Maria Butina ignited a Washington firestorm, to the wealthy doctor accused of paying bribes to Sen. Bob Menendez (D-N.J.). The grants of clemency mark an extended run of post-election pardons and commutations that have skewed heavily toward protecting or rewarding Trump's political allies.

For Bannon, the pardon represents his full return into the Trump fold after a bitter falling-out in 2018. Bannon gave incendiary and damaging interviews to author Michael Wolff about the Trump family. He also provided testimony to special counsel Robert Mueller that fueled some of the obstruction of justice claims against the president during the Russia investigation.

Bannon becomes the second 2016 Trump campaign chairman to receive a pardon. Paul Manafort, who was convicted of multiple financial crimes in 2018, received clemency last month.

The clemency grants late Tuesday also included a pardon for Elliott Broidy, the GOP donor and Trump inaugural organizer who was awaiting sentencing after pleading guilty in October to conspiring to violate foreign lobbying laws on behalf of Chinese and Malaysian interests.

While passing up the chance to attempt a legally dubious self-pardon, Trump also omitted from the clemency list his family members, as well as officials at the Trump Organization whose activities have been closely scrutinized by federal prosecutors. There was also no preemptive pardon for Trump's personal attorney Rudy Giuliani, who gave an inflammatory speech before the Capitol riot and has also been investigated by the feds in connection with his work for overseas interests.

Trump did sign commutations for former Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick of Detroit, a Democrat serving a 28-year term for corruption, and the rapper Kodak Black, who was doing nearly four years in prison on weapons charges. Another rapper, Lil Wayne, received a full pardon on the gun charge on which he was to face sentencing soon.

Among other notable grants: pardons for former Rep. Rick Renzi (R-Ariz.) and former Rep. Duke Cunningham (R-Calif.), both of whom had completed prison sentences; a commutation for professional gambler Billy Walters, who was sentenced to five years in prison for insider trading; and pardons for Fashion Cafe founder Tommaso Buti, who has never returned to New York to face fraud charges filed back in 2000, and D.C. developer Doug Jemal, who was convicted of wire fraud in 2006.

Trump also granted an outright pardon to Bob Zangrillo, a Miami developer awaiting trial on charges stemming from the Varsity Blues investigation into bribery and fraud in the college admissions process. He allegedly paid \$250,000 to have his daughter falsely designated as a competitive crew recruit at the University of Southern California.

Zangrillo's "daughter did not have others take standardized tests for her and she is currently earning a 3.9 GPA" at USC, the White House's explanation of the pardon said.

Trump also rewarded some of his congressional allies who joined his challenges to the 2020 election, like Sen. Tommy Tuberville (R-Ala.). The newly elected senator sought and won a pardon for former Alabama state Rep. Ed Henry, who pleaded guilty to theft of government property last year. The president also pardoned Johnny Phillips, convicted in 2016, along with nine others, for perpetrating a \$14 million Ponzi scheme.

But some grants went to allies of Trump's political opponents. He commuted the 17-year sentence of Salomon Melgen, a South Florida eye doctor who was convicted of extensive health care fraud. Melgen is a close friend of Sen. Bob Menendez (D-N.J.), and the two men were co-defendants in a bribery case that prosecutors eventually dropped.

Trump did not grant pardons to three men charged alongside Bannon in the same criminal case stemming from their role in the "We Build the Wall" group. Some legal experts said that while Bannon has now slipped through the hands of federal prosecutors, his actions could still face scrutiny and potential charges from state prosecutors. A presidential pardon does not preclude state charges.

While Trump did issue dozens of commutations to drug convicts serving long sentences whose cases were highlighted by criminal justice reform groups, the tally of such cases will account for just a tiny fraction of such grants by President Barack Obama, whose administration actively solicited commutation requests from prisoners.

Other presidents have similarly saved a wave of pardons and commutations for the final moments of their presidency — including Bill Clinton pardoning his half brother, Roger, for a 1985 cocaine conviction — though Trump has shown a particular zeal for doling out executive clemencies to his political allies and those with influential cheerleaders who have the president's ear. Trump has largely circumvented the formal Justice Department process to evaluate these cases, leading many clemency-seekers to take their pitch directly to the president.

Past Trump clemencies included nearly all figures caught up in former special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 election. They included former Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort, Trump confidant Roger Stone and former national security adviser Michael Flynn, as well as corrupt politicians like former Gov. Rod Blagojevich of Illinois and ex-Reps. Chris Collins (R-N.Y.) and Duncan Hunter (R-Calif.) — Trump's first backers in Congress.

One figure loosely connected to the Russia probe won a full pardon in Trump's final batch: the GOP consultant and gun-rights activist Paul Erickson. Erickson's girlfriend, Maria Butina, pleaded guilty to acting as an unregistered foreign agent for her efforts to court the National Rifle Association on behalf of her native Russia. Erickson was never charged in that case, but he was hit with unrelated fraud charges and wound up being sentenced to seven years in prison.

Erickson's pardon was supported by former Trump adviser Kellyanne Conway, according to a statement from the White House. "This pardon helps right the wrongs of what has been revealed to be perhaps the greatest witch hunt in American History," the statement said.

Tuesday night's final wave brings Trump's total pardons granted to 143 and his commutations to 95. President Barack Obama granted 212 pardons and more than 1,700 commutations, and President George W. Bush issued 200 combined acts of clemency, though both men had two terms, compared with just one for Trump.

Donald Trump Announces Pardons and Commutations for 143 People in Last Hours of Presidency (Breitbart)

[Breitbart](#) [1/20/2021 1:48 AM, Charlie Spiering, 1912K]

President Donald Trump announced late Tuesday night that he had pardoned and commuted the sentences of 143 people in the final hours of his presidency.

The president issued 73 pardons and 70 commutations.

The list included pop culture figures including rapper Lil Wayne, who was pardoned, and Kodak Black, whose sentence was commuted.

The president also pardoned several Republicans, including former Deputy National Finance Chair of the Republican National Committee Elliott Broidy, former Rep. Duke Cunningham of California, and former Rep. Rick Renzi of Arizona.

He also issued a pardon for his former White House chief strategist Steve Bannon, who was charged with fraud for his work on the "We Build the Wall" crowdfunding campaign fueled by Trump supporters to build a wall on the Southern border.

Trump also commuted the sentence of wealthy Democrat donor Dr. Salomon Melgen, who was convicted on 67 felony counts of Medicaid fraud in April 2017. The White House cited support for the pardon by Sen. Bob Menendez and Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart. Melgen was sentenced to 17 years in prison in 2018.

The president also commuted the sentence of former Mayor of Detroit Kwame Malik Kilpatrick, a Democrat, citing strong support by members of the Detroit Community as well as Alveda King, Alice Johnson, and Diamond and Silk. Kilpatrick served seven years of a 28-year sentence for his role in a major corruption scandal, convicted of racketeering, mail fraud, wire fraud, and other charges.

Trump also issued a full pardon to former Google engineer Anthony Levandowski, sentenced to 18 months in prison in August 2020 for stealing a trade secret from Google related to self-driving cars before changing jobs to work at Uber.

The president also commuted the prison sentence of William Walters, a professional gambler who was convicted in 2017 for insider trading and sentenced to five years in prison.

Trump's list also included many nonviolent drug offenders sentenced to prison.

The long-awaited final list of pardons and commutations in Trump's presidency was released early Wednesday morning just hours before he planned to leave the White House to his post-presidency home in Florida.

The president did not pardon Julian Assange or Edward Snowden, two whistleblowers who illegally shared America's intelligence and national security secrets. The two individuals enjoyed bipartisan support for a pardon as their supporters had hoped that the president would ignore the intelligence community elites and prominent members of Congress in Washington who were deeply opposed to a pardon.

Trump also did not issue preemptive pardons for himself, members of his family, or even some of his staff for future crimes if they face persecution as a result of their connection to the Trump administration. He also did not issue a preemptive pardon for his personal lawyer and ally former Mayor Rudy Giuliani.

Read the full list below:

Todd Boulanger – President Trump granted a full pardon to Todd Boulanger. Mr. Boulanger's pardon is supported by numerous friends, as well as by past and present business associates. In 2008, Mr. Boulanger pled guilty to one count of conspiracy to commit honest services fraud. He has taken full responsibility for his conduct. Mr. Boulanger is a veteran of the United States Army Reserves and was honorably discharged. He has also received an award from the City of the District of Columbia for heroism for stopping and apprehending an individual who assaulted an elderly woman with a deadly weapon on Capitol Hill. Mr. Boulanger is known as a model member of his community. In addition, he is remorseful for his actions and would like to leave his mistakes behind him.

Abel Holtz – President Trump granted a full pardon to Abel Holtz. This pardon is supported by Representative Mario Diaz-Balart and friends and business colleagues in his community. Mr. Holtz is currently 86 years old. In 1995, he pled guilty to one count of impeding a grand

jury investigation and was sentenced to 45 days in prison. Before his conviction, Mr. Holtz, who was the Chairman of a local bank, never had any legal issues and has had no other legal issues since his conviction. Mr. Holtz has devoted extensive time and resources to supporting charitable causes in South Florida, including substantial donations to the City of Miami Beach.

Representative Rick Renzi – President Trump granted a full pardon to Representative Rick Renzi of Arizona. Mr. Renzi's pardon is supported by Representative Paul Gosar, Representative Tom Cole, former Representative Tom DeLay, former Representative Jack Kingston, former Representative Todd Tiahrt, former Representative John Doolittle, former Representative Duncan Hunter Sr., former Representative Richard Pombo, former Representative Charles Taylor, former Representative Dan Burton, Larry Weitzner, National Institute of Family and Life Advocates, and numerous other members of his community. In 2013, Mr. Renzi was convicted of extortion, bribery, insurance fraud, money laundering, and racketeering. He was sentenced to 2 years in Federal prison, 2 years of supervised release, and paid a \$25,000 fine. Before his conviction, Mr. Renzi served three terms in the House of Representatives. His constituents considered him a strong advocate for better housing, quality education, and improved healthcare—especially for the underprivileged and Native Americans. He is the father of 12 children and a loving and devoted husband.

Kenneth Kurson – President Trump granted a full pardon to Kenneth Kurson. Prosecutors have charged Mr. Kurson with cyberstalking related to his divorce from his ex-wife in 2015. In a powerful letter to the prosecutors, Mr. Kurson's ex-wife wrote on his behalf that she never wanted this investigation or arrest and, 'repeatedly asked for the FBI to drop it... I hired a lawyer to protect me from being forced into yet another round of questioning. My disgust with this arrest and the subsequent articles is bottomless...' This investigation only began because Mr. Kurson was nominated to a role within the Trump Administration. He has been a community leader in New York and New Jersey for decades. In addition, Mr. Kurson is a certified foster parent, a successful business owner, and is passionate about various charitable causes. Mr. Kurson is an upstanding citizen and father to five beautiful children.

Casey Urlacher – President Trump granted a full pardon to Casey Urlacher. This pardon is supported by his friends and family, and countless members of his community. Mr. Urlacher has been charged with conspiracy to engage in illegal gambling. Throughout his life, Mr. Urlacher has been committed to public service and has consistently given back to his community. Currently, Mr. Urlacher serves as the unpaid Mayor of Mettawa, Illinois. He is a devoted husband to his wife and a loving father to his 17-month old daughter.

Carl Andrews Boggs – President Trump granted a full pardon to Carl Andrews Boggs. This pardon is supported by the Honorable David Lee and South Carolina Department of Transportation Chairman Tony Cox. In 2013, Mr. Boggs pled guilty to two counts of conspiracy. Since his release, Mr. Boggs has rebuilt his company, has employed hundreds of people, and has dedicated countless hours and financial resources to his community.

Jaime A. Davidson – President Trump commuted the sentence of Jaime A. Davidson. This commutation is supported by Mr. Davidson's family and friends, Alice Johnson, and numerous others. In 1993, Mr. Davidson was convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment in relation to the murder of an undercover officer. Notably, witnesses who testified against Mr. Davidson later recanted their testimony in sworn affidavits and further attested that Mr.

Davidson had no involvement. Although Mr. Davidson has been incarcerated for nearly 29 years, the admitted shooter has already been released from prison. Following the commutation of his sentence, Mr. Davidson will continue legal efforts to clear his name. In addition, while incarcerated, Mr. Davidson mentored and tutored over 1,000 prisoners to help them achieve their GED certificates. Mr. Davidson has earned praise from prison officials for his dedication to helping others.

James E. Johnson, Jr. – President Trump granted a full pardon to James E. Johnson, Jr. In 2008, Mr. Johnson pled guilty to charges related to migratory birds. Mr. Johnson received 1 year probation, was barred from hunting during that period, and a \$7,500 fine was imposed. Throughout his life, Mr. Johnson has made numerous contributions for the conservation of wildlife.

Tommaso Buti – President Trump granted a full pardon to Tommaso Buti. Mr. Buti is an Italian citizen and a respected businessman. He is the Chief Operating Officer of a large Italian company and has started a successful charitable initiative to raise funds for UNICEF. More than 20 years ago, Mr. Buti was charged with financial fraud involving a chain of restaurants. He has not, however, been convicted in the United States.

Bill K. Kapri – President Trump granted a commutation to Bill Kapri, more commonly known as Kodak Black. Kodak Black is a prominent artist and community leader. This commutation is supported by numerous religious leaders, including Pastor Darrell Scott and Rabbi Schneur Kaplan. Additional supporters include Bernie Kerik, Hunter Pollack, Gucci Mane, Lil Pump, Lil Yachty, Lamar Jackson of the Baltimore Ravens, Jack Brewer formerly of the National Football League, and numerous other notable community leaders. Kodak Black was sentenced to 46 months in prison for making a false statement on a Federal document. He has served nearly half of his sentence. Before his conviction and after reaching success as a recording artist, Kodak Black became deeply involved in numerous philanthropic efforts. In fact, he has committed to supporting a variety of charitable efforts, such as providing educational resources to students and families of fallen law enforcement officers and the underprivileged. In addition to these efforts, he has paid for the notebooks of school children, provided funding and supplies to daycare centers, provided food for the hungry, and annually provides for underprivileged children during Christmas. Most recently while still incarcerated, Kodak Black donated \$50,000 to David Portnoy's Barstool Fund, which provides funds to small businesses affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Kodak Black's only request was that his donation go toward restaurants in his hometown.

[Editorial note: consult source link for extended commentary]

Trump grants clemency to more than 100 people, including Bannon (The Hill)

[The Hill](#) [1/20/2021 12:57 AM, Brett Samuels, 2343K]

President Trump on Wednesday granted clemency to more than 100 people in one of his final acts as commander-in-chief, including his former chief strategist, Stephen Bannon.

Trump announced a wave of pardons and commutations shortly after midnight on Wednesday. Bannon, rapper Lil Wayne, GOP fundraiser Elliot Broidy and former Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick were among the notable figures to receive clemency, along with dozens of lower profile individuals whose cases were raised by criminal justice reform advocates.

Trump granted clemency to 143 individuals in total, just hours before leaving office: 73 received pardons, while 70 were granted commutations.

The Bannon pardon was perhaps the most surprising of the batch, given the former Breitbart News editor had a high-profile falling out with the Trump family after denigrating Donald Trump Jr. in Michael Wolff's 2018 book, "Fire and Fury."

"Mr. Bannon has been an important leader in the conservative movement and is known for his political acumen," press secretary Kayleigh McEnany said in announcing Bannon's pardon.

Bannon was a top adviser on Trump's 2016 campaign and served as the chief White House strategist for roughly seven months. He was arrested and charged last August with defrauding hundreds of thousands of donors who contributed to a fundraising campaign for a private border wall.

The president reportedly went back and forth over whether to grant clemency to Bannon before deciding to do so.

Trump, who had branded Bannon as "sloppy Steve" upon the release of Wolff's book, distanced himself from his former adviser upon news of the charges.

"I don't like that project. I thought it was being done for showboating reasons," Trump said at the time. "It was something that I very much felt was inappropriate to be doing."

Trump also pardoned Broidy, a former top Republican National Committee (RNC) fundraiser, who was charged last year with conspiring to act as an unregistered foreign agent as part of a back channel effort to lobby the Justice Department.

Kilpatrick, the former Democratic mayor of Detroit, was convicted in 2008 of perjury and obstruction of justice.

And Lil Wayne faces prison time after pleading guilty to federal gun charges. The rapper, whose birth name is Dwayne Michael Carter Jr., met with Trump on the campaign trail in a meeting the campaign later touted as it courted Black voters.

Trump also commuted the sentence of Bill Kapri, better known as the rapper Kodak Black, who sentenced to 46 months in prison for making a false statement on a federal document. He had served less than half of his sentence.

The president issued pardons to several individuals who were charged with non-violent drug offenses, including Tena Logan, MaryAnne Locke and Caroline Yeats and. Alice Johnson, who Trump pardoned and who became a face of the White House's criminal justice reform efforts, advocated for several of the individuals granted clemency on Wednesday.

Johnson was among those who advocated for clemency for Kilpatrick as well.

Trump has come under scrutiny for favoring political allies and well connected individuals in doling out pardons and commutations. Past recipients of clemency include ex-Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort, longtime Trump associate Roger Stone and ex-Trump

national security adviser Michael Flynn.

Following his election loss, Trump issued two sizable patches of pardons last month, including those for ex-Republican lawmakers Chris Collins and Duncan Hunter; his former campaign chairman Paul Manafort; longtime friend and adviser Roger Stone; and Charles Kushner, his son-in-law Jared Kushner's father. He also pardoned Michael Flynn, his onetime national security adviser who pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI in connection with special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation.

There had been much speculation leading up to Tuesday's announcement about who Trump would ultimately choose to grant clemency in his waning hours as president. Some Republicans had pushed for Trump to pardon WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange or former National Security Agency official Edward Snowden, but neither was given clemency.

Presidents typically issue a flurry of pardons or commutations in their final day in office. There was speculation in recent weeks that Trump would move to preemptively pardon himself or his adult children to shield them from federal charges after leaving office. Trump opted against doing so, though he still faces a Senate impeachment trial in the coming weeks and the prospect of state investigations.

Trump is slated to leave Washington, D.C., Wednesday morning, foregoing the usual practice of attending the incoming president's inauguration. Trump will be sent off with a ceremony at Joint Base Andrews outside the district. Meanwhile, Joe Biden will be sworn in as the 46th president of the United States around noon during a pared-down ceremony at the U.S. Capitol.

[DC] 12 members of the National Guard removed from inauguration duty (Washington Post)

[Washington Post](#) [1/19/2021 2:04 PM, Dan Lamothe, Alex Horton and Paul Sonne, 13480K] A dozen members of the National Guard have been removed from inauguration duty as the federal government screens troops involved for security concerns, senior U.S. defense officials said Tuesday, one day before President-elect Joe Biden is set to take over as commander in chief.

The troops include at least two with possible sympathies for -anti-government groups, said two U.S. officials, speaking on the condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the issue. Ten were removed for reasons that defense officials declined to detail but said did not involve extremism.

"These are vetting efforts that identify any questionable behavior in the past, or any potential link to questionable behavior not just related to extremism," said Jonathan Rath Hoffman, chief Pentagon spokesman. He said that the Defense Department is proactively removing people "out of an abundance of caution."

"There is going to be a continued look at this," Hoffman said. "Whether that is an internal DOD look within their chain of command or an investigation by others is something that is being determined."

Army Gen. Daniel Hokanson, the chief of the National Guard Bureau, declined to provide specifics about the troops alleged to have expressed common cause with anti-government

groups but said they had made “inappropriate comments.” One of them was flagged because of concern within his unit, while the other was reported anonymously, defense officials said. The other 10 guardsmen were identified by the FBI, Hokanson said.

The 12 represent a tiny fraction of the 25,000 guardsmen deployed in Washington for the inauguration following the Jan. 6 assault on the U.S. Capitol by a mob that sought to stop the certification of Biden as the next president. The group, supporting President Trump, launched an attack that led to the death of a Capitol Police officer, a woman who was shot by police, and three people who suffered medical emergencies.

An additional 2,000 active-duty service members are involved in the inauguration in ceremonial roles, said Army Maj. Gen. Omar Jones, the commander of the Military District of Washington. Those troops are credentialed by the Secret Service and have been reduced in number by about 3,500 over a typical inauguration because of the pandemic, he said.

Democratic lawmakers have sought vetting of National Guard members deployed for the inauguration since the riot, citing the arrest of numerous veterans in the mob, including a current member of the Virginia National Guard and an Army reservist. The names of guardsmen supporting the inauguration were sent to the FBI for screening as an additional precaution.

The scrutiny over extremist group activity within the ranks has helped generate leads from alert citizens, city officials said.

A passerby at the D.C. Armory parking lot noticed a truck bearing a sticker for the Three Percenters, a right-wing anti-government group, and alerted Charles Allen, a District councilman.

Allen referred the matter to city security officials and a senior D.C. Guard official, and it appeared law enforcement was now involved, he said. The Three Percenters “has no home in the District of Columbia,” Allen said.

It is unclear whether the driver, whose truck bears Virginia plates, was one of the troops removed from duty. Cotton Puryear, a spokesman for the Virginia National Guard, declined to comment, citing cooperation with law enforcement.

For years, defense officials have said that they do not tolerate extremism in the ranks — a point that senior defense officials repeated Tuesday.

After racial justice protests last summer, the Pentagon established a new Department of Defense Board on Diversity and Inclusion, which found in its initial report in December that more research is needed to address the infiltration of extremist ideologies in the U.S. military.

During the inauguration, the guardsmen will play a key role in forming a fenced outer security perimeter that stretches for miles and includes the Capitol and White House.

Most of the guardsmen — triple the number deployed during Trump’s inauguration four years ago — are armed with rifles, with magazines of ammunition on hand but not in the

weapon as a safety precaution. Inside the perimeter, the Secret Service and other authorities will serve as additional layers of security.

Guardsmen closer to the inner workings of the inauguration, like those overseeing access points, may receive higher levels of screening, said Michael Taheri, a retired Air Force major general and former director of staff for the National Guard Bureau.

Background checks for service members have broadened in recent years to include social media activity and more frequent monitoring, Taheri said, mirroring how private companies comb online behavior for prospective hires.

"My guess is there is a lot of open stuff out there," he said.

The removal of the guardsmen comes after some leaders have taken exception to the additional vetting.

Gov. Greg Abbott (R-Tex.) tweeted Monday that the screening of National Guard members for extremist ties is "the most offensive thing I've ever heard."

"I authorized more than 1,000 to go to DC," he tweeted. "I'll never do it again if they are disrespected like this."

But other lawmakers have questioned whether having the National Guard involved is safe.

Rep. Steve Cohen (D-Tenn.) said in an interview on CNN on Monday that guardsmen who did not vote for Biden are in "the large class of people who might want to do something" threatening at the inauguration. Facing a backlash, Cohen said Tuesday in a statement that he appreciated the assurance the National Guard's presence "provides that we will have a successful inauguration."

Jim Golby, an Army veteran who studies civil-military affairs at the University of Texas at Austin, said he is confident that the National Guard will perform professionally and admirably on Inauguration Day. The military, he said, "understands what is at stake and remains committed to carrying out its duties in a nonpartisan manner."

Golby said that service members are accustomed to carrying out orders they may not personally like.

"There are always risks, and there is always the potential for individuals to make terrible choices," he said. "But I'm confident members of the National Guard are taking their duties seriously and doing all they can to mitigate potential risks."

[DC] Pentagon Removes 12 From Capitol Duty After Background Checks (Bloomberg)

[Bloomberg](#) [1/19/2021 3:06 PM, Travis J Tritten and Emma Kinery, 6400K]

The National Guard has removed 12 people from duty protecting the U.S. Capitol after background checks found links to extremists or other issues that raised concerns.

"We're not taking any chances. Anything that's flagged is brought to the attention of the command," Pentagon spokesman Jonathan Rath Hoffman told reporters at a briefing.

“We’re not even asking what the flag was, we’re just removing them.”

The two National Guard troops with links to extremism were flagged to the military by law enforcement and an anonymous tip about inappropriate text messages and comments. Hoffman declined to characterize the communications or say if they represented threats against President-elect Joe Biden or other dignitaries.

The other 10 were flagged by law enforcement as they underwent background checks and their removal from service doesn’t necessarily mean the troops were suspected of committing a crime or otherwise unfit for future duty, Hoffman said.

He declined to specify what caught the attention of law enforcement in those cases.

The soldiers were among 25,000 National Guard members sent to secure Wednesday’s inauguration following a Jan. 6 riot at the U.S. Capitol and fears of more violence.

[DC] 12 National Guard members removed from Biden inauguration duties (The Hill)

[The Hill](#) [1/19/2021 5:49 PM, Ellen Mitchell, 2343K]

The Army National Guard has removed 12 members from their role in President-elect Joe Biden’s inauguration security, according to National Guard Bureau Chief Army Gen. Daniel Hokanson.

Two individuals were flagged for “inappropriate comments or texts” — one identified through their chain of command and another through anonymous reporting — while an additional 10 were identified by the FBI through “standard” vetting done on participants before all inaugurations, Hokanson told reporters on Tuesday.

“If there’s any identification or anything whatsoever that needs to be looked into, out of an abundance of caution, we automatically pull those personnel off the line and make sure that they’re not part of the mission set, and in certain cases, we make sure that we get them sent home,” Hokanson said.

The Associated Press reported earlier on Tuesday that the two Guardsmen were being sent home after they were found to have ties to fringe right group militias, though no plot against Biden was found.

Top Pentagon spokesman Jonathan Hoffman said the group of 10 other individuals were flagged during the FBI vetting process “for a number of different reasons unrelated to the events here.”

“These are vetting efforts that identify any questionable behavior in the past or any potential link to questionable behavior not just related to extremism,” Hoffman said alongside Hokanson. “It’s a lot of looking back at anything that could potentially flag in a criminal history check, anything that could come up in a civilian database that’s being scrubbed by our partners. We’re not taking any chances. Anything flagged, if there’s any reason that somebody’s name is brought to the attention of the command, they’re being removed from the line.”

Hoffman added that the Pentagon will “ask questions later and ascertain whether any action needs to be taken” by law enforcement or the individual’s chain of command.

The two officials would not say what criteria would flag a Guardsman deployed for the inauguration.

There's no "handbook on what are our thresholds [are] for inappropriateness at this point," Hoffman said.

"If our law enforcement partners flag an individual ... we're not even asking what the flag was, we're just removing them."

About 25,000 National Guard service members have been deployed to D.C. to assist with security ahead of the Wednesday inauguration following the violent insurrection on the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6. A pro-Trump mob overwhelmed police and broke into the Capitol building after Trump encouraged rallygoers to march to the building while lawmakers met to certify Biden's Electoral College win.

The attack resulted in five deaths and more than 100 arrests thus far, with a handful of current or former military personnel linked to the riot and charged, including Jacob Fracker, an off-duty police officer who was a corporal in the Virginia National Guard.

The FBI has since begun to run background checks on the Guardsmen activated for the inauguration, a move stemming from fears among defense officials that those responsible for security at the event could participate in an insider attack.

Hoffman said that information that would mark an individual for inauguration duty removal would not necessarily get them booted from the service.

"It's a piece of information and at this point of time we don't have the timeframe in which to run down every single piece of information and determine that an individual should not be a part of the military or not," he said.

The officials could not say how many of the 25,000 Guardsmen had been investigated by the FBI thus far, though the Bureau has assured the Pentagon it would complete all vetting prior to the Wednesday event.

[DC] 12 National Guard members removed from inauguration security mission (ABC News)

[ABC News](#) [1/19/2021 5:11 PM, Luis Martinez, 29K]

A dozen Army National Guard members have been removed from the inauguration security mission, including two who were sent home after vetting for extremist links found an "inappropriate" text and comment, the Pentagon said Tuesday.

Each of the 25,000 National Guardsmen now in Washington assisting with security at Wednesday's presidential inauguration is being vetted by the FBI.

Each of the dozen Guard members has been sent back to his or her home state for later investigation either by their chain of command or law enforcement, officials said.

Two of the Guard members had made what Pentagon officials called an "inappropriate" text and comment, presumably of a political nature, while the other 10, officials said, had

engaged in questionable behavior unrelated to extremism.

One of the Guard members was reported through the chain of command, the other was reported through an anonymous tip line, according to Jonathan Hoffman, the chief Pentagon spokesman.

The other 10 Guard members were flagged by the FBI's broad vetting process that looks at more than just whether there are ties to extremism.

"These are vetting efforts that identify any questionable behavior in the past or any potential link to questionable behavior, not just related to extremism," Hoffman said.

"If there's any identification, or anything whatsoever that needs to be looked into, out of an abundance of caution we automatically pull those personnel off the line, and make sure that they're not part of the mission set," said Gen. Daniel Hokanson, the Chief of the National Guard Bureau, at a Pentagon news conference. "And in certain cases we make sure that we get them sent home."

Hoffman said that Guard commanders are immediately removing any members who are reported to have engaged in questionable behavior and worry about follow-on action later.

"We're not even asking what the flag was we're just removing them," said Hoffman.

"We're not taking any chances," said Hoffman. "We'll ask questions later and we will ascertain whether any action needs to be taken by the law enforcement or by their chain of command."

No details were immediately available about which state Guard units the dozen members belonged to or about the nature of the alleged ties.

[DC] 12 Army National Guard members removed from inauguration duty (CNN)

[CNN](#) [1/19/2021 3:31 PM, Barbara Starr, Oren Liebermann and Zachary Cohen]

Twelve Army National Guard members have been removed from inauguration duty in Washington, DC, as part of the security vetting process initiated, in part, to ensure troops tasked with securing Wednesday's ceremony in the nation's capital do not have ties to extremist groups, the Chief of the National Guard Bureau said Tuesday.

Two of the individuals were flagged due to "inappropriate" comments and texts, Army Gen. Daniel Hokanson told reporters after a defense official told CNN earlier Tuesday that they were removed over possible links to extremists.

The other 10 Guard members were removed for questionable behavior found in the vetting process, Hokanson said, emphasizing that this does not necessarily mean they have ties to extremists, but simply that they were "identified" and removed from service "out of an abundance of caution."

"I'm not concerned as a large part of our organization, if you look at 25,000, we've had 12 identified and some of those they are just looking into, it may be unrelated to this, but we want to make sure out of an abundance of caution as I stated earlier that we do the right thing until that gets cleared up," he told reporters.

The news comes as there are now approximately 25,000 National Guard troops on the ground in Washington, DC, according to spokesman Major Aaron Thacker.

The nation's capital is on edge ahead of President-elect Joe Biden's inauguration. While much of Washington has been shut down following the deadly riot at the US Capitol on January 6, defense officials have sought to reassure the public that the troops sent to protect the inauguration are being fully vetted.

Pentagon spokesman Jonathon Hoffman reiterated that the vetting process is in place. "What the partner organizations have found, but much of the information is, as the general mentioned, unrelated to the events taking place at the Capitol or to concerns that many people on extremism. These are vetting efforts that identify any questionable behavior in the past, or any potential link to questionable behavior, not just related to extremism," he said.

Earlier Tuesday, a defense official confirmed to CNN that two Army National Guard members were removed from inauguration duty as part of the security vetting process.

When asked to comment on the decision, the National Guard responded: "Due to operational security, we do not discuss the process nor the outcome of the vetting process for military members supporting the inauguration," and referred future questions to the Secret Service.

The Associated Press was the first to report the two guards had been removed.

Acting Secretary of Defense Christopher Miller said Monday that there is "no intelligence indicating an insider threat" to the inauguration.

Miller's statement came hours after the head of the DC National Guard said that the FBI is vetting troops involved in securing the US Capitol to prevent any insider threats.

"As is normal for military support to large security events, the Department will vet National Guardsmen who are in Washington, DC. While we have no intelligence indicating an insider threat, we are leaving no stone unturned in securing the capital," Miller wrote. "This type of vetting often takes place by law enforcement for significant security events. However, in this case the scope of military participation is unique."

Miller also thanked the FBI for its assistance in vetting members of the National Guard.

Long standing concerns about extremism within military

Efforts to find and eliminate extremism within the military's ranks, particularly among those who espouse White supremacist beliefs, began long before this month's riot at the Capitol but have taken on increased urgency in the days since.

The enhanced screening measures come as tens of thousands of National Guard members are patrolling the streets of the nation's capital ahead of Inauguration Day.

The 25,000 National Guard members currently in the nation's capital is the maximum number authorized by the Pentagon for security around the inauguration.

The numbers have been growing over the past several days as troops have arrived from other parts of the country.

"What happens is they're screened before they leave their state and what it is is a credentialing process so they're screened and they're repeatedly screened until they are actually put on the street," Major Gen. William Walker told ABC's "Good Morning America" on Monday.

Walker did not say that the screening included specific questions about the members' beliefs surrounding the legitimacy of the election, but they are carrying out enhanced background screening.

"No, it's all about the background. So, a regular background check is enhanced with more screening, more details and it's layered so the FBI is part of it, the Secret Service is part of it and once they are certain that there's no insider threat then that soldier, guardsman or airman is given a credential," he said.

Walker stressed that members of National Guard are screened upon their entry to the service and this is adding another layer.

The DC National Guard is also providing additional training to service members as they arrive in the nation's capital that if they see or hear something that is not appropriate, they should report it to their chain of command, an Army spokesperson said in a written statement to CNN last week.

"There is no place for extremism in the military and we will investigate each report individually and take appropriate action," the statement said.

"The Army is committed to working closely with the FBI as they identify people who participated in the violent attack on the Capitol to determine if the individuals have any connection to the Army," the statement added, noting any type of activity that "involves violence, civil disobedience, or a breach of peace," may be punishable under the Uniform Code of Military Justice or under state and federal law.

Current Defense Department policy requires all service members be trained annually under a program that requires department personnel to report "any information regarding known or suspected extremist behavior that could be a threat to the department or the United States," the statement said.

"We don't know the size and scale of the problem," Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy told CNN on Monday. "We are working with federal law enforcement to vet our people, obviously ones in particular supporting this operation. But you would do that in most cases."

"We're taking the extremist threats very seriously. And we're vetting all of our soldiers. We're going to continue to look at the entire army as a whole and how we can ensure that these threats are not in our formation. And if they are, we'll find them and we'll get rid of them," he added.

[Editorial note: consult video at source link]

[DC] National Guardsmen removed from U.S. capital ahead of inauguration (FOX News)

[FOX News](#) [1/19/2021 4:55 PM, Caitlin McFall, 10362K]

Chief of the National Guard Bureau announced Tuesday that 12 Guardsmen have been removed from the U.S. capital ahead of the presidential inauguration, in part because of suspected far-right extremist ties.

Gen. Daniel Hokanson told reporters that at least two of the security officials deployed to protect the presidential inauguration were removed from duty because of "inappropriate comments or texts."

One of the Guardsman was reportedly flagged through the chain of command, while another individual was identified through an anonymous tip on a law enforcement tip-line.

Hokanson did not explain what constituted "inappropriate" language, but said the removal of 12 Guardsmen was "out of an abundance of caution."

"We've had 12 identified and some of those, they're just looking into," Hokanson said Tuesday, adding that their questionable behavior could be completely unrelated to extremist connections. "But we want to make sure out of an abundance of caution...that we do the right thing," he added.

The Department of Defense has deployed 25,000 National Guards troops to Washington, D.C. to aid in securing the capital during the inauguration of President-elect Joe Biden, following the attacks earlier this month by pro-Trump supporters on the U.S. Capitol building, which left five dead.

While 21,500 National Guard personnel have been stationed throughout the U.S. capital as of Monday, Fox News confirmed an additional 2,750 active duty troops will support the security of the event.

Though the presence of over 20,000 National Guard in D.C. for Inauguration Day is unusual, roughly 750 of the active duty troops will serve in traditional asset support roles, capable of extracting chemical, biological, and explosive devices in case of an emergency.

There will also be trauma support officials and medical personnel – all standard precautions for an event of this magnitude officials told Fox News.

"As is normal for military support to large security events, the Department will vet National Guardsmen who are in Washington, D.C.," Acting Defense Secretary Chris Miller said Monday before he announced that the FBI would be vetting all security personnel in the U.S. capital. "While we have no intelligence indicating an insider threat, we are leaving no stone unturned in securing the capital."

Miller said that vetting by law enforcement of security officials was not also an atypical procedure for "significant security events," but noted that unique scope of the task in the number of National Guardsmen called for Wednesday's event.

[DC] 12 Army National Guard troops dropped from Capitol security mission, including 2 for ties to right-wing militias (USA Today)

[USA Today](#) [1/19/2021 6:39 PM, John Bacon, Jorge L. Ortiz, and tom Vanden Brook, 5823K]

Twelve National Guard troops have been removed from security duties at the U.S. Capitol after questionable behavior was detected in their past during security screening, Army Gen. Daniel Hokanson, chief of the National Guard Bureau, said Tuesday.

Two from that group had made inappropriate comments or texts about President-elect Joe Biden's inauguration, Pentagon spokesman Jonathan Hoffman said. But not all 12 have ties to extremist groups, he said.

"We're not taking any chances," said Hoffman, who characterized the comments made by the two as inappropriate texts.

Of the 12, 10 were identified by the FBI in security screening, Hokanson said. Another was flagged by commanders and the final one was identified by an anonymous tipster.

There are about 25,000 National Guard troops in Washington for Wednesday's inauguration.

The Associated Press initially reported that an investigation revealed two National Guard members had ties to fringe, right-wing militias, then increased that number to 12. No plot against Biden was found.

AP also reported that the Secret Service warned National Guard troops against posting photos or information of their operations online after noticing an increase in such online postings.

The Pentagon has been vetting the National Guard members who have been brought in to provide security for the event. The information on the 12 National Guard members comes the same day the Justice Department reported that arrests stemming from the Jan. 6 assault on the U.S. Capitol surpassed 100. The riot by supporters of President Donald Trump – who believe his false claims the election was rigged – is blamed for five deaths and prompted the unprecedented security preparations ahead of Wednesday's inauguration.

[Editorial note: consult source link for extended commentary]

[DC] 12 Guard members removed from Biden inauguration (AP)

[AP](#) [1/19/2021 2:00 PM, James Laporta and Michael Balsamo]

Twelve U.S. Army National Guard members have been removed from the presidential inauguration security mission after they were found to have ties with right-wing militia groups or posted extremist views online, according to two U.S. officials. There was no threat to President-elect Joe Biden, they said.

The officials, a senior intelligence official and an Army official briefed on the matter, did not say which fringe group the Guard members belonged to or what unit they served in. The officials were not authorized to speak publicly and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

Their removal from the massive security presence at the nation's capital comes as the FBI

worked to vet all of the 25,000 National Guard troops headed to the area for Biden's inauguration Wednesday. U.S. defense officials have been worried about a potential insider attack or other threat from service members following the deadly riot at the U.S. Capitol Jan. 6 by Trump supporters that shocked the nation.

Acting Defense Secretary Christopher Miller said in a statement Monday that vetting of National Guard troops continues and that the Pentagon has found no intelligence so far that would indicate an insider threat.

Washington has been on edge since the deadly insurrection at the Capitol, which has prompted extraordinary security measures ahead of Biden's inauguration. A fire in a homeless camp roughly a mile from the Capitol complex prompted a lockdown Monday during a rehearsal for the inauguration.

U.S. Secret Service tightened security in and around the Capitol days earlier than usual in preparation, and the city center is essentially on lockdown with streets blocked, high fencing installed and tens of thousands of troops and law enforcement officers stationed around the area.

Federal law enforcement officials have also been wary of increased surveillance of military and law enforcement checkpoints and other positions after National Guard troops reported people taking pictures and recording them, said the law enforcement officials, who spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity to discuss ongoing security matters.

The Secret Service issued a bulletin over the weekend about what it sees as an "uptick" in National Guard troops posting pictures and details of their operations online.

The Associated Press obtained the "all concerned" message sent to all National Guard troops coming to Washington. Without getting into specific postings, the bulletin read: "No service members should be posting locations, pictures or descriptions online regarding current operations or the sensitive sites they are protecting" and urged them to stop immediately.

Asked about the bulletin, a spokesperson for the Secret Service issued a statement saying it "does not comment on matters of protective intelligence."

Contacted by the AP Tuesday morning, the National Guard Bureau referred questions to the U.S. Secret Service and said: "Due to operational security, we do not discuss the process nor the outcome of the vetting process for military members supporting the inauguration."

Over the summer, a man was arrested in Los Angeles for impersonating a National Guard member during protests in the city near Los Angeles City Hall. The man, Gregory Wong, was carrying a sidearm and assault rifle but was taken into custody after actual Guardsmen confronted him when they noticed things out of place on his uniform.

[DC] Pentagon confirms 12 Guard members have been removed from inauguration security (Washington Examiner)

[Washington Examiner](#) [1/19/2021 3:56 PM, Abraham Mahshie, 394K]

As President-elect Joe Biden makes his way to heavily fortified Washington, D.C., the

Defense Department confirmed 12 National Guard members have been deemed possible threats and removed from the force of more than 25,000 National Guard members now providing security in the capital city.

"If there's any identification or anything whatsoever that that needs to be looked into out of an abundance of caution, we automatically pull those personnel off the line and make sure that they're not part of the mission set," the Guard bureau chief, Gen. Dan Hokanson, told reporters on Tuesday.

Hokanson declined to confirm if the 12 individuals were specifically linked to extremism. Federal officials have said there is evidence that right-wing extremist group leaders and members were among those who rioted inside and outside the legislative hall earlier this month.

Following riots that rocked the Capitol on Jan. 6, the inauguration was declared a "national special security event," and enhanced FBI vetting began for Guard members from all 50 states, three territories, and the District of Columbia charged with providing security before and during events that will include Biden being sworn in as the new commander in chief.

Two of the 12 were removed for "inappropriate" texts or social media messages, Pentagon spokesman Jonathan Hoffman said. One was reported through his chain of command, while another was reported anonymously.

"Those individuals have been removed," said Hoffman. "They will not be at the Capitol, and if we uncover anyone else sending inappropriate messages or [who] has flags that have been identified by our law enforcement partners, they will be removed as well."

The remaining 10 individuals were flagged as persons of concern in the FBI vetting process, which looks at criminal history and possible connections to extremist groups. Rather than launch an investigation, the Defense Department simply sent them home.

"We're not asking questions right now," Hoffman explained. "We're out of an abundance of caution taking action and immediately removing them from the line of duty."

[DC] National Guard soldiers removed from D.C. security detail over alleged militia membership (Washington Times)

[Washington Times](#) [1/19/2021 7:24 AM, Mike Glenn, 459K]

The National Guard yanked two soldiers from the massive security mission surrounding Wednesday's inauguration of President-elect Joe Biden due to potential affiliation with "fringe right-wing militias."

Army officials have not detected any violent plots linked to the 25,000 National Guard troops deployed to Washington, nor have they identified what militia group the two soldiers are thought to be affiliated with.

The National Guard Bureau referred questions to the Secret Service which declined to comment on the security steps being taken in the inauguration, according to the AP.

Military officials have said they routinely screen service members for any membership in extremist organizations.

The extra security measures in D.C. is a response to the Jan. 6 assault on the U.S. Capitol by supporters of outgoing President Donald Trump and his unfounded contention that the election had been stolen.

[DC] Capitol Police Reportedly Ban Reporters From Having Body Armor, Gas Masks And Helmets (Daily Caller)

[Daily Caller](#) [1/19/2021 9:46 AM, Shelby Talcott, 321K]

U.S. Capitol Police reportedly told reporters that they cannot go through security with bullet-proof vests, gas masks or helmets as Inauguration Day draws near.

Supporters of President Donald Trump stormed the U.S. Capitol and rioted Jan. 6 as lawmakers were attempting to certify the electoral college votes. As a result, fencing and security screenings have been put around the Capitol and 25,000 National Guardsmen have been sent to Washington, D.C., to secure the inauguration.

Amid the extra security, Capitol Police reportedly said that members of the press will be denied entry if they have protective equipment like a helmet, The Hill's Alex Bolton tweeted.

"Capitol Police is informing reporters that any member of the press trying to go through security screening with a bullet-proof vest will be denied entry. Reporters told they cannot wear vests, gas masks, or helmets," according to Bolton.

It is not immediately clear if this rule applies just to the Capitol building or also to the perimeter around the inauguration grounds. U.S. Capitol Police did not immediately respond to a request for comment from the Daily Caller.

The FBI has been vetting members of the National Guard leading up to Biden's inauguration, CNN reported. There is "no intelligence indicating an insider threat" to the event, Acting Secretary of Defense Christopher Miller said Monday.

[DC] Ken Cuccinelli Claims Pelosi Asked For 'Crew-Manned Machine Guns' In Washington (Daily Caller)

[Daily Caller](#) [1/19/2021 5:22 PM, Scott Morefield, 321K]

Acting Deputy Homeland Security Secretary Ken Cuccinelli told Fox News' "The Story" Tuesday that House Speaker Nancy Pelosi asked for "crew-manned machine guns" to be a part of security forces in Washington, D.C., ahead of President-elect Joe Biden's inauguration.

Cuccinelli and anchor Martha MacCallum were discussing the presence of 25,000 National Guard troops in the nation's capital after pro-Trump rioters stormed the U.S. Capitol building Jan. 6.

"A division," Cuccinelli said, responding to MacCallum's assertion that the number of troops is greater than currently exists in Afghanistan and Iraq. "You have a division. The last up of thousands of these troops was requested by the speaker through the Capitol Police. She even wanted crew-manned machine guns in Washington. That was rejected because there's simply no use for that in a security arrangement for a civilian undertaking. Just — so some of this has gone beyond any legitimate security need."

Cuccinelli defended the troops as “disciplined” and “professional” and said they will perform as expected, but added that the state capitol buildings are also important to defend.

“The world is not about Washington,” he said. “It’s supposed to be about everywhere else, which is what the Department of Homeland Security tries to keep secure.”

The acting DHS deputy secretary confirmed that threats of individual attacks in different places are also “absolutely a problem” before criticizing those who focus only on Washington D.C.

“At the same time, where was this concern for the rest of America?” he asked. “But when their own butt was on the line, all of a sudden they want every troop and soldier they can find to protect them. And we’re perfectly happy to contribute to keeping them safe. That’s part of our goal and our job, but not at the sacrifice of the rest of America.”

“Congressmen aren’t more important than any other American,” Cuccinelli added. “And everyone in this country should be kept safe and that’s what the Department of Homeland Security has endeavored to do through this entire difficult year.”

The Daily Caller has reached out to Nancy Pelosi’s office regarding Cuccinelli’s comment.

[Editorial note: consult video at source link]

[DC] Prosecutors say Oath Keepers militia members conspired in U.S. Capitol siege (Reuters)

[Reuters](#) [1/19/2021 5:51 PM, Sarah N. Lynch, 5304K]

Prosecutors on Tuesday said three people affiliated with a far-right militia group conspired to breach the U.S. Capitol, the first time they have directly accused people of organizing the violent Jan. 6 uprising that left five people dead.

Thomas Edward Caldwell, 65, of Clarke County, Virginia, whom investigators said has a leadership role in the Oath Keepers group, was named in a criminal complaint as having participated in the Capitol riots by President Donald Trump’s supporters.

His fellow members Jessica Watkins, 38, of Champaign County, Ohio, and Donovan Ray Crawl, also of Ohio, were also charged, and the three are accused of conspiring “to forcibly storm the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021,” prosecutors said.

Caldwell, Watkins and Crawl are accused of conspiring against the United States and conspiring to prevent the government from discharging its duties, among other offenses.

A federal prosecutor told a judge presiding over Caldwell’s initial court appearance on Tuesday it was “likely” additional charges could be filed as the investigation continues, including rioting and seditious conspiracy. “The weight of the evidence here is very much strong,” said Christopher Kavanaugh, the prosecutor.

Caldwell, who told the judge he is on disability after retiring from the U.S. Navy, said he looks forward to proving at trial that “every single charge is false.”

In an amended complaint filed by the government on Tuesday, investigators revealed they had collected messages suggesting the defendants extensively plotted the attack.

In one, Watkins can be heard saying: "We have a good group. We have about 30-40 of us. We are sticking together and sticking to the plan."

Another message Caldwell received during the attack said: "All members are in the tunnels under capital seal them in. Turn on gas."

After Caldwell apparently verified he was inside the Capitol, he received other messages which read: "Tom take that bitch over;" "Tom all legislators are down in the Tunnels 3floors down."

In other Facebook messages, Caldwell later posted comments about the siege, writing: "Us storming the castle. Please share... I am such an instigator!"

A federal magistrate judge in the Western District of Virginia said Caldwell should be held in custody, noting the alleged conduct reflects "pure lawlessness and contempt" for the country's laws.

Watkins and Crawl, meanwhile, appeared in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Ohio on Tuesday where a judge ordered both will be held in custody pending detention hearings.

None of the three defendants has entered a plea yet.

Asked by a federal judge if she understood the charges against her, Watkins said: "I understand what you said. I don't understand how I got them."

Crawl, meanwhile, stifled a laugh when he was asked if he understood the maximum penalties he was facing.

Jon Schaffer, a guitarist for the Indiana heavy metal band Iced Earth who was photographed during the riot wearing an Oath Keepers cap, is accused of using bear spray on police officers as the crowd tried to force its way past them, but was not named in the conspiracy.

As arrests have mounted since the riot, criminal complaints have revealed that many of the suspects have ties to fringe groups such as the Oath Keepers and the Proud Boys, another right-wing group.

Others have been characterized as white supremacists and Nazi sympathizers, or believers in QAnon - a far-right conspiracy theory that casts Trump as a savior figure and elite Democrats as a cabal of Satanist pedophiles and cannibals.

In one such case, a federal magistrate judge ordered Army Reservist and alleged Neo-Nazi sympathizer Timothy Louis Hale-Cusanelli to be held in custody pending a detention hearing for his role in the Capitol riots.

In court, the prosecutor said Hale-Cusanelli's military and security clearance status are

under review, and that the FBI uncovered an assortment of white supremacist and extremist literature at his home, including a copy of Adolf Hitler's *Mein Kampf*.

Another federal prosecutor on Tuesday revealed the government expected to file new charges against Riley Williams, who is accused of stealing a laptop from House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's office during the siege.

[CA] California hits 3 million coronavirus cases; roughly 1 out of 13 in state have been infected (Los Angeles Times)

[Los Angeles Times](#) [1/19/2021 2:52 PM, Luke Money and Rong-Gong Lin II, 1825K]

California passed 3 million total coronavirus cases Tuesday — a mind-boggling milestone that arrived amid promising signs that the pandemic has plateaued following a months-long surge, as well as fresh concerns that recently confirmed variants could add more fuel to the viral wildfire.

The 3-million case mark, confirmed through a Times survey of county and local health departments, demonstrates just how widely the coronavirus has spread throughout the nation's most-populous state.

Clearing that threshold means roughly 1 out of every 13 Californians have been infected at some point during the pandemic.

It took roughly 10 months for the state to reach 1 million confirmed cases, which happened in mid-November. California went on to hit 2 million cumulative infections shortly before Christmas.

Now, only about four weeks later, the state has added another million cases to its total.

Dr. Tomás Aragón, the state public health officer and director of the California Department of Public Health, called the case number "a serious reminder that COVID-19 is prevalent throughout California" and said "we all need to do our part by staying home, wearing a mask, avoiding gathering, especially indoors, frequent hand washing and getting vaccinated when eligible and available."

"While we are seeing some encouraging signs as hospitalizations and case rates are decreasing, California remains relentless in its commitment in the battle against COVID-19," Aragón said. "We cannot become complacent because a vaccine is now available."

The slope and scope of the pandemic's latest wave makes California's summertime surge look like a speed bump.

Back then, the highest number of daily reported infections topped out at roughly 13,000 statewide. Over the last week, California has averaged nearly 36,000 new cases per day, according to data compiled by The Times.

As astonishing as that rate is, it's actually tumbled a bit. It wasn't long ago that the state was seeing nearly 45,000 cases a day.

While the latest numbers are likely influenced somewhat by delays in testing or data reporting over the long Martin Luther King Jr. Day weekend, they are further evidence that

the coronavirus has leveled off — and that California may have avoided the kind of apocalyptic post-Christmas surge that officials had long warned could overwhelm the state's healthcare system.

California has also seen a flattening, and even a slight decline, in the number of people requiring hospitalization for COVID-19. There were 20,138 coronavirus-positive Californians hospitalized as of Sunday, which is a 7% decline from a week ago, according to the latest state data.

The number of people ill enough to require intensive care has also dipped recently, to 4,719 as of Sunday. That's down 3% from the previous week.

Though slight, any declines come as welcome news to California's beleaguered hospitals and healthcare workers, who have had to contend with sharp and sustained increases in the number of COVID-19 patients since early November.

Many ICUs remain stressed throughout the state, however — particularly in Southern California and the San Joaquin Valley, which have both reported 0% availability in their intensive care units for weeks. That doesn't mean no beds are open at all but that hospitals have had to take significant, even drastic, steps to care for the sickest patients.

Officials warn the recent progress is fragile — and that the stakes remain high. Nearly 34,000 Californians have died from COVID-19, and vaccine supplies are still not adequate. In most of Los Angeles County, senior citizens 65 and older have not been vaccinated, despite an announcement from Gov. Gavin Newsom last week that they were eligible.

"We are closer and closer to ending this pandemic, and collective action is what makes the difference in how many more people die," L.A. County Public Health Director Barbara Ferrer said in a statement Monday.

That's particularly the case as California grapples with the presence of new variants of the coronavirus, including one — known as B.1.1.7 — that was first identified in Britain, and which scientists believe is even more contagious.

Because of its potential to spread quickly, modeling indicates that variant "has the potential to increase the U.S. pandemic trajectory in the coming months" and could become "the predominant variant in March," according to a recent report from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Another new coronavirus strain — dubbed CAL.20C — could have contributed to the significant winter surge seen throughout Southern California, according to recent research published by Cedars-Sinai.

Researchers said in a statement that the strain "was almost nonexistent in October," but "by December, 36.4% of virus samples from Cedars-Sinai patients were determined to be the strain, as were 24% of all samples from Southern California."

"The recent surge in COVID-19 positive cases in Southern California coincides with the emergence of CAL.20C," said Dr. Eric Vail, director of molecular pathology in the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at Cedars-Sinai.

Viral mutations are not unexpected and, in many cases, don't end up making much of a difference, according to Dr. Anthony Fauci, the U.S. government's top infectious diseases expert.

"When you have a lot of virus that's circulating in the community, it means it's infecting a lot of people, it's replicating a lot. And, when you replicate, you mutate," he said during a virtual conversation with Newsom late last month. "The overwhelming majority of mutations are irrelevant. They don't have any impact on any important function of the virus."

But, he added, "every once in a while, you get a mutation that does" — as appears to be the case with the U.K. variant. Even so, scientists believe that variant isn't more likely to be fatal or make people sicker once they are infected, and there's also no evidence that the newly developed vaccines won't be effective against it.

However, given the continued infection risk, as well as the relative scarcity of vaccines at this point, health officials emphasize that the best way to tamp down transmission of the coronavirus is through adherence to the oft-recited infection prevention protocols — such as wearing masks in public, avoiding gatherings with those outside your household, regularly washing your hands and staying home when you're sick.

"It will take a few more months before there is enough vaccine supply available and enough people vaccinated to provide us with the level of protection needed to end the pandemic," Ferrer said. "Given the emergence of variants that may be more easily transmissible, now would be the time to figure out how you should modify your current activities to reduce exposure to others, since many people who are out and about are infected with COVID-19."

[Guatemala] U.S.-bound caravan thwarted in Guatemala as pressure against migrants continues (Washington Post)

[Washington Post](#) [1/19/2021 4:57 PM, Kevin Sieff, 13480K]

Most of the thousands of migrants who left Honduras for the United States on foot last week have been turned around in Guatemala. By Tuesday morning, more than 3,000 had been detained or forcibly sent back by security forces.

Some in the caravan were aware that President-elect Joe Biden was days away from taking office in Washington, and were hopeful that he would make it easier for migrants to enter the United States. But others were oblivious to the political context.

For most, it was their own plight — poverty, security threats, the pair of hurricanes that have devastated the Central American nation — that compelled them to join the caravan.

The show of force by Guatemalan authorities was yet another sign of the crackdown on migration through Central America and Mexico that has intensified at the behest of the Trump administration.

For years, migrants saw joining a caravan as a safe and affordable alternative to paying a human smuggler, who might charge more than \$10,000 for the journey north, and mistreat them along the way. But the method no longer appears viable, as caravans now run headlong into a militarized response by Central American and Mexican security forces, under pressure from Washington and fighting a pandemic.

The most recent caravan, the largest in a year, left a bus station in the city of San Pedro Sula in northern Honduras on Friday. The migrants included families whose homes were destroyed in the two hurricanes that swept through the country in November. Others had lost their jobs in hotels and restaurants on the island of Roatán, frequented by tourists until the coronavirus pandemic. Still others were fleeing acute threats from violent criminal gangs.

Lucy Cervello joined the group with her husband and three children from the city of La Lima.

“The hurricane destroyed everything we own. We’ve been homeless since November,” said Cervello, 32. “We don’t have enough to eat any more. The government has done nothing to help.”

Cervello had heard migrants talk about Biden, but she didn’t know who he was or what was supposedly changing in the United States. Her daughter, Marjorie, was mourning the family’s dog, Princess, who had drowned in one of the storms.

Conservative commentators in the United States have reduced the migrants’ motivations to a pure political calculus, suggesting that Biden’s election was the major reason for the caravan’s formation. History and interviews on the ground suggest otherwise. Before the region locked down against the coronavirus, caravans formed periodically during Trump’s presidency. While they are often organized by local activists and gain steam on social media, political awareness among the group is often limited.

The number of migrants apprehended at the U.S. border has remained relatively steady since Biden’s election, from 71,726 in October to 73,513 in December. Those numbers, which include multiple entries for migrants who are rapidly expelled under a pandemic-era policy and attempt to cross again — remain far below the recent spike of 144,116 in May 2019.

Before Marlon Wood left to join the group from Roatán, he posted a photo of his family on Facebook. The 23-year-old planned to find work in the United States to send money back to them.

“You are the reason why tomorrow I decide to leave my country to have a better life,” he wrote. “God knows my heart and knows everything I have done and suffered for you all.”

Citizens of Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador normally enjoy freedom of movement among the three countries. But because Guatemala now requires a negative coronavirus test upon arrival, the Honduran migrants were stopped at the border. Still, most of the caravan pushed through the crossing.

Guatemala’s foreign minister, Pedro Brolo, said their entry “violated national sovereignty.”

Thousands made it across Guatemala’s border and continued north. But less than a hundred miles later, they were stopped at a series of military checkpoints. Photos and videos showed security personnel beating migrants back with batons.

Jordan Rodas, the human rights ombudsman in Guatemala’s attorney general’s office,

called the response “deplorable.”

Authorities said 3,329 have been detained or returned to Honduras. Some smaller groups have attempted to continue north. But the chances that a substantial group could make it through not only Guatemala but also Mexico, where security forces have already deployed, remained slim.

Partly in response to threats from the Trump administration, both Guatemala and Mexico have increased their efforts to combat the transit of migrants through their countries. The Biden administration has not said whether it will continue the pressure, but incoming officials have said newly arrived migrants will not be able to immediately enter the United States to apply for asylum.

Efforts to deter caravans have also drawn domestic support in Mexico and Central America.

“Some communities had once been supportive of caravans, but reached a point where it was too much,” said Maureen Meyer, vice president for programs at the Washington Office on Latin America.

“We’ve now had three caravans over the last year stopped either in southern Mexico or Guatemala, which suggests that it’s no longer as possible as it once was to travel this way,” she said. “The coordination between governments around this caravan suggests there’s not a lot of appetite within these countries for these large movements of people.”

Mexican officials say they are not stopping the flow of migrants merely as a favor to the United States, but in an effort to streamline their own migration system and minimize public health risks during the pandemic.

“We are going to continue acting the same way,” President Andrés Manuel López Obrador said Monday.

Many of the migrants are being sent back to precarious conditions. Some of the hurricane victims are living in tents provided by foreign donors; others are squatting on the floors of local schools.

“Some days we eat one meal,” said Wendy Treches, 40, the day before she left with the caravan. “Some days we eat nothing.”

She was traveling with her three children after her house in the city of Santa Barbara was destroyed by the storms.

[Guatemala] Guatemala Breaks Up Migrant Caravan and Deports Thousands (Bloomberg)

[Bloomberg](#) [1/19/2021 2:45 PM, Michael D McDonald, 6400K]

Guatemalan authorities say they have deported 2,374 migrants to Honduras who were part of a caravan trying to reach the U.S.

Another 955 have been sent to immigration offices, Guatemala’s immigration institute said.

A caravan of at least 6,000 people left Honduras last week in a bid to reach the U.S.,

believing that incoming President Joe Biden will improve treatment of migrants. Guatemalan soldiers and riot police blocked highways to prevent the group from advancing, beating some with sticks and launching tear gas.

Some migrants continued through Guatemala in smaller groups, while others remain stuck near the Honduran border, according to Honduran newspaper La Prensa.

[Guatemala] Guatemalan security forces break up Honduran caravan headed to US (The Hill)

[The Hill](#) [1/19/2021 5:10 PM, Jordan Williams, 2343K]

Guatemalan security forces broke up a caravan of migrants from Hondurans headed to the U.S., according to multiple reports.

The caravan pushed its way into Guatemala last week, The Associated Press reported. But Tuesday, buses carrying migrants and police patrol vehicles arrived throughout the morning at the Guatemala-Honduras border to take them back home.

Guatemalan President Alejandro Giammattei said last week that 2,000 police and soldiers would be sent to the country's border. A series of roadblocks set up had deploying tear gas and batons to dissolve the caravan.

Immigration authorities in Guatemala reported that more than 2,300 migrants had been returned to Honduras as of Monday, the AP reported.

Mexican authorities praised Guatemala for its response to the migrants, NPR noted, and called on Honduras to do more to stop the "irregular" flow of citizens.

The caravan was the first one in the last year that challenged the region's governments since last January, according to The New York Times.

The Trump administration has pressured Central American governments to stop such mobilizations before they reach the United States, the Times noted.

In 2019, Trump pressured Mexico, Honduras and Guatemala to crack down on migration toward the U.S. by freezing aid and threatening tariffs, the Times noted. The administration also signed deals with some Central American countries allowing the U.S. to send asylum-seekers there to apply for sanctuary.

However, some migrants are still headed to the U.S. hoping that President-elect Joe Biden will loosen the country's immigration policies. Biden reportedly plans to unveil massive immigration reform on his first day in office, an about-face from Trump's policies.

[Guatemala] Guatemalan forces clear road of migrants bound for US, some agree to return to Honduran border (FOX News)

[FOX News](#) [1/19/2021 10:40 AM, Stephen Sorace, 10362K]

Guatemalan security forces have cleared a road occupied by hundreds of U.S.-bound migrants who crossed into the country from Honduras last week.

Some members of the migrant caravan agreed to take buses back to the Honduran border

Monday after several nights stuck at a roadblock on a rural highway in Vado Hondo, about 35 miles from the Honduras and El Salvador borders.

A small number of migrants were forcefully sent back after a scuffle with Guatemalan police and soldiers, while others scattered into the mountains.

Another group of about 800 migrants was located approximately 25 miles farther north along the highway near Rio Hondo, where security forces blocked their advancement, Guatemala's immigration authorities said Monday.

During Monday's scuffle, some migrants threw rocks while authorities launched tear gas and pushed the migrants with their riot shields back down the highway. Migrants with children were more gently prodded away.

Several people were injured as the caravan attempted to push through the human barricade of security forces.

"This isn't a war. It's a caravan with women and children," Andres Gomez, a Guatemalan in the caravan, told Reuters. "The soldiers have no right to beat anyone. There are women who've been beaten, it's an act of violence."

Meanwhile, Pedro Brolo Vila, Guatemala's foreign affairs secretary, criticized the Honduran government's lack of cooperation regarding the caravan.

Brolo said Honduran security forces accompanied the migrants "toward our borders where regrettably we saw how they entered violently, violating Guatemala's territorial sovereignty."

He also said Guatemalan authorities had detected fake COVID-19 test results among the migrants who stopped to register their entrance to Guatemala.

On Sunday, Guatemala's Health Ministry reported that 21 of the migrants who sought medical attention at health centers had tested positive for the coronavirus. The department said the 12 men and nine women would not be returned to Honduras until they undergo quarantine at centers in Guatemala.

In total, some 8,000 to 9,000 Honduran migrants were believed to have entered Guatemala in the year's first caravan after departing from San Pedro Sula, Honduras early Friday, just days before President-elect Joe Biden's inauguration.

Biden has promised to take a different approach to immigration and even though immediate changes at the U.S. border are not expected, it has created some hope in Central America.

On Monday, Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador urged the U.S. to address immigration.

"I believe that the time has come to follow through on the commitment to carry out immigration reform," López Obrador said.

[Guatemala] Large migrant caravan dissolves in Guatemala (San Francisco Chronicle)

[AP](#) [1/19/2021 1:44 PM, Oliver De Ros, 2481K]

A once large caravan of Honduran migrants that pushed its way into Guatemala last week had dissipated by Tuesday in the face of Guatemalan security forces. Small groups pressed on toward the Mexican border, while others accepted rides from authorities back to Honduras.

Many of the migrants were driven by an increasingly desperate situation in Honduras, where the economic ravages of the COVID-19 pandemic and two major hurricanes in November have piled atop chronic poverty and gang violence. That combined with a hope that the new U.S. administration of President-elect Joe Biden would be more welcoming gave birth to the year's first caravan.

But Tuesday, buses carrying dozens of migrants and police patrol vehicles carrying handfuls arrived sporadically through the morning at the Guatemala-Honduras border crossing of El Florido. They were passed from Guatemalan border agents to their Honduran counterparts and then boarded buses that would take them back to their hometowns.

Some 25 miles into Guatemala where hundreds of migrants had been stalled at a roadblock in Vado Hondo for several days, traffic flowed smoothly Tuesday and few migrants remained. Guatemala's immigration authorities reported that through Monday more than 2,300 migrants had been returned to Honduras.

If Guatemala's government had indeed dissolved the year's first caravan, it would be a relief to the incoming U.S. administration. Biden has promised immigration reform, but for now plans to leave Trump-era border policies in place fearing a surge of migrants when he takes office.

Guatemala's government had made clear it would stop the caravan for immigration and health reasons before it had even formed in San Pedro Sula, Honduras last week. President Alejandro Giammattei said 2,000 police and soldiers would be sent to the border.

Those forces did not stop the caravan at the border, but a series of strategically places roadblocks where forces deployed tear gas and batons dissolved the mass of people.

On Tuesday, Michael Kozak, acting assistant secretary for the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs, commended Guatemala via Twitter for "carrying out its responsibilities by responding appropriately & lawfully to the recent migrant caravan."

Central American migrants began turning increasingly to caravans as a low-cost alternative to hiring a smuggler in 2018. Migrants gain a degree of safety in numbers and initially pushed successfully through Guatemala and Mexico. However, the U.S. government has led an effort to coordinate a more aggressive response from countries along the way to try to keep them from advancing far.

Caravans still represent only a fraction of the overall immigration flow that moves largely undetected.

In the past year, Guatemala has become a critical bulwark against the caravans, egged on by the more aggressive immigration policies of the Trump administration. Guatemalan forces effectively dissolved multiple migrant caravans last year.

In Tecun Uman, across the Suchiate river from Mexico, Rev. Fernando Cuevas said Tuesday there aren't more than 70 migrants in the border town. Those that arrive do so in small groups, mostly family units, and try to cross to Mexico almost immediately.

Some go to the bridge to request asylum, while others attempt to cross the river.

Where hundreds of migrants massed last January before crossing into Mexico, this time Guatemala's highway roadblocks appear to have stopped most. Most of those who have made it through carry the required proof of a negative COVID-19 test and passports, Cuevas said.

Cuevas said both sides of the river are militarized. In Tecun Uman, Guatemala deployed large numbers of National Police who made a local community center their barracks and patrol the streets for migrants. Two buses from the Mexican government sit in the central plaza in front of his church waiting to drive migrants back to the Honduras border, he said.

"We are seeing a situation a little different from other years when the migrants had access and free transit," Cuevas said. His church had prepared for the arrival of migrants like a year earlier, but now he expects few will make it. "We don't expect them in great numbers nor organized. We don't expect more than 100 at one time will be here."

Mexico had sent thousands of National Guard members and immigration agents to that border last week in preparation. President Andrés Manuel López Obrador has promised to respect human rights, but also to enforce an orderly, legal migration.

One year ago, Mexican forces in riot gear rounded up hundreds of Central American migrants as they stopped to rest along a rural highway after crossing into the country.

[Guatemala] Guatemala turns more migrants back to Honduras, thinning U.S.-bound caravan (Reuters)

[Reuters](#) [1/19/2021 3:48 PM, Luis Echeverria, 5304K]

Guatemala on Tuesday pressed on with transporting migrants back to the border with Honduras, further thinning out a U.S.-bound caravan that was halted by security forces at the weekend.

Nearly 8,000 people entered Guatemala from Honduras last week, local authorities said. A Reuters witness estimated around a quarter of them, many with children, ended up stuck in the village of Vado Hondo when Guatemalan forces barred passage.

Security forces wielding batons cleared them from an impromptu camp on Monday, and buses provided by the government ferried them back to the El Florido border crossing with Honduras.

Returns of migrants by bus were ongoing on Tuesday, the government said, adding that the trips were voluntary.

Migrants also face major challenges if they make it to Mexico. Those who reach the Mexican border must present recent negative COVID-19 tests to legally enter, Maximiliano Reyes, a Mexican deputy foreign minister said on Tuesday.

Reyes told news network Milenio that 4,500-5,000 of the migrants had been sent back from Guatemala, with others still weighing their options. He estimated around 1,000 migrants had fanned out inside Guatemala.

Some migrants said they were injured as security officials forced them from the road in Vado Hondo.

"It's not fair that they treat us like dogs, like animals," said Andy Osorio from Honduras.

Guatemala's human rights ombudsman, Jordan Rodas, called on the military and police to avoid the use of force. The Guatemalan army said some migrants had thrown stones at soldiers, who used "minimal and proportionate force."

Some in the caravan fled into the mountains during the road clearance, saying they did not want to board the buses.

"We're running," said Rosa Alvarez, a Honduran mother traveling with children, who said they had been affected by teargas used by Guatemalan authorities. "We have no money or food."

[Guatemala] Some in Migrant Caravan Carry Fake COVID-19 Test Results, Say Guatemalan Officials (Breitbart)

[Breitbart](#) [1/19/2021 2:35 PM, Bob Price, 1912K]

Guatemalan officials report that some of the migrants in this weekend's caravan carried fake COVID-19 test results. Others actually tested positive for the potentially deadly virus.

Guatemalan Foreign Affairs Secretary Pedro Brolo Vila told reporters that some of the thousands of migrants who violently crossed their border from Honduras over the weekend are carrying fake COVID-19 test results indicating negative findings, according to Fox News.

Brolo's comments came after Guatemalan security forces dealt with thousands of violent, mostly Honduran, migrants forcing their way into the country and ultimately, the United States. Officials report the violent migrant caravan threw rocks at security forces. Others pushed their way through the human barricade of security forces, Breitbart Texas reported.

Guatemalan health officials said 21 of the migrants tested positive for Coronavirus, the Fox News article continued. These 12 men and nine women are being held in quarantine before being returned to Honduras.

Brolo criticized the government of Honduras for not honoring their agreements on immigration and caravan migrants.

He charged that Honduran security forces actually accompanied the caravan "toward our borders where regrettably we saw how they entered violent, violating Guatemala's territorial sovereignty."

Officials estimate as many as 9,000 may have forced their way into Guatemala. That country's security forces blocked mountain-locked roadways to keep the caravan from

proceeding north to the Mexican border.

Mexican officials praised the work of Guatemalan security forces, NPR reported. The Mexican Secretary for Foreign Affairs called upon Honduras to do more to stop the “irregular flow” of citizens through the region.

The statement from Mexico reads:

The Government of Mexico recognizes the outstanding work of the Government of Guatemala, which has acted in a firm and responsible manner in the comprehensive care of contingents of migrants who violated their sovereignty, enforcing compliance with the immigration law and its health protocols to guarantee income, orderly and regular, safeguarding the integrity and life of migrants and their population.

Likewise, it makes a respectful exhortation to the Honduran authorities to attend, in a timely manner, this irregular flow of migrants, in such a way as to prevent further displacements.

Migrant Policy Institute analyst Ariel Ruiz Soto told Fox News he doesn’t believe many of these migrants will successfully make their way to the U.S. southern border.

“I suspect that if this caravan actually made it to the Guatemalan/Mexico border that there would be even the heavier presence of (Mexican) National Guard to try to detain the migrants,” he explained. “We saw this again in October. That caravan really stopped in Guatemala at that time. So I don’t foresee them getting to the U.S./Mexico border in large numbers.”

An unidentified senior Biden transition team member told NBC News that the migrants should not come to the U.S. — at this time.

“There’s help on the way, but now is not the time to make the journey,” the official said.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement

Biden DHS nominee Mayorkas says ICE should not be defunded, despite liberal calls (FOX News)

[FOX News](#) [1/19/2021 1:47 PM, Adam Shaw, 10362K]

Alejandro Mayorkas, President-elect Joe Biden’s pick to lead the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), said Tuesday that Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) should not be defunded -- while not saying whether parts of the border wall should be dismantled.

During a Senate confirmation hearing, Mayorkas was asked by Sen. James Lankford, R-Okla., if he supports defunding ICE -- something that has been a rallying cry for liberal activists and some Democratic lawmakers in recent years.

"No," Mayorkas said. Later he said that ICE was one of a number of agencies that plays "critical roles" and that he would not abolish.

The comments by Mayorkas indicate that while the Biden administration intends to take a significantly different approach to the Trump administration, it will not go as far left as some

in the party have called for. Biden has, however, promised a moratorium on ICE deportations.

Activists have also called for the wall at the southern border to be deconstructed. Biden has promised that he won't allow "another foot" of the wall to be built during his administration but has not said anything about removing construction.

When asked if he would recommend dismantling the wall, Mayorkas said he hasn't looked at that specific question. He said, however, that he agreed with the approach of the late Sen. John McCain that the wall is "not a monolithic challenge."

"The border is varied depending on the geography, depending on the specific venue and depending on the conduct of individuals around it and we don't need, nor should we have a monolithic answer to that varied and diverse challenge," he said.

When asked if sees areas of the border that are in need of more technology or an expansion of barriers, he again said it was something that needed study.

"I look forward to studying that because I am aware of the challenges that the border presents, I am very well aware of the fact...that traffickers are seeing to exploit the border and not only to move people across it illegally, but to move contraband, to move fentanyl, the narco traffickers have sought to exploit the current challenge of the COVID-19 pandemic and I look forward to studying the border to make sure those challenges are repelled," Mayorkas said.

Mayorkas is a former director of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) and is also credited as being a key official involved in the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program that gave protection to illegal immigrants who came to the country as children.

He also faced a grilling from multiple Republican senators over a scathing inspector general report that found that he intervened to help foreign investors in the EB-5 visa program who were connected to top Democrats.

In three EB-5 cases, each involving high-profile Democrats, Mayorkas intervened "outside the normal adjudicatory process" and "in ways that benefited the stakeholders," the report found.

Mayorkas defended his conduct on Tuesday, saying he had been involved in a number of cases and objected to the use of the word "intervened" to describe his behavior.

He also said the program faced a number of problems and he implemented a number of reforms to fix what was universally acknowledged as a program in need of reform.

"It is my job to become involved, to learn the problems the agency confronts, to become involved in the problems and to fix them and that's what I did in this case and the many cases that came before me that were presented to me from both sides of the aisle," he said.

Asked what he had learned from the controversy, he said: "I learned that individuals in the EB-5 investor program and in the agency may not have full visibility of all that I am involved

in and all that I do, as a leader and therefore they may take a slice of my actions and gather misperceptions of what fuels me as a leader and what drives me as a government servant."

Mayorkas is likely to be confirmed by the chamber and has received a broad range of endorsements from law enforcement groups. Former acting DHS chief Chad Wolf said recently that Mayorkas is "qualified."

"I do think he's qualified. Are his views and his policies the one that I would have picked? Probably not," he said on ABC News. "But that's not to say he's not qualified, just like I'm sure he would say, my views and policies are not his liking either."

Biden DHS Nominee Says He Does Not Support Abolishing ICE, CBP (Daily Caller)

[Daily Caller](#) [1/19/2021 4:51 PM, Varun Hukeri, 321K]

Alejandro Mayorkas, President-elect Joe Biden's nominee to lead the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), said during a Senate confirmation hearing Tuesday he does not support abolishing Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) or Customs and Border Protection (CBP).

During his confirmation hearing before the Senate Homeland Security Committee, Mayorkas was asked about his position on the two DHS agencies by multiple Republican Senators. Calls to abolish ICE and similar agencies have become more commonplace among progressive activists and even some Democratic lawmakers.

"Would you recommend that ICE be defunded?" asked Republican Oklahoma Sen. James Lankford.

"No," Mayorkas responded. He later stated he would need to "study the condition" of ICE in order to determine whether the agency would require additional funding.

Republican Florida Sen. Rick Scott also asked a similar question during the confirmation hearing. "Could you repeat your position with regard to funding border patrol and ICE, and whether you think we should continue to fund them or we should abolish them?" asked Scott.

"[CBP] and [ICE] play critical roles in the federal government and I would not abolish them," Mayorkas answered.

The comments from Mayorkas suggest that the incoming Biden administration will not implement the more radical agenda favored by some progressives, even if it takes a considerably different approach to immigration and border security than the Trump administration, according to Fox News.

Biden has called for a moratorium on deportations during the first 100 days of his presidency and is expected to reverse a number of DHS policies enacted by the Trump administration, according to The Washington Post.

Implementing reforms at DHS may be difficult given that border patrol agencies largely adopted Trump's immigration agenda and the largest border patrol union endorsed Trump in the 2020 election.

But Mayorkas has experience in the department, previously serving as director of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, and has received endorsements from a number of law enforcement agencies, according to Fox News. A Democratic majority in the Senate will also make his confirmation more likely.

Biden's DHS nominee says 'cages' were built on Obama's watch (Washington Times)
[Washington Times](#) [1/19/2021 6:10 AM, Stephen Dinan, 459K]

Alejandro Mayorkas, President-elect Joseph R. Biden's pick to lead Homeland Security in the new administration, acknowledged Tuesday that the so-called "cages" where migrant children were held on the border were first erected under President Barack Obama.

Mr. Mayorkas was deputy secretary at Homeland Security during the 2014 and 2015 border surges, when the chain-link enclosures were built.

Sen. Ron Johnson, Wisconsin Republican, asked him if those were the same enclosures that the Trump administration took heat for in 2018 and 2019, during a later border surge.

"Yes sir," Mr. Mayorkas said.

But he rejected Mr. Johnson's accusation that families were separated during the Obama years, saying he "explicitly rejected" that idea when he was the department deputy.

The chain-link pens were erected because of the number of children who began to arrive at the border, overwhelming facilities that weren't prepared to hold them. The fencing was built to create spaces where they could be held.

Photos of the fenced-in areas became a divisive point during the Trump-era border surge, when the president's critics claimed the children were being put in "cages."

Mr. Biden has distanced himself from the enforcement record he and Mr. Obama oversaw during their eight years in office.

He has promised to pursue a speedy legalization of nearly all illegal immigrants, including those who jumped the border during his time in office and again under President Trump.

Citizenship and Immigration Services

Trump grants Venezuelans temporary legal status on his way out (Politico)
[Politico](#) [1/19/2021 9:24 PM, Sabrina Rodriguez, 2751K]

President Donald Trump on Tuesday announced he will offer Venezuelan exiles protection from deportation, a move he has considered for years but refused to do until his last full day in office.

Trump is using the little-known Deferred Enforced Departure program, or DED, to offer temporary legal status to Venezuelans fleeing the humanitarian crisis brought on by Nicolás Maduro's regime. DED, similar to Temporary Protected Status or TPS, protects recipients from deportation and allows them to get work permits. However, it is granted directly by the president instead of the Department of Homeland Security.

“The deteriorative condition within Venezuela, which presents an ongoing national security threat to the safety and well-being of the American people, warrants the deferral of the removal of Venezuelan nationals who are present in the United States,” Trump said in a memorandum released Tuesday.

Based on Trump’s memo, the U.S. will defer for 18 months the removal of certain Venezuelan nationals present in the U.S. on Jan. 20. It also allows those Venezuelans to work during that period of time.

Last year, the State Department had considered using DED to protect Venezuelans, but talks stalled over resistance to including relief for exiles in Trump’s Venezuela strategy. The outgoing president’s strategy centered around sanctions to put maximum pressure on the Maduro regime.

The move to use DED instead of TPS stems from a long-standing concern from some Republicans that TPS will eventually become a path to permanent residency in the United States. Deferred Enforced Departure is designated by the president and gives the chief executive the ability to end it without as many procedural hurdles.

Offering DED to Venezuelans is expected to protect about 200,000 Venezuelan citizens in the U.S. from deportation — the same number it potentially would have under TPS, according to TPS estimates from the Congressional Budget Office.

Florida Republicans, such as Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart, have long pushed for the Trump administration to offer temporary legal status to Venezuelans given the dire situation in the South American country. It was also long sold as a way to build more good will with South Florida’s Venezuelan community.

Despite not granting TPS for Venezuelans, Trump — with his campaign’s anti-socialist messaging — won in Doral, home to the largest Venezuelan community in the United States, posting significant gains from 2016.

People close to Trump’s last-minute decision said White House advisers Ivanka Trump and Jared Kushner were involved in moving it forward. The decision — which comes less than 16 hours before Trump’s presidency ends — will likely come as welcome news in South Florida, where he, his daughter and son-in-law will soon reside.

Sen. Marco Rubio, who has been involved heavily in Trump’s Latin America policy, on Sunday hinted that an announcement could be coming soon.

“Still hopeful that as I suggested over a year ago & again three months ago, the President will grant Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) to eligible Venezuelan nationals currently residing in the U.S.,” Rubio (R-Fla.) wrote on Twitter.

President-elect Joe Biden has previously pledged to grant Venezuelans temporary protected status. In 2019, the Democratic-led House passed a bipartisan bill to grant TPS to Venezuelans. But the legislation was held up in the GOP-controlled Senate, despite support from Rubio.

Trump Issues 18-Month Amnesty for Thousands of Venezuelans in U.S. (Breitbart)

[Breitbart](#) [1/19/2021 11:57 PM, John Binder, 1912K]

President Donald Trump has issued an 18-month executive amnesty for tens of thousands of Venezuelan nationals living in the United States who otherwise would have been eligible for deportation.

In an executive order on his final night in the White House, Trump issued Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) for at least 94,000 Venezuelan nationals — allowing them to remain in the U.S., free from deportation, for an 18-month period that is almost certain to be renewed by the incoming Biden administration.

“The deteriorative condition within Venezuela, which presents an ongoing national security threat to the safety and well-being of the American people, warrants the deferral of the removal of Venezuelan nationals who are present in the United States,” Trump wrote in the order.

Trump wrote that the temporary executive amnesty “is in the foreign policy interest” of the U.S. and thus Venezuelan nationals and foreign nationals who last resided in Venezuela will no longer be subject to deportation for the next 18 months.

Most significantly, the order gives work permits to those thousands of Venezuelan nationals at a time when the nation faces a mass unemployment crisis due to the Chinese coronavirus pandemic. Today, about 18 million Americans are jobless.

Those eligible must not have been convicted of a felony or two or more misdemeanors and must be present in the U.S. as of January 20.

Trump signed the order after lobbying efforts last year by Sen. Marco Rubio (R-FL), who thanked the president for the executive action.

Such DED programs are similar to the Temporary Protected Status (TPS) program as they effectively keep foreign nationals in the U.S. who would have otherwise been deported. Often times, the programs are repeatedly renewed for decades and can lead to permanent amnesties.

The latest case, for instance, occurred in March 2018 when Trump ended DED for thousands of Liberian nationals. The following year, Congress slipped a permanent amnesty into a year-end spending bill, and Trump signed the legislation ensuring that those Liberians could eventually obtain green cards and apply for American citizenship.

The Liberian amnesty was the first of its kind since the year 2000.

White House approves deferred deportations for Venezuelans (The Hill)

[The Hill](#) [1/19/2021 9:09 PM, Tal Axelrod, 2343K]

The White House approved the deferral of deportations for some Venezuelans in an 11th hour decision before President Trump leaves office.

The White House said in a memo released Tuesday that it is approving Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) for Venezuelans. Recipients of the deferral will be able to live and work in the U.S., similar to those protected under a temporary protected status (TPS).

The memo hammered the government of Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro, accusing its corruption of producing “the worst humanitarian crisis in the Western Hemisphere in recent memory.”

“A catastrophic economic crisis and shortages of basic goods and medicine have forced about five million Venezuelans to flee the country, often under dangerous conditions,” the White House wrote in the memo.

“The deteriorative condition within Venezuela, which presents an ongoing national security threat to the safety and well-being of the American people, warrants the deferral of the removal of Venezuelan nationals who are present in the United States.”

The new policy is a final swipe against the Maduro regime from the White House, which has recognized opposition leader Juan Guaidó as the interim president since 2019 following a 2018 presidential race that Maduro won but observers say was rife with fraud.

Maduro appeared to be only narrowly holding onto power after the election as an alarming humanitarian crisis, fueled by food and medicine shortages, worsened even further, and Western nations rallied around Guaidó. However, he was ultimately able to hold onto the presidency as enthusiasm among the opposition faded and international attention was focused elsewhere.

The new policy defers deportations for “any national of Venezuela, or alien without nationality who last habitually resided in Venezuela, who is present in the United States as of January 20, 2021.”

Those not protected under the program include Venezuelans who have “voluntarily returned to Venezuela or their country of last habitual residence outside the United States;” have not continuously lived in the U.S.; have been convicted of a felony or two or more misdemeanors; are subject to extradition; the secretary of Homeland Security “has determined is not in the interest of the United States or presents a danger to public safety;” the secretary of State “has reasonable grounds to believe would have potentially serious adverse foreign policy consequences for the United States.”

The move was met with applause from some Republican lawmakers who have long touted the need for the U.S. to take a stand against socialist dictatorships like Venezuela.

“We have a fundamental obligation to provide safe-haven for those fleeing tyranny and oppression. This act of solidarity provides our Venezuelan exile community with much-needed assurance during these unprecedented times,” said Rep. María Elvira Salazar (R-Fla.). “I will never stop fighting for this just cause until Venezuela is freed from the murderous, socialist Maduro regime and is once again a vibrant, prosperous democracy that respects the rule of law.”

Trump blocks Venezuelans’ deportation in last political gift (AP)

[AP](#) [1/19/2021 11:00 PM, Scott Smith and Joshua Goodman, 13480K]

With the clock winding down on his term, U.S. President Donald Trump shielded tens of thousands of Venezuelan migrants from deportation Tuesday night, rewarding Venezuelan exiles who have been among his most loyal supporters and who fear losing the same privileged access to the White House during the Biden administration.

Trump signed an executive order deferring for 18 months the removal of more than 145,000 Venezuelans who were at risk of being sent back to their crisis-wracked homeland. He cited the “deteriorative condition” within Venezuela that constitutes a national security threat as the basis for his decision.

“America remains a beacon of hope and freedom for many, and now eligible Venezuelan nationals in the U.S. will receive much-needed temporary immigration relief,” Sen. Marco Rubio, a Republican of Florida, said in a statement praising the decision.

The last-minute reprieve — in sharp contrast to Trump’s hardline immigration policies the past four years — capped a busy final day in office that also saw Trump issue a sweeping new round of financial sanctions targeting the alleged front man of Venezuelan leader Nicolas Maduro and tighten controls to keep spying technology out of the hands of the Venezuelan military.

But ahead of Joe Biden’s inauguration Wednesday, far greater attention was focused on the president-elect’s choice to be secretary of state, Antony Blinken, who during his U.S. Senate confirmation hearing in Washington showed continued support for Venezuelan opposition leader Juan Guaidó.

Blinken, in his first comments on Venezuela, said he would continue recognizing Guaidó as Venezuela’s interim president and indicated he has no illusions of an eventual dialogue with Maduro, who he called a “brutal dictator.”

Still, the veteran diplomat expressed frustration with the results of current U.S. approach, which hasn’t shaken Maduro’s grip on power or led to free and fair elections. He said there is room for fine tuning sanctions and better coordination with allied nations to restore democracy to the crisis-stricken South American nation.

“The hard part is that for all these efforts, which I support, we obviously have not gotten the results that we need,” Blinken said.

The Trump administration was the first of now more than 50 countries in the world to recognize Guaidó as Venezuela’s president shortly after the young lawmaker rose up to challenge Maduro’s rule two years ago. Secretary of State Michael Pompeo spoke Monday by phone with Guaidó, expressing his “personal respect and appreciation” to the opposition leader for his “commitment to the cause of freedom,” the State Department said in a statement.

Venezuela, a once wealthy oil-producing nation, has fallen into economic and political crisis in recent years that has seen a flood of more than 5 million residents flee a breakdown in public services and shortages including a lack of running water, electricity and gasoline.

Most have migrated to other parts of Latin America. But an estimated 350,000 are believed to reside in the U.S., and about 146,000 of them have no legal status, according to the Center for Migration Studies in New York.

More than 700 Venezuelans have been removed from the U.S. since 2018, while 11,000 more are under deportation proceedings, according to the TRAC immigration data base of

Syracuse University.

For years, Venezuelans, with bipartisan support, have been clamoring for so-called temporary protected status to no effect as Trump has tried to end the program for migrants from six other countries, including Haiti, Nicaragua and El Salvador.

Trump's order provides similar protections, including protection from deportation and the right to work, but was still met by resistance by some Democrats who want Biden to introduce legislation providing additional safeguards.

"Our community will not be fooled and used for political games anymore," said Leopoldo Martinez, the first Venezuela-born member of the Democratic National Committee.

In the latest round of sanctions trying to pressure Maduro out, the U.S. Treasury Department imposed sanctions on three individuals, 14 businesses and six ships. All are accused of helping the Venezuelan state oil company PDVSA evade earlier U.S. sanctions designed to stop the president from profiting from crude sales.

The sanctions target people and businesses linked to Alex Saab, a Colombian businessman who U.S. officials say is the front man for Maduro responsible for everything from the importation of food to the export of the nation's crude. Saab was arrested on a U.S. warrant last year in the African nation of Cape Verde on what Maduro says was an official mission to Iran to purchase supplies. He is now fighting extradition to Miami, where he faces corruption charges.

Maduro's government blasted the sanctions as another act of "imperialist aggression" aimed at destroying Venezuela's ability to meet its own needs through oil sales after four years of attacks from the Trump administration.

The U.S. Department of Commerce also announced measures Tuesday to block U.S. technology from being used by military intelligence in nations including China, Cuba, Russia and Venezuela.

Such stiff measures have become an almost routine feature of the outgoing administration's hardline approach to Venezuela, which has proven popular with exile Latino voters in Florida.

Biden's immigration bill faces difficult path in Senate (Roll Call)

[Roll Call](#) [1/19/2021 4:52 PM, Michael Macagnone, 87K]

President-elect Joe Biden's plan to propose a sweeping immigration bill on his first day in office faces significant Republican opposition over a key issue: the path to citizenship for those without legal status.

Incoming White House Chief of Staff Ron Klain said in interviews over the weekend that the administration plans to "restore humanity to our immigration system" through comprehensive legislation and a series of executive actions on Day One.

Biden's nominee for Homeland Security secretary, Alejandro Mayorkas, confirmed the plan during his confirmation hearing Tuesday. If confirmed, he told members of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, he would work "with Congress in

passing legislation to fix our broken immigration system.”

Both Biden and, more recently, Vice President-elect Kamala Harris have said their immigration bill would provide a pathway to citizenship for millions of immigrants who lack legal status in the country.

Last week, Harris revealed that plan includes granting green cards to immigrants protected by Temporary Protected Status and the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals programs, granting those individuals automatic permanent U.S. residency. The bill also would cut the wait time to obtain citizenship from the current 13 years to eight.

“We believe that it’s the smarter and more humane way of approaching immigration,” Harris said in an interview with Univision about the plan.

But neither Biden nor Harris nor anyone in the transition team has talked about what those immigrants specifically would need to do to ultimately receive citizenship.

Sen. Charles E. Grassley, the Iowa Republican poised to become ranking member of the Judiciary Committee—which has jurisdiction over immigration—on Tuesday blasted Biden’s proposal as “mass amnesty” and called it “far more radical” than past congressional efforts that have failed.

“I’ve previously supported immigration proposals that would provide certainty for DACA-eligible individuals and lead to greater border security and more robust enforcement of our immigration laws. But a mass amnesty with no safeguards and no strings attached is a nonstarter. As we’ve seen before, that approach only encourages further violations of our immigration laws,” he said in a statement.

Tough Senate path

Though Democrats will control the House and, more narrowly, the Senate following Biden’s inauguration, they’ll likely need Republican support to enact any bill.

Sen. Charles E. Schumer of New York, who will become majority leader once two new Georgia Democrats are sworn in and Harris is inaugurated, said in a floor speech Tuesday that immigration legislation would be “a very high priority” once Democrats take control.

“I’ve always felt that comprehensive immigration reform with a path to citizenship is one of the most important things a Democratic Congress can do,” Schumer said.

If Democrats can’t find enough Republican support to pass legislation through regular order, they could still perhaps pass it through the budget reconciliation process. But that process would limit how comprehensive the bill could be since reconciliation is primarily intended to balance revenue and spending.

But the rules of budget reconciliation would likely limit Biden’s ability to pass immigration legislation on a simple majority vote. That means Senate Democrats will have to either find a handful of Republicans to support their proposals, or find the issue pressing enough to jettison the legislative filibuster.

A series of chairmanship shuffles will likely put Sen. Richard J. Durbin, D-Ill., as the leader of the Judiciary Committee in coming days. Durbin, the Democratic whip, has been the primary sponsor behind a series of proposals to provide so-called Dreamers — undocumented immigrants brought to the country as children — a path to citizenship.

Durbin has a history of working across the aisle in the committee, including on the 2018 criminal justice measure that passed the chamber under Grassley's leadership.

But Durbin's efforts on immigration legislation have demonstrated that immigration proposals frequently deadlock over the issue of how to gain citizenship — a roadblock that hasn't vanished with Biden's election.

Sen. Josh Hawley, R-Mo., an ally of President Donald Trump who backed discredited allegations of election fraud following Biden's victory, described reports of Biden's immigration plan as "mass amnesty" during the Mayorkas hearing Tuesday. Hawley sits on both the Homeland Security and Judiciary committees.

Through a spokesperson, Durbin pledged to push for a bipartisan bill, with possibly less than some immigration advocates had hoped for.

"Bipartisan support is essential to victory in a 50-50 Senate, and Senator Durbin is working hard to advance reforms like the Dream Act, which is supported by the vast majority of Americans, including most Republicans," the spokesperson said in a statement.

Jorge Loweree, policy director for the American Immigration Council, called the path to citizenship "the operative question" when discussing any immigration proposal. Loweree, who favors a broader route to citizenship, said any bill that "creates a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants, whatever the number, it is still going to be attacked by the other side as amnesty."

The most recent major push for a new immigration law, in 2018, fell apart amid disputes between Trump, Senate Republicans and Democrats over asylum, a border wall, citizenship for DACA recipients and sanctuary cities. Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., a Trump ally and major player in that effort, said last year he was open to a path to citizenship for Dreamers.

But the Senate has lost a handful of Republicans who backed that bipartisan bill: Lamar Alexander of Tennessee, Jeff Flake of Arizona, Cory Gardner of Colorado and Johnny Isakson of Georgia. Three of those seats are now held by Democrats.

The last effort before that, known as the "Gang of Eight" proposal in 2013, has only two Republican members left: Graham and Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla. That effort actually passed the Senate on a 68-32 vote before dying in a Republican-controlled House.

Lorella Praeli, co-president of the advocacy group Community Change, said on a call with reporters Tuesday that Biden has a "moral mandate" to break sharply from Trump's immigration policies and rhetoric.

"In this moment ... we have a window of opportunity to secure significant reforms on immigration," Praeli said, like a path to citizenship that extends beyond Dreamers to millions of undocumented immigrants across the country.

Biden Plans Day-One Immigration Overhaul, Testing Senate Comity (Bloomberg)

[Bloomberg](#) [1/19/2021 1:21 PM, Jordan Fabian, 6400K]

Joe Biden will propose a broad immigration overhaul on his first day as president, including a shortened pathway to U.S. citizenship for undocumented migrants -- a complete reversal from Donald Trump's immigration restrictions and crackdowns, but one that faces major roadblocks in Congress.

The new president's legislation would allow the roughly 11 million immigrants living illegally in the U.S. to gain citizenship within eight years instead of 13, according to a Biden transition official. Unlike past reform measures, it does not include an explicit trade-off of enhanced border security.

The proposal would grant work permits for the spouses and children of people with temporary visas. But it would not expand the number of high-skilled foreign workers admitted on H-1B visas, which are widely used in the U.S. technology industry but sometimes criticized by labor groups.

With the plan, Biden seeks to deliver on a major campaign promise to Latino voters and immigrant-rights groups, many of whom were alienated and outraged by Trump's restrictions on legal immigration, police raids on the homes and workplaces of undocumented people living in the U.S., and his fortification of the border with Mexico. But the bill as proposed almost certainly won't pass a narrowly divided Congress, and even if it is amended to better reflect Republican concerns, odds are long that lawmakers will finally unknot a policy that's confounded Washington for decades.

"It's a powerful message that this is a priority," said John Sandweg, former acting director of Immigration and Customs Enforcement under President Barack Obama. "During the Obama administration, there was a tremendous frustration that the bill wasn't offered early in the administration and so this sends a big message."

Speaking on the Senate floor Tuesday, Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer said getting a final comprehensive immigration bill through Congress is one of his leading goals as he takes over as majority leader. It must, he said, include a pathway to citizenship.

"To me passing comprehensive reform is a very high priority," Schumer said.

Recent efforts to comprehensively overhaul U.S. immigration law dating back to George W. Bush's presidency failed, even at a time when Republicans sought to broaden their appeal to Hispanic voters. There hasn't been a substantial revamp of American policy since 1986, when President Ronald Reagan signed a law that made 3 million undocumented workers eligible for legal status.

Ever since, immigration opponents in the Republican Party have demonized such proposals as "amnesty" for people who broke the law. In 2007, an immigration overhaul backed by Bush was blocked in the Senate and never considered in the House, despite Democrats controlling the chamber.

Six years later, under Obama, a plan negotiated by a bipartisan group of eight senators passed the Senate 68-32 -- only to die in the House, where Republican leaders refused to consider it.

The most recent attempt at an overhaul collapsed in 2018 when each of four competing plans, including a broad bipartisan plan and one that reflected Trump's priorities, were blocked from consideration on the Senate floor.

Sandweg said the bill would undoubtedly undergo changes in Congress, but praised its overall approach -- especially the measures designed to address the causes of migration from Central America and Mexico.

"If history is any guide, the Congress will put its own imprint on this bill. But I think that the provisions that the Biden administration is staking out at the outset are incredibly reasonable and make a tremendous amount of sense," he said.

Biden's Promise

During the 2020 campaign, Biden pledged he would reverse Trump's immigration policies, which he said punished immigrants and ethnic minorities, while maintaining security at the border with Mexico.

Under Biden's bill, people living in the U.S. without documentation as of Jan. 1 would have a five-year path to permanent legal status -- known as a green card -- if they pass background checks, pay taxes and meet other conditions. Then, they could apply for citizenship after another three years.

"We're going to reduce the time from what is now, has been, currently 13 years to 8 years. We are going to expand protections for Dreamers and DACA recipients," Vice President-elect Kamala Harris said in a recent interview with Univision, referring to the Obama-era Deferred Action for Childhood Migrants Program.

"Dreamers" is the term advocates use for undocumented immigrants brought to the country as children. They and immigrants living in the U.S. under what's called "temporary protected status" would enjoy an even faster route to citizenship, qualifying for green cards almost immediately if they meet requirements including holding a job or attending school.

But Biden's decision not to pair easier paths to citizenship with enhanced border security and internal enforcement may complicate the legislation in the Senate, divided 50-50 between the parties.

Harris will cast the tie-breaking vote as vice president, giving Democrats control of the chamber. But any major legislation will require 60 votes to pass thanks to filibuster rules Democrats aren't expected to eliminate.

And four Republican senators who backed a bipartisan immigration overhaul in 2018 are no longer in office, though three of them were replaced by Democrats.

More Refugees

Biden's proposal also seeks to address the root cause of migration from Central America in order to reduce the number of people who come illegally to the U.S., calling for increased foreign aid to countries in the region. The plan also includes grants for English education

and workforce development.

In another break with Trump, Biden's proposal would expand refugee admissions and make it easier for migrants to secure the status by opening processing centers abroad. The Trump administration capped the number of refugees the U.S. will admit this year at 15,000, a historic low.

And while the bill does not condition an expanded path to citizenship on increased border security, it would direct the Department of Homeland Security to come up with a plan to use technology to enhance monitoring along the border and at points of entry.

Immigrant-rights advocates are likely to be pleased with the measure, after faulting Obama both for being too cautious about advancing an overhaul and too heavy handed with deportations and internal enforcement.

Biden is also expected to issue executive actions on immigration early in his presidency, including lifting Trump's travel ban for predominantly majority-Muslim nations.

Biden to propose sweeping immigration bill on first day in office (CNN)

[CNN](#) [1/19/2021 12:32 PM, Dan Merica, Priscilla Alvarez and Jasmine Wright, 7975K]
President-elect Joe Biden will unveil a comprehensive immigration plan on his first day in office, a source familiar with the proposal tells CNN, describing an agenda that provides a multi-year pathway to citizenship for the millions of undocumented immigrants currently in the United States.

The plan, which also would aim to address the root cause of migration from countries in Central America and improve the use of technology at the border, will be sent to Congress on Wednesday, shortly after Biden is inaugurated, the source said.

Biden promised during the campaign that he would make immigration reform a priority as president, a move that ran directly counter to the anti-immigration rhetoric and action that defined President Donald Trump's four years in office. The President-elect also received pressure from immigration groups throughout the campaign, many of whom worried that the deportation that happened during the Obama presidency would continue in the Biden administration.

The central tenet of Biden's plan is the pathway to citizenship, which would allow certain undocumented immigrants to achieve citizenship within eight years. The plan, according to the source, would give certain immigrants temporary status for five years, allow them to apply for green cards after that time and once they have met certain criteria, then allow them to apply for citizenship three years later.

For recipients of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals -- so-called Dreamers who were protected under a program first started by President Barack Obama -- the pathway would be streamlined, allowing them to apply for a green card immediately.

Vice President-elect Kamala Harris recently described the soon-to-be released immigration plan in an interview with Univision.

"It will be about creating a pathway for people to earn citizenship. We're going to reduce the

time from what is now has been currently 13 years to eight years. We are going to expand protections for Dreamers and DACA recipients. "These are some of the things that we're going to do on our immigration bill. And we believe it is a smarter and a more humane way of approaching immigration."

The plan, which was first reported by the Washington Post, would also require immigrants to have been in the United States by the start of 2021, a decision made to stop any mass migration to the US-Mexico border.

Trump made immigration one of the central tenets of his presidential bid, pledging to build a wall along the US-Mexico border as a way to curb undocumented immigrants from coming to the United States. While some of the wall has been built, Trump's actions have failed to live up to his words and he leaves office with only a handful of immigration accomplishments to tout.

The likelihood of a sweeping immigration bill passing Congress is an open question. Previous attempts, like the concerted push to pass an immigration bill in 2013, failed, and the Republican Party now includes more immigration hardliners after four years under Trump.

"I would be privileged to work with Congress to pass immigration reform legislation that provides that path and provides a permanent solution to what is clearly a broken system," Alejandro Mayorkas, Biden's pick to lead the Department of Homeland Security, told senators on Tuesday.

This immigration plan will not be Biden's only action taken on the issue at the outset of his administration. Incoming chief of staff Ron Klain wrote in a memo over the weekend that Biden will begin the process of reunifying the families separated at the U.S.-Mexico border within his first ten days in office, and sources familiar with Biden's plans anticipate he will also issue an executive order aimed at halting the construction of Trump's border wall and reinstating the DACA program.

Biden immigration bill would put millions of illegal immigrants on 8-year fast-track to citizenship (FOX News)

[FOX News](#) [1/19/2021 11:33 AM, Adam Shaw, 10362K]

A radical immigration overhaul to be proposed this week by President-elect Joe Biden would include a path to citizenship that could see millions of illegal immigrants become U.S. citizens in just eight years.

Vice President-elect Kamala Harris told Univision last week that the immigration bill would be "first order of business" and will be about "creating a pathway for people to earn citizenship." She said that pathway would be eight years long.

The Washington Post reported Monday that the bill, to be unveiled on Inauguration Day Wednesday, would put illegal immigrants into protected status and a five-year pathway to a green card. If they meet certain conditions, such as payment of taxes and a background check, they could then be put on a three-year pathway to citizenship. Some estimates put the population of illegal immigrants at around 12 million as of 2015, other estimates are higher.

The Associated Press, which also reported that the eight-year path is in the bill, noted that it would be one of the fastest pathways to citizenship for illegal immigrants in recent years.

A pathway to citizenship -- not just legal status -- for illegal immigrants has been a top agenda item for liberals and immigration activists for decades and now -- with Democratic control of the White House, House and Senate -- that goal could be in sight.

It would also grant immediate green cards to hundreds of thousands of illegal immigrants protected from deportation under Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) programs. President Trump had moved to abolish DACA, the 2012 Obama-era executive order that protected those who came to the U.S. as children. But he was rebuffed by the Supreme Court, and Harris said that "we are going to expand protections for Dreamers and DACA recipients."

"These are some of the things that we're going to do on our immigration bill. And we believe it is smarter and a more humane way of approaching immigration for immigrants," she said.

The Post reported that the bill would also include border security provisions at the border, and said it would see increased technology at the border -- but it is unclear what this involves. Biden has promised that "not another foot" of President Trump's border wall will be built under his administration.

The bill would also include provisions to stem the flow of migration by addressing root causes of migration from south of the border. Biden had, during the campaign, promised a \$4 billion four-year plan of assistance to be linked with reforms from those countries.

On legal immigration, the Post reported that the bill would open a number of further avenues of legal immigration -- including "recapturing" unused visas from prior years, giving work permits to the spouses and children of temporary visa holders.

While the bill has a good chance of being passed in the Democrat-controlled House, it is unclear of its chances in the Senate. It would need 60 votes to pass the chamber, meaning 10 Republicans would have to vote in favor. A number of past efforts at immigration reform have failed, including a 2013 effort under President Barack Obama.

While Republicans have indicated they are open to working with Biden on his key legislative priorities, GOP lawmakers have traditionally demanded that any amnesty of illegal immigrants be accompanied by muscular enforcement at the border. Republicans are likely to face pressure from its conservative base opposed to legalizing millions of illegal immigrants.

The legislation is one of a number of radical actions on immigration that Biden has promised to take. He has promised to implement a moratorium on deportations and to end a number of Trump-era programs to stop illegal immigration, including the Migrant Protection Protocols. He has also pledged to dramatically increase the number of refugees the U.S. takes in every year.

Meanwhile, the Biden administration will face an early challenge in the form of a caravan of thousands of migrants moving toward the border from Honduras. That caravan has called on the administration to honor its "commitments" to them.

But, in a possible nod to fears of a migrant surge at the border with a new bill, the Post reported that the pathway to citizenship would only apply to those who arrived in the country before Jan. 1.

Asylum seekers call on Biden to reverse Trump immigration policies, protect 'vulnerable' populations (FOX News)

[FOX News](#) [1/19/2021 5:00 PM, Bradford Betz, 10362K]

A group of asylum seekers waiting in Mexico is calling upon the incoming Biden administration to reverse President Trump's signature policies on immigration, namely an end to the "Remain in Mexico Policy."

The group spoke Tuesday at a virtual press conference organized by Pueblo Sin Fronteras, an immigration rights group known for organizing high-profile migrant caravans in Mexico and Central America.

A four-minute video played reiterating demands outlined in an open letter to President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris.

"We are confident that in your new administration, many of the proposals that you have made in your campaign related to the defense of migrants, will be put into practice, as soon as possible," the letter read.

The organizers noted that thousands of families have, for more than a year, been waiting at the border in dangerous areas while their asylum requests are being processed.

The letter requested the following items be included in Biden's main agenda: open the U.S. border for asylum seekers, the elimination of Trump's "Remain in Mexico" policy, waiting lists to apply for asylum, the separation of migrant families, guaranteed legal representation for asylum seekers, and the guaranteed right to request asylum – specifically for vulnerable populations like pregnant women and unaccompanied children.

"We are also committed to complying with the sanitary measures established for the protection of health, both for ourselves and for the citizens of the United States, without this paralyzing the asylum process," the letter read. "We appreciate your attention to these requests, and we expect a favorable response within your first 100 days in office."

The press conference in Tijuana comes just one day before Biden is set to inaugurate as the nation's 47th president.

Meanwhile, a caravan of Honduran immigrants has been making its way to the United States. Some of its members have been interviewed saying their aim is to get to the U.S. to benefit from Biden's pledge on the campaign trail to suspend deportations for 100 days after he takes office.

By Tuesday, the caravan had largely dissipated in the face of security forces in Guatemala. Small groups pressed on toward the Mexican border, while others accepted rides from authorities back to Honduras.

Buses carrying dozens of migrants and police patrol vehicles carrying handfuls arrived

sporadically through the morning at the Guatemala-Honduras border crossing of El Florido. They were passed from Guatemalan border agents to their Honduran counterparts and then boarded buses that would take them back to their hometowns.

Some 25 miles into Guatemala where hundreds of migrants had been stalled at a roadblock in Vado Hondo for several days, traffic flowed smoothly Tuesday and few migrants remained. Guatemala's immigration authorities reported that through Monday more than 2,300 migrants had been returned to Honduras.

If Guatemala's government had indeed dissolved the year's first caravan, it would be a relief to the incoming U.S. administration. Biden has promised immigration reform, but for now plans to leave Trump-era border policies in place fearing a surge of migrants when he takes office.

Fox News has reached out to Biden's transition with a request for comment.

A Biden transition official told NBC News on Sunday that migrants expected a sudden change of immigration policies in the United States under a Biden administration are likely to be disappointed.

They "need to understand they're not going to be able to come into the U.S. immediately," he said.

Biden's Secretary of State nominee Anthony Blinken echoed those sentiments on Tuesday. When asked what he would say to migrants headed to the U.S. in a Caravan, he said: "I would say do not come."

Joe Biden To Propose Citizenship Plan For 11 Million Illegal Immigrants In US (Daily Caller)

[Daily Caller](#) [1/19/2021 9:43 AM, Anders Hagstrom, 321K]

President-elect Joe Biden will propose an 8-year path to citizenship for the estimated 11 million illegal immigrants currently living in the U.S., the Associated Press reported Tuesday.

Biden reportedly plans to unveil the legislation on his first day in office. The plan could represent Biden's first kept campaign promise, as he vowed several times on the campaign trail to introduce a path to citizenship for the 11 million illegal immigrants within his first 100 days in office.

Under the plan, all illegal immigrants who began living in the U.S. by January 1, 2021 will have a 5-year path to temporary legal status, so long as they pay taxes and pass a background check, the AP reported. Following an additional three years, they would be able to apply for U.S. citizenship.

Dreamers will be given an expedited path to temporary legal status under the legislation. The plan does not address border security or provide any funding or strategy for improving it, instead only calling for lawmakers to come up with new strategies, according to the AP.

The bill will likely represent the first major legislative push of Biden's presidency, and it could ultimately compete for the limelight with the Senate impeachment trial of Trump.

The House of Representatives impeached Trump on one charge of “incitement of insurrection” for his role in causing a pro-Trump mob to storm the U.S. Capitol on January 6. While Biden has condemned Trump’s actions, he has been hesitant to endorse the impeachment effort for fear the process could get in the way of his legislative goals.

“Last week, we saw an unprecedented assault on our democracy,” Biden said in a January 13 statement. “It was carried out by political extremists and domestic terrorists, who were incited to this violence by President Trump. It was an armed insurrection against the United States of America. And those responsible must be held accountable.”

“I hope that the Senate leadership will find a way to deal with their Constitutional responsibilities on impeachment while also working on the other urgent business of this nation,” he added. “From confirmations to key posts ... to getting our vaccine program on track, and to getting our economy going again.”

Biden was more blunt in a January 8 statement.

“What Congress decides to do is for them to decide, but they’re going to have to be ready to hit the ground running because when Kamala and I are sworn in we’re going to be introducing immediately significant pieces of legislation,” he said.

Biden looks to grant citizenship to most illegal immigrants, DHS pick says (Washington Times)

[Washington Times](#) [1/19/2021 4:19 PM, Stephen Dinan, 459K]

Abolishing Immigration and Customs Enforcement is a nonstarter and the fate of the border wall is uncertain, but the Biden team does want to grant citizenship rights to most illegal immigrants and to pump money into Latin America as the way to discourage illegal immigration, Alejandro Mayorkas, the pick to lead the Department of Homeland Security, told senators Tuesday.

Appearing for his confirmation hearing, Mr. Mayorkas cast himself as a boundary-breaking leader ready to shake up a department that has lacked a confirmed secretary for nearly two years.

He promised an aggressive effort to overturn Trump policies focused on turning back illegal immigrants at the border and said the solution lies farther south, where nation-building in Latin America will try to keep people from leaving home in the first place.

Those plans will be coupled with the most generous amnesty in U.S. history. Illegal immigrants who arrived in the U.S. before Jan. 1 will get a chance at citizenship if they meet other requirements, Mr. Mayorkas said.

“I would be privileged to work with Congress to pass immigration reform legislation that provides that path and provides a permanent solution to what is clearly a broken system,” he told the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee.

The panel is controlled by Republicans for now, but leadership will transfer to Democrats when Georgia’s two newly elected senators take the oath of office.

That should pave Mr. Mayorkas' path to confirmation, despite a withering 2015 inspector general's report that accused him of political favoritism during his time as director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services in the Obama administration.

That report, released after Mr. Mayorkas was elevated to deputy secretary at the Department of Homeland Security, said he intervened in cases involving major Democrats: Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, Democratic National Committee Chairman Terry McAuliffe and Pennsylvania Gov. Edward G. Rendell. Mr. Mayorkas had his agency approve visa applications from wealthy foreign investors tied to projects of those three men.

He violated his own ethics rules, too, the audit found.

The inspector general's report also said Mr. Mayorkas was strident and prickly in his dealings with underlings at USCIS. Such charges in the past have derailed high-level nominations.

Mr. Mayorkas vehemently rejected the inspector general's findings at the time. He said Tuesday that he found a broken agency that was getting cases wrong and, as director, he felt he had to step in and force the right decisions.

"It is my job to become involved, to learn the problems that an agency confronts, to become involved in those problems, and to fix them. That's what I did in this case," he said.

Mr. Mayorkas spent more than four years at the helm of USCIS, then three years as deputy secretary at the full Homeland Security Department, where he served under Secretary Jeh Johnson.

Democrats said that time in office was his chief selling point because it meant he won't need to get acquainted with the issues facing Homeland Security while the sprawling department is dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic, cybersecurity breaches, a potential border surge and growing threats from right-wing extremists.

"I believe Ali is uniquely qualified to face the challenges before DHS," said Sen. Dianne Feinstein, the California Democrat who introduced Mr. Mayorkas to the panel.

Despite his experience, Mr. Mayorkas said at least 15 times during the hearing that he would have to study an issue before he could give an answer about how he would approach a certain matter. That included questions such as how the department has performed during the pandemic and whether ICE needs more funding or personnel.

"I will have to study the condition of Immigration Customs Enforcement, how efficiently and effectively it is using its resources, and how it is best serving the American public. That requires my study," he said.

Mr. Mayorkas also said he needs to study the newly enacted spending law to figure out whether the \$1.375 billion included for border infrastructure can be siphoned away from wall-building. He did say, however, that President-elect Joseph R. Biden has made clear that he would prefer not to build another foot of wall.

The nominee also demurred when asked whether any of the more than 450 miles of wall

built under Mr. Trump should be pulled down.

"I haven't looked at that specific question," he said.

Mr. Mayorkas' nomination has support from a striking range of parties.

The National Border Patrol Council, the union for Border Patrol agents that strongly backed President Trump, has endorsed Mr. Mayorkas' nomination.

"I can tell you, Mayorkas understands the importance of not opening up the floodgates," said Brandon Judd, president of the NBPC. "I'm looking at what Mayorkas did during the Obama administration, and he did give us resources to try to hold people pending proper proceedings."

He said he doesn't expect Mr. Mayorkas to maintain all of the Trump policies that were effective in stemming the 2018 and 2019 border surges, but he added that others under consideration for the post were less palatable.

Also backing Mr. Mayorkas are immigrant rights activist groups on the left, even though his time in the Obama administration included detaining and deporting families and erecting the chain-link fence enclosures at border stations used to hold children, and which critics dubbed "cages" in the Trump years.

Under questioning from Sen. Ron Johnson, Wisconsin Republican, Mr. Mayorkas acknowledged that those chain-link pens were built on his watch. Still, he vehemently rejected the accusation that families were separated during his time in office.

What the Obama administration did do was vastly expand the detention network to hold families so they could be deported.

Left-leaning activist groups have signaled that they are willing to overlook that history for the chance to get a homeland security secretary who can be confirmed by an evenly divided Senate and can erase Trump policies.

They also hope that this administration will be able to legalize most illegal immigrants.

President George W. Bush and President Obama tried but failed to get legislation through Congress.

The proposal to offer citizenship rights to as many as 11 million illegal immigrants will be presented to Congress on Wednesday, Mr. Mayorkas said.

According to news reports, it will not include any new border security or interior enforcement provisions. Past Senate proposals included hundreds of miles of border wall, thousands more immigration agents and new rules to try to block businesses from turning to illegal labor.

Sen. Marco Rubio, a Florida Republican who worked on the last major immigration push in 2013, called Mr. Biden's plan a "nonstarter" for Republicans.

“There are many issues I think we can work cooperatively with President-elect Biden, but a blanket amnesty for people who are here unlawfully isn’t going to be one of them,” he said in a statement.

Biden’s DHS Nominee Alejandro Mayorkas Promises to Help Pass an Amnesty for Illegal Aliens (Breitbart)

[Breitbart](#) [1/19/2021 4:46 PM, John Binder, 1912K]

President-elect Joe Biden’s Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary nominee, Alejandro Mayorkas, says he “would be privileged” to help congressional Democrats and Republicans pass an amnesty for the 11 to 22 million illegal aliens living in the United States.

During his confirmation hearing before the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee on Tuesday, Mayorkas said he is onboard with Biden’s plans to provide amnesty to millions of illegal aliens so long as they are in the U.S. by January 1, 2021.

“I would be privileged to work with Congress to pass immigration reform legislation that provides that path and provides a permanent solution to what is clearly a broken system,” Mayorkas said when asked about the plan.

As part of Biden’s plan, millions of illegal aliens who are enrolled and eligible for the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program would be able to immediately obtain green cards, as well as foreign nationals who are in the U.S. on Temporary Protected Status (TPS).

Mayorkas, as former head of the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) for the Obama administration, said he “was proud to implement” the DACA program despite its spurring a rush to the southern border.

“President-Elect Biden also has committed to reinstating the DACA program that I was proud to implement when I was head of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and President-Elect Biden also has committed to following the law and applying Temporary Protected Status ... to populations who qualify for it by reason of the country conditions in their nations of origin,” Mayorkas said.

“I look forward to executing the president’s commitments should I have the honor of serving as the secretary of Homeland Security,” Mayorkas continued.

Sen. Josh Hawley (R-MO), who has since said he will oppose Mayorkas’ nomination, noted the negative jobs and wage impact that an amnesty would likely have on the roughly 18 million Americans who remain jobless and another 6.2 million who are underemployed. Their economic opportunities are crushed when cheaper, foreign labor in the labor market is readily available to employers.

Mayorkas also deferred to Biden’s plan which seeks to end President Trump’s “Remain in Mexico” policy that has drastically reduced asylum fraud and kept illegal immigration at bay.

“I would execute on that commitment should I have the privilege of serving,” Mayorkas said when asked if he would throw out the Remain in Mexico policy as Biden has proposed.

Biden's amnesty plan will include a litany of giveaways to big business, the open borders lobby, and Democrats who are looking to secure their permanent political majority by importing voters. The plan includes:

Amnesty with an eight-year path to American citizenship

Green cards for DACA illegal aliens and TPS beneficiaries

A 700 percent increase in the refugee resettlement program

Reinstatement of the Central American Minors (CAM) program

Funding for technology mechanisms at the U.S.-Mexico border

Work permits for the family members of H-1B and H-2B visa holders

Additional employment-based and chain migration visas

Fast-track to the U.S. for Central American family members of citizens

Already, Biden's plan has resulted in a nearly 9,000-strong caravan of migrants vowing to arrive at the U.S.-Mexico border to seek asylum. Mayorkas would not turn down potentially allowing many of the caravan migrants into the country during the confirmation hearing.

"President-elect Biden and people who will be joining us in the incoming administration have spoken about the fact that there's a commitment to follow our asylum laws, to enforce our asylum laws, and that means to provide humanitarian relief for those individuals who qualify for it under the law," Mayorkas said when asked to send a message to the caravan migrants.

[TX] Biden's immigration plan would provide path to citizenship for 1.7 million Texans (Houston Chronicle)

[Houston Chronicle](#) [1/19/2021 5:22 PM, Benjamin Wermund, 206K]

Just after being sworn in on Wednesday, President-elect Joe Biden plans to propose a major immigration overhaul that would offer a pathway to citizenship to up to 1.7 million Texans who are in the country without legal authorization.

The proposal, which Biden is expected to send to Congress on his inauguration day, would create an eight-year path to citizenship for the estimated 11 million unauthorized immigrants in the U.S., more than 500,000 of whom live in Harris and Bexar counties, according to the Migration Policy Institute. Those who qualify would be granted a green card after five years and could apply for citizenship three years later.

The plan would create a faster track for those protected by the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program — more than 106,000 Texans as of June — and with temporary protected status, who could apply immediately for a green card. A Biden transition official on Tuesday confirmed the outline of the plan, which was first reported by the Washington Post.

The move positions immigration reform as a top priority for the new president, beyond tackling the coronavirus, for which Biden has proposed a \$1.9 trillion relief package.

Democrats' slim control of Congress, meanwhile, puts a spotlight on Texas Republicans, especially U.S. Sen. John Cornyn, who campaigned last year on his support for the DACA program.

Democrats control the House, where a majority could pass Biden's proposal, but they will need to build support from at least 10 Republican senators for it to get to Biden's desk.

Immigration advocates have cheered the proposal and some experts say they're more optimistic than they've been in years about the prospects of such a comprehensive overhaul.

Still, a deal on immigration has eluded Congress for decades and Biden's proposal was already drawing resistance from the Senate's most conservative members on Tuesday. U.S. Sen. Josh Hawley of Missouri stopped an effort to fast-track Biden's nominee to lead the Department of Homeland Security, citing the president-elect's "amnesty plan for 11 million immigrants."

Cornyn, meanwhile, said as recently as this summer that he had given up on comprehensive reform, calling at the time for incremental action on issues such as DACA.

"In the entire time I've been in the Senate, when we try to do comprehensive immigration reform, we fail," Cornyn said in June. "We have a perfect record of failure when it comes to comprehensive immigration reform."

DACA especially may be a motivating factor for those, including Cornyn, who have called for Congress to codify the program, which he says he supports, even though he was critical of President Barack Obama's executive action to establish it.

The U.S. Supreme Court this summer blocked President Donald Trump's effort to end the program, but did not rule on whether it is constitutional. A separate Texas-led lawsuit challenging DACA is now before Andrew Hanen, a conservative federal district court judge in Houston who has said he believes the program, as enacted by Obama, is unconstitutional.

Charles Foster, an immigration attorney in Houston who advised Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama on the issue, said Biden's proposal looks a lot like those offered by both of those predecessors. But the politics around the issue have changed significantly in recent years as Trump campaigned on his administration's crackdown on immigration.

The Biden proposal is expected to also allow more refugees to come to the United States, while calling for an increased reliance on technology to protect the southern border, a shift away from Trump's signature effort to build a wall.

Foster said the path to legal status for unauthorized immigrants is the most important piece of the proposal and would have the biggest effect on Texas, home to 16 percent of the nation's unauthorized immigrant population. Though it would offer a path to citizenship for many, Foster said historically only about a third of immigrants eligible to apply for citizenship have done so.

The proposal would be a "net plus" for the state's economy, Foster said. A Rice University

study last year estimated that for every \$1 the Texas government spends on people living in the state illegally, the state brings in \$1.21 in tax revenue.

Foster said there is reason for some optimism about the proposal's chances. Biden spent decades in the Senate and may have better luck than most convincing some of his former colleagues to support the legislation.

Foster said he was also optimistic Cornyn would be among the Republicans who might support the effort.

Still, he said, "I've been burned many times telling people it would pass."

Critics have questioned Cornyn's commitment to passing legislation to protect so-called Dreamers, pointing out that he said Trump was right to end the program in 2017, saying at the time that Congress should act on the matter.

Cornyn voted against standalone DACA bills in 2007 and 2010. In 2018 — as Republican whip, responsible for rounding up votes for legislation — Cornyn said any citizenship concessions would have to include cuts to family migration and the diversity visa lottery in order to pass the Senate.

Other immigration advocates are less optimistic about Republican support. They say even if the full package doesn't pass, it's still a significant marker of where Biden wants to go on immigration during his term.

"It's a big deal that he's saying this is where Democrats stand, this is our goal and we're not going to stop until we achieve it," said Frank Sharry, executive director of the immigrant rights group America's Voice.

Sharry said the legislative package isn't all or nothing, however, and immigration advocates will accept piecemeal progress through whatever means Biden can achieve — whether it's slipping a path to citizenship for so-called "Dreamers" into other legislative agreements, such as coronavirus relief packages, or taking executive action to undo Trump's restrictions.

He pointed to polling showing a big majority of Americans support a path to citizenship. A 2019 Gallup poll found 81 percent support.

"We used to negotiate with Republicans on a bipartisan comprehensive immigration reform approach, but the Republicans — personified perhaps best by John Cornyn — always asked for way too much in concessions and delivered way too few in Republican votes," Sharry said. "Negotiate with Republicans. So we go down that rabbit hole again? I don't think so. We've been subjected to the Cornyn con way too many times. We're not falling for that trick again."

Among those likely to oppose the effort is U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz, who Foster said is a case study in how the politics around immigration have changed. Foster worked with Cruz on Bush's immigration policies during the former president's 2000 campaign.

But Cruz has since emerged as one of the Senate's biggest immigration hawks. In July, the Texas Republican blocked an effort by Senate Democrats to pass legislation creating a

pathway to citizenship for so-called “Dreamers,” which he called an attempt at offering “amnesty” to those who entered the country illegally.

“Today’s Democratic Party — their priority is on people here illegally and not on American workers,” Cruz said at the time.

[Tanzania] U.S. Imposes Visa Restrictions on Tanzanian Officials Over Vote (Bloomberg)

[Bloomberg](#) [1/19/2021 12:50 PM, Fumbuka Ng’wanakilala, 6400K]

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced visa restrictions for Tanzanian officials it said were “responsible for or complicit in undermining” the East African country’s October general elections.

Incumbent President John Magufuli secured a second five-year term in the vote that saw him garner more than 88% of the ballots cast. Opponents said the result was fraudulent and Tundu Lissu, the main opposition leader, has vowed to push ahead with nationwide street protests.

“Election observers and civil society noted widespread irregularities as well as human rights abuses and violations before, during, and after the election,” Pompeo said in a statement released by the State Department. “Civil society leaders remain under threat in the post-election period, and opposition leaders have fled the country out of fear for their safety.”

Other Western nations have also criticized the election, saying there were “credible allegations” of irregularities, including ballot stuffing and violence against civilians by security forces. Tanzanian election officials reject the allegations.

“The United States will continue to closely follow developments in Tanzania and will not hesitate to take additional actions against individuals complicit in undermining democracy and violating human rights,” Pompeo said.

“We urge the Government of Tanzania to reverse course and hold accountable those responsible for the flawed election, violence, and intimidation.”

[Tanzania] US puts visa restrictions on Tanzanian officials over vote (AP)

[AP](#) [1/19/2021 11:32 AM, Staff]

The United States says it has placed visa restrictions on unnamed Tanzanian officials who it says were “responsible or complicit in undermining” the country’s election last year.

A statement by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo asserts that the officials contributed to the “downward trajectory of the country’s democracy” and that the U.S. “will not hesitate to take additional actions.”

The October election in the East African country was marred by violence against opposition leaders, internet disruptions and widespread allegations of vote-rigging, and the U.S. says the vote was “neither free nor fair.”

Leading opposition presidential candidate Tundu Lissu, who had returned to Tanzania from exile to challenge populist President John Magufuli, returned to exile soon after the election,

accompanied to the airport by U.S. and other diplomats in an effort to ensure his safety.

The United Nations human rights office said at least 150 opposition leaders and members had been arrested around election day.

Magufuli was declared the overwhelming winner of a second five-year term and the Chama Cha Mapinduzi party, a version of which has ruled since independence, won enough seats to change the constitution and perhaps extend the presidency's two-term limit.

Tanzania's electoral commission called all the votes legitimate, and it denied fraud allegations ranging from ballot box-stuffing to a massive internet slowdown to the rejection of thousands of election observers from polling stations. Few international observers were allowed.

The lead-up to the vote featured intimidation of journalists and members of civil society, while some candidates were harassed and blocked from campaigning.

Customs and Border Protection

CBP acting commissioner: Biden sending 'loud and clear' message for migrants (FOX News)

[FOX News](#) [1/19/2021 2:48 PM, Talia Kaplan, 10362K] Video: [HERE](#)

President-elect Joe Biden has been sending a "loud and clear" message to migrants, who are already heading to the U.S. southern border ahead of his inauguration, Mark Morgan, acting commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, said on Tuesday.

"The reason why the caravans are starting right now is because the Biden administration said our borders are open and he's creating incentives and pull factors," Morgan told "America's Newsroom."

"The rhetoric during the year-plus Biden campaign has been very clear," he added, arguing that Biden "wanted to undo [and] roll back every single effective policy and authority that President Trump gave us that allowed us to address the illegal immigration crisis, secure our borders [and] protect the American people."

Morgan pointed to Biden's pledge to place a 100-day moratorium on deportations – one of several items on his agenda that will reverse some of President Trump's signature policies.

"It's not just about stopping deportations for 100 days, it's about giving them amnesty for millions of people, it's about giving people who remain here illegally free health care," Morgan said.

He noted that "the migrants themselves are actually quoting Biden, saying we've got 100 days to get to the U.S. border."

A migrant traveling with a caravan that left Honduras on Friday was seen in an interview shared by The Hill telling a reporter that he was headed to the U.S. because soon-to-be President Biden is "giving us 100 days to get to the U.S."

When asked what he wanted for "his people," the migrant said it was "to get to the U.S. because they're having a new president."

"He's gonna help all of us," the migrant said of Biden. "He's giving us 100 days to get to the U.S." to get legal status and "get a better life for our kids and family."

Biden has promised a pathway to legal permanent residency for those in the country illegally and a suspension on deportations by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Morgan pointed out that the repercussions of Biden's statements are already happening with the number of migrants increasing.

"This caravan now of thousands is just a microcosm of what's coming," Morgan warned.

On Sunday, an unnamed Biden transition official said the migrants hoping to claim asylum in the U.S. during the first few weeks of the administration "need to understand they're not going to be able to come into the U.S. immediately," NBC News reported.

The Biden transition official told NBC News that while "there's help on the way," now "is not the time to make the journey."

[OH] Customs seizes \$8 million in counterfeit Cartier bracelets, rings (FOX News)

[FOX News](#) [1/19/2021 10:06 PM, Lucas Manfredi, 10362K]

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officials stopped two separate shipments from Hong Kong containing more than 800 counterfeit Cartier jewelry products valued at a total of \$8.72 million.

The first shipment, halted and inspected by CBP officers in Cincinnati, Ohio on Thursday, included two parcels heading to a residence in West Palm Beach, Florida which included over 400 of Cartier's designer bracelets.

"This is a significant seizure for CBP, but unfortunately, CBP officers see counterfeit shipments like this every day," Cincinnati port director Richard Gillespie said in a statement. "I'm extremely proud of these officers determination in stopping illicit shipments, and our commitment to protecting the American economy."

Meanwhile, on the same night, a shipment containing 401 Cartier rings and bracelets was stopped and inspected in Louisville, Kentucky, determined to be from the same location in Hong Kong and headed to the same residence in West Palm Beach.

"Driven by the rise in E-commerce, the market for counterfeit goods in the United States has shifted in recent years from one in which consumers often knowingly purchased counterfeits to one in which counterfeiters try to deceive consumers into buying goods they believe are authentic," Louisville port director Thomas Mahn added. "Consumers are unaware that they're buying a dangerous product as the counterfeit is just that good."

After being reviewed by an import specialist, the items were determined to be counterfeit. If the items were real, the total manufacturer suggested retail price for Cincinnati's seizure would have been over \$4.17 million, while Louisville's seizure would have been more than \$4.55 million.

Customs and Border Protection seizes millions of counterfeit goods every year as part of its mission to protect U.S. businesses and consumers, including fake versions of popular products like smartphones and related accessories, electronics, apparel, shoes, cosmetics and high-end luxury goods.

In addition, CBP agents seize goods posing "significant health and safety concerns", including counterfeit pharmaceuticals, bicycle and motorcycle helmets, medical devices, supplements and other consumables.

In fiscal year 2020 alone, CBP seized 26,503 shipments nationwide which violated intellectual property rights. If the products had been genuine, their estimated value would be nearly \$1.3 billion.

CBP has authority to detain, seize, forfeit and destroy merchandise seeking entry into the United States if it bears an infringing trademark or copyright that has been registered with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office or the U.S. Copyright Office.

[TX] Migrant Body Found on Texas Ranch 90 Miles from Southern Border (Breitbart)
[Breitbart](#) [1/19/2021 2:24 PM, Bob Price, 1912K]

A South Texas sheriff's office deputy recovered the body of a recently deceased migrant on a ranch located about 90 miles from the U.S-Mexico border. The migrant appeared to die near the end of his attempt to march around the Falfurrias Border Patrol checkpoint on U.S. Highway 281.

Brooks County Sheriff's Office dispatchers received information from Falfurrias Station Border Patrol agents regarding the discovery of a deceased migrant. Dispatchers sent Deputy Jose Lemus to the ranch located west of the city of Falfurrias, Texas, according to information provided by Brooks County Sheriff's Office officials.

Deputy Lemus arrived at the entrance to the gate and met up with a U.S. Border Patrol agent who guided him and a local justice of the peace to the location of the body.

After traveling approximately two miles into the ranch, Deputy Lumas observed the body of a man lying on his back with his arms and legs spread out. The man appeared to have died very recently, perhaps from exposure to very cold temperatures.

The area where they found the body is a well-known human smuggling pickup point along Highway 285 where smugglers will pick up the migrants who successfully complete the march around the immigration checkpoint located south of Falfurrias. The march frequently takes several days. It appears this migrant was about two miles from the completion of his journey when he was abandoned by smugglers when he could not keep up.

"This is the callous nature of these smugglers," Brooks County Sheriff Benny Martinez told Breitbart Texas in a phone interview. "If you are on this march and get injured, sick, or for any other reason cannot keep up, they simply leave you behind to die."

Photos provided by the sheriff's office show the man wearing blue jeans, black shoes, a grey t-shirt, and a light hoodie-style sweatshirt.

The deputy found a bag containing a cell phone and a Honduran passport. The passport belongs to 39-year-old Miguel Enrique Martin Urbina. It is not known if the passport belongs to the decedent.

The justice of the peace made the statutory pronouncement of death and a local funeral home made arrangements to transport the body to the Webb County Medical Examiner. There, Dr. Corrine Stern and her staff will conduct an autopsy to positively identify the man and determine the cause of death. Once identified, Dr. Stern's office makes contact with the decedent's home country for notification of next-of-kin and set up the return of the body to the family.

This is the first migrant death in Brooks County this year, Sheriff Martinez told Breitbart. In 2020, Martinez's deputies assisted in the recovery of 34 migrants. This is down from 45 the year before.

Martinez said the reduction in deaths comes in spite of large numbers of migrants who continue to sneak through his county. "Border Patrol agents are doing great work to find these people before they succumb to the elements," he stated.

[CA] Border Patrol: 15 aboard boat detained in thwarted smuggling attempt (San Diego Union Tribune)

[San Diego Union Tribune](#) [1/19/2021 6:30 PM, David Hernandez, 248K]

Authorities in San Diego stopped a boat at sea and detained 15 Mexican nationals who were being smuggled into the U.S. on Saturday, including a convicted rapist, a Border Patrol official said Tuesday.

The Coast Guard stopped the personal craft-style boat about 2:45 p.m. and towed it to a Mission Bay lifeguard station. There, Border Patrol agents questioned the group onboard — four women and 11 men — and determined they were in the U.S. illegally, said Supervisory Border Patrol Agent Jeff Stephenson.

He said everyone in the group with the exception of one of them who was operating the boat had been hiding in the cabin.

They were taken to a Border Patrol station where agents checked for any criminal records. They discovered that one of the men is a convicted rapist who served three years in prison, Stephenson said.

The agents referred the 48-year-old man's case to the U.S. Attorney's Office for possible prosecution on allegations that he returned the U.S. after being deported, Stephenson said.

The 14 others in the group were returned to Mexico.

Transportation Security Administration

More than 1.6M passengers screened at airports nationwide over past 3 days (FOX News)

[FOX News](#) [1/19/2021 1:07 PM, Daniella Genovese, 10362K]

More than 1.6 million people have passed through airports nationwide over the past three

days, according to the Transportation Security Administration (TSA).

On Monday, more than 878,000 passengers were screened while more than 1.5 million people were screened over Saturday and Sunday, according to the agency's latest figures.

Checkpoint volume has steadily dropped since the holidays when Americans traveled in record numbers.

Just two days before Christmas, TSA screened more than 1.1 million people on one single day. A few days after New Year's Eve, the agency screened more than 1.3 million people, the highest checkpoint volume since the pandemic hit.

However, this time, travelers may notice heightened security measures, specifically at major airports around Washington, D.C.

Following the deadly riot at the Capitol, federal agencies began working to increase security measures before President-elect Joe Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris take the oath of office.

The TSA previously said it will put more air marshals on some flights, and travelers will see a noticeable increase in police officers, bomb-detecting dogs and random screenings.

Federal officials also began investigating people who took part in the riot to determine whether they should be barred from traveling on airlines.

TSA Administrator David Pekoske said his agency is "processing hundreds of names with law enforcement agencies for a thorough risk assessment." He said TSA was working "to ensure those who may pose a threat to our aviation sector undergo enhanced screening or are prevented from boarding an aircraft."

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) also issued several warnings starting that any passenger who "disrupts or threatens the safety of a flight" may face severe penalties including \$35,000 fines and 20 years in prison.

In a recent memo to employees, Delta CEO Ed Bastian also noted that any passenger who refuses "to display basic civility" to employees or fellow travelers will not be allowed to fly with the airline "ever again."

TSA investigating 'hundreds of names' linked to Capitol riots for possible inclusion on no-fly list (USA Today)

[USA Today](#) [1/19/2021 12:29 PM, Associated Press, 5823K]

Federal officials are investigating people who took part in the riot at the U.S. Capitol to determine whether they should be barred from traveling on airlines.

The assessments are one of several steps federal agencies are taking to increase security before President-elect Joe Biden's inauguration on Wednesday. The Transportation Security Administration said Friday it will put more air marshals on some flights, and travelers will see a noticeable increase in police officers, bomb-detecting dogs and random screening at all three major airports in the Washington, D.C., area.

TSA Administrator David Pekoske said his agency is “processing hundreds of names with law enforcement agencies for a thorough risk assessment.” He said TSA was working “to ensure those who may pose a threat to our aviation sector undergo enhanced screening or are prevented from boarding an aircraft.”

Another federal official said the assessments involve people who took part in the Jan. 6 siege at the Capitol, which left five people dead and forced Vice President Mike Pence and members of Congress to leave the Senate and House chambers and seek shelter for several hours.

The assessments could result in rioters being added to the federal no-fly list, the person said. The official spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss details that weren’t made public.

The FBI said last week it was considering adding Capitol rioters to the federal no-fly list but stopped short of saying that individuals were being scrutinized. The TSA vets airline manifests and notifies airlines when a ticketed passenger appears to be ineligible to fly.

Airlines and Washington-area airports also have promised tighter security after the Jan. 6 riot at the Capitol by supporters of President Donald Trump. Each of the nation’s seven largest airlines says they will temporarily prohibit passengers flying to Washington from putting guns in checked bags.

Last week, the Federal Aviation Administration announced it will take a tougher enforcement stance toward passengers accused of interfering with or assaulting airline crew members or other passengers. That decision followed a number of incidents on planes of people refusing to wear masks, yelling at other passengers, and in a few cases, harassing members of Congress at airports.

Thousands of US travelers on major airlines’ no-fly lists as TSA vets Capitol rioters (Washington Examiner)

[Washington Examiner](#) [1/19/2021 3:26 PM, Jake Dima, 394K]

Nearly 3,000 travelers in the United States have been placed on no-fly lists by private airlines.

A total of 2,845 people have been barred from using at least one major carrier, Fox News found, citing data from airlines themselves. Delta had over 880 prohibited passengers, Frontier (over 500) and United (approximately 615), among others.

The companies bar certain passengers for unruly behavior and disregarding crew member instructions. Federal authorities have also begun considering adding rioters who participated in the Jan. 6 siege on the Capitol to a government no-fly list.

“As for the no-fly list, we look at all tools and techniques we can possibly use within the FBI, and that’s something that we are actively looking at,” FBI Washington Field Office Assistant Director in Charge Steven D’Antuono said in a news conference.

The FBI’s Terrorist Screening Center is the only agency that can make a determination pertaining to a federal no-fly list. The government body receives tips from national security agencies and makes the ultimate determination on who may become a threat.

David Pekoske of the Transportation Security Administration told the Associated Press that the organization is "processing hundreds of names with law enforcement agencies for a thorough risk assessment." Pekoske added that "those who may pose a threat" will either "undergo enhanced screening" or be barred from boarding their flight.

On Friday, the TSA announced it would be increasing the number of air marshals on flights, expanding the number of bomb-detecting K-9s and police officers, and heightening the frequency in which random screenings for travelers are deployed. The move follows the Jan. 6 Capitol riot that resulted in five deaths and the numerous threats to interrupt the Wednesday inauguration of President-elect Joe Biden.

The TSA declined to mention anything more recent pertaining to its operations to the Washington Examiner.

Viral videos from the day following the Capitol unrest appeared to show Trump supporters being barred from airlines, despite not being present on an official no-fly list. The TSA informed the Washington Examiner that the frustrated passengers "would not have been permitted to get to gate" had they been present on the government's list.

[NY] Traveler at NYC's LaGuardia airport had bullets inside gum container, TSA says (FOX News)

[FOX News](#) [1/19/2021 10:48 PM, Cortney Moore, 10362K]

A New York City airport traveler surprised Transportation Security Administration officers with ammunition that was found stored inside a chewing gum container.

Thirteen bullets were stashed away in a blue Mentos gum bottle, which appears to be around the size of an adult human hand. The bullets were detected at a security checkpoint at LaGuardia airport last Thursday, according to a news release.

The man who was found to be carrying the gum container is said to be from the Bronx and was ticketed to fly to Miami.

Authorities said he carried the container in a carry-on duffle bag. There was second container found that held only gum while the other held both the ammunition and gum pieces.

The checkpoint's X-ray machine helped TSA officers spot the bullets inside the traveler's bag.

Officers at the scene notified police from the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, which operates the airport. The law enforcement agency reportedly confiscated the ammunition and cited the man on a "local charge"

Port Authority officials did not immediately provide arrest details to Fox News upon request.

However, according to the TSA's release, the traveler claimed he was unaware he was carrying the gum containers and that the bag belonged to his son.

Ammunition is prohibited from carry-on baggage but can be packed away in checked

baggage, according to TSA travel guidelines.

Moreover, travelers must store their ammunition in a hard-sided and lockable case that is designed to hold it. It also needs to be declared to airlines upon check-in.

Violations of these packing safety requirements for ammunition can be subject to a civil penalty or fine that range between hundreds or thousands of dollars depending on the severity, according to the TSA's Civil Enforcement webpage.

For loaded firearms, the criminal referral is between \$1,370 and \$2,730.

[IL] Orange County man lived in Chicago airport for three months, fearing COVID-19 (Los Angeles Times)

[Los Angeles Times](#) [1/19/2021 3:07 PM, Hayley Smith, 1825K]

An Orange County man is facing criminal charges after officials discovered he had been living in Chicago O'Hare Airport for the last three months.

Aditya Singh, 36, was arrested Saturday and charged with felony criminal trespass to a restricted area of an airport and misdemeanor theft, according to the Cook County State's Attorney's Office in Illinois.

During a court hearing Sunday, prosecutors said Singh arrived at the airport on an Oct. 19 flight from Los Angeles and proceeded to live within the airport security zone undetected, the Chicago Tribune reported. He told authorities that he was afraid to fly because of the COVID-19 pandemic and said that other passengers at the airport had given him food.

When two United Airlines employees approached Singh and asked for identification Saturday, he reportedly flashed a badge that belonged to an operations manager at the airport who had reported it missing in October, Assistant State's Atty. Kathleen Hagerty said during the hearing. The employees called the police, who took Singh into custody just after 11 a.m.

According to the Tribune, Hagerty said in the hearing that Singh was "scared to go home due to COVID." He told authorities he had found the badge.

Assistant Public Defender Courtney Smallwood said in the hearing that Singh lived with roommates in Orange and does not have a criminal background. She said it was unclear why Singh came to Chicago or if he has ties to the area.

Cook County Judge Susana Ortiz was reportedly troubled by Singh's ability to remain in the airport for so long and called the circumstances "quite shocking."

The judge ruled that Singh could be released if he paid \$1,000 but said he was prohibited from setting foot in the airport.

The Chicago Department of Aviation, which oversees O'Hare, said Tuesday it has "no higher priority than the safety and security of our airports."

"While this incident remains under investigation, we have been able to determine that this gentleman did not pose a security risk to the airport or to the traveling public," the

department said in an emailed statement. "We will continue to work with our law enforcement partners on a thorough investigation of this matter."

As of Tuesday morning, Singh was in Cook County Jail. He is scheduled to return to court Jan. 27.

Federal Emergency Management Agency

FEMA denies requests by Maryland, Virginia to cover costs of Capitol riot response, inauguration security (The Hill)

[The Hill](#) [1/19/2021 1:29 PM, John Bowden - 01/19/21 01:29 PM EST, 2343K]

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has denied requests from Maryland's and Virginia's governors for emergency declarations that would allow the two state governments to be reimbursed for the expense of sending law enforcement to back up Capitol Police during the Jan. 6 riot at the U.S. Capitol.

The Wall Street Journal reported Monday that officials in the two states were informed that the assistance they provided during the deadly riot earlier this month at the Capitol would not be supported by the agency.

"Based on our review of all the information available, it has been determined that supplemental federal assistance under the Stafford Act is not warranted for this event," read a letter to Virginia officials obtained by the Journal.

The decision was sharply criticized by Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam (D) on Twitter.

"Virginia was there to defend the U.S. Capitol on January 6—and we are committed to ensuring a peaceful transfer of power tomorrow. Now, the same President who incited this terrorism has denied us support in our efforts to stop it. A slap in the face," he tweeted.

"FEMA informed the governors of both Maryland and Virginia their requests for an emergency declaration were not approved. Based on FEMA's review of all the information available, it has been determined that supplemental federal assistance under the Stafford Act is not warranted for this event. Virginia and Maryland both requested their Emergency Declaration on January 15, 2021. The governors were notified the requests were not approved on January 17, 2021," a FEMA spokesperson told The Hill.

Both Maryland and Virginia plan to appeal the decision, The Washington Post reported, with Virginia officials making clear to the newspaper that they would wait until after President-elect Joe Biden's inauguration to make the request.

Downtown D.C. has remained under lockdown in the days leading up to Biden's inauguration amid fears of further violence. Twenty-five thousand National Guardsmen have been deployed to the District ahead of Wednesday's events, and officials have warned there will be "no tolerance" for disruptions at the inauguration.

FEMA denies Maryland and Virginia requests for emergency declarations (Washington Examiner)

[Washington Examiner](#) [1/19/2021 11:36 AM, Mike Brest, 394K]

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has denied emergency declarations requests from Virginia and Maryland.

The two states requested the relief in the aftermath of the Jan. 6 Capitol siege last week, and the agency rejected it on Monday, according to the Wall Street Journal.

"Based on our review of all the information available, it has been determined that supplemental federal assistance under the Stafford Act is not warranted for this event," FEMA told Virginia officials in a letter on Sunday.

An emergency declaration would allow each state to receive federal assistance and get reimbursed for pertinent costs. President Trump approved an emergency declaration for Washington, D.C., days after the Capitol riot left a handful of people dead. Both states plan to appeal the decision.

"Virginia has approximately 2,400 National Guard troops on the ground in Washington, D.C.," said Alena Yarmosky, a spokeswoman for Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam. "We plan on appealing this decision on Wednesday afternoon."

"The State of Maryland will appeal this decision," said Mike Ricci, a spokesman for Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan.

Both states deployed thousands of state and local police to the district on Jan. 6 as a swath of protesters stormed the Capitol while Congress sought to affirm President-elect Joe Biden's electoral victory. The ensuing violence resulted in five deaths and more than a hundred arrests. The rejection comes as officials prepare for additional violence that may happen nationwide in the days surrounding the inauguration. Local and federal officials in and around Washington, D.C., are increasing security efforts ahead of the event, with roughly 20,000 armed National Guardsmen on-site for the event.

Senate proposal would end COVID-19 emergency decree, rules (AP)

[AP](#) [1/19/2021 3:38 PM, Keith Ridler, 422K]

A Senate committee on Tuesday approved legislation seeking to end Republican Gov. Brad Little's coronavirus emergency declaration and restrictions despite being told Idaho could lose millions of dollars in federal aid.

The Senate State Affairs Committee voted 7-2 to send the concurrent resolution to the full Senate despite testimony from Idaho Office of Emergency Management Director Brad Richy that at least \$20 million would be in jeopardy. Republicans supported the measure while both Democrats voted against it.

"That funding would be shifted to the individual communities," Richy told the committee. He said additional money would come from residents across the state to replace the federal aid.

Emergency declarations are needed to trigger and keep federal money coming, typically from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, or FEMA. The concurrent resolution contains a clause saying federal money would not stop despite the Legislature ending the COVID-19 emergency declaration.

Republican Sen. Steve Vick, who sponsored the resolution, didn't explain how that would work.

"My goal is to restore freedom to the people of Idaho to live their lives as they see fit and make their own healthcare decisions," he told the committee.

A concurrent resolution must be passed by both the House and Senate. It doesn't require the governor's signature to take effect.

Republican Gov. Brad Little declared an emergency on March 13 after COVID-19 entered the state. Later that month, he issued a temporary stay-at-home order as the coronavirus spread rapidly, overwhelming some hospitals and sickening health care workers who said they were running out of personal protective equipment.

The lockdown gave the state and hospitals time to gather supplies. But unemployment shot up from about 3% to nearly 12%.

Little lifted most restrictions over the summer as he sought to reopen the economy, and unemployment dropped to about 6%.

But infections and deaths increased in the fall, and Little reinstated some restrictions. Currently, there is a limit of 10 people or less during public and private gatherings. The limit doesn't apply to religious or political gatherings, but it does apply to sporting events.

Idaho officials say more than 155,000 Idaho residents have been sickened by the virus, and more than 1,600 have died.

Democratic Sen. Grant Burgoyne, the assistant minority leader, said he liked the resolution but suggested it should modify rather than terminate a governor's emergency declaration to preserve federal aid. When Republicans declined his suggestion, he voted against approving it.

Republican Sens. Jim Guthrie and Patti Anne Lodge, the committee's chairwoman, had similar concerns about losing federal money but voted for the legislation. The legislation could still undergo changes in the full Senate.

"Federal dollars are our dollars," Lodge said. "We're the ones that are paying those dollars, and if our folks need some help in our state, we need to be sure that those dollars will come back to support the people in our state."

As California sees dangerous wind gusts, Hawaiian islands hit with flash flooding (FOX News)

[FOX News](#) [1/19/2021 12:27 PM, Julia Musto, 10362K]

As strong gusts and warm temperatures once again elevate fire danger in COVID-19-ravaged Southern California this week, the Hawaiian islands have been placed under flash flood advisories.

Last year's unprecedented fire season – burning more than 4 million acres – has carried over into the new year, with blazes still burning near Los Angeles and San Diego.

Cal Fire has issued a Red Flag Warning for much of the Golden State's coastline, stretching as far up as Carmel and Salinas.

The National Weather Service reported Tuesday that there will be no significant changes to the weather pattern of the next two days and wind speeds may reach around 70 to 80 mph at higher elevations and 50 to 70 mph in valleys and along the coast.

Fearing additional fire hazards and the often deadly consequences of downed trees, the state's power companies are preparing for widespread outages for thousands of residents. Pacific Gas and Electric has already reported its first shutoffs across the Bay Area.

New Mexico, Texas, Nevada, Montana, Utah and Wyoming are also expected to be impacted on Tuesday.

However, some portions of Southern California into southern Arizona may also see rainfall as a developing low-pressure system moves east.

To the west, the National Weather Service has issued flash flood warnings across much of the Hawaiian island chain through Wednesday.

Heavy rainfall caused by a large cold front and strong winds are predicted to linger, though much damage has already occurred.

In Maui County, multiple landslides, trees and utility lines blocked roads and highways, a sanitary sewer spilled, a roof was blown off of a newly-constructed house in Oahu, and Molokai authorities reported rivers at critical levels.

On Hawaii Island, fire officials reported first responders rescued nine hikers who were trapped by flash flooding in Pololu Valley.

Multiple units were dispatched to the scene, and there were no injuries.

[Editorial note: consult video at source link]

[LA] Corps gets \$12M, could pay \$2.1B for hurricane protection (AP)

[AP](#) [1/19/2021 5:38 PM, Staff, 3498K]

The Army Corps of Engineers is getting nearly \$12.5 million to help build a Louisiana hurricane protection system and could pay \$2.1 billion of the expected cost, officials said.

Three Republicans in Louisiana's congressional delegation announced approval of the construction money — U.S. Sen. John Kennedy last week and U.S. House Whip Steve Scalise and Rep. Garrett Graves on Tuesday.

"After years of facing bureaucratic red tape, this vital hurricane and storm surge protection project will receive federal funding to help build upon the local investments in the project," Scalise said in a news release with Graves.

The money was approved after the Corps worked with the state and local levee districts to bring the project's cost estimate down from more than \$10 billion to approximately \$3 billion,

they said.

That brought the federal share down to \$2.1 billion over 15 years, Erin McBride, Scalise's press secretary, said in an email.

The system is designed to protect more than 150,000 Terrebonne and Lafourche parish residents and more than 1,700 square miles of fresh and saltwater marsh from a Category 3 hurricane's storm surge. State and local governments have spent or committed nearly \$1 billion, including \$400 million in BP oil spill money, McBride said.

"The people of south Louisiana have worked hard to make the Morganza to the Gulf Project a reality for 13 years. It's both smart and fair for the federal government to step up and help them complete this crucial hurricane protection initiative," Kennedy said in a news release Friday.

[MI] Dearborn police looking for woman who passed fake bills at JCPenney (Dearborn Press & Guide)

[Dearborn Press & Guide](#) [1/19/2021 4:42 PM, Dave Herndon, 3K, Neutral, Secondary] JCPenney, 18900 W. Michigan Ave., reported a woman who passed two fake \$100 bills in the store along with two real bills while paying for merchandise.

A delayed report was turned into the Dearborn Police Department after JCPenney employees realized an error that it was never turned in when the incident happened.

The report was filed Jan. 6, after employees realized a former employee had never turned their internal investigation over to police.

The incident happened Nov. 14, when a woman described only as black with dreadlocks bought \$400 worth of clothes and included two fake \$100 bills with her purchase.

It was discovered while counting the register at the end of the shift, and the exact customer was discovered while reviewing security footage.

The bills were given to the store's bank in November.

The report was filed, despite the delay because the same woman has passed counterfeit bills at other area JCPenney stores in the past several months.

Security footage was given to police, but not yet released publicly.

[CA] High winds buffet California, raising wildfire danger and cutting power (Washington Post)

[Washington Post](#) [1/19/2021 3:41 PM, Andrew Freedman, 13480K]

An unusually intense high-wind event is underway in California, knocking down trees and power lines and contributing to "critical" wildfire risk to much of the state stretching from Lake Tahoe to San Francisco southward to Los Angeles and San Diego. Although it's midwinter, which is typically the rainy season in the Golden State, wildfire risks have spiked to "critical" levels in Southern California after a period of dry, record warm weather dried out vegetation.

Multiple wildfires have ignited in Northern and Southern California, including some near the locations of the large blazes that raged last summer and fall.

Any fire that ignites between Tuesday and Wednesday amid the windstorm could spread rapidly and exhibit “extreme fire behavior,” the National Weather Service forecast office in Los Angeles warned. Utility companies in Northern and Southern California have preemptively cut power to thousands in an effort to avoid having their equipment light a deadly blaze, as has happened in recent years.

Southern California Edison, the main utility serving the L.A. metro area, is considering cutting power to about 270,000 customers, depending on how the situation unfolds.

Already, gusts of wind in Northern California have increased, with a gust to 64 mph recorded in Oakland near daybreak local time, while locations in the Sierra Mountain saw winds at the summits whipping at more than 100 mph. Yosemite National Park is closed due to the high winds and associated damage to trees and park infrastructure.

According to PowerOutage.us, about 270,000 customers are without power across California due to the high winds, a number expected to grow throughout the day.

The culprits for the strong winds are two low-pressure areas, which are swirls of counterclockwise circulating air, sliding from north to south across Central and Southern California. Accompanied by strong winds in the mid-levels of the atmosphere, these lows are combining and taking up residence over the Pacific to the southwest of Los Angeles.

Meanwhile, high-pressure building into the Great Basin is yielding a tight contrast in air pressure across the Southwest. Since air flows from high to low pressure (in an ultimately futile attempt to equalize pressure differences), this creates a rapid flow of air from land to sea through California, generating what are known as Santa Ana winds.

Some of the strongest winds in the L.A. area are expected in the higher elevations of Los Angeles and Ventura counties, where the topography will help accelerate wind speeds to as high as 90 mph, according to the Weather Service. However, even downtown Los Angeles could see winds gusting to 65 mph at times on Tuesday and into the night.

For a region already dealing with a devastating coronavirus pandemic and widespread stay-at-home orders, power outages — both planned and storm damage-related — could be even more disruptive than usual.

Rare January wildfire threat

The L.A. metro area is under a Red Flag Warning for critical fire weather conditions, due to a combination of high winds and low humidity. This is the second-worst category of fire weather risk. While January is typically not wildfire season, there is a history of large blazes occurring during Santa Ana wind events such as this one. In addition, vegetation in Southern California is unusually dry right now, since this weather system is striking right after a heat wave set record high temperatures.

Now, temperatures are much lower, as this wind event is bringing cooler air, and this might

help mitigate the fire risk somewhat. Humidity levels are slightly above what is typically seen in a critical fire risk event, but the winds plus the dry vegetation are enough to justify the risk category, the Weather Service said in an online forecast discussion.

There's even a considerable wildfire risk in parts of wetter Northern California, which has seen more rain and mountain snow but not much precipitation in the past couple of weeks. Due to the strong winds and fire threat, Pacific Gas & Electric, which has been blamed for some of the state's deadliest and most destructive fires in the past several years, has implemented rare midwinter preemptive power cutoffs in some parts of Northern California.

The devastating 2020 wildfire season, which was the state's worst in history, has simply continued into 2021, much as the coronavirus pandemic has. Significant and steady rounds of precipitation are needed to alleviate deepening drought conditions across the state and avoid more fires.

Studies show that climate change is lengthening the fire season and creating larger blazes than would otherwise occur. The 2018 National Climate Assessment, published by the Trump administration, projected that those trends will probably continue for several decades.

[CA] 55,000 lose power as Southland winds increase wildfire risk (Los Angeles Times)

[Los Angeles Times](#) [1/19/2021 8:00 PM, Erin B. Logan, 1825K]

Southern California Edison shut off power to more than 67,000 customers on Tuesday, with an additional 260,000 at risk of losing their electricity as the utility company tries to prevent strong Santa Ana winds from sparking wildfires.

The customers whose power has already been cut include more than 17,800 in Los Angeles County, 18,500 in Riverside County and 17,800 in Ventura County.

The possible shutoffs includes customers in Ventura, L.A., San Bernardino, Orange, Kern, Santa Barbara, Riverside and Tulare counties.

A red flag warning for high fire risk will remain in place for much of L.A. County until 10 p.m. Tuesday. A wind advisory in effect until 4 a.m. Wednesday warns that strong winds with gusts up to 70 mph will continue in the Santa Clarita and San Fernando valleys.

"Vegetation is so dry and winds are so strong that any new fire can grow really big, really fast," said Ryan Kittell, a forecaster with the National Weather Service in Oxnard.

As winds in the Santa Clarita Valley reached 71 mph on Tuesday, firefighters reported a 50-acre brush fire had started off Towsley Canyon Road south of Santa Clarita just after 3 p.m.

In the San Gabriel Mountains, winds reached 86 mph and in the San Fernando Valley, gusts peaked at 50 mph, Kittell said.

In Ventura County, winds whipped up to 95 mph, with power outages and downed trees likely in places, the weather service said in a tweet.

But Kittell said neither the major metropolitan areas of L.A. County nor the coastal areas will

see “too much wind.”

L.A. County Fire Department spokesman Christopher Thomas said staffing has been increased, with strike teams stationed in Santa Clarita and North Hollywood.

“These are the areas where we can respond the fastest with the greatest number of people,” Thomas said.

Winds are expected to peak through Tuesday evening, then weaken significantly.

Orange County officials on Tuesday closed the COVID-19 vaccination site at the Disneyland Resort due to high wind warnings.

Santa Ana winds aren’t uncommon in January, but the fire danger is particularly high because of the scarcity of rain so far this season. The entire state is in drought, according to the latest data from the U.S. Drought Monitor.

[CA] Hurricane-force winds lash California, knocking out power to thousands and sparking new wildfires (USA Today)

[USA Today](#) [1/19/2021 5:23 PM, Doyle Rice, 5823K]

Howling winds of hurricane force roared across portions of California late Monday and early Tuesday, leaving over 150,000 customers without power and sparking several new wildfires.

On Monday, wind gusts of more than 90 mph were reported from Sacramento to the Bay Area, with one gust reaching 100 mph near Kirkwood, east of Sacramento, CNN reported.

To put the winds in perspective, a Category 1 hurricane has winds of 74 to 95 mph.

More high winds are expected throughout the day on Tuesday and into Wednesday, forecasters said. High wind warnings and advisories continue across much of California, where wind gusts may reach 70 to 80 mph at higher elevations and 50 to 70 mph in valleys and along the coast, the National Weather Service said.

"These high winds have the potential to produce widespread downed trees and tree limbs, significant property damage and numerous power outages," according to the weather service.

In addition, the combination of the high winds and low relative humidity will continue to support a significant wildfire threat, especially along coastal sections from San Francisco to San Diego.

The gusty winds reignited fresh fires in Santa Clara County, where a summer wildfire torched 1,500 buildings. The state’s firefighting agency said it had responded to at least a dozen vegetation fires in San Mateo and Santa Cruz counties in 12 hours.

The Los Angeles region will see Santa Ana winds, AccuWeather said, including the downtown area.

"Typically, Santa Ana winds stay out of downtown Los Angeles and the L.A. Basin, but this

time, conditions may set up just right to bring 30- to 40-mph wind gusts even in those typically calm condition areas," said AccuWeather senior meteorologist Mike Doll.

Southern California Edison said that over 288,000 customers in the Los Angeles area could see their power cut as a safety precaution during the storm. "When there is a high risk for a wildfire, we may temporarily shut off power to your neighborhood to prevent our electric system from becoming the source of ignition," the utility company said in a statement.

Nearly 30 million Californians, or about 3 of every 4 people in the state, could see high winds through Tuesday, CNN meteorologist Pedram Javaheri said.

There are no significant changes to the weather pattern affecting California over the next two days, the weather service said Tuesday morning.

[Editorial note: consult video at source link]

[CA] Powerful winds topple trees, power lines, sparking fires and prompting evacuations near Santa Cruz (San Francisco Chronicle)

[San Francisco Chronicle](#) [1/19/2021 3:37 PM, J.D. Morris and Vanessa Arredondo, 422K]
A spate of small but alarming wildfires started amid extreme winds around Northern California on Tuesday as the region grappled with a winter that has been sorely lacking in substantial rain and snow.

Around the Santa Cruz Mountains, evacuations were under way in parts of several communities as officials responded to at least five small fires that ignited during dry and windy conditions. Many more blazes were reported around the Central Coast, the Bay Area and further north throughout the morning, some of which were quickly contained, officials said.

Evacuations were ordered Tuesday morning for two recently sparked fires in Santa Cruz off Freedom Boulevard near Watsonville and in the Boulder Creek area off of Highway 9, officials said. Crews were also working to take down a 7 or 8 acre fire that ignited near Stapp Road and Panther Ridge in Boulder Creek.

Isolated evacuations have also been issued for people in the Panther Ridge area, where the 8-acre Panther Fire has been quickly burning up fuels and short-range spotting, Cal Fire officials said.

The fire activity, while modest so far, is highly unusual for mid January, when most of Northern California should have had enough precipitation to prevent new blazes from spreading much.

But the whole region is grappling with an extremely arid winter: numerous locations around the northern half of the state have seen less than half or less than one-third of their normal precipitation for this time of year, federal data shows. Nearly the entire state is experiencing some level of drought, much of it severe or extreme, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor.

Against that backdrop, the National Weather Service issued a wind advisory until 6 p.m. Tuesday around the Bay Area and south into much of Monterey County, excluding the south Salinas Valley.

High-elevation weather stations were recording remarkably fast wind speeds throughout the morning. One sensor, located in Sonoma County at about 3,880 feet in elevation, showed peak wind speeds of 97 mph, according to the weather service. Gusts of about 50 miles per hour or more were still being recorded in the north and east bays shortly before noon.

A red-flag warning of high fire danger was to remain in place until 3 p.m. Tuesday for the Santa Lucia Mountains and Los Padres National Forest, along with other mountains of interior Monterey and San Benito counties.

Further south, Pacific Gas and Electric Co. cut off power to customers in narrow portions of Fresno, Kern, Madera, Mariposa, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Tulare counties. Fewer than 5,500 homes and businesses had been expected to lose power in those places as PG&E sought to prevent wind-damaged power lines from starting major fires. It was the first time the company had ever turned off power because of fire risk in January.

While PG&E spared the Bay Area from fire-prevention shut-offs, tens of thousands of customers still lost power because of wind damage to electrical equipment. More than 51,000 Bay Area customers were experiencing wind-related outages as of 9 a.m., according to a company spokeswoman. The largest outages occurred in the South Bay, where 25,830 customers were without power, and in the East Bay where 13,921 customers were impacted. In San Francisco, 1,213 customers experienced outages; 7,670 were affected in the Peninsula, and 2,521 in the North Bay.

The windstorm also impacted the region's public transit. Trees toppled by gusting winds fell over several sections of BART tracks, the transit agency said, briefly halting service Tuesday morning between the Richmond and El Cerrito Del Norte stations and between Union City and South Hayward stations.

In the Sierra Nevada, officials announced the closure of Yosemite National Park on Tuesday, citing continuing high winds, downed trees, debris and damage to park facilities.

The winds began to picking up on Monday, sparking isolated fires across the region.

In Santa Clara County, officials evacuated homes in the area of Country Club Drive in Milpitas as firefighters battled a vegetation fire amid gusty winds Monday night. Later in the evening, residents were allowed to return but asked to shelter in place.

In Alameda County, firefighters fought a one-acre blaze in the Altamont Pass area near Livermore, where wind gusts of 26 mph were recorded.

In Sonoma County, firefighters battled a 5-10 acre vegetation fire near Geyserville as strong winds belted the area.

In Santa Rosa, fire department officials said they had multiple incidents, including "tree in the power lines, tree down into a home's guest cottage, roof blown off of a carport and a fence blown into a tree."

[CA] Two wildfires in Santa Cruz County trigger evacuations (San Francisco Gate)

[San Francisco Gate](#) [1/19/2021 7:56 PM, Amy Graff, 2481K]

The Cal Fire San Mateo-Santa Cruz Unit battling multiple wildfires Tuesday said at 4 p.m. the number of blazes had grown from five to six and the fires were showing "moderate spread with slow, creeping fire behavior."

"When wind kicks up, fires kick up," Cal Fire said. "Currently, wind has died down. Fire crews are working quickly, as winds are expected to pick up tonight. Please remain vigilant. We will continue to update you."

Here's what we know as of 4 p.m. Tuesday as the fires crews continue to fight.

The China Grade Fire is a new blaze reported by Cal Fire. It's burning on China Grade Road and Foxglove Lane, 4 miles northwest of Boulder Creek. It was 20 acres and 100% contained with no evacuations.

The Freedom Fire, first reported at 8 a.m. Tuesday on Freedom Road north of Watsonville, spread to 40 acres and was 20% contained with an estimated 100 homes evacuated. The Santa Cruz Sheriff's Office said evacuations were ordered for Nunes Road and Gillette Road in Watsonville. The sheriff's office said at 11 a.m. that Willow Heights is also being evacuated. "White Road at Freedom and Larkin Valley is closed due to #nunesfire," the California Highway Patrol shared on Twitter.

The Panther Ridge Fire on Stapp Road west of Highway 9 in Boulder Creek was 10 to 12 acres and 55% contained. An estimated 20 homes were evacuated by the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office.

The Empire Fire on Alba Road at Empire Grade in Boulder Creek remained 6 acres and was 0% contained. No structures were threatened and no evacuations ordered, Cal Fire said.

The North Butano Fire in San Mateo County remained 10 acres and 0% contained. There is no structure threat. Cal Fire said engines are still trying to make access to this fire in the burn area of the CZU Lightning Complex. Trees and debris blocked access roads.

The Fanning Fire on Fanning Grade Road in Ben Lomond west of Highway 9 grew to 18.81 acres with 95% containment.

Residents displaced by fires can find resources, refreshments and shelter information at a Red Cross evacuation center located at the Corralitos Community Church, 26 Browns Valley Road, Corralitos.

Jan. 19, 1 p.m. Multiple wildfires sparked in Santa Cruz County amid a high wind event Monday night into Tuesday, and some are triggering evacuations, officials said.

The Cal Fire San Mateo-Santa Cruz Unit said at least 10 fires broke out in the last 12 hours and five continued to burn Tuesday afternoon.

Here's what we know about each as of 12:30 p.m. Tuesday, according to Cal Fire.

The Freedom Fire was reported at 8 a.m. Tuesday and is on Freedom Road, north of

Watsonville. It's five acres, burning in timber, and is 0% contained. The Santa Cruz Sheriff's Office said evacuations were ordered for Nunes Road and Gillette Road in Watsonville. The sheriff's office said at 11 a.m. that Willow Heights is also being evacuated. "White Road at Freedom and Larkin Valley is closed due to #nunesfire," the California Highway Patrol shared on Twitter.

The Panther Ridge Fire on Stapp Road west of Highway 9 in Boulder Creek was five acres and 0% contained. Evacuations are underway.

The Empire Fire on Alba Road at Empire Grade in Boulder Creek was six acres and burning through timber with 0% contained. No structure threat and no evacuations.

The North Butano Fire in San Mateo County was 10 acres and 0% contained. There is no structure threat.

The Fanning Fire on Fanning Grade Road in Ben Lomond West of Highway 9 was 14 acres with 30% containment.

Comparing the five blazes with the record-breaking fires the state saw in summer, Cal Fire Battalion Chief Isaac Sanchez said, "I don't believe any are significant fires at this point though for the people being impacted, it's not insignificant."

Sanchez wouldn't describe the flurry of wildfires breaking out in the middle of winter a rare event, as he said fire season is now year-round and there is no normal.

"These are the conditions we are faced with right now," Sanchez said. "Not only in Santa Cruz, but across the state The fuel out there is still receptive to burning and it doesn't get much to get a fire going and impact the community."

Cal Fire advised people to check Zone Haven for updates on evacuations. You can find updates from Cal Fire CZU on the Twitter page and Facebook page. This is a developing story and will update as more evacuation information is released.

High winds kicked up across the greater Bay Area on Monday night into Tuesday morning, leading to critical fire weather in the middle of winter.

Cal Fire said crews responded to 10 vegetation fires across San Mateo and Santa Cruz counties overnight as fierce winds whipped through the mountains and valleys. Some of the blazes broke out in the burn scar of the CZU Lightning Fire, a massive blaze that consumed 86,509 acres in August.

"All engines are committed to these fires today, with more resources coming in from other units," Cal Fire said.

The National Weather Service had a high wind warning in effect for elevations above 1,000 feet in the San Francisco Bay Area through 10 a.m. Tuesday. A wind advisory was issued for the North Bay, East Bay, San Francisco, Santa Clara and Santa Cruz through 6 p.m. Tuesday.

The winds arrived at the tail end of a warm spell, with 10 Bay Area locations breaking same-

day temperature records Monday afternoon, including 80 degrees in Santa Rosa, 79 in Oakland, 78 in San Jose, 77 in Napa, and 76 in downtown San Francisco, according to the weather service.

Offshore winds, aka Diablo Winds, blow hot air from inland areas toward the coast and are known for drying out the landscape and essentially sucking the moisture out of the vegetation, leaving it tinder-dry and vulnerable to burning.

Forecasters warned of the risk of wildfires sparking across the region and especially just south of the Bay Area in Monterey and San Benito counties.

"Relative humidity values are in the teens this evening and are not expected to recover overnight," the weather service said in its Monday report. "This unseasonably dry air mass and strong winds will combine to create critical fire weather conditions tonight and Tuesday in areas where fuels remain dry, specifically in the hills and mountains of Monterey and San Benito Counties where a Red Flag Warning is currently in effect."

[CA] Wildfire west of Yosemite, near Camp Mather, grows to 70 acres (San Francisco Chronicle)

[San Francisco Chronicle](#) [1/19/2021 4:49 PM, Amy Graff, 2481K]

A wildfire ignited in the Stanislaus National Forest west of Yosemite on Tuesday had grown to 70 acres as of 4 p.m. and was producing heavy amounts of smoke, officials said.

The Abernathy Fire spread in a forested area west of Camp Mather, a camp that hundreds of San Francisco families enjoy every summer, in the Groveland Ranger District amid high winds.

"We expect as the winds die down the danger will decrease," said Diana Fredlund, a spokesperson for the Stanislaus National Forest.

The Mariposa County Sheriff's Office evacuated three to four residences in the Greeley Hill area. There were no reports at this time of structures being threatened in the Camp Mather area.

Smoke from the blaze was visible from a PG&E live webcam.

The fire started when powerful winds picked up across Northern California on Tuesday morning, as an upper-level system dove south into California from the Great Basin and Pacific Northwest.

Yosemite National Park closed Tuesday morning to visitors due to downed trees, debris and damage to park facilities. You can get updates on the closure on the Yosemite website and by calling 209-372-0200, pressing 1, then 1 again.

Andy Bollenbacher, a forecaster with the National Weather Service, said Yosemite "got clobbered this morning."

"That wasn't just in Yosemite Valley, but it got down to Wawona as well," said Bollenbacher. "We don't have a lot of observations from that area, but we did record some high winds over 80 mph."

Bollenbacher said the peak gusts hit about 4 a.m. Tuesday, and as of 9:30 a.m., winds were still over 60 mph along the crests and in canyons.

Winds are expected to relax through the day as the system moves southwest, and conditions should be relatively calm by 6 to 8 tonight, Bollenbacher said.

Federal Protective Service

[DC] Inauguration security around US Capitol tightens as hunt for DC pipe bomb suspect continues (FOX News)

[FOX News](#) [1/19/2021 1:10 PM, Vandana Rambaran, 10362K]

Security officials across local and federal agencies are on heightened alert a day before the inauguration of President-elect Joe Biden, and the hunt for a bombmaker and new IEDs in the D.C. area is high on their radar, the FBI said on Tuesday.

The threat of explosives in the downtown region of the city remains high, as officials continue to search for the suspect who left pipe bombs at both the Republican and Democratic national committee headquarters just blocks away from the Capitol on the same day the building was stormed on Jan. 6.

The bombs did not detonate, but a law enforcement official briefed on the matter told Fox News that catching the suspect, who the FBI believes could be planning similar attacks on Inauguration Day, is a "top priority."

Heightened security concerns come after a mob stormed the Capitol building earlier this month, some intent on harming lawmakers, in a deadly siege that killed five people, including a Capitol police officer.

More than 25,000 National Guardsmen will be squared off around the Capitol's perimeter, with the areas around the White House, other federal buildings and the National Mall on lockdown and armed with a heavy security presence for the big event.

Thousands of federal, state and local law enforcement officials from dozens of states have also joined the ranks in D.C.

This comes as federal investigators continue to probe the possibility of radicalized law enforcement officers who were involved in the Capitol attacks on Jan. 6.

Acting Secretary of Defense Christopher Miller said in a statement Monday that the Department of Defense has not received any intelligence indicating a potential insider threat to the inauguration but added that the department is "leaving no stone unturned in securing the capital."

The FBI continues to monitor "chatter" online about a resurgence of violence as agents comb through nearly 200,000 photos and videos circulating social media and other outlets of the events on that day.

"The Department of Justice is committed, together with our federal, state, and local law

enforcement partners, to ensuring a safe and peaceful Inauguration – one that reflects our Nation's enduring highest values," the DOJ said in a statement Tuesday.

[DC] FBI says finding pipe bomb maker a 'top priority' before Biden inauguration, official reveals (FOX News)

[FOX News](#) [1/19/2021 11:23 AM, Jake Gibson, 10362K]

The FBI warned law enforcement agencies Tuesday that the person who constructed pipe bombs and left them near the Capitol on Jan. 6 has not yet been identified and is a "top priority" on the eve of Joe Biden's inauguration, according to a law enforcement official briefed on inauguration security concerns.

The FBI also warned fellow law enforcement agencies Tuesday that there is concern this person is still active and could be attempting to make more explosive devices, according to the law enforcement official.

As the attack on the Capitol was unfolding on Jan. 6, law enforcement officials found two pipe bombs only blocks away, one outside the Republican National Committee headquarters, and another outside the Democratic National Committee headquarters. Federal officials have made clear in the days since that both of those pipe bombs were legitimate destructive devices with functioning components.

The devices were "rendered safe" by federal authorities and did not detonate. Components from those devices are being analyzed at the FBI Laboratory in Quantico, Va.

The pipe bombs are still the subject of an open investigation, and federal authorities are looking very closely at them, according to a separate senior federal law enforcement official, who said, "Every explosive device tells a story."

With components of the devices still in good condition, authorities will be looking for signatures such as how they were manufactured, where the fuel was obtained and any similarities to thousands of other devices in federal databases.

There are pictures of a person authorities want to speak to in connection with these devices, but notably that person's face was completely covered up in the photo.

[DC] Self-styled militia members planned on storming the U.S. Capitol days in advance of Jan. 6 attack, court documents say (Washington Post)

[Washington Post](#) [1/19/2021 8:28 PM, Spencer S. Hsu, Tom Jackman and Devlin Barrett, 13480K]

Self-styled militia members from Virginia, Ohio and other states made plans to storm the U.S. Capitol days in advance of the Jan. 6 attack, and then communicated in real time as they breached the building on opposite sides and talked about hunting for lawmakers, according to court documents filed Tuesday.

While authorities have charged more than 100 individuals in the riot, details in the new allegations against three U.S. military veterans offer a disturbing look at what they allegedly said to one another before, during and after the attack — statements that indicate a degree of preparation and determination to rush deep into the halls and tunnels of Congress to make "citizens' arrests" of elected officials.

U.S. authorities charged an apparent leader of the Oath Keepers extremist group, Thomas Edward Caldwell, 66, of Berryville, Va., in the attack, alleging that the Navy veteran helped organize a ring of dozens who coordinated their movements as they “stormed the castle” to disrupt the confirmation of President-elect Joe Biden’s electoral college victory.

“We have about 30-40 of us. We are sticking together and sticking to the plan,” co-defendant Jessica Watkins, 38, an Army veteran, said while the breach was underway, according to court documents.

“You are executing citizen’s arrest. Arrest this assembly, we have probable cause for acts of treason, election fraud,” a man replied, according to audio recordings of communications between Watkins and others during the incursion.

“We are in the main dome right now. We are rocking it. They are throwing grenades, they are fricking shooting people with paint balls. But we are in here,” a woman believed to be Watkins said, according to court documents.

A man then responds, “Get it, Jess,” adding, “This is . . . everything we f---ing trained for!”

The FBI said it recovered the exchange from Zello, a push-to-talk, two-way radio phone app.

FBI charging papers against Caldwell, Watkins and a third person, former U.S. Marine Donovan Crowl, 50, allege that Caldwell and others coordinated in advance to disrupt Congress, scouted for lodging and recruited Oath Keepers members from North Carolina and like-minded groups from the Shenandoah Valley. The group claims thousands of members who assert the right to defy government orders they deem improper. The plotters both anticipated violence and continued to act in concert after the break-in, investigators alleged in court documents. FBI papers also say that Caldwell suggested a similar event at the local level after the attack, saying in a message: “Lets storm the capitol in Ohio. Tell me when!”

The three are charged with five federal counts of conspiracy against the United States; obstructing an official government proceeding; impeding or injuring government officers; and destroying U.S. property, entering restricted grounds and disorderly conduct at the Capitol.

Attempts to reach attorneys for Caldwell, Watkins and Crowl have been unsuccessful. No one immediately responded to messages left at numbers connected to Caldwell.

Watkins, of Woodstock, Ohio, told the Ohio Capital Journal last week that she formed a group known as the Ohio State Regular Militia in 2019 and that it had patrolled 12 protests to “protect people” on both sides. She said she had served a tour in Afghanistan while in the Army. She also said she was a member of the Oath Keepers.

“I didn’t commit a crime. I didn’t destroy anything. I didn’t wreck anything,” Watkins said to the Journal, adding that the riot was a peaceful protest that turned violent.

Crowl’s mother, Teresa Rowe, said she was appalled to see pictures of him in the Capitol.

She said he had become radicalized after leaving the Marine Corps.

"I wish I could tell people what happened to him, but I don't know," Rowe said.

The arrests this weekend of several people with alleged ties to far-right extremist groups, including the Oath Keepers, the Proud Boys and the Three Percenters, suggest that the riot was not an entirely impulsive outburst of violence but an event instigated or exploited by organized groups. Hours of video posted on social media and pored over by investigators have focused on individuals in military-style gear moving together.

"This is the first step toward identifying and understanding that there was some type of concerted conspiracy here," said one senior official with the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia, which is leading the investigation.

"Whether everyone else just happened to be there and got caught up in the moment, or if this is just the tip of the iceberg, how much this will grow at this point I can't tell you, but we are continuing to investigate aggressively," according to the official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss a pending investigation.

In charging papers, the FBI said that during the Capitol riot, Caldwell received Facebook messages from unspecified senders updating him of the location of lawmakers. When he posted a one-word message, "Inside," he received exhortations and directions describing tunnels, doors and hallways, the FBI said.

Some messages, according to the FBI, included, "Tom all legislators are down in the Tunnels 3floors down," and "Go through back house chamber doors facing N left down hallway down steps." Another message read: "All members are in the tunnels under capital seal them in. Turn on gas," the FBI added.

Other arrests Tuesday also underscored law enforcement's concerns about threats to elected leaders, particularly because so many of the participants in the Jan. 6 chaos are still unidentified.

In New York, a Queens man who worked in the state court system was accused Tuesday of making threats to murder Democratic politicians, including suggesting another attack on the Capitol timed to Biden's inauguration. The man was not at the riot on Jan. 6 but made threatening remarks about Democratic politicians beforehand that intensified in a video he posted two days later, which was titled "KILL YOUR SENATORS." In the video, he encourages people to return to the Capitol and take up arms.

"If anybody has a gun, give it to me, I'll go there myself and shoot them and kill them," the man said, according to the FBI.

In Caldwell's charging papers, the FBI said that it is reviewing communications between Cald-well "and other known and unknown Oath Keepers members."

An FBI agent in court records said Caldwell helped organize a group of eight to 10 individuals led by Watkins. Members of the group are seen on video wearing helmets and military-style gear, and moving purposefully toward the top of the Capitol steps and leading the move against police lines, court records said.

A search of Watkins's home in Ohio found numerous firearms, cellphones, pepper spray, a radio, a bag with a helmet and respirators, paintball guns, pool cues cut down to baton size, and zip/cable ties, as well a camouflage hat and jackets, the FBI said.

The FBI said without elaboration that it also recovered a document titled "Making Plastic Explosives from Bleach," redacting the instructions in a photo exhibit.

According to a 23-page affidavit, Caldwell in Facebook messages said he scouted lodging for Watkins and others, starting at a Comfort Inn in Ballston, Va., about eight miles from the Capitol, that "would allow us to go hunting at night if we wanted to."

In an apparent reference to Oath Keepers founder Stewart Rhodes, Caldwell wrote Jan. 1: "I don't know if Stewie has even gotten out his call to arms, but it's a little friggin late. This is one we are doing on our own. We will link up with the north carolina crew."

Meanwhile, the group was making contingency plans and focused on security, the FBI said. Caldwell said he would probably "do pre-strike on the 5th" and expected a man named Paul "will have the goodies in case things go bad and we need to get heavy."

"Keep eyes on people with Red MAGA hats worn backward. Saw a report that they were going to infiltrate crowd tomorrow," Crowl was warned Jan. 5 in another Facebook message, as he prepared for what he called an "Oathkeepers op," court documents said.

"Thanks Brother, but we are WAY ahead on that. We have infiltrators in Their ranks. We are doing the W.H. in the am and early afternoon, rest up at the Hotel, then headed back out tomorrow night 'tifa' hunt'in. We expect good hunting," Crowl responded, in an apparent reference to antifa counterdemonstrators, the FBI said.

At some point on the day of the riot, Watkins posted to the social media site Parler a photograph of herself in uniform, writing: "Me before forcing entry into the Capitol Building. #stopthesteal #stormthecapitol #oathkeepers #ohiomilitia," the FBI said. She added a photo of Crowl in paramilitary gear and an Oath Keepers patch as "one of my guys," and the pair allegedly took a selfie in video recorded in the Capitol Rotunda, the FBI said.

Caldwell also posted a message after the riot, court documents said: "Us storming the castle. Please share. . . . I am such an instigator!"

"Proud boys scuffled with cops and drove them inside to hide. Breached the doors. One guy made it all the way to the house floor, another to Pelosi's office. A good time," Caldwell added, according to the FBI.

In a Jan. 8 message to Crowl, the FBI said Caldwell added, "We stormed the gates of corruption together (although on opposite sides of the building) so between that and our first meeting and getting to know you since I can say we will always be brothers!"

[DC] Members of extremist Oath Keepers group planned attack on US Capitol, prosecutors say (CNN)

[CNN](#) [1/19/2021 8:28 PM, David Shortell, Katelyn Polantz, Evan Perez and Zachary Cohen, 7975K]

Prosecutors on Tuesday filed the first significant conspiracy charge in the US Capitol attack, alleging that three members of the so-called Oath Keepers, an extremist militant group, planned and coordinated ahead of the January 6 assault.

In an amended complaint unsealed Tuesday in federal court, an FBI agent divulged striking new details about the group's efforts. Jessica Watkins, the alleged founder of an Ohio militia, had instructions to make explosives out of bleach printed out at her home, according to the court document.

Chilling messages sent between the militants during the siege that are quoted in the complaint appear to indicate they were searching for lawmakers inside the building as they sought to stop Congress from certifying the presidential election.

While at the Capitol, one alleged member of the conspiracy, Thomas Edward Caldwell, allegedly received a Facebook message reading "All members are in the tunnels under capital seal them in. Turn on gas."

In subsequent messages, an unidentified person appeared to give Caldwell directions inside the labyrinthian government building:

"Tom all legislators are down in the Tunnels 3floors down" one says. "Go through back house chamber doors facing N left down hallway down steps," says another, according to court documents.

Watkins turned herself into local police in the state on Sunday along with Donovan Crowl, another member of the Ohio group accused in the conspiracy charges.

The pair, along with Caldwell, are accused of moving together "in an organized and practiced fashion" as they pushed through a crowd towards a door to the Capitol building, according to a charging document.

The three were part of a group of eight to 10 people all wearing paramilitary gear and Oath Keeper paraphernalia, signifying their affiliation with the self-styled militia that's driven by anti-government conspiracies, according to an FBI affidavit. (The Ohio militia founded by Watkins pays dues to the Oath Keepers, according to the affidavit.)

Individual charges against the three had been revealed in recent days but the new conspiracy charge grouping them together represents the most serious allegation of coordinated activity at the riot made by prosecutors investigating the events of the insurrection. Prosecutors have called Caldwell an apparent leader of the Oath Keepers, and had previously charged him alone with conspiracy. (Oath Keepers leader Steward Rhodes denied that to CNN.)

It's not clear who is representing Watkins and Donovan on the charges. Caldwell was arrested in Virginia earlier Tuesday and at an initial appearance in federal court in Harrisonburg, Virginia, Tuesday afternoon, a federal magistrate judge ordered that he remain in jail as he awaits trial.

"The conduct and statements of Mr. Caldwell and the others, it really is just pure lawlessness," Judge Joel Hoppe of the Western District of Virginia said.

Prosecutors said at the hearing that Caldwell could face more charges, potentially including federal riot and sedition charges. He currently faces charges of obstruction of a federal proceeding, destruction of federal property and two conspiracy counts that carry serious possible penalties.

Caldwell's defense lawyer argued that he should be released because he is at risk of contracting Covid-19 in detention, his charges are not that serious and that he is a retired Navy captain who served the country and was honorably discharged. Caldwell said in court he still receives retirement payments from the Navy.

"Seventy percent of Republicans believe that the election was fraudulent," his temporarily appointed defense lawyer said, adding that Caldwell's opposition to the government wasn't out of the ordinary for "blustering on Facebook."

According to a recording of walkie-talkie-like communications that the militant group members were allegedly having during the riot, Watkins said that she was part of a team of 30 to 40 people.

"We have a good group. We have about 30-40 of us. We are sticking together and sticking to the plan," Watkins said, according to the affidavit.

At another point in the recording, after Watkins reports to the group that unknown others were "throwing grenades" and "shooting people with paint balls," a man responds to her telling her to be safe and adding, "Get it, Jess. Do your F**king thing. This is what we f**king [unintelligible] up for. Everything we f**king trained for."

In an interview, Crowl's mother, Teresa Joann Rowe, said her son, who previously served in the US Marine Corps, has expressed increasingly hostile political views in recent years.

"It felt like he did a 180-degree turnaround, felt like the world owed him a living and had a big chip on his shoulder," she told CNN. "I don't know if it's because life didn't go the way he planned."

Asked why she thinks Crowl may have been joined to this extremist group, she said, "I would like to understand myself. I don't get it."

She said Crowl served in the Marine Corps for about six years starting in the late 1980's and in recent years has done "odd jobs, being paid under the table so that he doesn't have to pay taxes."

She said prior to the news surrounding the storming of the Capitol, she was unaware of Crowl's involvement in any political groups, though she had heard him express pro-Donald Trump political views. She also said she recalled Crowl stating that "they were going to overtake the government if they... tried to take Trump's presidency from him. So he did make that statement, but that was two or three years ago so I forgot all about it."

Oren Segal, vice president of the Anti-Defamation League's Center on Extremism, said he's concerned some of those arrested have US military backgrounds.

"Some right-wing extremist groups, particularly the anti-government Oath Keepers, have a long history of recruiting from current and former members of the military and law enforcement," Segal told CNN.

"Oath Keepers are part of the resurgent militia movement, which believes the federal government has been co-opted by a shadowy conspiracy that is trying to strip American citizens of their rights. Though the Oath Keepers will accept anyone as members, what differentiates them from other anti-government extremist groups is their explicit focus on recruiting current and former military, law enforcement and first responder personnel," he added.

[Editorial note: consult video at source link]

[DC] Alleged militia leader arrested, officials say, as FBI eyes extremist group suspects after Capitol riot (FOX News)

[FOX News](#) [1/19/2021 2:25 PM, Stephanie Pagones, 10362K]

An alleged militia leader was arrested Tuesday for being involved in the "planning and coordinating" of the Jan. 6 storming of the Capitol, as the FBI's hones its efforts on extremist groups suspected of being linked to the attack, court papers show.

Thomas Edward Caldwell is one of the multiple alleged militia members to be connected, so far, with the Capitol Hill insurrection. Federal investigators described the 65-year-old Virginia man as having a "leadership role" within a paramilitary group known as the Oath Keepers, according to an affidavit for Caldwell's arrest.

Oath Keepers – identified in court papers as a "loosely organized collection of militia who believe that the federal government has been coopted (s.i.c.) by a shadowy conspiracy that is trying to strip American citizens of their rights" – were seen in photographs on Capitol grounds on Jan. 6.

Investigators scoured Caldwell's Facebook page and found that Caldwell "was involved in planning and coordinating the January 6 breach," the affidavit states. Caldwell allegedly made arrangements for other Oath Keepers to stay in a Virginia hotel, reportedly writing on Facebook: "This is a good location and would allow us to hunt at night if we wanted to."

He references another alleged Oath Keepers leader's potential "call to arms," and adds: "This is one we are doing on our own," according to the affidavit.

Just hours after the insurrection, Caldwell purportedly wrote in a Facebook message: "Us storming the castle. Please share ... I am such an instigator!"

"Proud boys scuffled with cops and drove them inside to hide. Breached the doors. One guy made it all the way to the house floor, another to Pelosi's office," he wrote in a different missive. "A good time."

But his messages didn't stop there, according to authorities.

"We need to do this at the local level," he allegedly wrote in a second message less than a minute later. "We need to do this at the local level. Lets (s.i.c) storm the capitol in Ohio. Tell me when!"

Sources told Fox News he was charged with conspiracy to commit an offense against the U.S. government. Court papers show he was also charged with obstruction of an official proceeding; knowingly entering or remaining in any restricted building or grounds without lawful authority; and violent entry or disorderly conduct.

Caldwell is believed to be the first rioter hit with conspiracy charges. He could not be reached despite several attempts by Fox News.

Among the hundreds who stormed the Capitol on Jan. 6 were eight to 10 people wearing "paramilitary equipment" and clothing that identified them as members of the Oath Keepers, authorities said. They moved "in an organized and practiced fashion and force[d] their way to the front of the crowd gathered around a door to the U.S. Capitol," court papers state.

Two of those members allegedly include Jessica Watkins and Donovan Crowl.

Watkins and Crowl, both from Ohio, are being held at a county jail in Dayton, after being arrested Monday. Federal documents identify them as members of the Ohio State Regular Militia, dues-paying members of the Oath Keepers.

Watkins, a 38-year-old self-described commanding officer of the Ohio State Regular Militia, posted video and comments on Jan. 6 on the Parler social media site, investigators said.

In one instance, she posted a picture of herself and included the caption, "Me before forcing entry into the Capitol Building."

Watkins also reportedly posted that entry was forced through the back door of the Capitol.

Crowl was identified in a New Yorker magazine article titled, "A Former Marine Stormed the Capitol as Part of a Far-Right Militia." He and Watkins were charged with entering a restricted building or grounds; violent entry or disorderly conduct, and obstruction of an official proceeding.

They are among more than 125 people arrested so far on charges related to the Jan. 6 violent insurrection, which led to the deaths of a Capitol police officer and four others.

[DC] Maryland man who wanted to be 'lone wolf killer' tracked by parole-monitoring device to Capitol, FBI says (FOX News)

[FOX News](#) [1/19/2021 3:00 PM, Vandana Rambaran, 10362K]

A Maryland man out on probation after a burglary conviction was tracked to the inside of the U.S. Capitol on the day of the Jan. 6 riot by his GPS monitor, after he received permission from parole supervisors to travel to Washington, D.C., to purportedly hand out Bibles with a religious group, the FBI said.

Bryan Betancur, from Silver Springs, Md., contacted his parole officer two days after a mob stormed the nation's Capitol in a violent attack that left five people dead to let him know that he was worried that the FBI was watching him and that photos of himself would surface at the Capitol after the insurrection.

Betancur told his parole officer he had been inside the Capitol and was tear-gassed, the FBI

said. He later retracted his statement about being inside the building but maintained that he was tear-gassed.

The parole officer then contacted the FBI to report Betancur. Photos turned over to law enforcement officials that appeared on social media allegedly show Betancur posing with a Confederate flag while standing on scaffolding outside the west side of the Capitol building.

In another photo, Betancur allegedly posted a selfie wearing a Proud Boys T-shirt and making the "OK" hand sign, a popular gesture for white supremacist groups.

While out on parole, Betancur, whom the FBI says is a self-described white supremacist, was active on racially motivated supremacist Internet groups and became increasingly vocal about wanting to carry out a "lone wolf attack" or a mass shooting, according to an FBI affidavit for his arrest.

The FBI said Betancur voiced support for James Fields, who was convicted for killing a woman with his car during a white nationalist rally in Charlottesville, Va., in 2017 and reportedly stated that he, too, wanted to run people over with a vehicle and kill people in a church. Betancur later told authorities he had changed his mind about hurting people, the FBI said.

Betancur received approval from parole supervisors to travel to D.C. to distribute Bibles with Gideon International, an evangelical Christian group. His GPS tracking device, however, showed him around the vicinity of the Capitol between 2 and 5 p.m., including inside the building, according to the FBI.

Betancur is facing several charges in the incident, including unlawful activities on Capitol grounds and entering a restricted building.

Contact information for Betancur was not immediately available.

Secret Service

Joe Biden gives emotional farewell to Delaware as he departs for Washington on eve of his inauguration (CNN)

[CNN](#) [1/19/2021 3:33 PM, Maeve Reston, 7975K, Neutral, Primary]

President-elect Joe Biden arrives in Washington Tuesday for the start of his inaugural ceremonies at a dark and solemn moment in American history, preparing to take his oath of office as the US passes 400,000 coronavirus deaths and is more divided than at any time since the Civil War.

As he departed for the nation's capital, Biden gave an emotional farewell to his home state of Delaware, his voice breaking at times as he thanked the state's residents for believing in him and standing with him throughout his career.

"I'll always be a proud son of the state of Delaware," Biden said at the Delaware National Guard headquarters in New Castle County. "Excuse the emotion," he said, tears streaming down his face, "but when I die, Delaware will be written on my heart and the hearts of all of us -- all the Bidens. We love you all. You've been there for us in the good and the bad."

He gave a moving tribute to his son Beau, who died of brain cancer in 2015 at the age of 46, stating that he had hoped to see his son become president one day.

"We should be introducing him as president," he said.

The President-elect also noted the historical arc of his career witnessing the civil rights struggle as well as signs of progress in the United States. He said he came home to Wilmington, Delaware, from law school after Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated -- inspired by the turmoil to become a public defender. In 2009, he made the journey to Washington with Barack Obama, who became the nation's first Black president. And he is returning to Washington, DC, this week "to meet a Black woman of South Asian descent, to be sworn in as President and vice president of the United States. That's America," he said Tuesday.

The nation's continuing struggles for equality and racial justice also drew Biden into the 2020 presidential race. He has said he decided to seek the highest office after watching President Donald Trump's dismissive handling of the deadly White supremacist rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, when he said there were "very fine people on both sides."

Now intent on healing a deeply fractured country, Biden's task has never seemed more daunting after Trump incited a riot with his lies that the presidential election was stolen, which led an armed mob to storm the Capitol on January 6 and resulted in the deaths of five people, including a Capitol Police officer. On Tuesday, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said that the mob was "provoked" by Trump, in a remarkable final rebuke of the President after four years in which Republicans have often stayed silent in the face of the President's misdeeds.

"The mob was fed lies," McConnell, a Kentucky Republican, said on the Senate floor Tuesday. "They were provoked by the President and other powerful people, and they tried to use fear and violence to stop a specific proceeding of the first branch of the federal government which they did not like."

But McConnell noted that democracy had prevailed, even in the face of violent threats, and that Congress carried out its duties by certifying the election: "We'll have a safe and successful inaugural right here on the very front of the Capitol," he said.

McConnell argued that the November election "did not hand any side a mandate for sweeping ideological change," given the closely divided Senate and House. But he said Republicans would seek common ground with Democrats as Biden takes office: "We are to pursue bipartisan agreement everywhere we can, and check and balance one another, respectfully, where we must."

Washington locked down

Biden had hoped to infuse his arrival in Washington with a nostalgic twist by riding the rails from his home in Delaware, but that was deemed too much of a security risk at a time when the nation is facing threats from within. Instead the President-elect will arrive in a capital city Tuesday that has been transformed into a fortress with more than 20,000 National Guard troops securing the streets and protecting buildings that symbolize the enduring history of

democracy in this country, which has seemed very much in peril in recent weeks.

CNN's Pentagon team reported Tuesday afternoon that 12 National Guard members have been removed from inauguration duty as federal authorities vet those who are stationed in Washington, DC, to secure the ceremonies. Army Gen. Daniel Hokanson told CNN that two of the individuals were flagged due to "inappropriate" comments and texts, while another 10 were removed for questionable behavior found during the vetting. Col. Michael Dugas, provost marshal of the National Guard Bureau, told CNN's Anderson Cooper Tuesday that at least 17,000 members have been vetted so far.

With the twice-impeached Trump still prowling the White House -- fuming about his election grievances and upcoming trial in the US Senate as he prepares to leave for Palm Beach, Florida, before the new President is sworn in Wednesday -- Biden hopes to shift the nation's attention to his agenda for halting the Covid-19 pandemic, accelerating the troubled vaccine rollout and rebuilding a struggling economy that has left millions unemployed.

Honoring Covid victims

Before tackling those challenges, Biden's first stop in Washington, DC, will be at a memorial honoring the nearly 400,000 Americans who have died from Covid-19, with 400 lights illuminating the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool. Hundreds of towns, cities and communities across the country plan to join in the solemn tribute with lighting ceremonies of their own at buildings from the Empire State Building in New York to the Space Needle in Seattle, Washington.

Biden will be joined by his wife Jill Biden, Vice President-elect Kamala Harris and her husband Doug Emhoff. Cardinal Wilton Gregory, the archbishop of Washington, will deliver the invocation and gospel singer Yolanda Adams will perform "Hallelujah."

The President-elect has been working on the inauguration speech that he will deliver at the US Capitol on Wednesday, which will mark the beginning of his effort to unite the country after four dark and tumultuous years under Trump, who is skipping the ceremony.

The Covid-19 pandemic had already forced organizers to reimagine the day's ceremonies, including the traditional swearing-in of the new president on the West Front of the Capitol. Those plans were complicated by the January 6 siege of the Capitol by Trump supporters, who shattered glass and ravaged the historic building, forcing the Secret Service to keep plans in flux to ensure that traditional transfer of power will transpire peacefully and safely. In that unnerving environment, the military has been intensely vetting the National Guard troops to make sure there are no bad actors who would do harm during this week's ceremonies.

With Trump's decision to duck out of Washington Wednesday morning to fly to Florida, he has dispensed with both the traditional welcome of the incoming President and first lady at the North Portico and the joint ride over to the Capitol for the ceremony.

Instead, Trump took the unusual step of asking staff to arrange a sendoff of his own at Joint Base Andrews, suggesting that he'd like to see a red carpet, a Color Guard and a 21-gun salute.

On Wednesday, Biden will attend church at St. Matthews in Washington, DC, with all four top congressional leaders from both parties. The President-elect will also lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, joined by former President Barack Obama and first lady Michelle Obama, former President George W. Bush and first lady Laura Bush, and former President Bill Clinton and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

The inaugural parade down Pennsylvania Ave to honor the incoming administration will now be replaced by a virtual one. Accompanying Biden and Harris as the presidential escort from 15th Street to the White House will be the US Army Band, a Joint Service Honor Guard and the commander in chief's Guard and Fife Drum Corps. The University of Delaware Drumline and the Howard University Drumline will also participate in a nod to the alma maters of the incoming president and vice president.

Participants in Wednesday's virtual parade, which will be hosted by "Scandal" actor Tony Goldwyn (who played the show's President of the United States), will feature comedian Jon Stewart, New Radicals and DJ Cassidy's "Pass the Mic" with performances by Earth Wind & Fire, Nile Rodgers, Kathy Sledge, The Trans Chorus of Los Angeles, The Washington Chorus and The Triumph Baptist Church Choir.

The parade will also include Americans who sought to lift spirits in the midst of the pandemic including Dr. Jason Campbell -- a Portland doctor who became known as the "TikToc Doc" with his uplifting dance performances in scrubs from the hospital — and Jason Zgonc, a 12-year-old trumpeter from Atlanta who played during hospital workers' break times throughout the summer.

File details investigation into John Mulaney 'SNL' monologue (AP)

[AP](#) [1/19/2021 7:12 PM, James Laporta, Neutral, Secondary]

The U.S. Secret Service opened an investigation into comedian John Mulaney over jokes believed to be made about President Donald Trump on "Saturday Night Live" last year, according to records obtained by The Associated Press.

Mulaney, 38, revealed last month that the Secret Service had investigated the comedian and "SNL" alum for "inappropriate jokes about President Trump" after he made a joke about Roman dictator Julius Caesar, who was stabbed to death by a group of senators on the Ides of March.

The file obtained by the AP through Freedom of Information Act request showed the bureau contacted NBC but did not interview the comedian for its inquiry, which found no wrongdoing.

"Another thing that happened under Julius Caesar, he was such a powerful maniac that all the senators grabbed knives, and they stabbed him to death. That would be an interesting thing if we brought that back now," Mulaney said to laughter from the audience.

The joke was said during Mulaney's opening monologue during the "Saturday Night Live" broadcast on Feb. 29, 2020.

The Secret Service noted other remarks during the monologue, including: "I asked my lawyer if I could make that joke, he said, let me call another lawyer, and that lawyer said yes. I don't dwell on politics, but I dislike the Founding Fathers immensely. ... I hate when

people are like, God has never created such a great group of men than the Founding Fathers. Yeah, the '92 Bulls. ... That's a perfect metaphor for the United States. When I was a boy, the United States was like Michael Jordan in 1992. Now the United States it like Michael Jordan now."

Two days after Mulaney's "SNL" monologue, law enforcement officials contacted Thomas McCarthy, the global chief security officer and senior vice president at NBC Universal, to express the agency's desire to discuss the joke with the comedian's attorneys.

The Secret Service file included a report from Breitbart entitled, "SNL: John Mulaney Jokes that Senators Should Stab Trump Like Julius Caesar." The investigation into Mulaney was opened in March and closed in December, five days after the comedian revealed the investigation during an interview with Jimmy Kimmel.

The Secret Service file notes that Mulaney made no direct threats towards Trump.

"The person vetting me was very understanding that the joke had nothing to do with Donald Trump because it was an elliptical reference to him," Mulaney said to Kimmel. "I didn't say anything about him. In terms of risk assessment, no one who's ever looked at me thought I registered above a one."

He added: "I said I have been making jokes about him since 2007, so I have been making fun of him for 13 years," Mulaney said. "They said if it's a joke, then I am cleared by the Secret Service."

[NY] Federal agent reportedly turned in sister's boyfriend for attending Capitol riot (The Hill)

[The Hill](#) [1/19/2021 7:36 PM, Joseph Choi, 2343K, Positive, Secondary]

A New York man inadvertently got himself arrested after sending a selfie of himself at the Capitol during the Jan. 6 riot to his girlfriend's brother, a special agent with the Secret Service.

Local D.C. CBS-affiliate WUSA reports that Thomas Fee's girlfriend posted on Facebook that he had been at the deadly Capitol riot. His girlfriend's brother, a federal agent at the U.S. Department of State, saw the post online and texted Fee to confirm he had been at the Capitol breach.

WUSA reports that Fee, who lives in Freeport, N.Y., confirmed his presence and sent a selfie and video of himself inside the Capitol rotunda. He reportedly texted he was "at the tip of the spear" when he sent the video. The federal agent then forwarded the information to the Joint Terrorism Task Force.

Fee has been charged with entering a restricted building and impeding the orderly conduct of government business or official functions WUSA reports.

Fee retired from the New York Fire Department last year, WUSA notes, making him the second retired firefighter to be arrested due to their involvement in the Capitol breach. Robert Sanford, 55, of Pennsylvania, was also arrested last week on charges of throwing a fire extinguisher at a Capitol Police officer's head during the riot.

Several family members or those close to the people who participated in the riot have turned them over to the authorities. Guy Wesley Reffitt was arrested in Texas after his wife told the FBI of his presence at the Capitol breach.

According to an affidavit from the FBI, Reffitt had told his wife and children, "If you turn me in, you're a traitor and you know what happens to traitors...traitors get shot."

Helena Duke, 18, publicly identified members of her family who had been at the Capitol on Jan. 6, posting video of her mother allegedly at the event.

[PA] Bucks County man charged with threatening violence toward Biden, Harris (FOX 43)

[FOX 43](#) [1/19/2021 1:19 PM, Keith Schweigert, 27K, Positive, Secondary]

State Police have charged a Bucks County man with making threats to kill president-elect Joe Biden and Kamala Harris in videos published to Facebook.

Kris John Kinsey, 61, of Doylestown, is charged with one felony count of person not to possess firearms and misdemeanor counts of terroristic threats, possession of a small amount of marijuana, possessing the instruments of crime, and possession of drug paraphernalia, according to State Police.

He was taken into custody last Friday in a wooded area off the 700 block of Sunday Road in Durham Township, Bucks County by troopers serving an arrest warrant, according to a criminal complaint affidavit filed in the case by State Police.

He was charged after a joint investigation by the Elyria Police Department in Ohio and the United States Secret Service determined he had posted several messages, videos, and photos on his Facebook page threatening violence toward Biden and Harris, as well as their supporters, the complaint states.

In one post, Kinsey allegedly states: "If you support Biden you are supporting the psychopath Kamala Harris who publicly said she would hunt down and kill every Trump supporter in America if they won. So Kamala Harris you put 85 million American citizens in your death threat...forcing us into a kill or be killed in our own country. Come get you some Kommie Kammy Hitler."

The post is accompanied by a photo of Kinsey shooting at a paper plate with the words "F--- Biden" on it, police say. He is using a semiautomatic handgun in the photo, according to police.

Kinsey is barred from owning firearms, police say.

[DC] DC on lockdown and on edge before Biden's inauguration (AP)

[AP](#) [1/20/2021 12:21 AM, James Laporta, Lolita C. Baldor And Michael Balsamo, Neutral, Secondary]

The inauguration of President-elect Joe Biden will take place in a Washington on edge, after the deadly riot at the U.S. Capitol unleashed a wave of fear and unmatched security concerns. And law enforcement officials are contending not only with the potential for outside threats but also with rising concerns about an insider attack by troops with a duty to

protect him.

There have been no specific threats made against Biden.

The nation's capital is essentially on lockdown. More than 25,000 troops and police have been called to duty. Tanks and concrete barriers block the streets. The National Mall is closed. Fencing lines the perimeter of the U.S. Capitol complex. Checkpoints sit at intersections. The U.S. Secret Service, which is in charge of the event, says it is prepared.

But law enforcement officials have been monitoring members of far-right extremist and militia groups. They have grown increasingly concerned about the possibility such groups could stream into Washington and spark violent confrontations, a law enforcement official said.

Even in the hours before the event, federal agents were monitoring "concerning online chatter," which included an array of threats against elected officials and discussions about ways to infiltrate the inauguration, the official said.

And 12 National Guard members were removed from the security operation after vetting by the FBI, including two who had made extremist statements in posts or texts about Wednesday's event. Pentagon officials wouldn't give details on the statements.

Two other U.S. officials told The Associated Press that all 12 were found to have ties with right-wing militia groups or to have posted extremist views online. The officials, a senior intelligence official and an Army official briefed on the matter, did not say which fringe groups the Guard members belonged to or what unit they served in. The officials told the AP they had all been removed because of "security liabilities."

The officials were not authorized to speak publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Gen. Daniel Hokanson, chief of the National Guard Bureau, confirmed that Guard members had been removed and sent home but said only two cases were related to inappropriate comments or texts related to the inauguration. He said the other 10 cases were for potential issues that may involve previous criminal behavior or activities but were not directly related to the inaugural event.

Their removal from the massive security presence at the nation's capital came amid worries from U.S. defense officials about a potential insider attack or other threat from service members following the deadly riot at the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6 by Trump supporters. The FBI has been working to vet all 25,000 National Guard in town. Officials have said the Pentagon has found no intelligence so far that would indicate an insider threat.

But the FBI has also warned law enforcement officials about the possibility that right-wing fringe groups could pose as members of the National Guard, according to two law enforcement officials familiar with the matter. Over the summer, a man carrying a handgun and an assault rifle was arrested in Los Angeles and charged with impersonating a National Guard member during a protest. Actual Guardsmen confronted him when they noticed things out of place on his uniform.

Investigators in Washington are particularly worried that members of right-wing extremist

groups and militias, like the Oath Keepers and Three Percenters, could descend on Washington to spark violence, the law enforcement officials said. Some of the extremist groups are known to recruit former military personnel and train extensively and have frequented anti-government and political protests.

That concern intensified significantly after investigators identified members of right-wing extremist groups participating in the Capitol riot.

The nation's capital has been on edge since the deadly insurrection. A fire in a homeless camp roughly a mile from the Capitol complex prompted an evacuation Monday during a rehearsal for the inauguration. The arrests of two people with guns who entered the checkpoints set off concerns, though the arrests had no apparent connection to the inauguration.

Federal law enforcement officials have also been wary of increased surveillance of military and law enforcement checkpoints and other positions. Some National Guard troops have reported people taking pictures and recording them, said the law enforcement officials, who spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity to discuss ongoing security matters.

In a related problem, the Secret Service issued a bulletin over the weekend about what it sees as an “uptick” in National Guard troops posting pictures and details of their own operations online.

The AP obtained the message sent to all National Guard troops coming to Washington. The bulletin read, “No service members should be posting locations, pictures or descriptions online regarding current operations or the sensitive sites they are protecting” and urged them to stop immediately.

Asked about the bulletin, a spokesperson for the Secret Service said the agency “does not comment on matters of protective intelligence.”

Neither Hokanson nor Pentagon spokesperson Jonathan Hoffman would provide details on the comments or texts made by the two Guard members. Speaking at a Pentagon news conference, Hokanson said one was identified by his chain of command and the other was identified through an anonymous tip.

“Much of the information,” Hoffman said, “is unrelated to the events taking place at the Capitol or to the concerns that many people have noted on extremism. These are vetting efforts that identify any questionable behavior in the past or any potential link to questionable behavior, not just related to extremism.”

Hoffman said officials aren’t asking questions right now of those who were flagged.

But later, he said, “we will address them, whether it’s through law enforcement, if necessary, or through their own chain of command.”

[DC] Secret Service reopens bridges connecting communities east of Anacostia River (WUSA 9)

[WUSA 9](#) [1/19/2021 8:15 PM, Delia Goncalves, 202K, Neutral, Secondary] Video: [HERE](#)
In a change of course, the Secret Service reopened a handful of bridges to local traffic only

following concerns from residents and community leaders in Wards 7 and 8.

For the nearly 150,000 D.C. residents east of the Anacostia River, there are three grocery stores and no trauma center available. That's why certain bridges like the 11th Street bridge connecting downtown Anacostia to Navy Yard, are lifelines.

"The fact that they have allowed us to have this access, I think, is a good thing," Troy Prestwood, the president of the Ward 8 Democrats, said. "I think it should have been more transparent from the beginning."

Prestwood was one of the leading voices calling for a rollback of security measures to allow Ward 7 and 8 residents easier access to amenities on the other side of the river.

"One side of the bridge, I think they just opened like their 10th, 11th, 12th grocery store over there in Ward Six," Prestwood said. "In Ward Eight, we just have one!"

Contrary to resident concerns, ambulances always had access to bridges and their direct routes to trauma centers, which are about a 30-minute drive away. A spokesperson with DC Fire & EMS said they have deployed more crews "ensuring that we have quick access to those that call us for help."

The bridges are now guarded by DC Police and U.S Customs and Border Protection. Police are closely monitoring traffic, stopping and rerouting all commercial vehicles.

"What I hope is that this conversation will continue about the lack of services, because long after this inauguration, that will still be the case," Prestwood said.

The other bridges open to local traffic are South Capitol Street/Frederick Douglass Bridge and Key Bridge. According to the Secret Service, the new traffic pattern remains in effect until Thursday at 6 a.m.

[GA] SCSO investigating counterfeit money incident (Griffin Daily News)

[Griffin Daily News](#) [1/20/2021 1:00 AM, Staff, Neutral, Secondary]

According to a Spalding County Sheriff's Office incident report, a local resident reported that they had counterfeit money.

The SCSO was called at about 6:32 p.m. on Jan. 15 from a Camp Street residence about suspected forged U.S. currency.

According to the incident report, the individual wanted to turn in the counterfeit currency.

No arrests were made but according to the incident report, the case remains active.

[FL] Moving trucks spotted at Mar-a-Lago ahead of Trump White House departure (Washington Examiner)

[Washington Examiner](#) [1/19/2021 12:23 PM, Mike Brest, 394K, Neutral, Secondary] Video: [HERE](#)

Moving trucks have been spotted at President Trump's Mar-a-Lago resort in Palm Beach, Florida, in the days leading up to his transition out of power.

Vehicles from the JK Moving Services were seen in front of the club on Monday, as were employees moving boxes into the property, according to the Palm Beach Post.

Trump is expected to fly on Air Force One to Florida on Wednesday, prior to President-elect Joe Biden's swearing-in at noon. In recent days, staffers and others have been seen moving stuff out of the White House, including a bust of Abraham Lincoln.

Palm Beach announced on Monday that the roadway around Mar-a-Lago would be closed as of Tuesday night, but the town did not specify how long the closure would last. A note to residents said traffic will be restricted in the north and south directions on South Ocean Boulevard. The post also urged motorists to "please use caution throughout the area."

Secret Service activity intensified at Trump's waterfront club at the end of last year amid reports that the president's private quarters were being renovated ahead of the first family's permanent arrival. Such a permanent move faces a legal hurdle, however, as they are prohibited from making the estate a full-time residence under their agreement with the city of Palm Beach in 1993.

In 2019, the Trumps changed their legal residency from New York to Palm Beach, a decision that foreshadowed that the first family was preparing for a post-presidency in the Sunshine State.

Other members of the president's family, including Donald Trump Jr. and Ivanka Trump, are also looking into relocating to Florida. Ivanka Trump and her husband, Jared Kushner, recently purchased an undeveloped \$31 million lot near Miami featuring 200 feet of private waterfront and located on the exclusive Indian Creek Island, which is gated and guarded by a 13-man police force.

[FL] President Trump Is Coming Home to Palm Beach (NBC Miami)

[NBC Miami](#) [1/19/2021 8:54 PM, Steve Litz, 105K, Neutral, Secondary]

Palm Beach is ready to welcome its newest residents -- America's soon-to-be-former First Family.

President Donald Trump is set to move into his Mar-a-Lago resort Wednesday around lunchtime. Palm Beach Police and the United States Secret Service are among the law enforcement agencies that will protect the Trumps as they make the move.

"It is exciting to know that as part of the Palm Beach Police Department we are one of the few agencies in the country that gets to say we protected the President of the United States and defended the White House," said Palm Beach Police spokesman Michael Ogradnick.

Town officials sent a note to residents and posted on Twitter how they're ready for their new neighbors. The announcement came with information about the road closure outside the resort.

"The road closure will last several days for safety and security reasons. Beyond this, we do not foresee any future road closures related to the presence of a former President. We have diligently trained and are prepared to respond to any immediate security concerns that a Presidential or former Presidential presence brings through ongoing threat assessments,

and we will continue to do so with our federal, state and local law enforcement partners,” the announcement read.

Palm Beach is home to the uber-wealthy, world class hotels and some of the finest retail stores in the country.

Residents are well aware as to who is moving in.

“I have concerns like everybody else does, and I want things to maintain peaceful and quiet and calm like this area always has been,” said resident Nikki Levinson.

Early on in the Trump Administration, hundreds of people would jam the roadway leading to the resort, either welcoming or protesting the president’s presence at his South Florida resort.

Should that happen again, police say they’re ready.

“We do have a plan in place and we are preparing for best-case scenario, worst-case scenario. We are working in conjunction with our federal, local and state partners and we have open lines of communication with them also,” Ogradnick said.

[OH] Elyria man charged with making terrorist threats toward Biden, Democrat leaders (Lorain Morning Journal)

[Lorain Morning Journal](#) [1/19/2021 5:45 PM, Zachary Srnis, 6K, Positive, Secondary]
The Elyria Police Department has signed charges against a man for allegedly making terrorist threats on Facebook directed toward President-elect Joe Biden and other Democratic Party leaders.

According to Elyria police Capt. Bill Pelko, 61-year-old Kris J. Kinsey is facing a charge of making a terrorist threat, a third-degree felony.

Pelko said Elyria was notified by United States Secret Service about Kinsey, who was making the threats on Facebook. Kinsey had previously been arrested by Elyria Police.

He said Kinsey was an Elyria resident but has not lived at his listed Middle Avenue address for some time.

Elyria police tracked Kinsey to Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

Pelko said Pennsylvania State Police notified Elyria on Jan. 15 that they had tracked Kinsey to a makeshift campground.

Police arrested him and charged him with making terrorist threats. He is in Bucks County Jail.

Pelko said prosecutors from Ohio and Pennsylvania will meet to determine other charges and how to proceed going forward.

[IN] Vincennes police seeking suspects in counterfeit investigation (WTWO)

[WTWO](#) [1/19/2021 7:21 PM, Staff, 3K, Neutral, Secondary]

The Vincennes Police Department reported on Tuesday that it has developed two suspects in an investigation concerning circulated counterfeit \$100 and \$50 bills. The suspects are shown in photographs in the VPD's Facebook page, seen below.

The suspects were reported to be operating a black newer model Jeep Cherokee bearing Tennessee plates. Anyone with information on these suspects are urged to call the Vincennes Police Department at (812) 882-1630 and ask to speak with the detective division.

[NE] Counterfeit currency passed twice over weekend in Grand Island (Grand Island Independent)

[Grand Island Independent](#) [1/19/2021 10:37 PM, Staff, 8K, Neutral, Secondary]

A Domino's delivery customer allegedly paid for her order with five counterfeit \$10 bills, but the delivery of the pizzas wasn't much help in identifying the suspect.

"The suspect was waiting in front of the residence and the pizza delivery person saw her get into a car and leave after the transaction," said Grand Island police Capt. Jim Duering. "So it does not appear that it's actually associated with the address on the delivery."

The crime occurred at about 11:20 p.m. Friday.

It was one of two cases of counterfeit currency passed over the weekend in Grand Island.

Locksmith Ron Miller told police Sunday that he received a counterfeit \$100 bill for his services in the area of River Bend Apartments.

Police said Javante Moore was believed to be in control of the vehicle at the time of the incident and he matches the described suspect's physical characteristics.

Moore, a 26-year-old Grand Island man, was referred for first-degree forgery.

[AZ] Video shows Arizona's horned rioter writing Pence threat, leading prayer (KTAR)

[KTAR](#) [1/19/2021 4:59 PM, Kevin Stone, 60K, Neutral, Secondary]

Video released by The New Yorker over the weekend shows Arizona's horn-wearing "QAnon Shaman" writing a threatening note to Vice President Mike Pence and leading fellow supporters of President Donald Trump in prayer inside the Senate chamber.

The magazine on Sunday published a 12-minute compilation of footage taken by reporter Luke Mogelson, who documented the mob outside and inside the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6.

Jacob Chansley, aka Jake Angeli, plays a prominent role in the video, including the note-writing moment cited by federal prosecutors in a court brief last week.

With his flamboyant appearance and bellowing voice, Chansley, 33, has become a symbol of the violent insurrection that left five people dead, including a Capitol Police officer.

Before then, the rabid promoter of the QAnon conspiracy theory had been a fixture at Trump rallies and various protests in Phoenix, impossible to miss with his furry horned hat,

face paint, tattoo-covered bare torso and bullhorn.

The New Yorker video shows Chansley lingering behind the desk where Pence had been presiding while the Senate deliberated over the Electoral College results.

Chansley poses for photos before writing something down on a piece of paper that had been left on Pence's desk.

He displays the note in front of Mogelson's phone camera and reads it: "It's only a matter of time, justice is coming!"

In a brief filed Thursday in the U.S. District Court for the District of Arizona, federal prosecutors used the note as part of their argument for keeping Chansley in custody.

Prosecutors considered the note a threat to Pence, although Chansley told investigators it wasn't, according to the brief.

A judge agreed that Chansley should remain in detention until his trial.

The New Yorker video also shows Chansley using his bullhorn to lead a rambling prayer "in Christ's holy name." Shortly after starting, he stops to take off his headdress and the knit cap he wore underneath it.

Many of the intruders milling about the Senate chambers bow their heads during the 75-second invocation, some removing their red caps, and then punctuate it with an "Amen!"

Pence and other congressional leaders had been ushered out of the chamber by the Secret Service and Capitol Police before the rioters stormed into the room.

According to the prosecutors' brief, Chansley said in a phone call to the FBI on Jan. 7 that "he was glad he sat in the Vice President's chair because Vice President Pence is a child-trafficking traitor."

Chansley was indicted by a grand jury on six charges on Jan. 8 for his role in the incursion. He was arrested the next day after he went to the Phoenix FBI office for questioning and has remained in custody.

Coast Guard

[MI] EGLE mitigating fuel, oil spill after tugboat sinks in Marquette (Public Radio 90 WNMU-FM)

[WNMU Public Radio](#) [1/19/2021 8:34 AM, Nicole Walton]

Environmental officials have responded to the lower harbor breakwall in Marquette after a tugboat sank in 26 feet of water Friday.

Coast Guard Sector Sault Ste. Marie was notified of the submerged vessel around 11:40 a.m. The 30-foot tug was coming into the lower harbor when it lost power and was bashed repeatedly into the rocks. Two people onboard got off the boat without incident.

The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy and Coast Guard Pollution Responders are at the scene. Officials say the maximum pollution potential is about 100 gallons of diesel fuel and oil.

The tug was pulled from the water Monday afternoon. Officials are working to mitigate environmental damage.

[CA] California boy, 12, missing after being swept into the Pacific Ocean, search suspended: report (FOX News)

[FOX News](#) [1/19/2021 11:37 PM, David Aaro, 10362K]

Officials have suspended a search for a California boy who was swept into the Pacific Ocean on Monday at a beach in San Mateo County, according to a report.

Arunay Pruthi, 12, was with his father and little brother, 8, at Cowell Ranch State Beach, about 30 miles south of San Francisco, when all three were swept into the ocean, officials said.

The water pushed the father and 8-year-old back to shore but Arunay was pulled under about 100 yards offshore, according to Cal Fire's San Mateo-Santa Cruz Unit. (Cal Fire refers to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.)

"He was a reasonably good swimmer," his father, Tarun Pruthi, told FOX 2 of the San Francisco Bay Area on Tuesday. "It was a warm day but the waves were big."

"All of us basically managed to [get] back, but he just drifted away," Pruthi continued.

When first responders arrived, a frantic Pruthi showed them his son in the water -- on a day that the Coast Guard said waves and swells reached upward of 10 to 15 feet.

"They got to the edge of the cliff, they looked down and they could see there was one juvenile boy about 100 yards into the water and he got sucked under and they didn't have eyes on him again," said Cecile Juliette from Cal Fire San Mateo-Santa Cruz Unit.

Lauren Roberge of Danville, said the surf on Monday "was like a washing machine if you were in the water."

The San Mateo County Sheriff's Office tweeted that they will use all available resources "boats, helicopters, drones & visual observers" to keep searching for Arunay.

Authorities said they used aircraft with thermal imaging technology to search at night. The search was called off on Monday night, only to resume again early on Tuesday.

At daybreak, crews started looking about 10 miles from the shore. By noon, the search was called off again.

"This is a very difficult decision to suspend the search," said Coast Guard member Howard Wright, according to FOX 2. "The Coast Guard focuses on rescue activities to find a live person and we suspend the search when we are no longer confident that we're going to be able to rescue the victim."

"If we receive any additional information then we will plan additional searches," Wright continued.

His family, however, said they won't rest until Arunay -- who was last seen wearing a white swim top and green swim shorts -- is home with them.

"We have to find him at least," Pruthi told FOX 2.

Last September, a Pennsylvania woman vacationing with her family at the New Jersey shore drowned when she tried to save her three children from dangerous rip currents.

[CA] Search suspended for 12-year-old swept out to sea (San Francisco Chronicle)

[San Francisco Chronicle](#) [1/19/2021 5:12 PM, Staff, 422K]

After searching into the early morning, then again after sunrise Tuesday, the U.S. Coast Guard called off its search Tuesday morning for a 12-year-old Fremont boy who was swept out to sea from a Half Moon Bay beach Monday.

The 12-year-old, his father and his 8-year-old brother were sitting on the sand at Cowell Ranch State Beach when a rogue wave hit them and dragged them into the ocean around 3:42 p.m. The strong surf and churning high waves roughed up the younger boy and the father and tossed them back on the shore while dragging the 12-year-old out to sea.

Friends and family members set up a Facebook page to help in the search for the boy, identifying him as Arunay Pruthi.

Arunay's disappearance is the latest in a series of tragic "sneaker wave" incidents along the Bay Area coast. Since the start of the year, at least four people have been swept to sea from San Mateo County to Sonoma County. Several more have been rescued from the cold ocean waters and waves taller than 20 feet.

Dangerous surf conditions are common along the Bay Area coasts, particularly in San Mateo County. But the waves can be higher and the undertow stronger during the winter months when high surf warnings frequently occur. Rogue waves, unexpectedly large waves also known as sneaker waves, are always a threat.

"It's almost become a cliché," said Lt. Toni Pehrson, a Coast Guard spokeswoman. "But never turn your back on the waves. It is definitely a good idea to keep an eye on what's happening and to pay attention to your kids."

Search teams from the Coast Guard, the San Mateo County Sheriff's Department, Cal Fire, California State Parks and the California Highway Patrol used boats, helicopters, drones and thermal imaging devices to search for Pruthi until about 1 a.m.

"They were out there well into the night," said Rosemerry Blankswade, a spokeswoman for the sheriff's department. "But they did not find him."

Pehrson said the search was suspended around 10:30 a.m. and will be resumed if the agency receives any tips.

Arunay's family is continuing to search, distributing posters with his image and contact

information, and is asking for volunteers who will help comb the coastline on foot or using drones.

“We’re looking for volunteers, drone operators, anyone who can help locate him,” said his aunt, Seema Sangwan, who was at the beach when the incident happened. “We’re just hoping to recover him, whatever state he is in.”

Authorities said the group was sitting or standing on the beach when an unexpectedly large wave smacked into them and pulled them to sea. Other beachgoers immediately called 911; the father and younger boy were able to struggle back to shore. According to authorities, rescue crews briefly spotted the boy about 100 yards offshore before the waves dragged him under.

Sangwan said the family hopes the Coast Guard will resume the search.

Arunay’s disappearance was the second on the San Mateo County Coast in a little more than a week. On Jan. 10, a couple fishing were swept from their perch on rocks at Pescadero State Beach. The husband was able to make it back to shore, but the wife is still missing.

A 40-year-old man died earlier this month trying to save his two children who were caught in a sneaker wave in Sonoma County and are presumed dead. A San Jose man in his 30s was rock scrambling in the Marin Headlands on Sunday when he was pulled into the ocean by a sneaker wave and remains missing.

CISA/Cybersecurity

Ransomware hit 2,300+ U.S. government, health care and school facilities in 2020: Report (Washington Times)

[Washington Times](#) [1/19/2021 10:22 AM, Ryan Lovelace, 459K]

Ransomware attacks affected more than 2,300 U.S. government entities, health care facilities and schools in 2020, according to security software company Emsisoft.

Ransomware is malicious software that requires payment from its victims in exchange for restoring access to systems or data held hostage by the cyberattackers. Emsisoft’s report did not analyze private sector cyberattacks because the company said such attacks were too infrequently disclosed to provide an accurate portrayal of the threats.

“The fact that there were no ransomware-related deaths in the U.S. last year was simply due to good luck,” said Fabian Wosar, Emsisoft chief technology officer, in the report. “Security needs to be bolstered across the public sector before that luck runs out and lives are lost.”

The total cost of the 113 ransomware attacks observed by Emsisoft on federal, state and local government entities cost an estimated \$915 million. As a result, Emsisoft is advocating that government entities make changes quickly or risk turning 2021 into a “banner year for cybercriminals.”

“We anticipate there will be more cases of data theft in 2021 than there were in 2020 —

likely, at least twice as many,” Emsisoft said in the report. “Like legitimate businesses, criminal enterprises adopt strategies that are proven to work, and data theft has indeed been proven to work.”

Emsisoft’s report said part of the problem facing those targeted with ransomware is that public sector victims of ransomware are not required to disclose the attacks, which makes it difficult for policymakers to know precisely how many incidents there are, how many demands are paid and what the full cost of the cyberattacks are.

“2021 need not be a repeat of 2020,” Mr. Wosar said in the report. “Proper levels of investment in people, processes and IT would result in significantly fewer ransomware incidents and those incidents which did occur would be less severe, less disruptive and less costly.”

Parler tries to survive with help from Russian company (San Francisco Chronicle)

[San Francisco Chronicle](#) [1/19/2021 9:47 PM, Jack Nicas, 2481K]

Parler, the social network popular with Trump supporters, is trickling back to life.

The social network went offline last week after Amazon booted it from its computer servers for not consistently removing violent posts, an accusation that Parler denied. But after a week in which Parler executives sued Amazon and predicted that their site might never return, they are forecasting it will be back up and running by the month’s end.

That turnabout is thanks, in part, to a Russian company.

Parler has entered into business with DDoS-Guard, a Russian firm that routes internet traffic and protects websites from cyberattacks. With its help, visitors to Parler.com now find a basic webpage with a promise from Parler’s chief executive, John Matze, that “our return is inevitable.”

But the use of a Russian company is worrying some researchers who study the internet and Russia. If Parler routes its web traffic through DDoS-Guard when its full website returns, the experts said, Russian law could enable the Russian government to surveil Parler’s users.

Alina Polyakova, head of the Center for European Policy Analysis, a foreign policy think tank in Washington, said Russia required many internet companies in the country to install technology that feeds the government a copy of much of the data that passes through their computer servers.

The surveillance system, known as the System for Operative Investigative Activities, “basically allows the Russian government to intercept any data on Russian territory and provide that data to the FSB,” Russia’s domestic intelligence agency, said Polyakova, who has studied Russia’s control over the internet. She added that it was unclear if DDoS-Guard would be subject to such surveillance.

The Russian Embassy in Washington and DDoS-Guard did not respond to requests for comment. In an email to CNN, DDoS-Guard said it “does not provide any customer information or any other data to the government authorities, excluding cases explicitly stated in the law.”

Jeffrey Wernick, Parler's chief operating officer, said in an interview that the concerns were overblown because DDoS-Guard supported only a temporary webpage for Parler. He said Parler would try to find other companies to operate its full social network.

"Our preference is to have an American firm," he said. "People should not make conclusions that it'll be this company. People extrapolate too much and with limited information. They conclude what they want to conclude. I call that spreading misinformation."

But finding willing partners has been a challenge for Parler since the Capitol riot on Jan. 6.

After supporters of President Donald Trump stormed the Capitol, Twitter and Facebook barred Trump from their services. That sent a flood of new people to Parler, pushing it past 15 million users. Then Apple and Google removed Parler's app from their app stores and Amazon stopped hosting Parler's website on its servers because, they said, Parler was not consistently removing violent posts. In addition to denying those claims, Parler accused the companies of collusion.

Since then, other companies have rebuffed Parler. Matze said in a court filing on Monday that "at least six extremely large potential providers" refused to take Parler's business because they feared cyberattacks or believed Parler hosted incitements to violence.

"Parler is an internet company that cannot get on the internet," Parler's lawyer, David Groesbeck, said in a separate filing Monday. "And the longer Parler lies dead, the harder it will be to resuscitate."

Yet in statements to the press, Parler executives are predicting a full return by the end of January. Wernick declined to say how Parler would do that, but he attributed the confidence to a "herculean effort" by his team.

"We're not sleeping," he said. "We're working day and night, and every day. There is no weekend for us."

For Parler, the ideal solution would be returning to Amazon's servers. The network has accused Amazon of violating antitrust law and asked a federal judge to force it to host Parler. After a hearing last week, the companies are now awaiting a ruling.

Many online observers and journalists have speculated that Parler will eventually be hosted by Epik, a company that has supported other websites that tech companies have rejected, including Gab, another social network popular in right-wing circles.

But Robert Davis, Epik's senior vice president, said in an interview that Epik had only helped register Parler's domain name, a basic function of the internet. While Epik would like to help, he said, Parler's needs are too large.

"I would expect Parler to be an amazing force for good in the future," he said. "I could see them easily hitting 100 million members or more in 2021 alone."

Davis said he believed that Parler was trying to build its own infrastructure. On Monday, Matze appeared to support that notion in an interview on Fox News, saying, "We really need to build our own infrastructure and our own technology."

In a legal filing on the same day, Matze said Parler did not have “the technical and security expertise to host the Parler environment on its own,” adding, “Nor is it feasible for Parler to do so.”

He said the computers and other equipment needed to host Parler’s site would cost more than \$6 million and take weeks to arrive. “Simply put, it would not be possible for Parler itself to acquire the necessary servers and related security infrastructure in a commercially reasonable time frame,” he said.

Dave Temkin, an engineer who helped lead Netflix’s internet-infrastructure team until last week, said he was skeptical that Parler would return soon, given the difficulty of creating its own infrastructure and the reluctance of other companies to help.

He said that even if Parler built its own data center in the United States, it would need to persuade an internet provider like Verizon or AT&T to lay the fiber-optic cables to connect it to the wider internet.

“It’s like if you have a car with no roads,” he said.

This article originally appeared in The New York Times.

[Russia] Russia-Linked Hack Spread Via New Malware, Security Experts Say (Bloomberg)

[Bloomberg](#) [1/19/2021 7:00 AM, Alyza Sebenius, 6400K]

Suspected Russian hackers used a previously unknown piece of malware called “Raindrop” in the SolarWinds cyberattack, potentially infecting more computer systems than had been thought, according to digital security firm Symantec.

It’s the latest information to emerge about the sprawling hack that sent shock waves through the U.S. government and business world last month.

Raindrop “was used against a select number of victims that were of interest to the attackers,” according to a blog post by a team headed by Eric Chien, the technical director at Symantec, which is a unit of Broadcom Inc.

Symantec has not found evidence that it was delivered through the SolarWinds malware, which means computer systems showing no signs of containing SolarWinds software or the malware it delivered could still be victims of the attack, according to Chien. He said the hackers likely used credentials stolen during the SolarWinds phase of the attack to log in and deliver Raindrop to other systems.

“Machines that don’t have SolarWinds could still be infected,” suggesting the hack could be larger than previously understood, said Chien. “Hopefully Raindrop is the end of the chain, but there’s no guarantee.”

[Russia] Suspected Russian Hackers Targeted Security Firm Malwarebytes (Bloomberg)

[Bloomberg](#) [1/19/2021 5:29 PM, Alyza Sebenius, 6400K]

Suspected Russian hackers targeted the cybersecurity company Malwarebytes Inc. in the course of a sprawling cyber-attack that targeted U.S. government agencies and companies.

The attacker abused “applications with privileged access to Microsoft Office 365 and Azure environments,” according to a Tuesday blog post by Chief Executive Officer Marcin Kleczynski. He said the attack was part of the same hacking campaign that has utilized infected software from SolarWinds Corp. to target other organizations.

“After an extensive investigation, we determined the attacker only gained access to a limited subset of internal company emails. We found no evidence of unauthorized access or compromise in any of our internal on-premises and production environments,” Kleczynski wrote.

On Dec. 15, Microsoft alerted Malwarebytes about “suspicious activity from a third-party application” that was consistent with the behaviors of the SolarWinds’ attackers. Upon investigation, Malwarebytes found “no evidence of unauthorized access or compromise in any of our internal on-premises and production environments,” he wrote.

This incident is the latest example of the attackers targeting security companies in the course of the hacking campaign. They stole tools from the firm FireEye Inc. and attempted to breach CrowdStrike Inc. through similar tactics they used against Malwarebytes.

“These attackers were clearly sophisticated and primarily targeted federal agencies and security companies, as far as I’m aware,” Kleczynski said in an email to Bloomberg News.

FireEye’s investigation into its own breach last month revealed that the hackers had installed malicious code into SolarWinds’ Orion software, which is used by government agencies and Fortune 500 companies. The malicious code, which customers received by updating the software, provided a launching pad of sorts for further attacks by the hackers into computer networks.

According to SolarWinds, as many as 18,000 of its customers may have received infected updates, though the hackers are believed to have conducted further intrusions in far fewer of them. Malwarebytes isn’t a SolarWinds customer.

[Russia] Malwarebytes says its emails were breached by SolarWinds hackers (Reuters)

[Reuters](#) [1/19/2021 2:13 PM, Raphael Satter, 5304K]

Cybersecurity company Malwarebytes said on Tuesday that some of its emails were breached by the same hackers who used the software company SolarWinds to hack into a series of U.S. government agencies.

In a statement, the Santa Clara, California-based company said that while it did not use software made by SolarWinds, the company at the center of the breach, it had been successfully targeted by the same hackers who were able to sneak into its Microsoft Office 365 and Microsoft Azure environments.

Malwarebytes said the hack gave the spies access to “a limited subset of internal company emails.” But it found no evidence of unauthorized access or compromise of its production

environments - which could have had a potentially catastrophic impact because the company's security products are used by millions of people.

"Our software remains safe to use," the company's statement said.

The disclosure was the latest in a series of announcements by digital security firms that they were either compromised or targeted by the hackers, who the U.S. government has judged to be "likely Russian in origin."

The SolarWinds hackers have previously been accused of stealing hacking tools from cybersecurity firm FireEye, accessing an unspecified number of source code repositories at Microsoft and hijacking digital certificates used by email defense firm Mimecast.

Cybersecurity firm CrowdStrike said late last month that it too had recently discovered an unsuccessful attempt to steal its emails. The company did not identify the hackers involved but two people familiar with its said they were the same suspected Russian hackers accused of breaching SolarWinds.

Russia has denied any involvement in the hacking spree.

In a message posted to Twitter, Malwarebytes' Chief Executive Marcin Kleczynski said the hacking campaign "is much broader than SolarWinds and I expect more companies will come forward soon."

Terrorism Investigations

[NY] National Digest: Soldier arrested in plot to blow up 9/11 museum in N.Y. (Washington Post)

[Washington Post](#) [1/19/2021 7:04 PM, Staff, 13480K]

Soldier held in plot to blow up 9/11 Memorial

A U.S. Army soldier was arrested Tuesday in Georgia on terrorism charges after he spoke online about plots to blow up New York City's National September 11 Memorial Museum and other landmarks and attack U.S. soldiers in the Middle East, authorities said Tuesday.

Cole James Bridges of Stow, Ohio, was in custody on charges of attempted material support of a terrorist organization — the Islamic State group — and attempted murder of a military member, said Nicholas Biase, a spokesperson for Manhattan federal prosecutors.

The 20-year-old soldier, also known as Cole Gonzales, was with the Third Infantry Division out of Fort Stewart, Ga., when he thought he was communicating with the Islamic State online about the terrorism plots, Biase said.

Unbeknown to Bridges, an FBI employee was in on the chat as Bridges provided detailed instructions on tactics and manuals and advice about attacking the memorial and other targets in New York, Biase said.

Bridges was scheduled to make an initial appearance in federal court in Augusta, Ga., on Thursday.

According to a criminal complaint in Manhattan federal court, Bridges joined the U.S. Army in September 2019 and was assigned as a cavalry scout in Fort Stewart.

At some point, he began researching and consuming online propaganda promoting Islamist militants and their violent ideology, authorities said.

They said he expressed his support for the Islamic State group and jihad on social media before he began communicating in October with an FBI employee who posed as an Islamic State group supporter in contact with the group's fighters in the Middle East. According to court papers, he expressed his frustration with the U.S. military and his desire to aid the Islamic State group.

Fort Stewart officials had no immediate comment Tuesday, said Kevin Larson, a spokesperson for the Army post.

[NY] US Army private facing terrorism charges over alleged efforts to help ISIS ambush troops (The Hill)

[The Hill](#) [1/19/2021 4:04 PM, Justine Coleman, 2343K]

A U.S. Army private is facing terrorism charges after he allegedly made efforts to help ISIS ambush U.S. troops, according to court documents unsealed in Manhattan federal court on Tuesday.

The Justice Department, New York Police Department and U.S. Army Counterintelligence charged Cole Bridges, of Stowe, Ohio, with attempting to provide "material support" to ISIS and attempting to murder U.S. military service members.

Bridges, who also goes by Cole Gonzales, was arrested on Tuesday and is scheduled to appear in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Georgia later in the day. He could face up to 20 years in prison for each charge, according to a release.

The 20-year-old, who joined the Army around September 2019, served as a cavalry scout in the 3rd Infantry Division in Fort Stewart, Ga. During the same year he joined, prosecutors said Bridges started reading and viewing online jihadist propaganda and declared his support for ISIS and jihad over social media.

In October 2020, Bridges started talking to an FBI online undercover employee, called the "OCE" in the release, who acted like an ISIS supporter and said they were communicating with ISIS fighters located in the Middle East.

The complaint alleges that Bridges told the OCE that he was frustrated with the military and wanted to help ISIS and provided the contact with training, including military combat tactics used against ISIS, and guidance, including suggestions about targets in New York City.

Bridges allegedly started giving the OCE directions for ISIS fighters to attack U.S. troops in the Middle East, including certain military strategies to help ISIS kill more U.S. service members.

Officials said he also gave information about how ISIS should brace an encampment for a U.S. Special Forces attack by wiring explosives in buildings with a goal of killing U.S.

troops.

This month, Bridges allegedly sent a video of himself in body armor in front of a flag used by ISIS fighters. About a week later, he sent another video in which Bridges relayed a propaganda speech in support of the ISIS attack on the U.S. troops while using a voice manipulator, according to the complaint.

"As alleged, Cole Bridges betrayed the oath he swore to defend the United States by attempting to provide ISIS with tactical military advice to ambush and kill his fellow service members," acting U.S. attorney for the Southern District of New York Audrey Strauss said in the release. "Our troops risk their lives for our country, but they should never face such peril at the hands of one of their own."

[NY] US Army soldier allegedly attempted to help plan attack on soldiers abroad and 9/11 Memorial (CNN)

[CNN](#) [1/19/2021 7:30 PM, Sonia Moghe and Devan Cole, 7975K]

A US Army soldier was arrested Tuesday on terrorism charges after federal prosecutors said he allegedly attempted to assist ISIS' efforts to plan attacks on targets in New York City and on US soldiers in the Middle East.

Cole Bridges, a 20-year-old private, allegedly made the attempts while communicating with someone he believed to be associated with the terror group, prosecutors said. He has been charged with one count of attempting to provide material support to ISIS and one count of attempting to murder US military service members, both of which carry up to 20 years in prison.

Bridges, who is from Stow, Ohio, was arrested in Georgia, where he was based at Fort Stewart. He is set to have a court hearing on Thursday.

CNN is attempting to reach Bridges' attorney for comment.

An Army spokesperson said such a crime would be a betrayal.

"The Army is tasked with the duty and responsibility to protect our Nation from its adversaries, and Soldiers make incredible sacrifices in service to that cause. When any Soldier attempts to provide sensitive or classified information to an adversary, it is a betrayal of the oath they swore to the United States and the duty owed to their fellow Soldiers," the spokesperson said in a statement.

"This Soldier's recent arrest was the result of a joint investigation between the Army and the FBI, and the Army will continue to work closely with Federal authorities in this case," the spokesperson continued.

Prosecutors allege in a criminal complaint that in October, Stewart began communicating with an FBI covert employee online who was posing as an ISIS supporter in contact with ISIS fighters in the Middle East. Prosecutors allege Bridges gave training and guidance to purported ISIS fighters, as well as advice about possible targets in New York City, such as the 9/11 Memorial.

Bridges also allegedly gave the FBI employee portions of a US Army training manual and

"guidance about military combat tactics, for use by ISIS," the release said.

Prosecutors said that in December, Bridges began supplying the covert FBI employee with "instructions for the purported ISIS fighters on how to attack U.S. forces in the Middle East," including diagramming specific military maneuvers to help ISIS fighters "maximize the lethality of attacks on US troops," which included advice on fortifying an ISIS encampment by wiring certain buildings with explosives to kill American troops, according to the release.

"As alleged, Cole Bridges betrayed the oath he swore to defend the United States by attempting to provide ISIS with tactical military advice to ambush and kill his fellow service members," Manhattan US Attorney Audrey Strauss said in the release.

"Our troops risk their lives for our country, but they should never face such peril at the hands of one of their own," Strauss said.

[NY] Authorities Arrest Soldier Accused Of Trying To Help ISIS Ambush US Troops, Attack NYC 9/11 Memorial (Daily Caller)

[Daily Caller](#) [1/19/2021 4:32 PM, Andrew Jose, 321K]

A United States Army Private First Class has been charged with attempting to provide material support to the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham (ISIS), a designated foreign terrorist group, and attempting to murder U.S. military service members, the Office of the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York announced Tuesday.

Both the charges carry a maximum sentence of 20 years imprisonment, a Department of Justice (DOJ) press release stated.

The charged 20-year-old, Cole James Bridges, a Stowe, Ohio native, joined the U.S. Army around Sep. 2019 and began researching and consuming online jihadist propaganda, after which he expressed support for ISIS and jihad on social media, according to the DOJ.

Bridges then began interacting with an undercover Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) employee, posing as an ISIS supporter in touch with ISIS fighters in the Middle East, around Oct. 2020.

During those interactions, he expressed frustration with the U.S. military and his desire to assist ISIS, the DOJ reported.

He also provided the agent sections of an Army training manual and guidance about military combat tactics for ISIS' use around Dec. 2020, according to the agency.

This included diagrams of particular military maneuvers to help ISIS jihadists maximize the lethality of attacks on U.S. soldiers and advice about the most optimum way ISIS can fortify an ISIS encampment against an attack by U.S. Special Forces.

Bridges furthermore granted training and guidance to "purported" ISIS fighters who were plotting attacks against the U.S., recommending potential targets for the terrorist group in New York City, such as the 9/11 Memorial, according to the DOJ.

The FBI employee, who Bridges thought was an ISIS backer, then received Jan. 2021, a video of Bridges in body armor standing before a flag used by ISIS jihadists and making a

pro-ISIS gesture, the DOJ reported.

A week later, the agent received another video by Bridges where he, using a voice manipulator, narrated a propaganda speech supporting an anticipated ambush by ISIS on U.S. troops that he attempted to help the group with.

He “betrayed our country and his unit when he plotted with someone he believed was an ISIS sympathizer to help ISIS attack and kill U.S. soldiers in the Middle East. Fortunately, the person with whom he communicated was an FBI employee, and we were able to prevent his evil desires from coming to fruition,” FBI Assistant Director William F. Sweeney Jr. said.

“Bridges could have chosen a life of honorable service, but instead he traded it for the possibility of a lengthy prison sentence. This case should serve as a reminder that the FBI’s New York JTTF will never quit in its commitment to protect our Nation from all those who seek to do it harm,” Sweeney Jr. added.

[NY] US soldier arrested in plot to blow up NYC 9/11 Memorial (AP)

[AP](#) [1/19/2021 3:07 PM, Larry Neumeister, 1912K]

A U.S. Army soldier was arrested Tuesday in Georgia on terrorism charges after he spoke online about plots to blow up New York City’s 9/11 Memorial and other landmarks and attack U.S. soldiers in the Middle East, authorities said.

Cole James Bridges of Stow, Ohio, was in custody on charges of attempted material support of a terrorist organization — the Islamic State group — and attempted murder of a military member, said Nicholas Biase, a spokesperson for Manhattan federal prosecutors.

The 20-year-old soldier, also known as Cole Gonzales, was with the Third Infantry Division out of Fort Stewart, Georgia, when he thought he was communicating with the Islamic State online about the terrorism plots, Biase said.

Unbeknownst to Bridges, an FBI employee was in on the chat as Bridges provided detailed instructions on tactics and manuals and advice about attacking the memorial and other targets in New York City, Biase said.

“As we allege today, Bridges, a private in the U.S. Army, betrayed our country and his unit when he plotted with someone he believed was an ISIS sympathizer to help ISIS attack and kill U.S. soldiers in the Middle East,” said William F. Sweeney Jr., head of New York City’s FBI office.

“Fortunately, the person with whom he communicated was an FBI employee, and we were able to prevent his evil desires from coming to fruition,” Sweeney said in a release.

“Our troops risk their lives for our country, but they should never face such peril at the hands of one of their own,” U.S. Attorney Audrey Strauss said.

Bridges was scheduled to make an initial appearance in federal court in Augusta, Georgia, on Thursday.

It was not immediately clear who would represent him.

According to a criminal complaint in Manhattan federal court, Bridges joined the U.S. Army in September 2019 and was assigned as a cavalry scout in Fort Stewart.

At some point, he began researching and consuming online propaganda promoting jihadists and their violent ideology, authorities said.

They said he expressed his support for the Islamic State group and jihad on social media before he began communicating in October with an FBI employee who posed as an Islamic State group supporter in contact with the group's fighters in the Middle East.

According to court papers, he expressed his frustration with the U.S. military and his desire to aid the Islamic State group.

The criminal complaint said he then provided training and guidance to purported Islamic State fighters who were planning attacks, including advice about potential targets in New York City, including the 9/11 Memorial.

It said he also provided portions of a U.S. Army training manual and guidance about military combat tactics.

Bridges also diagrammed specific military maneuvers to help the terrorist group's fighters kill U.S. troops, including the best way to fortify an encampment to repel an attack by U.S. Special Forces and how to wire certain buildings with explosives to kill the U.S. troops, the complaint said.

This month, according to the complaint, Bridges sent a video of himself in body armor standing before an Islamic State flag, gesturing support.

A week later, Bridges sent a second video in which he used a voice manipulator and narrated a propaganda speech in support of the Islamic State group's anticipated ambush of U.S. troops, the complaint said.

In a statement Tuesday, a spokesperson for the Fort Stewart-based 3rd Infantry Division, Lt. Col. Lindsey Elder, confirmed that Pfc. Cole James Bridges is assigned to the division. She said division commanders are "cooperating fully with the FBI."

Elder referred further inquiries to the Pentagon.

[NY] U.S. Army soldier accused of plotting with ISIS to blow up 9/11 Memorial, kill U.S. troops overseas (Washington Times)

[Washington Times](#) [1/19/2021 2:45 PM, Jeff Mordock, 459K]

A U.S. Army soldier was arrested Tuesday and charged for allegedly plotting to blow up New York's 9/11 Memorial and ambush U.S. soldiers in the Middle East.

Cole James Bridges of Stow, Ohio, is charged with attempted material support of a terrorist organization and attempted murder of a military member, the Justice Department said. If convicted, he faces a maximum of 40 years in prison.

Mr. Bridges, 20, was a member of the Third Infantry Division in Fort Stewart, Georgia.

Prosecutors say he was communicating about possible terror attacks with an individual he thought was a member of the Islamic State, also known as ISIS.

Mr. Bridges offered the individual detailed instructions on tactics and offered advice about how to attack the 9/11 Memorial and other targets in New York, according to court documents.

In December 2020, Mr. Bridges then began to supply the individual with instructions for how the Islamic State's fighters could attack U.S. forces in the Middle East, prosecutors said. He allegedly diagrammed specific military maneuvers to help the Islamic State maximize U.S. casualties.

He also sent the individual a video of himself in body armor standing before a flag used by the Islamic State and making a gesture in support of their cause, court documents revealed.

"This alleged personal and professional betrayal of comrades and country is terrible to contemplate, but fortunately, the FBI was able to identify the threat posed by Bridges, and today's charges are the first step in holding him accountable for his crimes," said Assistant Attorney General for National Security John C. Demers.

National Security News

Biden taps former aide as top Pentagon adviser on China (Politico)

[Politico](#) [1/19/2021 11:53 AM, Lara Seligman, 2751K]

President-elect Joe Biden has tapped former aide and longtime Asia expert Ely Ratner to be the incoming Pentagon chief's principal adviser on China matters, according to two people with knowledge of the move.

The move may help reassure China watchers who are concerned that Biden's defense secretary nominee, retired Gen. Lloyd Austin, does not have sufficient experience in Indo-Pacific affairs. Many national security experts consider an increasingly aggressive China to be the most pressing challenge facing the United States.

"Ely is one of the best in Washington on Asia policy and the US-China relationship," said Eric Sayers, visiting fellow at the American Enterprise Institute. "This pick is a good sign for anyone who wants to see the Biden team take a more competitive approach toward Beijing. The Pentagon will be lucky to have his talents as it continues to make China its top priority and find ways to network Asian allies together on security issues."

Austin, a former head of U.S. Central Command, is expected get questions from lawmakers about his approach to China on Tuesday as he goes before the Senate Armed Services Committee for his confirmation hearing.

"Ely Ratner is a strong addition to the DoD," said Randy Schriver, a former assistant secretary of defense for Indo-Pacific affairs under President Donald Trump. "He cares deeply about our allies and partners in the region and he has the expertise, the knowledge of the bureaucracy, and the relationships to be a key player when it comes to the formulation of China policy."

Ratner is a longtime Biden aide, having served as a professional staff member on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and in Biden's Senate office. From 2011 to 2012, Ratner worked in the office of Chinese and Mongolian affairs and the State Department before moving in 2015 to be Biden's deputy national security adviser in the vice president's office.

Ratner did not return a request for comment.

At the Pentagon, Ratner will initially serve as a special adviser to the defense secretary on China matters, according to a transition official and a defense official, both of whom spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss personnel issues. The move potentially sets Ratner up to be nominated as the Pentagon's top official overseeing Indo-Pacific affairs.

Ratner is the executive vice president and director of studies at the Center for a New American Security. He has testified before Congress and is published widely on U.S.-China relations and the U.S. approach to Asia, including co-authoring a recent piece in Foreign Affairs with Kurt Campbell, a former State Department official who will join the National Security Council as Indo-Pacific coordinator.

At CNAS, Ratner led a congressionally mandated 2020 assessment of U.S. strategy toward China.

Ratner is also an adviser with WestExec Advisors, the consulting firm co-founded by Antony Blinken, Biden's nominee to be secretary of State, and Michèle Flournoy, former President Barack Obama's Pentagon policy chief.

Senate presses Biden's pick for secretary of State on Iran, China, Russia and Yemen (The Hill)

[The Hill](#) [1/19/2021 8:10 PM, Laura Kelly, 2343K]

President-elect Biden's nominee for secretary of State, Antony Blinken, participated in a marathon confirmation hearing with members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on Tuesday, as part of efforts to quickly put in place the administration's national security team.

Blinken, who served as staff director of the committee between 2002 and 2008 before joining the Obama administration in senior national security roles, was praised by lawmakers on both sides of the aisle for his commitment to public service and his experience in foreign policy and government.

Blinken also served as Deputy Secretary of State during the Obama administration.

Outgoing-chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Senator James Risch (R-Idaho), called for a Senate vote on Blinken's confirmation as soon as possible to have Biden's national security team in place. Senator Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) affirmed that he would vote in favor of Blinken's confirmation.

Senator Robert Menendez (D-N.J.), the incoming chair of the Senate panel, praised Blinken's appearance before the committee and called for a quick vote to confirm his position at the head of the State Department.

"I look forward to moving Secretary Blinken's nomination through the full Senate as expeditiously as possible," Menendez said in a statement.

The hearing, which lasted for more than four and a half hours, was generally agreeable and friendly, with Republican and Democratic lawmakers largely expressing consensus with Blinken's answers to pressing foreign policy stances.

The strongest pushback came from lawmakers seeking details on Biden's promise to rejoin the Obama-era nuclear deal with Iran, called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

Biden has said he will return to the deal that President Trump withdrew from in 2018 if Iran, which has breached many of the terms of the agreement, returned to compliance.

The top Republican and Democratic members on the committee spoke out against Biden's commitment to join the deal at a starting point for negotiations, pressing Blinken on how the administration is planning to deal with Tehran's other malign activity, including its ballistic missile program, funding of proxy fighters across the Middle East, and human rights abuses.

"Any new deal with Iran must address all the facets of Iranian bad behavior," Sen. Risch said in his opening remarks, and called for the Biden administration to submit any new deal with Tehran as a treaty to the Senate for ratification.

Treaty ratification requires a two-thirds majority of votes in the Senate, of which the Democrats have only 51 seat majority, with Vice-President-elect Kamala Harris expected to be the tie-breaking vote amid controversial legislation.

Blinken committed to robust consultations with Congress on Iran and for engaging allies like Israel and Gulf Arab nations over Biden's push to engage Tehran to rein in its nuclear ambitions.

But the Secretary-designate emphasized that the administration's goal is to first constrain Iran's ability to develop a nuclear weapon as priority over addressing other malign activity.

"An Iran with a nuclear weapon or with the threshold capacity to build one is an Iran that would act, potentially, with even greater impunity than it already is," he said.

Lawmakers also pressed Blinken on how the Biden administration plans to confront China.

"As we look at China, there is no doubt that it poses the most significant challenge of any nation state to the United States," Blinken said, calling it an adversarial and competitive challenge but with areas of cooperation when it serves U.S. interests.

Blinken called for engaging allies in confronting China from a position of strength and rejoining international organizations, like the World Health Organization, to push back on China's efforts to exert its influence. He further supported investing in the U.S. military to deter any aggression from Beijing.

Blinken said he also agreed with the assessment that Secretary of State Mike Pompeo

announced on Tuesday that China is engaged in genocide against its minority-Muslim Uighur population and called for taking actions, such as blocking imports of commodities that could have been made with forced labor and blocking U.S. exports of technology that could be used for the surveillance and oppression of this community in China.

On Russia, one of the first priorities of the Biden administration is to extend the New START treaty with Moscow, Blinken said, the treaty that puts a cap on nuclear missile capabilities and that is set to expire next month. The treaty allows for an extension of up to five years.

"This is something that we will have to tackle, but only when the President-elect becomes president tomorrow," Blinken said, adding that it is his intention to come to Congress "immediately" to consult on extending the treaty.

"We will see the extension, the president-elect has to decide on the duration," Blinken said.

The secretary-designate said that the Biden administration is committed to ending U.S. support for the Saudi-led war in Yemen and will work on that "in very short order."

Blinken said if confirmed he would review immediately the designation by the Trump administration of the Iranian-backed Houthis in Yemen as a terrorist organization, criticizing the move as achieving "nothing practical" in efforts to stop Houthi atrocities against its peoples and engage it in a diplomatic solution, while harming efforts to provide humanitarian assistance.

"We would propose to review that immediately, to make sure that what we are doing is not impeding the provision of humanitarian assistance," Blinken said.

To lines of Republican questioning, Blinken affirmed support for the Trump administration's delivery of lethal assistance to Ukraine that was not provided during the Obama administration, offered support for the breakthrough in relations between Serbia and Kosovo achieved last year and pledged to build upon the diplomatic agreement known as the Abraham Accords, relations between Israel and majority-Arab and Muslim-country's that occurred throughout last year.

"No party has a monopoly on good ideas," Blinken said. "And I hope that working together, we can pull all the good ideas from both sides of the aisle to try to advance the security and well-being of the American people abroad. I welcome doing that."

15 former Defense officials back waiver for Austin to serve as Defense secretary (The Hill)

[The Hill](#) [1/19/2021 8:36 AM, Celine Castronuovo, 2343K]

A group of 15 former Defense officials on Monday sent a letter to the Senate Armed Services Committee backing a waiver that would allow President-elect Joe Biden's Defense secretary nominee, retired Gen. Lloyd Austin, to bypass a law barring recently retired generals from holding the civilian job.

The letter, first obtained by Fox News, was signed by former secretaries of Defense, including Chuck Hagel and Leon Panetta, as well as former deputies and secretaries of armed service branches.

The former officials cite multiple crises facing the country, including the coronavirus pandemic, “aggressive adversaries challenging us around the globe and in cyberspace; a rising China whose interests and values often do not align with ours; and a threat from domestic terrorism that has rarely been more clear or more dangerous.”

Thus, the group argues, “Now more than ever, we need an experienced, competent, organized, and respected Secretary of Defense,” and, “Every day that we do not have such a Secretary in place is a day that emboldens those who wish our nation harm.”

“As former senior civilian leaders of the Department of Defense, we believe that Secretary-Designate Lloyd Austin can lead effectively as a civilian,” the group writes to Senate committee leadership. “We urge the Congress to grant him a waiver from the 1947 National Security Act as quickly as possible.”

Under the 1947 law, Defense secretaries must be retired from the military for at least seven years before they can take the job. Austin retired in mid-2016.

The law has only been waived twice before, first for George Marshall in 1950 and most recently for James Mattis in 2017.

The letter came ahead of Austin’s confirmation hearing before the Senate committee on Tuesday. Prior to the hearing, the committee heard expert testimony on the 1947 law, and three Democrats at the hearing — Sens. Richard Blumenthal (Conn.), Elizabeth Warren (Mass.) and Tammy Duckworth (Ill.) — reiterated they oppose a waiver for Austin.

The committee’s top Democrat, Sen. Jack Reed (R.I.), has expressed openness to the waiver, despite saying he wouldn’t support one again after Mattis.

The Republican Study Committee, which includes most GOP lawmakers, sent a memo to members and staff last week arguing that allowing a waiver for Austin shortly after one was granted to Mattis would set a “new dangerous precedent.”

“Furthermore, regardless of the ‘waiver,’ Gen. Austin is not the right person for the job of secretary of Defense,” the memo added. “He lacks civilian experience, has no experience in countering China, and has a track record of failures as the [Central Command] head in Syria and Iraq and in the war on ISIS. For all of these reasons, conservatives should not vote to grant a ‘waiver’ for Gen. Austin.”

Senate Democrats call on Biden to immediately invoke Defense Production Act (The Hill)

[The Hill](#) [1/19/2021 5:17 PM, Alex Gangitano, 2343K]

Senate Democrats called on President-elect Joe Biden Tuesday to immediately invoke the Defense Production Act (DPA) to boost production and stockpiling of testing supplies, personal protective equipment (PPE) and medical equipment.

Twenty-six senators, led by Sens. Tammy Baldwin (D-Wisc.) and Chris Murphy (D-Conn.), wrote a letter to Biden asking him to fully utilize the DPA just one day before he is sworn into office.

The DPA gives the president broad authority to increase the manufacturing output of critical

items in a national emergency.

"Given the continued supply chain issues that we have seen over the past year, we believe it is in the best interest of the American public to shore up our access to critical supplies immediately and in the long term through all available DPA authorities," they wrote.

The senators added the DPA could also be used to regulate vaccine distribution. Biden plans to use the DPA to boost vaccine production, a member of his COVID-19 advisory team said last month.

The senators also criticized President Trump's response to the pandemic and the presidential transition, adding that the lack of transparency during the transition may mean the Biden team doesn't have "full insight into the state of the medical supply pipeline and Strategic National Stockpile."

They said that using the DPA could be a boon to American manufacturers.

"President Trump has not used his DPA authority sufficiently enough to award adequate medical supply contracts for the nation's needs. We must immediately do more to re-shore the most in-demand PPE, such as nitrile gloves, nearly all of which are manufactured in China," they wrote.

Other senators on the letter include Sens. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.), Ron Wyden (D-Ore.), Tammy Duckworth (D-Ill.), Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.) and Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.).

Trump has used the Defense Production Act during the COVID-19 pandemic, first in March to order General Motors to ramp up the production of life-saving ventilators. He also invoked it in April to order meat processing plants to stay open.

Pelosi urges Pentagon to block 'Trump loyalist' from national security role before Biden's inauguration (FOX News)

[FOX News](#) [1/19/2021 10:00 AM, Danielle Wallace, 10362K]

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi is calling on the acting defense secretary to "immediately cease" plans to install so-called "Trump loyalist" Michael Ellis as the new general counsel for the National Security Agency (NSA) just days before President-elect Joe Biden is inaugurated, describing the decision as "highly suspect" and a threat to the national security of the country.

In a letter Sunday addressed to acting Department of Defense Secretary Christopher C. Miller, Pelosi also called for an investigation into alleged "irregularities" in the NSA General Counsel selection process, arguing that Ellis, "a relatively recent law school graduate with a limited resume, was selected due to interference by the White House, and was chosen over much more qualified candidates."

"The circumstances and timing – immediately after President Trump's defeat in the election – of the selection of Mr. Ellis, and this eleventh-hour effort to push this placement in the last three days of this Administration are highly suspect," Pelosi wrote. "Further, the efforts to install him or 'burrow' him into a highly sensitive intelligence position 72 hours prior to the beginning of a new Administration manifest a disturbing disregard for our national security. Therefore, this placement should not move forward."

Pelosi also raised concerns that Ellis had reportedly been "involved in highly questionable activities that are disqualifying — including the infamous 2017 'midnight run' to launder intelligence information through Rep. Devin Nunes and with efforts to shield information about President Trump's July 2019 call with the President of Ukraine."

Ellis served as chief counsel for Nunes, R-Calif., during his time as chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, The Washington Post reported.

Nunes' office did not immediately return Fox News' request for comment on Tuesday.

Ellis held several positions in the Trump administration, including serving as an attorney for the National Security Council and the White House's senior director for intelligence, The New York Times reported.

Pelosi's letter states that the "NSA General Counsel, which involves supervising many intelligence community attorneys and interacting with intelligence agencies, is a highly sensitive career position for which candidates are selected, based on merit and free from political influence." If Ellis did go through the traditional civil service hiring process, Pelosi also requested "a detailed account of that process, to understand how someone with his credentials was chosen over other qualified candidates."

The letter was sent a day after Miller on Saturday instructed NSA Director Gen. Paul Nakasone to immediately place Ellis in the role of general counsel by 6 p.m. — but the move was temporarily delayed, The Washington Post reported.

On Sunday, the NSA said in a statement that Ellis "accepted his final job offer yesterday afternoon" and the national-level intelligence agency "is moving forward with his employment." Ellis is expected to begin his duties Tuesday, a day before the presidential inauguration.

The Pentagon seemingly rejected Pelosi questioning the integrity of the Department of Defense's civil service selection process, explaining that once a candidate is selected through the merit system, meets the job requirements and accepts an offer, if the person is not installed, "it exposes the department, agency and senior leadership to claims for a violation of the merit system principles and processes."

"To be clear, congressional or media interest in a particular hiring action are not justification under the merit system principles and process to delay placing a selected qualified individual in a position," a spokesperson with the Office of the Secretary of Defense said in a statement provided to Fox News. "A candidate for a career position is not automatically excluded from consideration due to 'administration ties' - as the two prior NSA General Counsel were not excluded from consideration and eventual selection due to their 'administration ties'."

"The General Counsel of the Department of Defense is the sole selection authority for the position of General Counsel of the National Security Agency -- as well as all other senior career DoD General Counsel positions," the statement added. "The Director of the NSA does not select or approve of candidates for the position of the NSA General Counsel."

Department of Defense General Counsel Paul C. Ney Jr. first hired Ellis in November. At that time, Democratic Sens. Mark Warner and Jack Reed also requested an investigation into the matter.

Former NSA general counsels have been connected to the Obama administration. For example, Glenn Gerstell, who served from 2015 to 2020, raised \$50,000 for the Obama campaign in 2012, the Post reported. His predecessor, Raj De, previously served as Obama's White House staff secretary.

Trump Signs Order to Restrict Foreign Use of Cloud Companies (Bloomberg)

[Bloomberg](#) [1/20/2021 1:51 AM, Jamie Tarabay, 6400K]

On his last full day in office, President Donald Trump signed an executive order the White House said was aimed at preventing foreign malicious cyber-actors from using U.S. online infrastructure to carry out their activities.

The order, which provides the Commerce Department with the authority to impose record-keeping obligations on foreign transactions, is viewed as a response to the recent hacking campaign that infected software from SolarWinds Corp. and targeted organizations including government agencies.

"Foreign malicious cyber-actors threaten our economy and national security through the theft of intellectual property and sensitive data, and by targeting United States critical infrastructure," National Security Advisor Robert O'Brien said in a statement. He said abuse of American infrastructure service products -- such as those offered by cloud outfits like Amazon Web Services and Microsoft Azure -- had "played a role in every cyber incident during the last four years, including the actions resulting in the penetrations of United States firms FireEye and Solar Winds."

It was a "much-needed step, unfortunately it takes a significant and public compromise like the SolarWinds breach into U.S. government infrastructure to drive change like this," said Jon DiMaggio, chief security strategist at Analyst1, a cyber-threat analysis firm in Reston, Virginia.

"It certainly isn't the first time supply chain attacks have happened, nor is it the first time the U.S. government has been aware of the problem. It's about time we started looking past the vendor cost to determine what technology we allow to support critical government infrastructure," he said.

The order allows the Commerce Department to block American infrastructure firms from operating in countries where those products are used for malicious cyber-activity, either by individuals or if the country's own government is a source of that activity.

The order also grants powers to ban or impose conditions on foreigners opening or maintaining accounts with American firms within the U.S. if they are found to be involved in malicious cyber-activity.

The Commerce Department is tasked with proposing regulations within six months of the order being issued, but it isn't clear that the incoming administration led by Joe Biden will implement it.

“I could see them adding a comment period or something from the impacted companies,” said Alex Stamos, a Stanford University professor helping SolarWinds’ recovery efforts after its breach, who had served as chief security officer at Facebook until 2018. Biden “might just wholesale wipe out every executive order too.”

In December, Austin, Texas-based SolarWinds found itself at the center of the largest cyber-security attack in recent memory. Suspected Russian hackers breached the internal networks of at least 200 customers, including U.S. government agencies and an as-yet-unknown number of private companies, a cyber-security firm and people familiar with the investigation told Bloomberg News.

In an operation that cyber-security experts have described as exceedingly sophisticated and hard to detect, the hackers installed malicious code in updates to SolarWinds’ widely used Orion software, which was sent to as many as 18,000 customers.

[Mexico] Mexico’s Attorney General Escalates Fight With U.S. Over Former Minister (Reuters)

[Reuters](#) [1/19/2021 4:34 PM, Lizbeth Diaz and Raul Cortes, 3498K]

Mexican Attorney General Alejandro Gertz said on Tuesday he was considering elevating to international courts a dispute with the United States over Mexico dropping an investigation into a former defense minister.

Gertz said the U.S. Department of Justice had effectively declared ex-defense minister Salvador Cienfuegos innocent when it sent him back to Mexico and dropped U.S. charges against him after he was arrested in California last year.

He defended his own decision to close a Mexican probe into whether Cienfuegos had colluded with a drug cartel, saying the U.S. evidence was inconsistent, included questionable physical descriptions of the retired general, and used testimony from two dead witnesses.

The spat, one of several serious hiccups during the Trump administration, risks souring Mexico’s most important bilateral relationship as the two countries seek to turn over a new leaf with the inauguration of President-elect Joe Biden this week.

In an interview on Mexican radio, Gertz said he was being accused of bias in favor of Cienfuegos, something he described as “a lynching,” and that he was exploring his legal options at the level of “all” courts to which he had access.

He did not specify to which international tribunal he could go, but said he would consult with a Mexican judge who served at the International Court of Justice at The Hague.

The Justice Department last week said it was “deeply disappointed” that Mexico had decided to close the investigation, saying it fully stood by its own evidence and charges in the matter.

It also said Mexico’s decision to publish the evidence from the investigation violated a treaty of mutual legal assistance, and called into question future information sharing.

U.S. prosecutors dropped their case and returned Cienfuegos to Mexico in November citing

diplomatic sensibilities, after his dramatic arrest in Los Angeles a few weeks earlier on charges of helping a cartel move tonnes of cocaine and other drugs.

[Israel] Israeli strikes on Iranian targets in Syria: An important joint U.S.-Israeli effort (Washington Times)

[Washington Times](#) [1/19/2021 3:05 PM, Abraham Wagner, 459K]

Lost in the flood of reporting on the Trump impeachment and COVID-19 are critical Israeli airstrikes on Iranian targets eastern Syria, carried out with intelligence provided by the United States.

A series of such strikes over the past several months have significantly slowed down Iran's entrenchment in Syria, which is important not only to Israeli and U.S. interests, but those of Syria as well.

Israel has struck more than 500 Iranian targets in Syria recently in addition to multiple clandestine missions against those involved in terrorist operations. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister Benny Gantz have repeatedly said Israel will not allow Iranian entrenchment in Syria, vowing to do everything to prevent it.

The new strikes on eastern Syria targeted Iranian arms depots, as well as components linked to Iran's nuclear program. An Israeli attack last Tuesday targeted warehouses in Syria being used in a pipeline to store and stage Iranian weapons and also served as a pipeline for components that support Iran's nuclear program.

Also noted is that these airstrikes were carried out with intelligence provided by the U.S. following a meeting between Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and the Israeli Mossad head in Washington at Cafe Milano — a rare incidence of publicized cooperation between the two countries over choosing targets in Syria.

Here Israel's strikes hit the areas of Deir al-Zur and Abu Kamal close to Syria's border with Iraq including 18 sites of pro-Iranian militias. This is not new, as Israel has launched hundreds of strikes against Iran-linked military targets in Syria over the years but rarely acknowledges such operations.

These strikes came amid rising tensions and concerns that Iran might carry out attacks to avenge last year's killing of one of its top commanders, Gen. Qassem Soleimani. There is also the ongoing problem of Iranian entrenchment on Israel's northern frontier as a red line, where Iranian facilities and weapons convoys destined for Hezbollah have been located. Prior strikes have served to at least slow down Iran's entrenchment in Syria which actually represent an ongoing threat to Syria as well as Israel.

During the Syrian civil war, which has been going on for the past decade, the Syrian regime was rescued by external support from Iran, as well as Russia and Hezbollah who provided forces and equipment to combat over a dozen rebel groups seeking to overthrow the Assad government. With that war largely over, Bashar Assad wants the Iranians and Hezbollah gone. ISIS, which had set up their own "state" within Syria has been vanquished. For their part, Russia wants continued use of Syrian port facilities and an air base, which are acceptable to Syria and Israel alike.

Relations between Syria and Israel throughout this war were certainly strained, to say the

least, but Israel did not become actively involved as a combatant. Throughout the conflict Israel provided covert medical support to Syrians injured in the Golan Heights area with whom they had enjoyed good relations for some four decades under the 1974 disengagement agreement.

The presence of the Iranians, Hezbollah and other rebel forces in this area brought limited hostilities in a peaceful area and was of great concern to Israel. With these hostile forces now mostly gone from the Golan, Israel is seeking a return to the peaceful co-existence that prevailed since 1974. By most reports continued Israeli airstrikes against Iranian targets within Syria are designed to avoid actual Syrian facilities and population. Little wonder they are not denounced in the Syrian press.

Preparing for the incoming Biden administration, the Israeli military is reportedly developing three options to undermine Iran's nuclear efforts or, if need be, counter Iranian aggression. Defense Minister Gantz has been quoted as saying that "Israel needs to have a military option on the table." Both Israel's military and intelligence services have long opposed any direct strike on Iran, which would pose enormous logistical and political difficulties, and have elected to attack Iranian targets outside Iran, such as those in Syria as well as Lebanon and elsewhere.

As the incoming Biden administration tackles the complex Middle East situation it needs to take a serious look at these relationships and their impact. U.S. intelligence support to Israeli operations such as Secretary Pompeo described, remains essential and should not be disturbed. The attacks on Iranian support to regional terrorists and supplies to their nuclear weapons program through Syria are outside the repudiated JCPOA and should not be permitted in any future agreement.

While the incoming Biden team has clearly signaled its intention to resume negotiations with Iran, they are facing a geopolitical and military situation far different from the one left at the end of the Obama administration. Apart from progress toward development of a nuclear weapon and a new generation of ballistic missiles, Iranian involvement in Syria, Iraq and elsewhere has become an essential part of the overall equation. Here the nature and extent of continued support to Israeli efforts to counter Iran in this critical theater will be a key consideration.

It is also too early to tell where the locus of decision-making with respect to Middle East policy will be in the Biden administration. Whether it will be with Jake Sullivan and the new team at the NSC, or Tony Blinken and his State Department remains to be seen. If history is any guide it cannot be both. What is essential is that those who are "in charge" engage with the Israeli leadership as soon as possible so that this aspect of the transition leaves nothing to change, and the clearest possible message is sent to Iran as to what the red lines are going forward.

[Iran] Iran Blacklists Trump, U.S. Officials as His Term Nears End (Reuters)

[Reuters](#) [1/18/2021 7:00 PM, Staff, 3498K]

Iran blacklisted U.S. President Donald Trump and several current and former senior U.S. officials on Tuesday over what it called "terrorist and anti-human rights" acts, a move widely regarded as symbolic.

Tehran's move, announced on the last full day of the Trump administration, allows the

seizure of any assets in Iran of sanctioned individuals. There have been no reports of any such assets, so the move is unlikely to have financial impact on the outgoing U.S. president or officials.

The Trump administration rained sanctions down on Iranian officials, politicians and companies after withdrawing the United States in 2018 from Tehran's 2015 nuclear deal with world powers.

Among officials sanctioned by Iran were Secretary of State Mike Pompeo; ex-Defense Secretary Mark Esper; Acting Defense Secretary Christopher Miller and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, the Foreign ministry said in a statement carried by state media.

Other blacklisted individuals included Central Intelligence Agency Director Gina Haspel; former National Security Adviser John Bolton; former U.S. Iran envoy Brian Hook; Elliott Abrams, Washington's special representative on Iran and Venezuela; and Treasury Department sanctions official Andrea Gacki, it said.

The officials were blacklisted "for their role in terrorist and anti-human rights activities against Iran and its citizens", Foreign ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said.

U.S. President-elect Joe Biden has said Washington will rejoin the nuclear deal if Iran resumes strict compliance.

[Iran] Political Scientist Was 'Secret Employee' Of Iran, US Says (Daily Caller)

[Daily Caller](#) [1/19/2021 1:34 PM, Chuck Ross, 321K] Video: [HERE](#)

Federal prosecutors on Tuesday unveiled charges against a political scientist accused of working secretly on behalf of the Iranian government by lobbying U.S. lawmakers and publishing pro-Iran propaganda.

According to prosecutors, Kaveh Lotfollah Afrasiabi has received \$265,000 in secret funding from the Iranian government since 2007. He has also received health benefits provided to Iranian diplomats dispatched to the United Nations, prosecutors said in a federal complaint.

John C. Demers, the assistant attorney general for national security, said in a statement that Afrasiabi was "a secret employee" of the Iranian government "who was being paid to spread their propaganda."

Seth DuCharme, the acting U.S. attorney in Boston, said that Afrasiabi allegedly sought to influence the American public on behalf of the Iranian regime "by disguising propaganda as objective policy analysis and expertise."

Afrasiabi, who has been a lawful permanent resident of the U.S. since 1984, has been an outspoken advocate for Iranian foreign policy for more than two decades, publishing works in outlets like The New York Times and Huffington Post.

He also allegedly had direct contact last year with Iran's foreign minister, Javad Zarif. In an email from January 2020 cited by prosecutors in a criminal complaint, Afrasiabi urged Zarif to "strike fear in the heart of [the] enemy" in "retaliation" for the killing of Iranian Gen. Qasem Soleimani.

In a July 28, 2020, email to Zarif, Afrasiabi acknowledged receiving funding from the Iranian government.

“Without support none of this would have been possible! This has been a very productive relationship spanning decades that ought not to be interrupted,” he allegedly wrote.

Afrasiabi is charged with violating the Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA) by acting and conspiring to act as an unregistered agent of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

He was arrested at his home in Watertown, Mass., according to prosecutors. He faces a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison if convicted.

Afrasiabi’s website discloses some of his past work for the Iranian government.

From 2004 to 2005, he advised Iran’s nuclear negotiation team, his website says. The website also lists Afrasiabi’s academic pedigree, showing a Ph.D. from Boston University and stints teaching at Harvard University and the University of California, Berkeley.

According to prosecutors, Afrasiabi has lobbied U.S. lawmakers and the State Department regarding U.S.-Iran relations. He has also pushed pro-Iran propaganda in television appearances and opinion pieces published by major U.S. news outlets, according to his website and the criminal complaint.

The complaint against Afrasiabi says that he had contact with an unidentified members of Congress in 2009 regarding a letter sent to President Obama regarding Iran’s nuclear program. The letter cited Afrasiabi as a foreign policy expert on Iran. According to the complaint, Afrasiabi remained in contact with the lawmaker and his staff over the next several years.

A review of YouTube shows that Afrasiabi has appeared most frequently in recent years on RT and CGTN, which are TV outlets controlled by the Russian and Chinese governments, respectively.

The New York Times has published several opinion pieces by Afrasiabi, most recently on Sept. 5, 2018.

In the opinion piece, “Trump and Rouhani need to talk,” Afrasiabi and a co-author argued that the presidents of the U.S. and Iran should meet at the U.N. General Assembly in New York to open up dialogue between the two countries.

The Times described Afrasiabi as “a former adviser to Iran’s nuclear negotiation team.”

The Huffington Post, a liberal news outlet, published a piece by Afrasiabi on May 20, 2009, calling for President Barack Obama to congratulate Mahmoud Ahmadinejad following his election to a second term as Iran’s president.

“Not to do so reflects a poor judgment on the White House’s part, particularly since Obama has yet to fulfill his own post-election promise of responding to Ahmadinejad’s letter that

congratulated him for his victory,” Afrasiabi wrote following the election, which was heavily disputed by outside observers.

[Russia] Biden Will Seek to Extend New START Treaty, Must Decide How Long (Reuters)

[Reuters](#) [1/19/2021 5:52 PM, Arshad Mohammed, 3498K]

U.S. President-elect Joe Biden will seek to extend the New START arms control treaty with Russia and will have to decide how long an extension to pursue, his choice for secretary of state, Antony Blinken, said on Tuesday.

“We will seek to extend it,” Blinken told lawmakers. “He’ll have to make a decision as president about what duration he would seek,” Blinken added, leaving open the possibility that Biden might seek to extend it by less than the maximum five years allowed under the treaty, which expires Feb. 5.

New START restricted the United States and Russia to deploying no more than 1,550 nuclear warheads, the lowest level in decades, and limited the land- and submarine-based missiles and bombers that deliver them.

The treaty’s lapse would end all restraints on deployments of U.S. and Russian strategic nuclear warheads and the missiles, bombers and submarines that carry them, fueling a new nuclear arms race, policy experts have said.

Democrat Biden is to take office on Wednesday, replacing Republican Donald Trump.

[Russia] Trump Declassifies Russia Investigation Documents, Says He Accepted FBI Request To Keep Some Secret (Daily Caller)

[Daily Caller](#) [1/19/2021 7:43 PM, Chuck Ross, 321K]

President Donald Trump on Tuesday ordered the declassification of a binder of FBI documents related to the bureau’s investigation of the Trump campaign and Russia.

In a statement through the White House, Trump said that he accommodated requests from the FBI to keep some of the information classified.

The declassification order is sure to appease some Trump supporters who have long called for the release of documents related to the FBI’s probe of the Trump campaign.

It is unclear exactly when the documents will be released to the public. Trump’s presidency ends at noon on Wednesday.

Trump said that the Justice Department provided him with a binder full of documents on Dec. 30, 2020 that had not been previously released to Congress or the public.

He said that the FBI issued a letter on Jan. 17 stating its “continued objection to any further declassification of the materials in the binder.” Trump said he accepted the FBI’s request for the continued classification of some of the materials.

Trump said that the attorney general has conducted a review to ensure that all of the redactions of classified information have been applied and that they are legally allowed to

be disclosed by the White House.

The FBI opened an investigation of the Trump campaign's possible ties to Russia on July 31, 2016. The bureau relied heavily on a dossier compiled by a former British spy that was funded by the DNC and Clinton campaign.

Christopher Steele, the former spy, alleged that the Trump campaign was part of a "well-developed conspiracy of cooperation" with the Kremlin to influence the 2016 election.

The FBI relied heavily on Steele's information to obtain warrants to surveil former Trump campaign aide Carter Page.

An investigation led by former FBI Director Robert Mueller ultimately determined that there was no evidence of a conspiracy between the Trump team and Russia, debunking the dossier's central claim.

Republicans have for several years called for the release of FBI documents related to the dossier and to Crossfire Hurricane, the name of the FBI's investigation of the Trump campaign.

The GOP effort has forced the Justice Department and FBI to release some documents related to the dossier.

One batch of documents declassified in July 2020 showed that Steele's primary source of information for the dossier, a Russia analyst named Igor Danchenko, undercut several aspects of the dossier.

The FBI did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

[China] State Department accuses China of genocide against Uighur Muslims (Politico)

[Politico](#) [1/19/2021 1:09 PM, Gavin Bade and Quint Forgey, 2751K]

The State Department on Tuesday declared China's human rights abuses in the Xinjiang region a "genocide" against ethnic Uighur Muslims in one of Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's final acts before leaving office.

In a statement, Pompeo accused Beijing's ruling Communist Party of committing "crimes against humanity against the predominantly Muslim Uighurs and other members of ethnic and religious minority groups in Xinjiang" as far back as March 2017. It's a designation that President-elect Joe Biden administration is expected to retain.

Specifically, Pompeo alleged that China was guilty of "the arbitrary imprisonment or other severe deprivation of physical liberty of more than one million civilians, forced sterilization, torture of a large number of those arbitrarily detained, forced labor, and the imposition of draconian restrictions on freedom of religion or belief, freedom of expression, and freedom of movement."

A spokesperson for the Chinese embassy in Washington did not immediately respond to a request for comment on Pompeo's statement.

In an interview on Fox News on Tuesday afternoon, Pompeo described China's actions as "the stain of the century," and said his declaration represented "simply a continuation of the work this administration has done to try and convince the Chinese Communist Party to cease this terrible, terrible set of human rights violations that have been taking place."

The declaration by the State Department marks an escalation of the outgoing Trump administration's pressure on the Chinese Communist Party, which has interned more than a million Uighurs in work and reeducation camps across the northwestern region.

The designation came after months of internal study at the agency, and is not expected to be reversed by Biden's team. Secretary of State nominee Antony Blinken told a Senate panel Tuesday that labeling the events in Xinjiang a genocide would be "my judgment as well."

The declaration comes less than a week after the Department of Homeland Security effectively banned imports of all cotton and tomato products from Xinjiang over concerns of widespread forced labor in the agricultural sector, which U.S. officials say is akin to "modern day slavery." The consequences of those bans will be far reaching, as an estimated 1 in 5 global cotton products contain fibers from Xinjiang.

The House of Representatives has passed an even stronger bill that would ban any imports from Xinjiang unless companies can prove forced labor was not used in their production. That bill stalled in the Senate amid a lobbying campaign from apparel and technology companies, but it remains unclear whether the legislation will have a better chance of passage with a Democratic-controlled Senate.

[China] Pompeo Accuses China of 'Genocide,' With Support From Successor (Bloomberg)

[Bloomberg](#) [1/19/2021 10:55 PM, Nick Wadhams, 6400K]

U.S. Secretary of State Michael Pompeo designated China's crackdown on Uighurs and other minorities in the Xinjiang region as genocide, an escalation in tensions that was quickly endorsed by President-elect Joe Biden's nominee to replace him.

"I believe this genocide is ongoing, and that we are witnessing the systematic attempt to destroy Uighurs by the Chinese party-state," Pompeo said in a statement Tuesday. He said the country's leaders "have made clear that they are engaged in the forced assimilation and eventual erasure of a vulnerable ethnic and religious minority group."

Pompeo cited sterilizations, indefinite detention and forced labor in Xinjiang and called on "relevant judicial bodies" to hold those responsible to account. The Trump administration has repeatedly leveled sanctions on China over its treatment of Uighurs, and the designation had been widely expected.

The Chinese Embassy in Washington denounced the move as a "gross interference in China's internal affairs and a serious violation of international law and basic norms" of international relations. "The Chinese side expresses its strong concern and firm opposition to it," the embassy said.

While Trump and Pompeo are leaving office Wednesday, Biden's nominee for secretary of state Antony Blinken backed the move Tuesday. The former deputy secretary of state under

President Barack Obama told a confirmation hearing in Washington that he shared Pompeo's view on genocide in Xinjiang.

"That would be my judgment as well," Blinken said in response to a question from Senator Lindsey Graham, a Republican from South Carolina.

The Trump administration has ratcheted up pressure on China over its Xinjiang policies in recent months, barring the region's tomatoes and cotton products from entry into the U.S. last week. The Trump administration has also sanctioned scores of Chinese companies and Communist Party officials over their connection to the region, including Xinjiang party chief Chen Quanguo.

Calls for similar action are growing in the U.K., where Prime Minister Boris Johnson narrowly defeated a rebellion by members of his own party who wanted to empower British judges to rule whether the Uighurs are suffering genocide. In Europe, lawmakers are calling for greater protections against forced labor to be added to an investment pact with China.

Xinjiang, a remote inland region roughly the size of the U.S. state of Alaska, produces one-fifth of the world's cotton. The U.S. imported \$9 billion of cotton products in the past year and \$10 million of tomatoes from China, said Brenda Smith, the executive assistant commissioner in the office of trade at CBP.

Since a wave of violent terrorist attacks blamed on Uighurs in 2014, China has detained between tens of thousands and "upwards of 1 million" ethnic minorities in Xinjiang, according to a United Nations assessment. Subsequent reports have accused the country of relocating Uighurs to work in factories and on farms far from their homes and forcing women to use birth control or abort pregnancies.

China has repeatedly denied that genocide is taking place in Xinjiang, accusing Western nations of hypocrisy for disregarding their own ethnic policies, such as the U.S.'s treatment of blacks and Native Americans. Officials in Beijing have argued that reports underpinning most of the genocide claims are "fabricated" or "laced with data tampering."

The episode shows how human rights disputes could become even more of an issue between China and the U.S. after Biden takes office. Former National Security Adviser John Bolton said in his book, "The Room Where It Happened," that Trump told Chinese President Xi Jinping in 2019 that imprisoning the Uighurs was "exactly the right thing to do." Trump has denied that claim.

In a statement last August, Biden spokesman Andrew Bates said China's treatment of Uighurs was genocide and that Biden "stands against it in the strongest terms."

[China] U.S. declares China's treatment of Uyghurs 'genocide' (Breitbart)

[Breitbart](#) [1/20/2021 12:05 AM, UPI, 1912K]

In its final day at the United States' helm, the Trump administration on Tuesday declared that China's repressive treatment of its Muslim minority Uyghur population amounted to genocide and crimes against humanity.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said in a statement Tuesday that the People's Republic of China has systematically discriminated against and surveilled Uyghurs and

other ethnic and religious minority groups in its northwestern Xinjiang region since at least 2017 to eradicate them.

“I believe this genocide is ongoing, and that we are witnessing the systematic attempt to destroy Uyghurs by the Chinese party-state,” he said. “The governing authorities of the second-most economically, militarily and politically powerful country on earth have made clear that they are engaged in the forced assimilation and eventual erasure of a vulnerable ethnic and religious minority group, even as they simultaneously assert their country as a global leader.”

Pompeo also accused China of committing crimes against humanity against the Uyghurs, including arbitrary imprisonment of at least 1 million civilians, forced sterilization, torture of those arbitrarily detained, forced labor and draconian restrictions on freedom of religion, expression and movement.

“Their morally repugnant, wholesale policies, practices and abuses are designed systematically to discriminate against and surveil ethnic Uyghurs as a unique demographic and ethnic group, restrict their freedom to travel, emigrate and attend schools and deny other basic human rights of assembly, speech and worship,” he said. “PRC authorities have conducted forced sterilizations and abortions of Uyghur women, coerced them to marry non-Uyghurs and separated Uyghur children from their families.”

The move is not accompanied by any punitive measures but calls on the international community and juridical bodies to hold China responsible. Pompeo also said he has directed the State Department to continue to investigate and collect information regarding China’s actions in Xinjiang and to make the evidence available.

The move is the latest and probably last by the Trump administration against China concerning its human rights abuses in Xinjiang, sanctioning numerous Chinese officials, government departments and companies over their involvement in repressing the Uyghur population.

Last week, the United States banned cotton produced in the autonomous region over fears of forced labor.

China has vehemently denied the accusations, stating its actions in the region are to combat terrorism and secession, warning the United States and other countries to stop interfering in its internal affairs.

The move is expected to further fray relations between Beijing and Washington with Hua Chunying, a China foreign ministry spokeswoman, rebuking Pompeo’s declaration in a tweet as being “null and void.”

“Not worth the paper it’s written on,” she tweeted.

Last week, Xu Guixiang, a deputy spokesperson in Xinjiang, said during a press conference dedicated to Xinjiang that there were no concentration camps and accusations it has detained a million Muslim minorities were a groundless “and vicious smear.”

Pompeo made the declaration hours before he was to hand the State Department to the

Biden administration, which has nominated Anthony Blinken to succeed Pompeo as secretary of state.

Blinken, during his confirmation hearing on Tuesday, told lawmakers that he will undo a lot of the foreign policy actions taken by the Trump administration but that he was in agreement with its determination that China has committed genocide and crimes against humanity.

"I think we're very much in agreement," he said. "The forcing of men, women and children into concentration camps, trying to in effect re-educate them to be adherents to the Chinese Communist Party, all of that speaks to an effort to commit genocide."

The declaration by Pompeo was met with praise from several human rights organizations though some questioned the timing of it and its effectiveness.

"The United States is right to bring the brutal, years-long repression of the Uyghurs within the framework of genocide," Grant Shubin, legal director of the Global Justice Center, said in a statement. "However, the human rights community should be alarmed at reports that this decision was motivated by policy goals instead of a legal obligation to prevent and punish genocide."

Eric Schwartz, president of Refugees International, said he "welcomes" the declaration as it underscores the importance of international investigation and prosecutions of officials for committing genocide in Xinjiang but that he is "baffled" that Pompeo didn't issue a similar declaration concerning Myanmar's treatment of its Rohingya population.

"The integrity and effectiveness of the U.S. government's human rights policy depends on a willingness not only to speak truthfully, but to do so in a consistent manner," Schwartz said in a statement. "In the incoming Biden administration, such a willingness — reflected in a determination of genocide and crimes against humanity against Rohingya — would help to defend the rights of all those subject to egregious abuses around the world."

The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom said the incoming Biden administration is now given "the unique opportunity" to confront China's atrocities, calling on the new government to seek an independent, international fact-finding mechanism to investigate China for its treatment of its Uyghur population and to sanction those responsible.

"We urge American and other world leaders and corporations to condemn the genocide and crimes against humanity of the Communist Party of China that have been directed at Uyghur and other Turkic Muslims," USCIRF said in a statement. "The perpetrators must be held to account."

[China] Pompeo Accuses China Of Genocide Against Muslim Uighurs In Xinjiang (NPR)

[NPR](#) [1/19/2021 4:18 PM, Bill Chappell]

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo is accusing China and its Communist Party of carrying out genocide against Muslim Uighurs and other minority groups in the western Xinjiang region in a forceful statement issued on Pompeo's last full day in his diplomatic role.

"I have determined that the People's Republic of China is committing genocide and crimes

against humanity in Xinjiang, China, targeting Uyghur Muslims and members of other ethnic and religious minority groups," Pompeo said via Twitter, using an alternate spelling for the group.

The message drew a sharp response from Chen Weihua, a columnist for China's official newspaper, China Daily, who said that when Pompeo leaves his post along with the outgoing Trump administration, it will be "Time to celebrate."

The secretary's tweet echoed his official statement in which he said, "I believe this genocide is ongoing, and that we are witnessing the systematic attempt to destroy Uyghurs by the Chinese party-state."

Pompeo decried China's policies that have denied basic human rights to minorities, saying authorities have "forced sterilizations and abortions on Uyghur women, coerced them to marry non-Uyghurs, and separated Uyghur children from their families."

The accusations are the strongest yet from Pompeo over China's actions in Xinjiang, where analysts have estimated up to 1.5 million Muslim Uighurs and other ethnic minorities have been detained. The U.S. imposed sanctions on China's government and officials in July, citing gross human rights violations in the region.

But as NPR's Michele Kelemen reported for our Newscast unit, the Trump administration has been accused of taking an inconsistent approach regarding China and people in Xinjiang.

"In his book, [President] Trump's former national security adviser John Bolton wrote that Trump told China's president to go ahead and build detention camps for Uighurs," Kelemen said. "That was back when Trump was trying to negotiate a trade deal with China."

Last year, BuzzFeed News used satellite images to identify what it said were hundreds of recently built internment camps in Xinjiang – large facilities that resemble prisons. China's government has disagreed with that description, saying the installations are "vocational education and training centers."

A researcher published a report in Foreign Policy last summer saying that China's suppression of Uighurs, Kazakhs and other groups meets the U.N. definition of genocide, citing a campaign of mass sterilizations, forced abortions and mandatory birth control.

Pompeo's remarks were welcomed by the advocacy group Refugees International, whose president, Eric Schwartz, said that in Xinjiang, "the evidence of genocide is significant and substantial."

Schwartz called for international investigations and prosecutions over the treatment of ethnic minorities in Xinjiang. But he added that he is "baffled and deeply concerned" that Pompeo has not made a similar declaration about Myanmar and its treatment of the Rohingya population.

[China] US calls China's abuses of Muslim minorities 'genocide' and 'crimes against humanity' (ABC News)

[ABC News](#) [1/19/2021 1:09 PM, Conor Finnegan, 29K]

With less than 24 hours left in office, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Tuesday issued a determination that the Chinese government has committed "genocide" and "crimes against humanity" against Uighurs and other Muslim ethnic minorities.

The determination is a final parting shot that will complicate U.S.-Chinese relations long after President Donald Trump and Pompeo leave office -- but one that President-elect Joe Biden's campaign called for months ago.

"This genocide is ongoing, and ... we are witnessing the systematic attempt to destroy Uyghurs by the Chinese party-state," Pompeo said in his statement, adding the Chinese government is "engaged in the forced assimilation and eventual erasure of a vulnerable ethnic and religious minority group, even as they simultaneously assert their country as a global leader and attempt to remold the international system in their image."

The Chinese government has denied any human rights abuses, saying instead that its mass campaign targeting Muslims in Xinjiang province is about economic development and counter terrorism, even as it has severely restricted access to the western province by journalists, human rights groups, or United Nations observers.

Survivors of that repressive campaign, including the "re-education" camps that reportedly have detained more than one million people, report widespread abuses, including restrictions on freedom of movement, religion, and expression; forced labor; and torture.

More recently, survivors and researchers have said that the Chinese government has employed forced sterilization and abortions amid a sharp decline in birth rates among Uighurs and other minorities.

In the determination, the State Department references these alleged human rights violations, which Pompeo calls "morally repugnant, wholesale policies, practices, and abuses."

Pompeo's statement doesn't include any new actions along with the designation, as genocide determinations don't have inherent legal repercussions. But this will be a stain on China's image on the world stage and a cloud over the future of U.S.-Chinese relations.

During the 2020 presidential election, Biden's campaign used the "genocide" label -- a rare subject of bipartisan agreement in Washington.

The State Department will continue to collect evidence on the "ongoing atrocities," Pompeo added, calling for international bodies to join the U.S. determination and investigate. The International Criminal Court said last month that it would not, for now, investigate the allegations of genocide or crimes against humanity because the alleged actions took place inside China only and China, like the U.S., is not a party to the court.

This is the first U.S. genocide determination since the Obama administration determined ISIS's crimes against religious minorities in Iraq and Syria amounted to genocide.

Notably, Pompeo weighed, but never issued a genocide determination for the Rohingya, the Muslim minority group in Myanmar that faced killings, rape, and torture and were driven

from their land by Myanmar's military -- even after his agency published a detailed report of those crimes.

While Pompeo has repeatedly targeted Chinese provincial authorities with sanctions over Xinjiang, and the Department of Homeland Security has barred entry of any cotton or tomato products from the region, Trump is accused of backing the program. According to his former national security adviser John Bolton, Trump encouraged Chinese President Xi Jinping to build the mass detention camps.

Trump later denied that was the case, but he told Axios last June that he had blocked sanctions on Chinese officials over the camps because he was in the "middle of a trade deal" negotiation.

[China] Pompeo says China's policies on Muslims amount to 'genocide' (AP)

[AP](#) [1/19/2021 12:13 PM, Matthew Lee, 248K]

On his way out the door, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo lashed out anew at China on Tuesday by declaring that its policies on Muslims and ethnic minorities in the western Xinjiang region constitute "crimes against humanity" and a "genocide." The rarely used designation is sure to provoke an angry response from Beijing.

Pompeo made the determination just 24 hours before President-elect Joe Biden takes office. There was no immediate response from the incoming Biden team, although he and members of his national security team have expressed support for such a designation in the past.

Pompeo's determination does not come with any immediate repercussions although the legal implications mean the U.S. must take it into account in formulating policy toward China. The U.S. has spoken out and taken action, implementing a range of sanctions against senior Chinese Communist Party leaders and state-run enterprises that fund the architecture of repression across Xinjiang.

Many of those accused of having taken part in the repression are already under U.S. sanctions. The genocide designation means new measures will be easier to impose.

"After careful examination of the available facts, I have determined that since at least March 2017, the People's Republic of China, under the direction and control of the Chinese Communist Party, has committed crimes against humanity against the predominantly Muslim Uyghurs and other members of ethnic and religious minority groups in Xinjiang," Pompeo said in a statement.

"In addition, after careful examination of the available facts, I have determined that the PRC, under the direction and control of the CCP, has committed genocide against the predominantly Muslim Uyghurs and other ethnic and religious minority groups in Xinjiang. I believe this genocide is ongoing, and that we are witnessing the systematic attempt to destroy Uyghurs by the Chinese party-state."

A main reason cited for the declaration of genocide was widespread forced birth control among the Uighurs, which The Associated Press documented last year. Another reason cited, Uighur forced labor, has also been linked by AP reporting to various products imported to the U.S., including clothing and electronic goods such as cameras and

computer monitors.

Tuesday's move is the latest in a series of steps the outgoing Trump administration has taken against China.

Since last year, the administration has steadily ramped up pressure on Beijing, imposing sanctions on numerous officials and companies for their activities in Taiwan, Tibet, Hong Kong and the South China Sea.

Those penalties have gotten harsher since the beginning of last year when President Donald Trump and Pompeo began to accuse China of trying to cover up the coronavirus pandemic. Just on Saturday, Pompeo lifted restrictions on U.S. diplomatic contacts with Taiwanese officials, prompting a stern rebuke from China, which regards the island as a renegade province.

Five days ago, the administration announced it would halt imports of cotton and tomatoes from Xinjiang with Customs and Border Protection officials saying they would block products from there suspected of being produced with forced labor.

Xinjiang is a major global supplier of cotton, so the order could have significant effects on international commerce. The Trump administration has already blocked imports from individual companies linked to forced labor in the region, and the U.S. has imposed sanctions on Communist Party officials with prominent roles in the campaign.

China has imprisoned more than 1 million people, including Uighurs and other mostly Muslim ethnic groups, in a vast network of concentration camps, according to U.S. officials and human rights groups. People have been subjected to torture, sterilization and political indoctrination in addition to forced labor as part of an assimilation campaign in a region whose inhabitants are ethnically and culturally distinct from the Han Chinese majority.

China has denied all the charges. China says its policies in Xinjiang aim only to promote economic and social development in the region and stamp out radicalism. It also rejects criticism of what it considers its internal affairs.

The genocide designation is a rare step for the U.S. government, which did not apply it to the 1994 mass killings in Rwanda until much later.

Former Secretary of State Colin Powell designated the situation in Sudan's western Darfur region a genocide in 2004. Former Secretary of State John Kerry applied the term to the Islamic State's repression and massacres of Yazidis and other ethnic and religious minorities in Syria and Iraq in 2016, but he couched it by saying it was a legal determination only that did not mandate action by the U.S. government.

Human rights groups, which have been generally critical of Trump administration policies, welcomed the move, which Pompeo said was taken with an eye toward the U.S. role in prosecuting Nazi war crimes during WWII at the Nuremberg trials.

"We hope to see the U.S. follow these strong words with decisive action," said Grant Shubin of the Global Justice Center. "Where there is a risk of genocide, there is a duty to act. Moving forward, this designation should inform the entirety of U.S. foreign policy and we

hope to hear more from the incoming Biden administration on how it plans to follow through on this historic announcement.”

And, some questioned the decision to apply it to China and Xinjiang and not to the situation in Myanmar, where Rphingya Muslims have been subjected to significant attacks and atrocities.

“The Secretary’s statement underscores the importance of appropriate international investigations and prosecutions of officials for the crime of genocide in Xinjiang,” said Eric Schwartz, the president of Refugees International. “At the same time, I’m baffled and deeply concerned that Secretary Pompeo has declined to make a similar finding of genocide against the state of Myanmar for its vicious mass attacks against the Rohingya population beginning in August 2017.”

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[Maldives passes bill allowing elections in health emergency](#)

1/19/2021

The Maldives parliament on Tuesday passed a bill that could pave the way for the country's election commission to hold local council elections during the public health emergency, Sun reported. The local elections were ea...



[Security Forces On High Alert As Pakistani Opposition Protests PM Khan](#)

1/19/2021

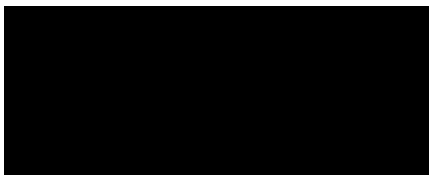
Pakistan's opposition gathered on January 19 in the capital, Islamabad, for a massive rally against Prime Minister Imran Khan, who is accused of illegally raising campaign funds from outside the country. Authorities beef...



[Mexico says it's OK with getting less Pfizer vaccine for now](#)

1/19/2021

President Andrés Manuel López Obrador said Sunday that his government has agreed with a U.N. proposal to delay shipments of the Pfizer coronavirus vaccine to countries like Mexico that had exiting purchase agreements, in...



[Nigerian Army Regains Control of Marte Military Base Post-ISWAP Attack](#)

1/19/2021

The Nigerian army has regained control of its military base in Marte after it was attacked by the jihadist group ISWAP.



[Uganda election: Internet restored but social media blocked](#)

1/19/2021

Ugandans are celebrating the resumption of internet services after a shutdown was imposed ahead of last week's election. However, social media platforms remain blocked and are only accessible using Virtual Private Networ...



[Two UN peacekeepers killed in an ambush in Central African Republic](#)

1/19/2021

Two United Nations peacekeepers were killed after their convoy was ambushed by members of the UPC and anti-Balaka armed groups in southern Central African Republic (CAR), the UN Mission in the country said on Monday.



[UN troops recapture CAR city from armed groups](#)

1/19/2021





Fighters abandoned their positions in Bangassou, a town they captured on January 3, after ultimatum from peacekeepers.



[More Than 80 People Killed in West Darfur Attack](#)

1/19/2021

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has called on authorities to protect citizens in Sudan's West Darfur after unknown armed men killed more than 80 people and injured at least 160 others in the Krinding re...



[Nicaragua congress adopts life sentences; opposition opposes](#)

1/19/2021

Nicaragua's congress gave final approval Monday to change the constitution to permit life imprisonment. Congress is dominated by President Daniel Ortega's Sandinista party, and opposition legislators voted against the me...



[Guatemala troops, police break up caravan of weary migrants](#)

1/19/2021

Guatemalan police and soldiers on Monday broke up a group of hundreds of migrants who had spent two nights stuck at a roadblock on a rural highway.



[In Mexico, women take the front lines as vigilantes](#)

1/19/2021

In the birthplace of Mexico's vigilante "self-defense" movement, a new group has emerged entirely made up of women, who carry assault rifles and post roadblocks to fend off what they say is a bloody incursion into the st...



[Hackers leaked altered Pfizer data to sabotage trust in vaccines](#)

1/17/2021

The European Medicines Agency (EMA) today revealed that some of the stolen Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine candidate data was doctored by threat actors before being leaked online with the end goal of undermining the public's tru...



[Guatemala cracks down on migrant caravan bound for United States](#)

1/17/2021

Guatemalan authorities on Saturday escalated efforts to stop thousands of Hondurans, many of them families with children, traveling in a migrant caravan bound for the United States just as a new administration is about t...



[US borders with Canada, Mexico to remain closed through Feb. 21](#)

1/17/2021

America's borders with Canada and Mexico will remain closed for another month. The Department of Homeland Security announced via tweet Tuesday that the U.S., Canada and Mexico have agreed to keep the borders closed throu...



[Mexico sees 2nd straight day of 20,000 coronavirus cases](#)

1/17/2021





Mexico posted its second straight day of more than 20,000 coronavirus cases Saturday, suggesting a surge in a country already struggling in many areas with overflowing hospitals.



[China reports 109 new COVID-19 cases to keep concerns simmering before Lunar New Year](#)

1/17/2021

Worries simmered in mainland China about a potential fresh wave of coronavirus cases ahead of the Lunar New Year next month as authorities on Sunday reported 109 new COVID-19 cases, most of them in Hebei province surround...



[Semeru volcano on Indonesia's Java island spews hot clouds](#)

1/17/2021

Mount Semeru, the highest volcano on Indonesia's most densely populated island of Java, spewed hot clouds as far away as 4.5 kilometers (nearly 3 miles) on Saturday.



[Quake death toll at 73 as Indonesia struggles with string of disasters](#)

1/17/2021

At least 73 people have been killed after an earthquake struck Indonesia's West Sulawesi province on Friday, the disaster mitigation agency (BNPB) said on Sunday, the latest in a string of disasters.



[France observes nationwide 6 p.m. curfew to slow coronavirus spread](#)

1/17/2021

Cities, towns and villages across France were practically empty on Saturday as residents stayed home and businesses shut to observe a nationwide curfew intended to help stem the spread of coronavirus.



[Female judges shot dead in Kabul](#)

1/17/2021

Two women judges working for the Afghan Supreme Court have been shot dead. They were killed by unidentified gunmen on their way to work on Sunday. The deaths are the latest in a string of assassinations targeting journal...



[Massive blackouts have hit Iran. The government is blaming bitcoin mining.](#)

1/17/2021

Massive blackouts and smog have hit cities across Iran. It's a toxic mix as the country, already under economic duress and suffocating U.S. sanctions, simultaneously battles the region's worst coronavirus outbreak.



[Distrust, division and doubt cloud Palestinian election call](#)

1/17/2021

Beset by political infighting, split between three territories and distrustful of their institutions, many Palestinians are sceptical that their first national elections in 15 years will bring change - or even happen at...



[Armed group captures military base in northeast Nigeria](#)





1/17/2021

Residents, government troops flee as armed group overran a town in Nigeria's Borno state in attack claimed by ISIL.



[Uganda's Museveni wins sixth term, rival alleges fraud](#)

1/17/2021

Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni has scored a decisive election victory to win a sixth term, the country's election commission said on Saturday, but his main rival Bobi Wine denounced the results as fraudulent and urged...



[A black market for illegal coronavirus vaccines is thriving in the Philippines](#)

1/16/2021

The country has not approved a vaccine for general use, but Chinese workers at online casinos and presidential security officials have obtained the shots.



[Pakistan approves AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine for emergency use](#)

1/16/2021

AstraZeneca's COVID-19 vaccine has been approved for emergency use in Pakistan, the health minister said on Saturday, making it the first coronavirus vaccine to get the green light for use in the South Asian country.



[Russia to Exit Open Skies Treaty, Escalating Military Rivalry With U.S.](#)

1/16/2021

Washington withdrew from the treaty, which lets countries make reconnaissance flights over each other's territory, last year. Moscow's move could signal difficulties for the Biden administration.



[Britain tightens borders to keep out new COVID-19 variants](#)

1/16/2021

Britain is tightening border controls to block new variants of COVID-19, suspending all "travel corridor" arrangements that had meant arrivals from some countries did not require quarantine.



[Nearly 60,000 have fled Central African Republic violence: U.N.](#)

1/16/2021

The number of people fleeing violence in the Central African Republic has doubled in just a week to nearly 60,000, the U.N. refugee agency said on Friday, as post-electoral violence intensifies.



[Ethiopia's Oromia conflict: Why a teacher was killed 'execution-style'](#)

1/16/2021

The 32-year-old high school teacher was among the latest casualties in the conflict between government forces and rebels in Ethiopia's Oromia region.



[UN Security Council condemns CAR rebel attack on Bangui](#)

1/15/2021



Sacco, Cristina (EOM)

From: Ferraro, Alexandra (HSEMA) </O=DC GOVERNMENT/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=AA04E9A90A014BE29A48AD566D9D0015-ALEXANDRA>

Sent: Wednesday, January 20, 2021 7:20 AM

To: Ripley, Patricia L. (WF) (DET); §2-534(a)(2) (MPD); Newman, William J. (WF) (FBI); Phillips, Steve; michael.ebey@usss.dhs.gov; richard.rogers@usss.dhs.gov; christina.fabac@usss.dhs.gov; matthew.n.phillips@usss.dhs.gov; adam.kirkwood@usss.dhs.gov; Rosanna.donaghey@usss.dhs.gov; Barmonde, Thomas (WF) (DET); Cook, James A.; Chite, Mark; DAMON.C.EDWARDS@cbp.dhs.gov; Hawkins, Derron (FEMS); Jackson, Keishea (FEMS); Mccray, Jonice; amanda.s.mason4.mil@mail.mil; anh-chi.p.murphy.mil@mail.mil; jonathan.s.ebbert.mil@mail.mil; benjamin.goldberg@dot.gov; gerrityd@state.gov; zurburgkinghm@state.gov; herrera@state.gov; CeasarDN@state.gov; Andres, Alyse; Tu, Raymond H. (BA) (FBI); Wightman, Michael C. (BA) (FBI); Ellis, Loren M. (CIRG) (FBI); Erlendson, Jennifer J. (CIRG) (FBI); Louryk, John B. (WF) (TFO); Marc.L.Bosley@fps.dhs.gov; Ed.Wojciechowski@mail.house.gov; Lauren_Eagan@saa.senate.gov; George.Adams@oig.hhs.gov; James.Lehman@oig.hhs.gov; mark.a.rasmussen.civ@mail.mil; andrew.d.hasser.mil@mail.mil; wanda.c.squirewell.civ@mail.mil; marvin.c.solomon.civ@mail.mil; william.c.furmanski.civ@mail.mil; jonathan.m.morgenstein.mil@mail.mil; jessica.curtis@mcac.maryland.gov; Cardella, Alex; Janczyk, Jeffrey P. (WF) (TFO); Barbieri, Michael (MPD); Alvarez, Daniel (WF) (OGA); ADonald@wmata.com; MASalata@wmata.com; EMoscouLewis@wmata.com; Marcenelle, Madeline (HSEMA); Mein, John (EOM); Harvin, Donell (HSEMA); stephebj@nctc.gov; PATRJOM@nctc.gov; Gilliard, Darrell K.; William.grice@ncis.navy.mil; lillian.fata@ncis.navy.mil; Roosevelt.Glover@NCIS.NAVY.MIL; kristoffer.carlson@NCIS.NAVY.MIL; KBahe@NCIS.NAVY.MIL; Waller, Markiest; paige.vandenneever@NCIS.NAVY.MIL; isaiah.cooper@NCIS.NAVY.MIL; nicholas.suszan@NCIS.NAVY.MIL; Alexander, Eryn R. (IOD) (FBI); samuel.g.gross.mil@mail.mil; Lay, Amy L.; jeremy.roush@fairfaxcounty.gov; Miller, Michael T. (WF) (OGA); douglas.m.trippamy.mil@mail.mil; Thorward, Brent C. (WF) (DET); catherine.taylor43.mil@mail.mil; John.Erickson@uscg.gov; marilyn.guzman@uscg.gov; Deegan, John; David.Millard@uscg.gov; Usman.Saleem@uscg.gov; john.nugent@uscg.gov; ryan.mccamley@uscg.gov; john.donohue@uscg.gov; julie.farnam@uscg.gov; Dillon, Joseph; CGINTELPLLOT@uscg.mil; ronald.mcgarvey@usmc.mil; Smith, Johnnie (USMS); Madagu, Jonathan (USMS); Rose, Michael (HQ-JSD) (USMS); Knutson, Brett (WF) (DET); Rossi, Michael A. (CTD) (CON); Dingeldein, James E. (WF) (DET); mark_varanelli@nps.gov; Michael_Libby@nps.gov; elizabeth.adams@vdm.virginia.gov; Gene.E.Roddy@whmo.mil; Douglas.R.Reedy@whmo.mil; Jeffrey.W.Kuck@whmo.mil; Gary.Halton@whmo.mil; 'Hessling, Paul E COL USARMY NG NGB (USA)'

Cc: Stapleton, Hope T. (WF) (FBI); tmorris@fbi.gov; Loftus, Ashlea (WF) (FBI); Kukowski, Jed (WF) (FBI)

Subject: (U//FOUO//LES) NTIC Sitrep 2100 01-19

Attachments: image001.png; (U--LES) 2100 SITREP 19 Jan 2021.pdf

Categories: Green

Good morning all,

Please see the attached NTIC SITREP from 01-19.

Thank you!

Alexandra Ferraro

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From: Ferraro, Alexandra (HSEMA)

Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 1:08 PM

To: Ripley, Patricia L. (WF) (DET) <PLRIPLEY@fbi.gov>; §2-534(a)(2) (MPD) <§2-534(a)(2)@dc.gov>; Newman, William J. (WF) (FBI) <wjnewman@fbi.gov>; Phillips, Steve <hphillips@usss.dhs.gov>; michael.ebey@usss.dhs.gov; richard.rogers@usss.dhs.gov; christina.fabac@usss.dhs.gov; matthew.n.phillips@usss.dhs.gov; adam.kirkwood@usss.dhs.gov; Rosanna.donaghey@usss.dhs.gov; Barmonde, Thomas (WF) (DET) <TBARMONDE@fbi.gov>; Cook, James A. <cookjam@amtrak.com>; Chite, Mark <Mark.Chite@amtrak.com>; DAMON.C.EDWARDS@cbp.dhs.gov; Hawkins, Derron (FEMS) <derron.hawkins@dc.gov>; Jackson, Keishea (FEMS) <keishea.jackson@dc.gov>; Mccray, Jonice <jonice.t.mccray.nfg@mail.mil>; amanda.s.mason4.mil@mail.mil; anh-chi.p.murphy.mil@mail.mil; jonathan.s.ebbert.mil@mail.mil; benjamin.goldberg@dot.gov; gerrityd@state.gov; zurburgkinghm@state.gov; herrerama@state.gov; CeasarDN@state.gov; Andres, Alyse <andrewsav@state.gov>; Tu, Raymond H. (BA) (FBI) <rhtu@fbi.gov>; Wightman, Michael C. (BA) (FBI) <mcwightman@fbi.gov>; Ellis, Loren M. (CIRG) (FBI) <lmellis@fbi.gov>; Erlendson, Jennifer J. (CIRG) (FBI) <jjerlendson@fbi.gov>; Louryk, John B. (WF) (TFO) <jblouryk@fbi.gov>; Marc.L.Bosley@fps.dhs.gov; Ed.Wojciechowski@mail.house.gov; Lauren_Eagan@saa.senate.gov; George.Adams@oig.hhs.gov; James.Lehman@oig.hhs.gov; mark.a.rasmussen.civ@mail.mil; andrew.d.hasser.mil@mail.mil; wanda.c.squirewell.civ@mail.mil; marvin.c.solomon.civ@mail.mil; william.c.furmanski.civ@mail.mil; jonathan.m.morgenstein.mil@mail.mil; jessica.curtis@mcac.maryland.gov; Cardella, Alex <alex.cardella@mcac.maryland.gov>; Janczyk, Jeffrey P. (WF) (TFO) <jpjaneczyk@fbi.gov>; Barbieri, Michael (MPD) <michael.barbieri@dc.gov>; Alvarez, Daniel (WF) (OGA) <DALVAREZ2@fbi.gov>; ADonald@wmata.com; MASalata@wmata.com; EMoscouLewis@wmata.com; Marcenelle, Madeline (HSEMA) <madeline.marcenelle@dc.gov>; Mein, John (EOM) <John.Mein@dc.gov>; Harvin, Donell (HSEMA) <Donell.Harvin@dc.gov>; stephebj@nctc.gov; PATRJOM@nctc.gov; Gilliard, Darrell K. <darrell.k.gilliard.civ@mail.mil>; William.grice@ncis.navy.mil; lillian.fata@ncis.navy.mil; Roosevelt.Glover@NCIS.NAVY.MIL; kristoffer.carlson@NCIS.NAVY.MIL; KBahe@NCIS.NAVY.MIL; Waller, Markiest <Markiest.Waller@ncis.navy.mil>; paige.vandenneever@NCIS.NAVY.MIL; isaiah.cooper@NCIS.NAVY.MIL; nicholas.suszan@NCIS.NAVY.MIL; Alexander, Eryn R. (IOD) (FBI) <ERALEXANDER@FBI.GOV>; samuel.g.gross.mil@mail.mil; Lay, Amy L. <Amy.Lay@vsp.virginia.gov>; jeremy.roush@fairfaxcounty.gov; Miller, Michael T. (WF) (OGA) <MTMILLER3@fbi.gov>; douglas.m.trippany.mil@mail.mil; Thorward, Brent C. (WF) (DET) <BCTHORWARD@fbi.gov>; catherine.taylor43.mil@mail.mil; John.Erickson@uscg.gov; marilyn.guzman@uscg.gov; Deigan, John <john.deigan@uscg.gov>; David.Millard@uscg.gov; Usman.Saleem@uscg.gov; john.nugent@uscg.gov; ryan.mccamley@uscg.gov; john.donohue@uscg.gov; julie.farnam@uscg.gov; Dillon, Joseph <joseph.r.dillon@uscg.mil>; CGINTEL@uscg.mil; ronald.mcgarvey@usmc.mil; Smith, Johnnie (USMS) <Johnnie.Smith@usdoj.gov>; Madagu, Jonathan (USMS) <Jonathan.Madagu@usdoj.gov>; Rose, Michael (HQ-JSD) (USMS) <Michael.Rose2@usdoj.gov>; Knutson, Brett (WF) (DET) <BKNUTSON@fbi.gov>; Rossi, Michael A. (CTD) (CON) <marossi@fbi.gov>; Dingeldein, James

E. (WF) (DET) <JEDINGELDEIN@fbi.gov>; mark_varanelli@nps.gov; Michael_Libby@nps.gov; elizabeth.adams@vdm.virginia.gov; Gene.E.Roddy@whmo.mil; Douglas.R.Reedy@whmo.mil; Jeffrey.W.Kuck@whmo.mil; Gary.Halton@whmo.mil; 'Hessling, Paul E COL USARMY NG NGB (USA)' <paul.e.hessling.mil@mail.mil>

Cc: Stapleton, Hope T. (WF) (FBI) <htstapleton@fbi.gov>; tmorris@fbi.gov; Loftus, Ashlea (WF) (FBI) <ALOFTUS@fbi.gov>; Kukowski, Jed (WF) (FBI) <jkukowski@fbi.gov>

Subject: (U//FOUO//LES) January 19 Officer Awareness Inauguration Information

Please see the attached Officer Awareness Information from the NTIC on 01-19.

Alexandra Ferraro

Intelligence Analyst

National Capital Region Threat Intelligence Consortium
DC Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency
2720 Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue, SE,
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From: Ripley, Patricia L. (WF) (DET) <PLRIPLEY@fbi. [REDACTED]>

Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 12:41 PM

To: §2-534(a)(2) (MPD) <§2-534(a)(2)@dc.gov>; Newman, William J. (WF) (FBI) <wjnewman@fbi.gov>; Phillips, Steve <hphillips@usss.dhs.gov>; michael.ebey@usss.dhs.gov; richard.rogers@usss.dhs.gov; christina.fabac@usss.dhs.gov; matthew.n.phillips@usss.dhs.gov; adam.kirkwood@usss.dhs.gov; Rosanna.donaghey@usss.dhs.gov; Barmonde, Thomas (WF) (DET) <TBARMONDE@fbi.gov>; Cook, James A. <cookjam@amtrak.com>; Chite, Mark <Mark.Chite@amtrak.com>; DAMON.C.EDWARDS@cbp.dhs.gov; Hawkins, Derron (FEMS) <derron.hawkins@dc.gov>; Jackson, Keishea (FEMS) <keishea.jackson@dc.gov>; Mccray, Jonice <jonice.t.mccray.nfg@mail.mil>; amanda.s.mason4.mil@mail.mil; anh-chi.p.murphy.mil@mail.mil; jonathan.s.ebbert.mil@mail.mil; benjamin.goldberg@dot.gov; gerrityd@state.gov; zurburgkinghm@state.gov; herreraama@state.gov; CeasarDN@state.gov; Andres, Alyse <andrewsav@state.gov>; Tu, Raymond H. (BA) (FBI) <rhtu@fbi.gov>; Wightman, Michael C. (BA) (FBI) <mcwightman@fbi.gov>; Ellis, Loren M. (CIRG) (FBI) <lmellis@fbi.gov>; Erlendson, Jennifer J. (CIRG) (FBI) <jjerlendson@fbi.gov>; Louryk, John B. (WF) (TFO) <jblouryk@fbi.gov>; Marc.L.Bosley@fps.dhs.gov; Ed.Wojciechowski@mail.house.gov; Lauren_Eagan@saa.senate.gov; George.Adams@oig.hhs.gov; James.Lehman@oig.hhs.gov; mark.a.rasmussen.civ@mail.mil; andrew.d.hasser.mil@mail.mil; wanda.c.squirewell.civ@mail.mil; marvin.c.solomon.civ@mail.mil; william.c.furmanski.civ@mail.mil; jonathan.m.morgenstein.mil@mail.mil; jessica.curtis@mcac.maryland.gov; Cardella, Alex <alex.cardella@mcac.maryland.gov>; Janczyk, Jeffrey P. (WF) (TFO) <jpjanczyk@fbi.gov>; Barbieri, Michael (MPD) <michael.barbieri@dc.gov>; Alvarez, Daniel (WF) (OGA) <DALVAREZ2@fbi.gov>; ADonald@wmata.com; MASalata@wmata.com; EMoscouLewis@wmata.com; Ferraro, Alexandra (HSEMA) <alexandra.ferraro@dc.gov>; Marcenelle, Madeline (HSEMA) <madeline.marcenelle@dc.gov>; Mein, John (EOM) <John.Mein@dc.gov>; Harvin, Donell (HSEMA) <Donell.Harvin@dc.gov>; stephebj@nctc.gov; PATRJOM@nctc.gov; Gilliard, Darrell K. <darrell.k.gilliard.civ@mail.mil>; William.grice@ncis.navy.mil; lillian.fata@ncis.navy.mil; Roosevelt.Glover@NCIS.NAVY.MIL; kristoffer.carlson@NCIS.NAVY.MIL; KBahe@NCIS.NAVY.MIL; Waller, Markiest <Markiest.Waller@ncis.navy.mil>; paige.vandenneever@NCIS.NAVY.MIL; isaiah.cooper@NCIS.NAVY.MIL; nicholas.suszan@NCIS.NAVY.MIL; Alexander, Eryn R. (IOD) (FBI) <ERALEXANDER@FBI.GOV>; samuel.g.gross.mil@mail.mil; Lay, Amy L. <Amy.Lay@vsp.virginia.gov>; jeremy.roush@fairfaxcounty.gov; Miller, Michael T. (WF) (OGA) <MTMILLER3@fbi.gov>; douglas.m.trippamy.mil@mail.mil; Thorward, Brent C. (WF) (DET)

<BCTHORWARD@fbi.gov>; catherine.taylor43.mil@mail.mil; John.Erickson@uscg.gov; marilyn.guzman@uscg.gov; Deigan, John <john.deigan@uscg.gov>; David.Millard@uscg.gov; Usman.Saleem@uscg.gov; john.nugent@uscg.gov; ryan.mccamley@uscg.gov; john.donohue@uscg.gov; julie.farnam@uscg.gov; Dillon, Joseph <joseph.r.dillon@uscg.mil>; CGINTEL@uscg.mil; ronald.mcgarvey@usmc.mil; Smith, Johnnie (USMS) <Johnnie.Smith@usdoj.gov>; Madagu, Jonathan (USMS) <Jonathan.Madagu@usdoj.gov>; Rose, Michael (HQ-JSD) (USMS) <Michael.Rose2@usdoj.gov>; Knutson, Brett (WF) (DET) <BKNUTSON@fbi.gov>; Rossi, Michael A. (CTD) (CON) <marossi@fbi.gov>; Dingeldein, James E. (WF) (DET) <JEDINGELDEIN@fbi.gov>; mark.varanelli@nps.gov; Michael.Libby@nps.gov; elizabeth.adams@vdm.virginia.gov; Gene.E.Roddy@whmo.mil; Douglas.R.Reedy@whmo.mil; Jeffrey.W.Kuck@whmo.mil; Gary.Halton@whmo.mil; 'Hessling, Paul E COL USARMY NG NGB (USA)' <paul.e.hessling.mil@mail.mil>
Cc: Stapleton, Hope T. (WF) (FBI) <htstapleton@fbi.gov>; tmorris@fbi.gov
Subject: DHS Reports

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2-534(a)(3)

From: §2-534(a)(2) (MPD) <§2-534(a)(2)@dc.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 9:14 AM
To: Newman, William J. (WF) (FBI) <wjnewman@fbi.gov>; Phillips, Steve <hphillips@usss.dhs.gov>; michael.ebey@usss.dhs.gov <michael.ebey@usss.dhs.gov>; richard.rogers@usss.dhs.gov <richard.rogers@usss.dhs.gov>; christina.fabac@usss.dhs.gov <christina.fabac@usss.dhs.gov>; matthew.n.phillips@usss.dhs.gov <matthew.n.phillips@usss.dhs.gov>; adam.kirkwood@usss.dhs.gov <adam.kirkwood@usss.dhs.gov>; Rosanna.donaghey@usss.dhs.gov <Rosanna.donaghey@usss.dhs.gov>; Barmonde, Thomas (WF) (DET) <TBARMONDE@fbi.gov>; Cook, James A. <cookjam@amtrak.com>; Chite, Mark <Mark.Chite@amtrak.com>; DAMON.C.EDWARDS@cbp.dhs.gov <DAMON.C.EDWARDS@cbp.dhs.gov>; Hawkins, Derron (FEMS) <derron.hawkins@dc.gov>; Jackson, Keishea (FEMS) <keishea.jackson@dc.gov>; Mccray, Jonice <jonice.t.mccray.nfg@mail.mil>; amanda.s.mason4.mil@mail.mil <amanda.s.mason4.mil@mail.mil>; anh-chi.p.murphy.mil@mail.mil <anh-chi.p.murphy.mil@mail.mil>; jonathan.s.ebbert.mil@mail.mil <jonathan.s.ebbert.mil@mail.mil>; benjamin.goldberg@dot.gov <benjamin.goldberg@dot.gov>; gerrityd@state.gov <gerrityd@state.gov>; zurburgkinghm@state.gov <zurburgkinghm@state.gov>; herrera@state.gov <herrerama@state.gov>; CeasarDN@state.gov <CeasarDN@state.gov>; Andres, Alyse <andrewsav@state.gov>; Tu, Raymond H. (BA) (FBI) <rhtu@fbi.gov>; Wightman, Michael C. (BA) (FBI) <mcwightman@fbi.gov>; Ellis, Loren M. (CIRG) (FBI) <lmellis@fbi.gov>; Erlendson, Jennifer J. (CIRG) (FBI) <jjerlendson@fbi.gov>; Louryk, John B. (WF) (TFO) <jblouryk@fbi.gov>; Marc.L.Bosley@fps.dhs.gov <Marc.L.Bosley@fps.dhs.gov>; Ed.Wojciechowski@mail.house.gov <Ed.Wojciechowski@mail.house.gov>; Lauren.Eagan@saa.senate.gov <Lauren.Eagan@saa.senate.gov>; George.Adams@oig.hhs.gov <George.Adams@oig.hhs.gov>; James.Lehman@oig.hhs.gov

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<ryan.mccamley@uscg.gov>; john.donohue@uscg.gov <john.donohue@uscg.gov>; julie.farnam@uscg.gov
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<mark_varanelli@nps.gov>; Michael_Libby@nps.gov <Michael_Libby@nps.gov>; elizabeth.adams@vdm.virginia.gov
<elizabeth.adams@vdm.virginia.gov>; Gene.E.Roddy@whmo.mil <Gene.E.Roddy@whmo.mil>;
Douglas.R.Reedy@whmo.mil <Douglas.R.Reedy@whmo.mil>; Jeffrey.W.Kuck@whmo.mil <Jeffrey.W.Kuck@whmo.mil>;
Gary.Halton@whmo.mil <Gary.Halton@whmo.mil>; 'Hessling, Paul E COL USARMY NG NGB (USA)'
<paul.e.hessling.mil@mail.mil>
Cc: Stapleton, Hope T. (WF) (FBI) <htstapleton@fbi.gov>; Morris, Tiffany (WF) (FBI) <tmorris@fbi.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] - RE: INAUG: (U//FOUO) AACPD Stolen Military Uniforms

Good Morning All,

Please see attached bulletin from Anne Arundel County PD regarding stolen military uniforms for your awareness.

Shane Lamond
Lieutenant, Intelligence Branch
Homeland Security Bureau
D.C. Metropolitan Police Department
Cell: §2-534(a)(2)
Email: §2-534(a)(2).dc.gov

Get important updates on the 59th Presidential Inauguration from DC Government. Text INAUG2021 to 888-777 for updates on public safety, street closures, weather alerts, and more.

Sacco, Cristina (EOM)

From: Gallagher, Sean P. <Sean.Gallagher@uscp.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 20, 2021 5:05 AM
To: Alcocke, Matthew R. (WF) (FBI); Matt Miller; Jeff Carroll; michael.plati@usss.dhs.gov; dave_lamond@nps.gov
Cc: Adams, Jill P. (CID) (FBI); D'Antuono, Steven Michael (WF) (FBI); Richards, Jason W. (WF) (FBI); Myrthil, Lyonel (WF) (FBI); Sundberg, David C. (NH) (FBI)
Subject: RE: The After
Attachments: 21-A-0696 Threat Environment (002).pdf
Categories: Green

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2-534(a)(3), 2-534(a)(10)

Sean

Sean P. Gallagher
Acting Assistant Chief of Police
Protective and Intelligence Operations
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From: Alcocke, Matthew R. (WF) (FBI) <mralcocke@fbi.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 3:33 PM
To: Matt Miller <matthew.miller@usss.dhs.gov>; Jeff Carroll <jeffery.carroll@dc.gov>; michael.plati@usss.dhs.gov; Gallagher, Sean P. <Sean.Gallagher@uscp.gov>; dave_lamond@nps.gov
Cc: Adams, Jill P. (CID) (FBI) <JPAdams@fbi.gov>; D'Antuono, Steven Michael (WF) (FBI) <smdantuono@fbi.gov>; Richards, Jason W. (WF) (FBI) <jwrichards@fbi.gov>; Myrthil, Lyonel (WF) (FBI) <lmyrthil@fbi.gov>; Sundberg, David C. (NH) (FBI) <dcsundberg@fbi.gov>
Subject: The After

Matt, Mike, Jeff, Sean, and Dave:

First, I'm continually impressed with the connection between the partners here, along with the significant collective expertise and the hard drive to get it right.

Sacco, Cristina (EOM)

From: Chervenak, Sarah L. (OPE) (FBI) <slchervenak@fbi.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 10:13 PM
To: Chervenak, Sarah L. (OPE) (FBI)
Subject: FBI DAILY SITREP (U//LES)
Attachments: OPE_SITREP_FINAL_Jan 19.pdf

Categories: Green

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Good evening,

Please find attached the **19 January 2021** National Crisis Coordination Center (NC3) SITREP related to the violence associated with lawful protests.

Please note that this document is **Unclassified//Law Enforcement Sensitive (U//LES)**. The FBI Office of Partner Engagement (OPE) at FBI Headquarters approves further dissemination with your trusted law enforcement, intelligence, and homeland security partners in accordance with the LES handling caveat.

§ 2-534(a)(10), § 2-534(a)(3), § 2-534(e)

[REDACTED]

Thank you.

Unit Chief Sarah L. Chervenak
FBI Office of Partner Engagement
Office: 571-280-5688 or 202-324-0081
Cell: § 2-534(a)(2)



(U) National Crisis Coordination Center Update: Preventing Violence and Criminal Activity January 2021

1700 19 JANUARY 2021

(U//LES) This update was compiled by the Joint Inter-Agency National Crisis Coordination Center in the FBI Strategic Information Operations Center. Information is accurate as of 1400 EST on 19 January 2021. The following agencies contributed to the development of this SITREP: ATF, DEA, DOD, DOJ, DHS, US Park Police, and USMS. Responses provided after the cut-off time will be included in the next SITREP.

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(U//LES) Under FBI policy and federal law, no investigative activity may be based solely on First Amendment activity. The FBI does not investigate, collect, or maintain information on U.S. persons solely for the purpose of monitoring activities protected by the First Amendment. Moreover, the FBI will "maintain no record describing how an individual exercises rights guaranteed by the First Amendment unless expressly authorized by statute or by the individual about whom the record is maintained or unless pertinent to and within the scope of an authorized law enforcement activity." Privacy Act of 1974, section (e)(7).

(U//LES) DIOG Appendix L further restricts the collection of information regarding First Amendment protected activity: the FBI may only collect information relating to the exercise of a First Amendment right if (1) the collection is logically related to an authorized investigative purpose, (2) the collection does not materially interfere with the ability of an individual or a group to engage in the exercise of constitutionally protected rights, and (3) the method of collection is the least intrusive alternative that is reasonable, based upon the circumstances of the investigation. Respondents are reminded that information including tweets, Facebook posts, and "likes" are First Amendment protected speech and "following" and "friending" on social media may be an exercise of the First Amendment freedom of association. The collection of such information therefore requires human review to determine it is pertinent to and within the scope of an authorized law enforcement activity.

(U//LES) Within this legal, and policy framework, the information requested from field offices in this communication is intended to provide timely information to appropriate law enforcement and/or public safety personnel who are authorized to protect facilities, personnel, and the public from imminent threats of violent and/or criminal activity. This document is meant as a summary of significant investigative highlights and NOT as a comprehensive review of ongoing investigations. The information contained in this communication is NOT to be incorporated into any formal or informal written document nor further disseminated without the authorization of the FBI Headquarters, SIOC. Unauthorized use of this information may jeopardize sensitive national security and/or criminal investigations, result in the possible identification and/or physical harm of human sources or create undue notification into the FBI's interest of intended targets.

(U) This communication is intended to provide timely information to appropriate law enforcement and/or public safety personnel who are authorized to protect facilities, personnel, and the public from imminent threats of violent and/or criminal activity. It is related to and within the scope of an authorized law enforcement investigation or investigative activity. Under FBI policy and federal law, no investigative activity may be based solely on First Amendment activity. The FBI does not investigate, collect, or maintain information on U.S. persons solely for the purpose of monitoring activities protected by the First Amendment.

(U) National Crisis Coordination Center (NC3) Executive Summary

(U//FOUO) THE FBI, IN CLOSE COORDINATION WITH ITS FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL PARTNERS, CONTINUES TO MONITOR AND RESPOND TO EVENTS RELATED TO THE VIOLENCE ASSOCIATED WITH LAWFUL PROTESTS.

(U//LES) With the recent threats and civil disturbance at the United States Capitol targeting members of Congress; state, local, and tribal law enforcement jurisdictions are requested to maintain operational awareness of their respective Congressional Representative's district offices and residences for any types of threats or potential criminal activity. At this time, there are no credible threats against any member of Congress.

(U) ELECTORAL CERTIFICATION AND INAUGURATION 2021

- (U//LES) According to open sources, as of 19 January, armed protests are being planned at all 50 state capitols from 16 January through at least 20 January, and at the US Capitol from 17 January through 20 January.
- (U//LES) According to US Park Police and D.C. Metropolitan Police Department, there are 45 planned events in the NCR through 1 February, with estimated sizes of inauguration-related protests ranging from one to 60 committed participants. Twenty-three permit applications listing between four to 5,000 participants were submitted as of 18 January. Planned demonstrations specific to Inauguration Day range in size from one to 897 committed participants with permit applications listing between three to 1,000,000 participants.
- (U//FOUO) As of 19 January, 25,368 National Guard members are providing site security for 28 state capitols. A total of 18,619 National Guard members are on duty in the NCR. As of 18 January, the National Guard in Washington, DC reported attempts by individuals to photograph vehicles and credentials at security checkpoints.
- (U//FOUO) On 16 January, The United States Attorney's Office (USAO) advised all defendants arrested on charges associated with their criminal activity on 6 January at the US Capitol have a stay-away order specific to Washington, DC. USAO DC provided probable cause arrest authority should the FBI identify a defendant attempting to enter Washington, DC.

(U) INVESTIGATIVE INFORMATION

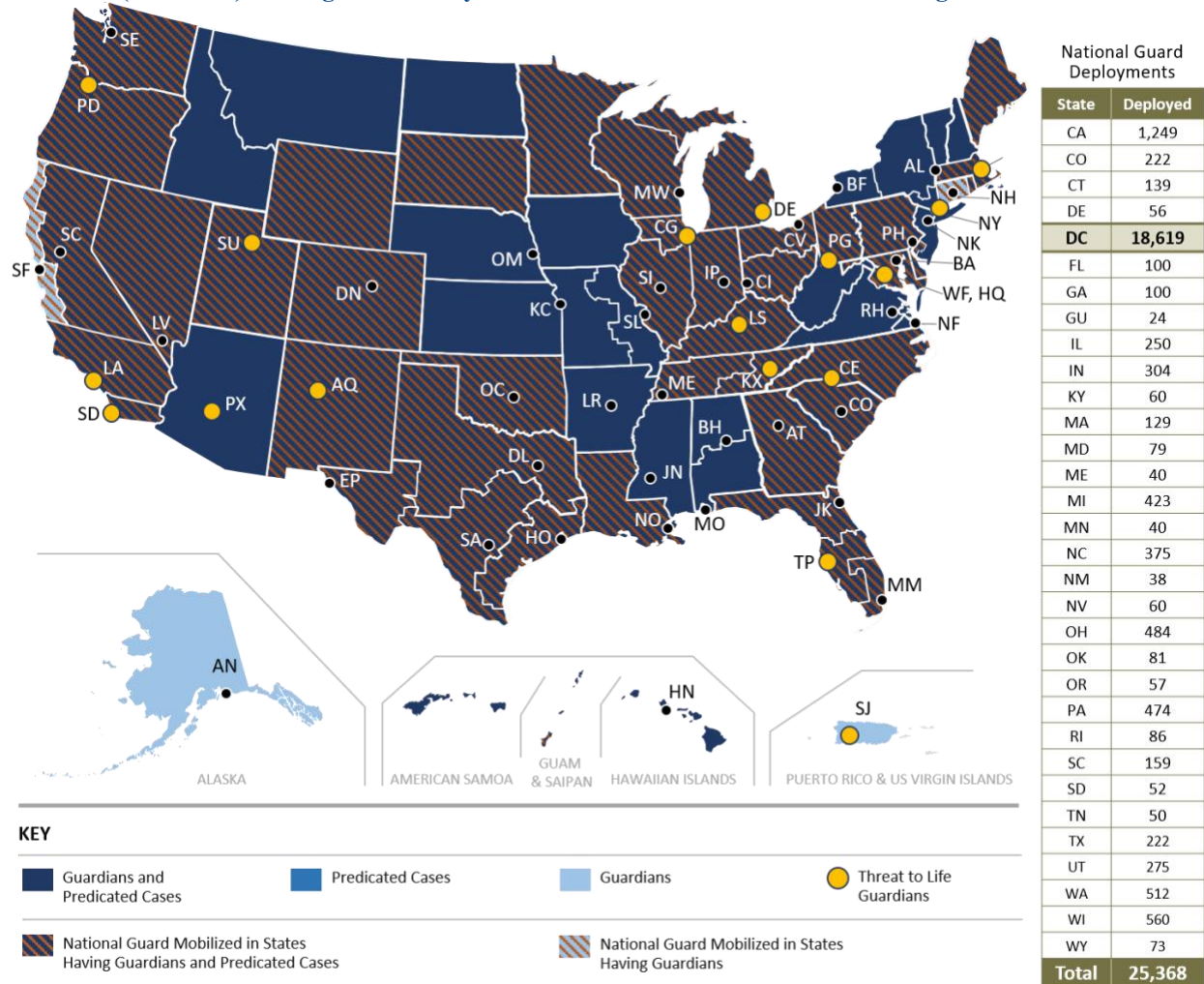
- (U//FOUO) On 6 January, the FBI activated a digital media tip line URL (<https://fbi.gov/USCapitol>) which opened to the public. As of 0700 on 19 January, the FBI has received more than 202,926 digital media tips.

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- (U//LES) As of 0800 on 19 January, approximately 362 persons of interest have been identified as having unlawfully entered the US Capitol. Eighty-nine individuals have been arrested, with an additional **23** outstanding warrants and **20** complaints being reviewed.

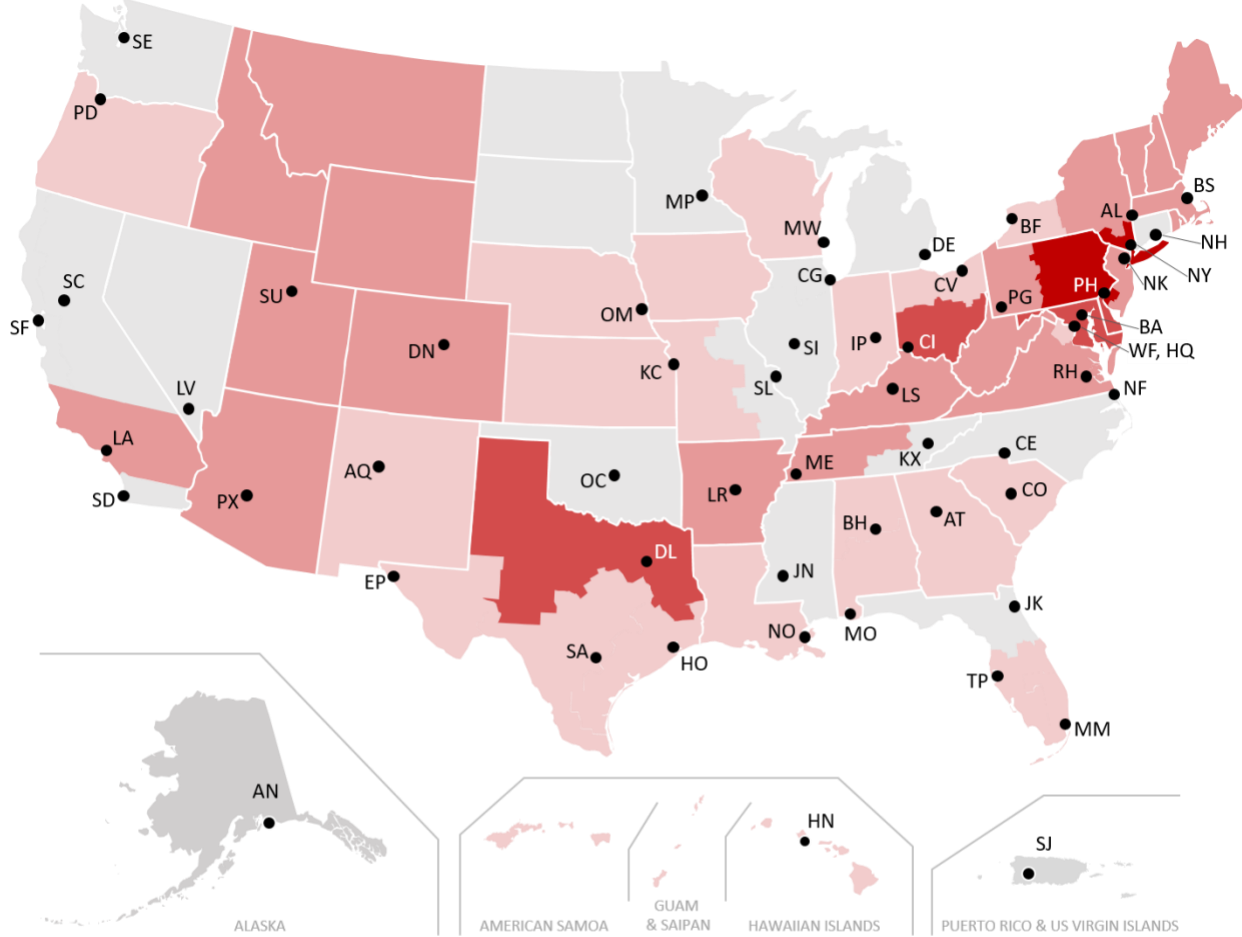
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(U//FOUO) Investigative Activity related to Electoral Certification and Inauguration 2021



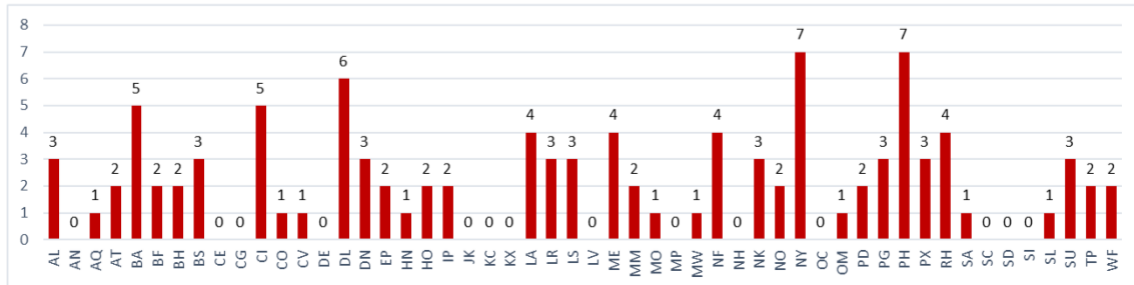
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(U//FOUO) Federal Arrests related to the 6 January Illegal Entry of the US Capitol



KEY

7 – 8 Arrests 5 – 6 Arrests 3 – 4 Arrests 1 – 2 Arrests No Arrests



(U) National Threat Picture Through Inauguration 2021

(U) CURRENT FLASHPOINTS AND RESPONSES

(U) Potential of criminal offenses or violence related to the 6 January 2021 Electoral College certification of the 2020 Presidential Election results for situational awareness – past/ongoing (within last 12-24 hours) and planned (next 12-24 hours) affiliated with Criminal Offenses, threats of Weapons of Mass Destruction, Counterterrorism, and Federal Law Enforcement Deployments.

(U) Past/Ongoing in the last 12 – 24 Hours

- (U) Nothing Significant to Report

(U) Planned in the next 12 – 24 Hours

- (U) Nothing Significant to Report

(U) UPCOMING FLASHPOINTS AND RESPONSE

(U) Possible catalysts to help understand potential flashpoints for upcoming violence, including anniversaries of past events, ongoing legal cases of past incidents where milestones could result in community reaction, or recent events during criminal activity associated with protests (injuries, etc.) that could spark local responses.

(U) Potential Flashpoints by Geographic Location

- (U//LES) **Nationwide:** As of 15 January, general discussions continued across various RMVE-associated social media groups about the publicized protests/rallies scheduled between 17 and 20 January. There was debate about attendance and there seemed to be a variety of opinions on attendance and the validity of who is organizing these events.
- (U//LES) **Nationwide:** As of 10 January, open sources and social media platforms report messaging for armed protests planned at all 50 state capitols between 16 January through at least 20 January, and at the US Capitol in Washington between 17 January through 20 January.

Date	Location	Activity	Projected Numbers
18, 20 January	Washington, DC (Various parks)	Let America Hear Us, Roar for Trump	300 on permit
20 January	Washington, DC	Million Militia March, also called Million Martyr March	897 going and 2300 interested
20 January	Oregon (Capitol, Governor)	“Takeover” General threats	Unknown
20 January	Minnesota (Capitol)	Guns and “toys” to be used at Capitol	Unknown
20 January	Illinois (Capitol)	Unknown	At least 60

- (U//FOUO) **California:** As of 16 January, an identified group was planning to counter protestors at the state capitol on 20 January. The identified group planned to start protesting from J Neely Johnson Park at 1000 and had a mutual agreement not to fight National Guard members and instead focus on police and right-wing actors.
- (U//FOUO) **Nebraska:** As of 11 January, law enforcement became aware of an email sent to the Scottsbluff Sheriff's office from an identified organization which indicated they are calling for investigations into voter fraud and a civil war is upon us and that they can, “muster 1000s of patriots to keep the peace.”
- (U//LES) **Oregon:** An identified group has made general threats to the Oregon State Capitol since December. A complainant stated the group is planning a takeover of the Oregon Capitol on 20 January. As of 15 January, the identified leader of the identified group has advised all members should stand down and not travel to Salem to commit violence.
- (U//LES) **Texas:** As of 14 January, two identified individuals of a known group made threats to the Austin State Capitol via social media and expressed interest in the building and representatives.
- (U//LES) **Texas:** As of 19 January, law enforcement received information that an identified individual was planning to go to the Austin State Capitol on 20 January. The individual reportedly purchased two firearms, ammunition, and flex cuffs. Law enforcement is aware and is coordinating this matter.
- (U//LES) **Virginia and Washington, DC:** According to law enforcement, an identified group is planning a 20 January march from Arlington, VA to “the steps of Joe Biden’s illegitimate inauguration.” The group claims to have 75,000 attendees. As of 19 January, law enforcement vetted the reporting and deems it aspirational.
- (U//FOUO) **Washington, DC:** As of 13 January, an identified group has shifted their plans from descending on the Capitol to promoting gatherings at several DC-area hotels in an effort to prevent other groups from booking at the hotels. Identified travel companies, hotels, and vacation online rental marketplace companies are weighing the business and safety options for the inauguration.

- (U) **Washington, DC:** As of 8 January, users on two identified social networking sites promoted an identified march on 20 January to prevent the President-Elect from entering the White House. As of 13 January, a social media page indicates 897 people are “going” to the event and approximately 2,300 are “interested.”
- (U//LES) **Washington, DC:** On 8 January, the FBI received information on individuals calling for others to join them in “storming” state, local, and federal government courthouses and administrative buildings in the event POTUS is removed as President prior to Inauguration Day. These individuals are also planning to “storm” government offices including in the District of Columbia and in every state, regardless of whether the states certified electoral votes for Biden or Trump, on 20 January.
- (U//LES) **Washington, DC:** On 7 January, the FBI received information about an identified armed group intending to travel to Washington, DC on 16 January. They have warned that if Congress attempts to remove POTUS via the 25th Amendment a huge uprising will occur.
- (U//FOUO) **Washington, DC:** On 8 January, information was received regarding a video posted on an identified website encouraging people to kill Senators and Congress members. The video was threatening violence in Washington, DC on Inauguration day and advised people to bring guns.

(U) Threat To Life

- (U//LES) Multiple reports indicate various threats to harm President-Elect Biden ahead of the Presidential Inauguration. Additional reports indicate threats against VP-Elect Harris and Speaker Pelosi.
- (U//LES) **Nationwide:** As of 19 January, 17 FBI field offices are investigating a total of 40 Threat to Life Guardians, including threats toward prominent politicians and law enforcement and their families.
- (U//FOUO) **Nationwide:** An identified post online, which has since been deleted, discussed targeting identified tech companies, data centers, and media companies; to include references targeting employees at their homes and employees’ children at their schools. Law enforcement is aware these threats, and as of 19 January, has shared the specific threat information with appropriate personnel of an identified tech company.
- (U//LES) **Nationwide:** On an identified social networking website, an identified group advised its members that Jewish communities would be vulnerable to attacks while the police and military were preoccupied with the Presidential Inauguration. The identified group emphasized not to go to Washington, DC due to heightened security, but rather focusing on multiple locations where a centralized force would not be able to respond to as quickly. On 18 January, the FBI’s Office of Public Affairs and Counterterrorism Division held a call with Jewish organizations Secure Communities Network, the Anti-Defamation League, and the Interfaith Alliance to provide additional details regarding this potential threat.

(U) OTHER

- (U//LES) As of 18 January, preliminary reporting suggests an identified social media platform used by some domestic violent extremists (DVE), including Racially Motivated Violent Extremists (RMVEs), are warning participants that law enforcement is conducting interviews. Additional social media messaging suggest that individuals should record their interviews with law enforcement and share the questions with the group.
- (U//FOUO) As of 18 January, an identified international hotel chain received similar bomb threats in three states and Washington, DC with a computerized voice stating, "Bombs have been placed at all Trump Properties to be detonated at an opportune time. This is just the beginning." Bomb sweeps were conducted with negative results.
- (U//LES) According to law enforcement partners, some members of identified groups that attended the 6 January events had planned to use specific radio frequencies for their communication. This information was shared with DC's Office of Unified Communications to program some handheld radios, which were given to US Capitol Police and the Metropolitan Police Department, for monitoring. For additional information related to this topic and tactic please see FBI product titled "Domestic Violent Extremists' Use of Amateur HAM Radios for Communication and Other Pre-Operational Planning" (17 January; SIR-00340433389).
- (U//LES) Mixed reporting is indicating an identified group to "prepare for potential conflict in response to National Guard troops being activated in Washington, DC," while other reporting is indicating the identified group to stand down. As of 14 January, the identified group leadership issued flyers instructing members to stand down until 4 March.

(U) STATE AND LOCAL SURVEY RESPONSES

(U) The Office of Partner Engagement (OPE) disseminated a nationwide survey <https://arcg.is/14fOiz> to state and local partners to capture law enforcement investigative and preparatory activity in their respective area of operations related to the Presidential transition of Power, and enable sharing of national trends.

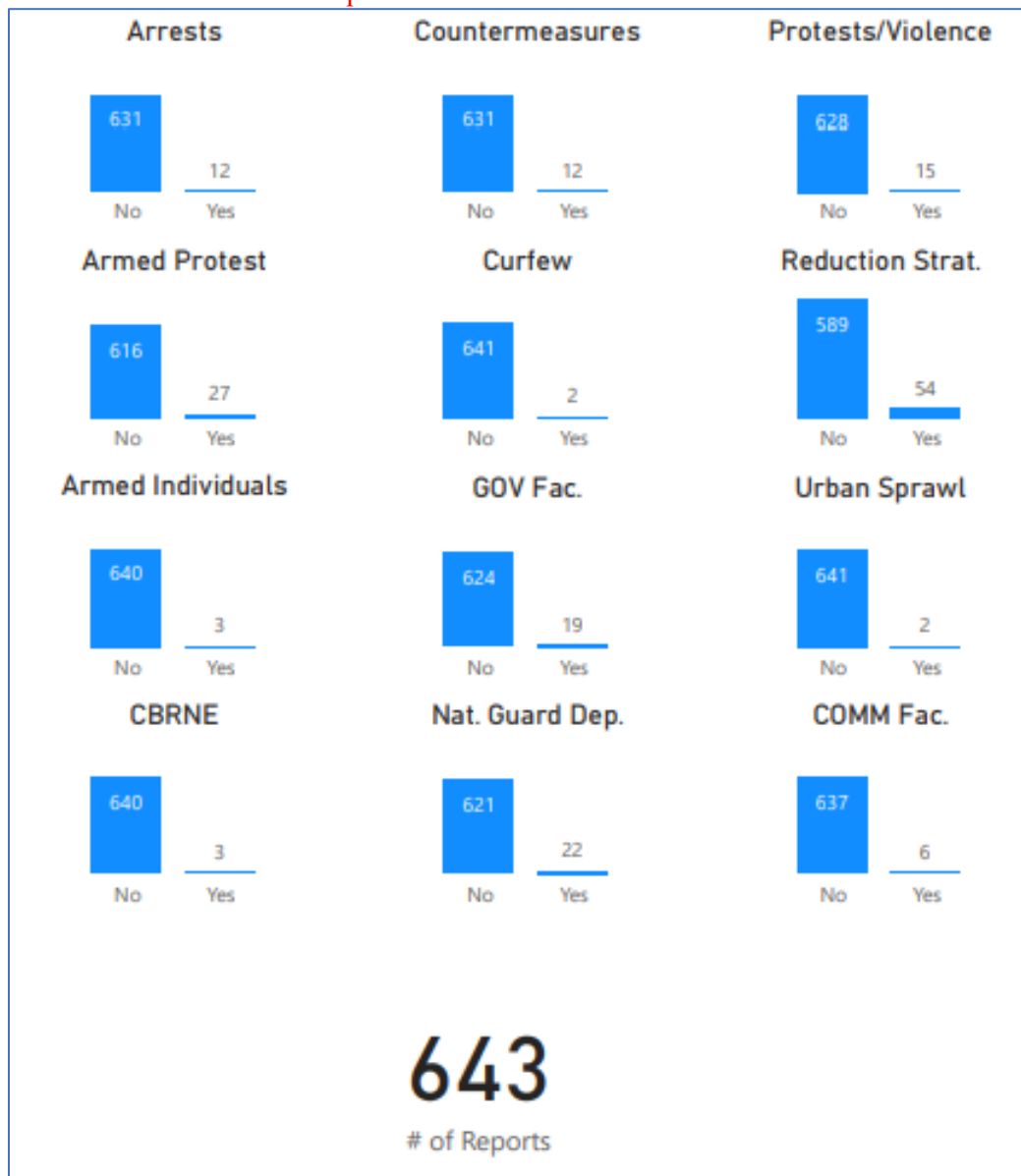
(U//LES) As of 19 January, the FBI had received 643 survey responses to the following questions:

	Survey Question	Yes	No
1	Has there been violence or criminal activity within your jurisdiction that accompanied protests regarding national election results or the inauguration?	15	628
2	Has your office received any indication of armed protests associated with national election results or the inauguration?	27	616
3	Has any such violence or criminal activity spread from urban to suburban areas within your jurisdiction?	2	641
4	Has your jurisdiction implemented a curfew?	2	641
5	Are National Guard deployed in your jurisdiction?	22	621

6	Are any police departments in your jurisdiction engaged in violence reductions strategy which may include marching with protestors or releasing statements in support of peaceful protest activity?	54	589
7	Have government (federal/state/local) facilities been the targets of violent behavior, threats, or criminal activity associated with national election results or the inauguration?	19	624
8	Have commercial facilities been the targets of violent behavior, threats, or criminal activity believed to be associated with national election results or the inauguration?	6	637
9	Have arrests been made within your jurisdiction in response to violence or criminal activity associated with or accompanying protests regarding national election results or the inauguration?	12	631
10	Were any individuals armed while arrested?	3	640
11	Has your office become aware of the use of countermeasures (i.e. radio jamming devices, pre-staged projectiles, incendiary devices, etc.) to misdirect/divert police response to locations of violence or criminal activity?	12	631
12	Has your office responded to chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, or explosive threats reasonably associated with violent activity associated with national election results or the inauguration?	3	640

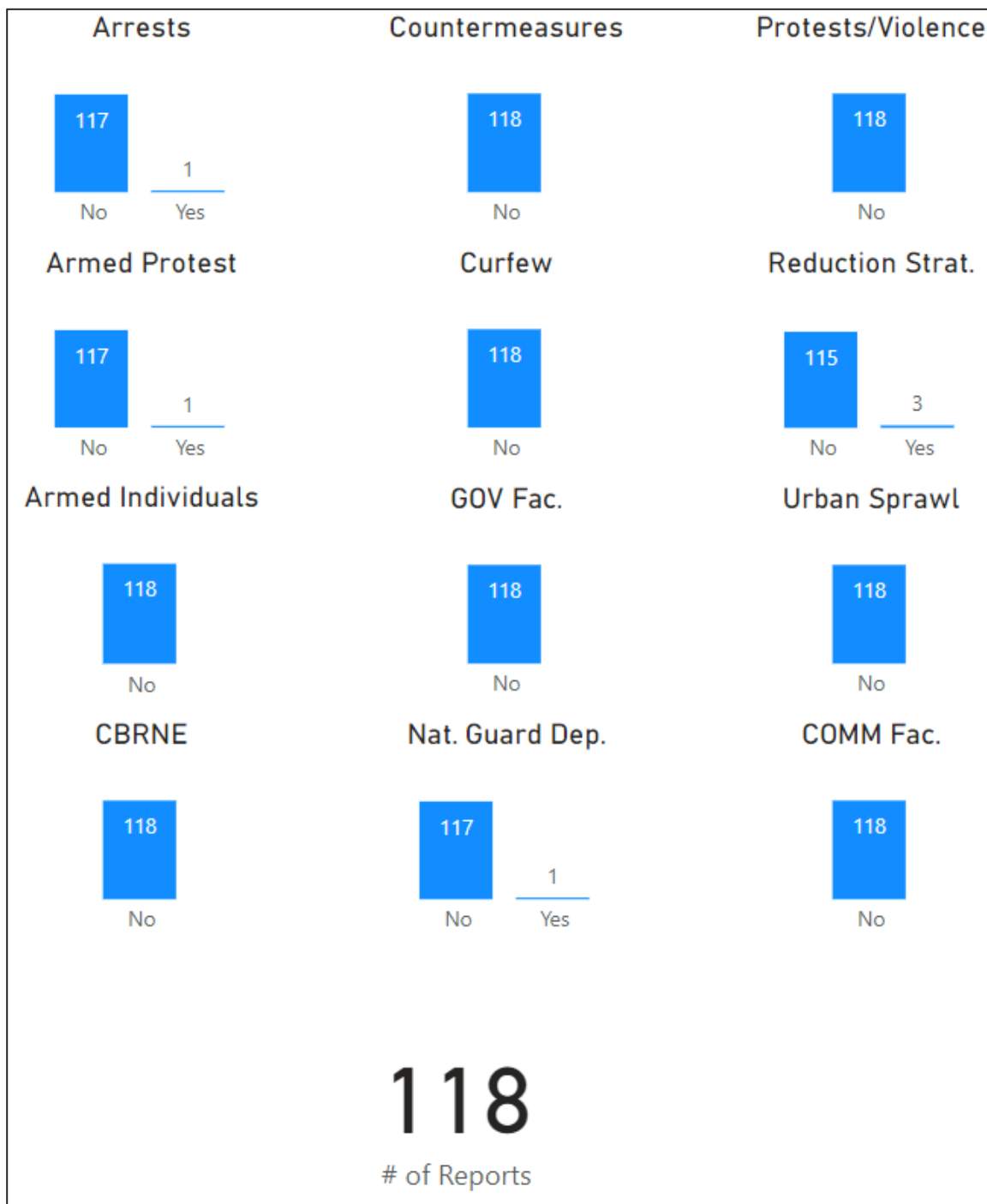
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(U//FOUO) As of 19 January, the bar graph below depicts the total number (643) of survey results received from state and local partners:

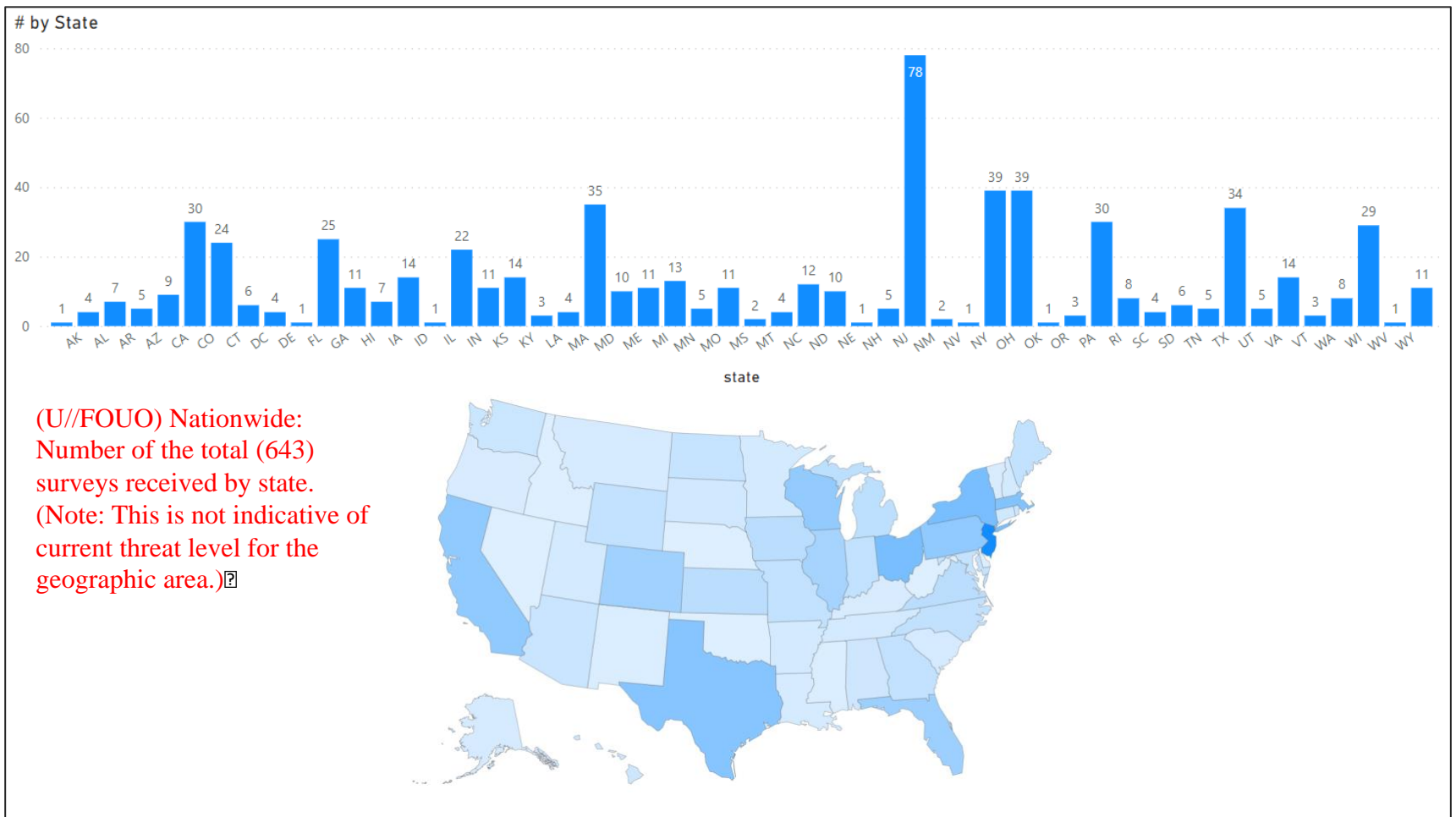


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(U//FOUO) From 18 to 19 January, the FBI received 118 survey results from state and local partners:



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Sacco, Cristina (EOM)

From: INAUG-PICC-INFO <INAUG-PICC-INFO@uss.s.dhs.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 6:14 PM
To: INAUG-PICC-INFO; Glover, Roosevelt; External-§2-534(a)(2) dc.gov; Fata, Lillian - GOV; External-wjnewman@fbi.gov; HUGH PHILLIPS (PID); MICHAEL EBAY (PID); RICHARD ROGERS II (WFO); CHRISTINA FABAC (WFO); MATTHEW PHILLIPS (WFO); ROSANNA DONAGHEY (OPO); Barmonde, Thomas (WF) (DET); External-cookjam@amtrak.com; Chite, Mark; DAMON.C.EDWARDS@cbp.dhs.gov; External-derron.hawkins@dc.gov; Jackson, Keisha (FEMS); Mccray, Jonice; amanda.s.mason4.mil@mail.mil; anh-chi.p.murphy.mil@mail.mil; External-Jonathan.s.ebbert.mil@mail.mil; External-Benjamin.goldberg@dot.gov; gerrityd@state.gov; zurburkinghm@state.gov; herreraama@state.gov; CeasarDN@state.gov; Andres, Alyse; Tu, Raymond H. (BA) (FBI); Wightman, Michael C. (BA) (FBI); Ellis, Loren M. (CIRG) (FBI); Erlendson, Jennifer J. (CIRG) (FBI); Louryk, John B. (WF) (TFO); Marc.L.Bosley@fps.dhs.gov; Ed.Wojciechowski@mail.house.gov; Lauren_Eagan@saa.senate.gov; George.Adams@oig.hhs.gov; James.Lehman@oig.hhs.gov; mark.a.rasmussen.civ@mail.mil; andrew.d.hasser.mil@mail.mil; wanda.c.squirewell.civ@mail.mil; marvin.c.solomon.civ@mail.mil; External-william.c.furmanski.civ@mail.mil; jonathan.m.morgenstein.mil@mail.mil; jessica.curtis@mcac.maryland.gov; External-Alex.Cardella@mcac.maryland.gov; Janczyk, Jeffrey P. (WF) (TFO); External-michael.barbieri@dc.gov; Alvarez, Daniel (WF) (OGA); External-ADonald@wmata.com; MASalata@wmata.com; EMoscouLewis@wmata.com; Ferraro, Alexandra (HSEMA); Marcenelle, Madeline (HSEMA); Mein, John (EOM); Harvin, Donell (HSEMA); Ripley, Patricia L. (WF) (DET); stephebj@nctc.gov; PATRJOM@nctc.gov; Gilliard, Darrell (J2X); Grice, William R; Carlson, Kristoffer B. - GOV; Bahe, Kenneth - GOV; Waller, Markiest D - GOV; Van Den Heever, Paige - GOV; Cooper, Isaiah - GOV; Suszan, Nicholas - CIV; Alexander, Eryn R. (IOD) (FBI); samuel.g.gross.mil@mail.mil; Lay, Amy L.; jeremy.roush@fairfaxcounty.gov; Miller, Michael T. (WF) (OGA); douglas.m.trippamy.mil@mail.mil; Thorward, Brent C. (WF) (DET); catherine.taylor43.mil@mail.mil; External-john.erickson@usc.gov; External-marilyn.guzman@usc.gov; External-john.delegan@usc.gov; External-david.millard@usc.gov; External-usman.saleem@usc.gov; External-john.nugent@usc.gov; External-ryan.mccamley@usc.gov; john.donohue@usc.gov; julie.farnam@usc.gov; Dillon, Joseph; CGINTELLOT@uscg.mil; ronald.mcgarvey@usmc.mil; External-Johnnie.Smith@usdoj.gov; Madagu, Jonathan (USMS); Rose, Michael (HQ-JSD) (USMS); Knutson, Brett (WF) (DET); Rossi, Michael A. (CTD) (CON); Dingeldein, James E. (WF) (DET); External-Mark_varanelli@nps.gov; External-Michael_Libby@nps.gov; External-elizabeth.adams@vdm.virginia.gov; Gene.E.Roddy@whmo.mil; External-douglas.r.reedy@whmo.mil; External-Jeffrey.W.Kuck@whmo.mil; External-Gary.Halton@whmo.mil; 'Hessling, Paul E COL USARMY NG NGB (USA)'
Cc: External-htstapleton@fbi.gov; tmorris@fbi.gov
Subject: USSS Open Source Intelligence Branch Inauguration Week Demonstrations Update for January 19
Attachments: (FOUO--LES) USSS PID Open Source Intelligence Branch_ Inauguration Week Demonstrations Update January 19.pdf
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Please see the attached USSS Open Source Intelligence Branch Inauguration Week Demonstrations Update for January 19.

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Sacco, Cristina (EOM)

From: Intelligence Publications <IntelligencePublications@uscg.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 6:14 PM
To: Ripley, Patricia L. (WF) (DET); Stapleton, Hope T. (WF) (FBI); §2-534(a)(2) dc.gov; Thorward, Brent C. (WF) (DET); derron.hawkins@dc.gov; Gilliard, Darrell K.; andrew.d.hasser.mil@mail.mil; nicholas.suszan@NCIS.NAVY.MIL; stephebj@nctc.gov; jeremy.roush@fairfaxcounty.gov; Smith, Johnnie (USMS); Michael_Libby@nps.gov; CeasarDN@state.gov; Farnam, Julie E.; William.grice@ncis.navy.mil; McCamley, Ryan P.; RICHARD ROGERS II (WFO); catherine.taylor43.mil@mail.mil; Roosevelt.Glover@NCIS.NAVY.MIL; CHRISTINA FABAC (WFO); Cardella, Alex; ROSANNA DONAGHEY (OPO); Barmonde, Thomas (WF) (DET); Andres, Alyse; MATTHEW PHILLIPS (WFO); Alvarez, Daniel (WF) (OGA); Douglas.R.Reedy@whmo.mil; Michael.Barbieri@dc.gov; Phillips, Steve; Dillon, Joseph; anh-chi.p.murphy.mil@mail.mil; Erickson, John M.; ADonald@wmata.com; kristoffer.carlson@NCIS.NAVY.MIL; paige.vandenhoeve@NCIS.NAVY.MIL; Jonathan.s.ebbert.mil@mail.mil; alexandra.ferraro@dc.gov; ronald.mcgarvey@usmc.mil; mark.a.rasmussen.civ@mail.mil; CookJam (EXTERNAL); Janczyk, Jeffrey P. (WF) (TFO); Saleem, Usman NMN.; Ellis, Loren M. (CIRG) (FBI); PATRJOM@nctc.gov; Rose, Michael (HQ-JSD) (USMS); Louryk, John B. (WF) (TFO); KBahe@NCIS.NAVY.MIL; Chite, Mark; madeline.marcenelle@dc.gov; elizabeth.adams@vdm.virginia.gov; Lauren Eagan (EXTERNAL); MICHAEL EBEEY (PID); Alexander, Eryn R. (IOD) (FBI); Mark_varanelli@nps.gov; Guzman, Marilyn C.; marvin.c.solomon.civ@mail.mil; Knutson, Brett (WF) (DET); Madagu, Jonathan (USMS); Keishea.jackson@dc.gov; Marc.L.Bosley@fps.dhs.gov; Lay, Amy L.; Dingeldein, James E. (WF) (DET); william.c.furmanski.civ@mail.mil; Erlendson, Jennifer J. (CIRG) (FBI); samuel.g.gross.mil@mail.mil; Gene.E.Roddy@whmo.mil; isaiah.cooper@NCIS.NAVY.MIL; Edward W. Wojocichowski (EXTERNAL); Nugent, John T.; Millard, David M.; ADAM KIRKWOOD (PID); jessica.curtis@mcac.maryland.gov; jonice.t.mccray.nfg@mail.mil; douglas.m.trippany.mil@mail.mil; Deegan, John R.; Mein, John; Donell, Harvin; Rossi, Michael A. (CTD) (CON); amanda.s.mason4.mil@mail.mil; Newman, William J. (WF) (FBI); Waller, Markiest; wanda.c.squirewell.civ@mail.mil; lillian.fata@ncis.navy.mil; Miller, Michael T. (WF) (OGA)
Cc: Gallagher, Sean P.; Farnam, Julie E.; Berube, Thomas F.
Subject: USCP SAR Digest 1/19
Attachments: 21-A-0707 Suspicious Activity Reports January 7-19 2021v1.pdf
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All:
FYSA. USCP Suspicious Activity Digest for 1/19/2021

jkd

Sacco, Cristina (EOM)

From: Graves, David L CIV DTRA OI (USA) <david.l.graves6.civ@mail.mil>
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 5:37 PM
To: Graves, David L CIV DTRA OI (USA)
Subject: LE-6 [MAY CONTAIN USPER INFO]
Attachments: 20210119 NBIC Monitoring List SLTT ONLY.pdf; OSAC Afernoon Newsletter 1-19-2021.pdf; NJOHSP Week in Review 01-19-2021.pdf; LES SCIIC Inauguration Week Updates Advisory - Final.pdf; home-invasion-death-investigation.pdf; 20210119 LES FBI Wanted Samuel CAMARGO.pdf; DVIC - Potential for Increased Swatting Calls Following Major Public Incidents.pdf; [Non-DoD Source] U.S. Federal Aviation Administration Airport Coronavirus Response Grant Program Update.msg; [Non-DoD Source] Force Health Protection Guidance (Supplement 15) Department of Defense Guidance for Coronavirus Disease 2019 Laboratory Testing Services.msg; [Non-DoD Source] USDA SECURE Rule: Guidance Available for Preparing Proposals to Exempt Plants with Additional Modifications.msg; [Non-DoD Source] U.S. Department of Justice DOJ Press Releases & News Update.msg; [Non-DoD Source] January Update from the HDIAC Director.msg; [Non-DoD Source] U.S. Department of Justice DOJ Press Releases & News Update.msg; [Non-DoD Source] USA Notice of Firefighter Fatality - Rocky Top, TN.msg; [Non-DoD Source] MARAD Authorizes the Construction of Two Additional National Security Multi-Mission Vessels.msg; [Non-DoD Source] FAA Issues Commercial Space Reentry Site Operator License to Space Florida.msg; [Non-DoD Source] USDA Announces Deregulation of Petunias Developed Using Genetic Engineering.msg; [Non-DoD Source] EBB: FBI vetting Guard troops in DC amid fears of insider attack.msg; [Non-DoD Source] NIMS Alert 03-21: FEMA Releases EOC Toolkit Documents.msg; [EEMSG: Marketing][Non-DoD Source] Physical Security and Its Implications on Cybersecurity; Alice in Cyberspace Virtual Conference; Alabama Man With Weapons, 'Hit List' Charged in US Capitol Riot.msg; [Non-DoD Source] Military Tax Services Available Through Military OneSource.msg; [Non-DoD Source] U.S. Department of Justice Cyber Crime Update.msg; [Non-DoD Source] Here's What You Missed from HHS: January 17, 2021.msg; [Trusted Sender] Lessons of service-before-self epitomize Dr. King's legacy.msg; [Non-DoD Source] U.S. Department of Justice DOJ Press Releases & News Update.msg; [Non-DoD Source] Statement on Carrier Strike Group 2021 Joint Declaration Signing.msg; [Non-DoD Source] DOD's Military OneSource MilTax Offers Free Tax Services to Service Members, Families.msg; [Non-DoD Source] National Operations Briefing for Fire and EMS.msg; [Non-DoD Source] Dozens Killed, Some Decapitated, In Suspected Rebel Attack In The Democratic Republic Of Congo.msg; [Non-DoD Source] DOD Launches 'My MilLife Guide' Text Message Program to Boost Wellness.msg; [Non-DoD Source] Sports Heroes Who Served: From Lacrosse Captain to Army Leader.msg; [Non-DoD Source] U.S. Department of Justice DOJ Press Releases & News Update.msg; [Non-DoD Source] U.S. Department of Justice AG News Update.msg; [Non-DoD Source] U.S. Customs and Border Protection Newsroom Update.msg; [Non-DoD Source] U.S. Department of Justice DOJ Press Releases & News Update.msg; [Non-DoD Source] Statement by Acting Secretary of Defense Christopher Miller on Operation Warp Speed Vaccine Doses Delivered Today.msg; [Non-DoD Source] FAA Accepting Applications for Workforce Development.msg; Officer Safety - Home Invasion and Death Investigation - York County SO and FBI (1 of 2).pdf; FOUO - First Amendment Auditors - NC ISAAC.pdf; IOS Suspicious Activity - Attempt to Identify 01.17.21.pdf; 21-A-0696 Bomb Threats FINAL.pdf; MSIAC Request for Information – Suspicious Calls.pdf

Categories: Green

Graves, David L CIV DTRA OI (USA)

To: Graves, David L CIV DTRA OI (USA)
Subject: FW: OSAC Afternoon Newsletter

From: OSAC Admin
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 4:01 PM
Subject: OSAC Afternoon Newsletter



Overseas Security Advisory Council
Research and Information Support
Center
Bureau of Diplomatic Security
U.S. Department of State

Afternoon Newsletter

Dear David Graves,

Your Afternoon Newsletter is ready!

01-19-2021

OSAC Reports

Africa

Niger

OSAC Analysis

[Deadly Attack in Niger Highlights Risks in Tri-Border Region](#)

Europe

Czech Republic

[Demonstration Alert: Prague \(Czech Republic\), Protests Related to U.S. Administrations and Czech COVID Restrictions](#)

Netherlands

[Demonstration Alert: Amsterdam \(The Netherlands\), Anticipated Peaceful Protest in Front of the U.S. Consulate General](#)

Global

Africa

OSAC Analysis

[Organized Crime Threat to COVID-19 Vaccines](#)

Europe

OSAC Analysis

[Organized Crime Threat to COVID-19 Vaccines](#)

Western Hemisphere

OSAC Analysis

[Organized Crime Threat to COVID-19 Vaccines](#)

South & Central Asia

India

OSAC Analysis

[Travel Security Resources for Female Travelers in India](#)

Pakistan

[Demonstration Alert: Islamabad \(Pakistan\), Planned Protest at Election Commission of Pakistan Offices](#)

Western Hemisphere

Nicaragua

[Health Alert: Nicaragua, COVID Testing Availability](#)

Upcoming OSAC Events

Europe

Hungary

[VIRTUAL Country Chapter Meeting: Budapest, Hungary \(January 26\)](#)

Global

[Women in Security Webinar: Learning the Language of Business \(January 27\)](#)

[Europe Regional Committee Winter Webinar \(January 28\)](#)

[Private Sector Security Overseas Seminar \(PSOS\): VIRTUAL Arlington, VA \(April 14-16, 2021\)](#)

[International Organizations/Non-Governmental Organizations Security Overseas Seminar \(IO/NGO SOS\):VIRTUAL \(May 13-14\)](#)

Western Hemisphere

Venezuela

[VIRTUAL Country Chapter Meeting: Caracas, Venezuela \(January 21\)](#)

External News

South & Central Asia

Maldives

[Maldives passes bill allowing elections in health emergency](#)

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From: Federal Aviation Administration <usafaa@info.dot.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 4:22 PM
To: Graves, David L CIV DTRA OI (USA)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] U.S. Federal Aviation Administration Airport Coronavirus Response Grant Program Update

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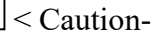
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vMjpbGljaylsImJ1bGxldGluX2kljoiMjAyMTAxMTkuMzM1ODI3NjEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5mYWEuZ292

MjpbGljaylsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoieMjAyMTAxMTkuMzM1ODI3NjEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5mYWWEuZ292L8378360-l >



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From: [APHIS Stakeholder Registry](#)
To: [Graves, David L CIV DTRA OI \(USA\)](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] USDA SECURE Rule: Guidance Available for Preparing Proposals to Exempt Plants with Additional Modifications
Date: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 4:05:00 PM

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The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is sharing Guidance for Preparing Proposals to Exempt Plants with Additional Modifications from regulation under the Sustainable, Ecological, Consistent, Uniform, Responsible, Efficient (SECURE) rule.

On August 17, 2020, exemptions from the SECURE rule became effective, as did a process for developers to request confirmation from APHIS that a modified plant meets the criteria for exemption from the biotechnology regulations in 7 CFR part 340. Over time, APHIS expects new plant breeding innovations to evolve with advances in science and technology, along with further developments of scientific information related to conventional plant breeding. To ensure they keep pace with these advances and developments, the biotechnology regulations include a process by which the Administrator can identify additional modifications that plants can contain and be exempt from the regulations, based on what could be achieved through conventional breeding. This guidance document describes the process members of the public may use to prepare and submit proposals to exempt plants with additional modifications from regulation.

This guidance document, along with additional information on this provision of the SECURE rule, can be found on the APHIS website [Caution-https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/biotechnology/biotech-rule-revision/secure-rule/secure-about/340_2017_perdue_biotechreg].

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USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service 4700 River Rd Riverdale, MD 20737
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Sacco, Cristina (EOM)

From: U.S. Department of Defense <govdelivery@subscriptions.defense.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 8:24 AM
To: Graves, David L CIV DTRA OI (USA)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] DOD Launches 'My MilLife Guide' Text Message Program to Boost Wellness

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Features: Feature stories from around the Defense Department [Caution-
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A soldier shares a cell phone image with another man. [Caution-
<https://www.defense.gov/Explore/Features/Story/Article/2470604/dod-launches-my-millife-guide-text-message-program-to-boost-wellness/?source=GovDelivery>]

DOD Launches 'My MilLife Guide' Text Message Program to Boost Wellness Jan. 19, 2021 | By Connected Health Communications Office To support the military community, the Defense Department recently launched My MilLife Guide, a new program that sends text messages designed to help the military community boost overall wellness while navigating stresses related to COVID-19.

Read More [Caution-<https://www.defense.gov/Explore/Features/Story/Article/2470604/dod-launches-my-millife-guide-text-message-program-to-boost-wellness/?source=GovDelivery>]

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Sacco, Cristina (EOM)

From: U.S. Department of Defense <govdelivery@subscriptions.defense.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 10:01 AM
To: Graves, David L CIV DTRA OI (USA)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] DOD's Military OneSource MilTax Offers Free Tax Services to Service Members, Families

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U.S. Department of Defense Releases [Caution-<https://www.defense.gov?source=GovDelivery>]

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DOD's Military OneSource MilTax Offers Free Tax Services to Service Members, Families Jan. 19, 2021 The Defense Department announced the annual launch of Military OneSource's MilTax suite of 100% free tax services for the military community.

Read More [Caution-<https://www.defense.gov/Newsroom/Releases/Release/Article/2475212/dods-military-onesource-miltax-offers-free-tax-services-to-service-members-fami/?source=GovDelivery>]

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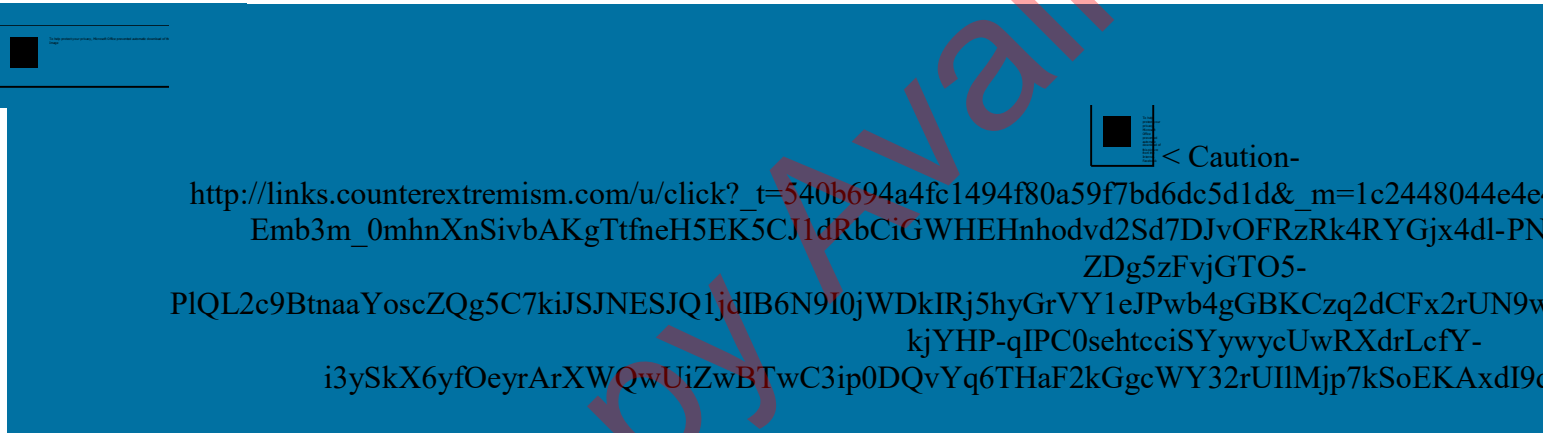
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Sacco, Cristina (EOM)

From: CEP's Eye on Extremism <info@counterextremism.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 8:46 AM
To: Graves, David L CIV DTRA OI (USA)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Dozens Killed, Some Decapitated, In Suspected Rebel Attack In The Democratic Republic Of Congo

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CNN: Dozens Killed, Some Decapitated, In Suspected Rebel Attack In The Democratic Republic Of C
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wwa_ofNOWyLATO9BOSSCc7K2DlfbqMm7lpc3kY_4FjTNwTODItBu8JCNvT_WhfSLILzGlgjSNTNSi0E
JEo1aHlheaJSdiPPo5imUcYd_urwhFBGss9r6rpdO4aJZScz0w86d9QZz9D0HsgfiSDOvP9IJANK2ulAM

"Forty-six people from the ethnic Pygmy group were killed -- some of them decapitated -- on Wednesday in others with machetes in Ambedi, a village in Irumu territory in Ituri province, said Christophe Munyanderu, re attributed the attack to the Allied Democratic Forces, a rebel group that operates in the region. Two of the a provincial government. Munyanderu said that a Pygmy who was hunting during the attack determined the d

Voice Of America: Pakistan Arrests Suspected Islamic State 'Fundraiser' < Caution-http://links.coun

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A2WdwYJFKzmZ5JWxes3xkvdIFBGrJ4zTsiqJBjZU7ukivlYbWBPQx1ueoA_nNL_naloXr9_KK2vVVYR
FdqlExWa_HvfGVBgvSlcBBjhr0Ux96FE6M3CeTZmaSZBU93e0SEWdPk73PfBM80K6jvG0AFG4-jbEX

“Authorities in Pakistan said Monday they have arrested a university student in the southern port city of Karachi with Afghanistan and killed two senior “terrorists” in the ensuing firefight. It said that a third militant “got injured” student at the city’s NED University of Engineering and Technology. He was trying to board a train before being sent to Syria.” Daesh is the Arabic name for Islamic State. The statement said the detainee was involved in deadly attacks in Pakistan in recent years.”

United States

ABC Caution-news: Beyond Domestic Terrorists, Officials Eye Foreign Influence, Drones As Threats
http://links.counterextremism.com/u/click?_t=540b694a4fc1494f80a59f7bd6dc5d1d&_m=1c2448044eZQTX2IRASNA_m_NsKYjXrfZtJuvHRu86Tt0vh3cneLMcMiqj7uvPnaALCcT71oRBaoer_x0k4JKwcGhf3KRgoRJK7U1ERkbJLJXzfi0JrQLbZSifqdKrVu5hKiOBj9WK4kzi9zLe67la6BT0lcPi4Qy92SF3Zvbr6_We7emJ2mvNcL8iKy74bU0B4PWdA33LE%3D >

“Since a violent mob of President Donald Trump’s supporters attacked the U.S. Capitol last week, U.S. officials’ assessment issued Thursday by several federal and local agencies makes it clear that U.S. agencies are prepared to respond. “Since the incident at the U.S. Capitol, Russian, Iranian, and Chinese influence actors have seized the opportunity to promote claims the rioters at the Capitol last week were actually members of the radical left-wing antifa movement who might target critical infrastructure or U.S. personnel supporting the inauguration.”

The Washington Post: FBI Probes Possible Connections Between Extremist Groups At Heart Of Capitol Riot
Emb3pPrsLFu-TA8nSAzFpIP0u45pcYHz8G6Trq6CDIE0yQ2up9NXcVTtOk5hfy6Jqb0KrES6UcvpSjAelzV8DVA5l2himsG9_tNRc4g8FDuYLd9FNhQzmSp4r_lqkptLwBOJZAgsSxmcjLhzHBMUagPYrDjZU22qNlsjKWYwsNMH8VC0sUCuuukt7iOr7m_hnor6ntSnKywWAI9AIR1mB1uVsMDbDO0k58JQCr5umr3OV

“The FBI investigation of the Capitol riot has begun to zero in on potential key figures in the chaos, including those who revealed themselves as participating in the Jan. 6 riot through social media boasts. But the weekend arrest of those newly charged was Robert Gieswein, 24, of Woodland Park, Colo. Charging documents and videos in the case include members who discussed storming the Capitol about an hour ahead of the riot.”

Mother Jones: Ahead Of Biden’s Inauguration, Extremists Trade Bomb Making Instructions And Tactical Advice
Emb3grkqztmeqeq9UAndpWT1chsG0a4YfBdZ5hOMDpylZa8rmcbOMMxPKPUzhHleNqOxHKYtf1m5pPnKXCGPwCzDaZ2prNBHdgvUvKVQtn3mUN9ojxjN9tQpDJKLaLMRSIsNn5hoj5n71nFbMZldIXz8ypfw

“Ahead of an Inauguration that experts and federal officials have warned could culminate in violence, extremist right-wing extremist channels on the messaging app, Telegram, anonymous users are sharing instructions on how to

using MediaFire, a file-hosting service, with instruction guides for building homemade explosives, silencers, preparing for an anticipated second civil war have shared materials including a United States Marine Corps Nazis calling on their followers to carry out lone-wolf attacks and sharing other tactics on Telegram and 8ku

Syria

AI Monitor: Did Islamic State Make Comeback To Opposition Areas In Countryside Of Aleppo? < Cau
Emb3uQp0KOJxobVj_MIKC_oTegz7EjF-HuCvmCKR65cUeCm7JDdStaoN4ypczEpXorOGNhW106qpz
Pya0yVDoloDBAlfFViKQgEupJw49AJdLafX65R9BUn6rhkISgBC5glg9hyvk7Ryt87H1WVVZfpj1dQ19d
NIJ4yncR0NSJb15roQ6_1Wa7hNP_BcnN5xfbXXhhEDK3KYWPbnA6IzQFPW3CY32zvQVve-0DFI7ErC

“Syria TV correspondent and journalist Bahaa al-Halabi survived an assassination attempt Jan. 6 in the Tur and fired their bullets directly at him. The incident sparked controversy and fear among activists and journal Bab and other opposition-controlled areas are experiencing in the countryside of Aleppo. They believe bom the region. Other journalists believe the attempt to assassinate Halabi has the Islamic State's (IS) fingerprint agents. On Dec. 12, 2020, journalist Hussein Khattab was assassinated in a similar manner in al-Bab. Two

Voice Of America: Obscure Islamist Group Targets Turkish Military In Northwest Syria < Caution-htt
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5yE6OV3Zap0UuyuGDujP9q9PusKzMEDKKgCtJWP3bLbXZVUIk8Ql1oM4T8pZDfAlaQRbOtBkmGU4-
2sfdv3riLxHJdjUeJUt00BiMALa2qHYbzJ85Q3yX8hoiDJO9qfRtvtJNQqtunAnpneVSn4ohe6FCOVw%3

“A small Islamist militant group has claimed responsibility for an attack on Turkish forces in the northwestern Idlib province. A sniper platoon of the Abu Bakr al-Siddiq Squadron targeted one of the main bases of the ‘Turkish NATO’ militia in a heavy assault, according to local news media. The Turkish government has not commented. Idlib is the last major Syrian city held by al-Qaida-affiliated groups and Turkish-backed rebels also have a significant presence in the Syrian enclave.”

Asharq Al-Awsat: ISIS Landmines Kill 10 Russia-Backed Fighters In Syria's Homs < Caution-<http://lil>
Emb3o1uFR0X_ykEYxRQcVcTq1xqXbqsTpm5wVEbl45U8GZu4ggUgAk9mxsnJt7pxCe3U08rVVbaWl
cvghJq3Rk8IO0f7J3EkKX0JtkDc4VbrhoTa4lisFlg7ChcdYvklHaecqgf4nplurdpnJWxt1n2lcWRVxSA_1
sceRKQVRGF2ytxgwyB07t7n1kubukNro1JYA42y4SxCf5gcHcD38D3a4Xt2Fer3uzmaTPKqM6bhVqeE

"Ten Russia-backed fighters were killed when ISIS landmines exploded in al-Tayba area in al-Sukhna, in Syria's Aleppo, Hama and Raqqa. The Russia-backed forces launched a security campaign in the deserts of Deir Ezzor to secure the Deir Ezzor-Homs road. ISIS has recently increased its attacks against regime forces, killing and wounding many soldiers in the easternmost parts of the Deir Ezzor province in the east. On December 30, ISIS targeted three busses and several vehicles on the Damascus-al-Raqqah highway in the beginning of the year."

Iraq

Kurdistan 24: ISIS Attacks In Disputed Iraqi Town Leave Security Force Member Dead, 3 More Injured
Emb3iCZRCA8y4Q_nGnp1oJ3tf2m0RGT8ennLTenZACqX0BCTDPwkUnwLW1qWb2ytiv2JTcajJrvKj_i
ar09euP3pNV8rCA3XzsN8Ob6EW2SG1cCpSxHnG8c7fAACjSQqL6TekcUVLZMPbvU9wXyHZVpo3lilz
1YeE1DW60vbEwF1ogefrTiGFvNISTBt7bQYVDUY6iJbKYVjdqo6KgexURf4wbHu_RmcD2ANIDA5w

“Islamic State fighters launched a double attack late Friday evening, killing one security force member and wounding three others in Jalawla, near the town of Khanaqin. A security source told Kurdistan 24 that Islamic State militants infiltrated Jalawla's al-Shuhada neighborhood, attacking security forces and civilians in disputed areas in Diyala, Salahuddin, and Kirkuk provinces. The extremist group claimed responsibility for the attack. At the same time, Kurdistan 24 correspondent also reported that an Iraqi soldier was wounded by sniper fire at a checkpoint in the north of the whole of Iraq.”

Afghanistan

The New York Times: She Killed An American In 2012. Why Was She Freed In The Taliban Deal? < Caution
Emb3lr6BLECAKJ2sr9G8mK3FTLrJJxVf6KknrB4xYk0Rku7M34bVTgUUNNRqNWtIEk7DsHxQcXDypt
s7QNWZmcAQDdM965ZYvGtXwm4i_1st5OKXqW9dTuvGiam3EeNG7CMYJMFoa0IRpPXHTQtBG1FEY
qpUMMK3uPGQlakHaB730azb8PDfWVSuR0jVtmZAr6r2cW0EfTQqo7rSvsF5VKAnEwDZIss3rhOKP14

“Nargis Mohammad Hasan was serving as an Afghan police officer when she shot and killed an American contractor in 2001. Ms. Hasan’s possible motives for the killing have always been murky. Having emigrated from Iran, she was released by the Taliban’s decision last year to call for her release even though they acknowledge that she was not a Taliban fighter. U.S. State Department negotiators dismissed the F.B.I. and diplomats’ opposition to her release, according to a senior State Department official. It was one of the difficult decisions that efforts to end a war can bring.”

NBC Caution-news: Airstrike In Afghanistan Bombs Taliban Target. Now 18 Members Of One Family Killed
http://links.counterextremism.com/u/click?_t=540b694a4fc1494f80a59f7bd6dc5d1d&_m=1c2448044eRzB0nb1eo3QKZPIPJS-a0QKLICMENJ921IKVBHHRK1tv1x2nen9Pc_nQDSSszRaihGp20ffv9fjZAgPzRBEz_MhjoCathkabqHaztiwbbyM8EPvpCAbU2CwFJBR8uAkFc0cx9WbyoPtM-kIGsXr3a-KEuRRHrdD4

“Mir Hatim says he spent the early hours of Jan. 10 sifting through the bombed-out house of his relatives, south of Jalalabad in Nimroz province around midnight on Jan. 9. “We witnessed one of the most savage acts by the government forces. The others took their remains to the provincial capital, Zaranj, on the border with Iran, to show local officials that the government was not Monday that a strike in the district had targeted a Taliban hideout, and said that nine Pakistani terrorists and 18 members of one family were killed.”

Al Jazeera: Two Afghan Female Judges Shot Dead In Kabul Ambush < Caution
http://links.counterextremism.com/u/click?_t=540b694a4fc1494f80a59f7bd6dc5d1d&_m=1c2448044eEmb3kRD4ImP_MQ3a7wv4BhHK9PSuMwQDMKrSmpZdQFCQmsdAVM4IIPzKokVrVfxqN-l9w0LCml-f-tw2e15o_Latjrmg6tJm1sMbCK85PWZHSr0S0NKle9r3hg7CpUA17APogq6vZ6gexWCLQKp5IUSIJJaYG9FHZKdqDzoD2m1Az7i9vxAoleewVk1

“Two female judges have been killed by unknown gunmen in an ambush early on Sunday in Afghanistan’s capital, Kabul. The group was not responsible. Violence has surged across Afghanistan in recent months despite ongoing peace talks.”

two days after the Pentagon announced it cut American troop levels in Afghanistan to 2,500, the lowest in n park killed at least 20 court employees and wounded 41. In recent months, several prominent Afghans – inc Taliban for the attacks, a charge the militia has denied.”

Bloomberg: Taliban Call On Biden To Honor Trump Deal To Remove U.S. Troops < Caution-<http://links.coun>
Emb3nJJ0dys6hIAe_6a8tx08lg_5p4PpjJLJockA5ug3nBOIKyQEKpX8YeMD60ELtMWfQe7aft2io8zja1V
WZjuOf-E9ckDkVcCJhhjlg9d_dLJKT7IsWGq4FsjkEB4TWZLk_sv87_fggdGmRTqLS1cTs3SIneQpNtIU
ITOK4nNWxHswKfs4ylDhvaVyUjIJK0ttoIVJTbYScCXfaN9oLKykKGW4jAZ5kSFcUG7zxCtbUD7dEQiG

“The Taliban has called on President-elect Joe Biden to honor a U.S. agreement to withdraw all American fo was made for the purpose,” Mohammad Naeem, a senior spokesman in the Taliban’s political office in Doha guarantees. “The lack of complete implementation of the agreement can affect the ongoing process of nego from both Republican and Democrat lawmakers who’ve warned of the potential impact on counter-terrorism

Yemen

Al Jazeera: Calls Grow For Biden To Reject Houthi ‘Terrorist’ Designation < Caution-<http://links.coun>
Emb3kRD4ImP_MQ3a7wv4BhHK9Ppxy9bzroTD-Jj7Ue6BpuAbS-
knfudj6e4JJtjduGL3EA_QnxRG7niVTRpyzNfn0X2E0XEUN37gPeJSaBE82x0Qw7qXbwqG6oldqTisom
esqIPdzJVMoiLt1Jzkhk3ltZMpkQR95IzQocuCEWYm3G7TBURPGkMo1yQ0NafrTOSajvci_xajy1858VA

“Dozens of civil society and faith-based groups in the United States are urging President-elect Joe Biden to Churches and Health Alliance International said “rather than being a catalyst for peace, these designations settlement to the conflict, and further undermine U.S. national security interests in the region”, the letter reac foreign policy move – part of Trump’s “maximum pressure” campaign against Iran and its allies, such as the

Nigeria

Reuters: Residents Flee Islamist Insurgent Attack On Town In Northeast Nigeria < Caution-<http://link>
Emb3kA6GSyP_2vEMQmUSZGMnu5KkzbTZNxGc6ZonMeP8aTwl-kscMCHz04ruKulGEmeGIGQPp6R
QGY3hqWulaOrWa7NuJ3sxuvRCfPJ9c0C2-858bMuiSXDn75egr5V36dpx1o4dlmUA1R3In9bnYVYRSc
mCDnbFix_SzrbyGfzNn52J1ekCMWvR4HCcvGxda70LyJiz8Owl-kZJ9dK9pFdN5exd45MECsh1q_0eni

“Government troops and several hundred residents have been forced to flee after Islamist insurgents overra months after residents driven from their homes by Islamist attacks had returned to the town under a govern government faces as it tries to return people displaced by the violence. Soldiers fled during Friday’s assault whether there had been any deaths. The sources said they believed the insurgents were part of ISWAP. An number of attackers, it said.”

Al Jazeera: Armed Group Captures Military Base In Northeast Nigeria < Caution-<http://links.coun>
Emb3kRD4ImP_MQ3a7wv4BhHK9NK5Lh9ipTGU_U843gX39p3UIJkp8HTIpeGpRcC5Ym1zhXs5XxzNn

NVSdv7eu34i8sFi4Ci78jMW6fFxP3aMt3AKqdjqpeBD8skv8sQsfoGvwp-deL76OSICRjyxLTkk5jzrOvTy
h891NOPYPu7kcb00CW6BCGWQJeJ83_VH_xliyTaWOTfs9plpBQJyX48oX4PJ >

“Government troops and hundreds of residents have been forced to flee after an armed group overran a town in West Africa Province (ISWAP) attacked the base in the town of Marte in the Lake Chad area overnight on February 1. The source said ISWAP took a hit from ISWAP terrorists. They raided the base in Marte after a fierce battle.” The second source said ISWAP “withdrew” to defend against an attack outside Marte. Troops had “effectively destroyed” seven gun trucks and other vehicles. Further details, it said seven people had been killed, and one captured, and that its fighters had seized weapons and ammunition.

Somalia

SOFREP: US Airstrike Kills Al-Shabaab Extremist Leader In Somalia < Caution-http://links.counterextremism.com/u/click?_t=540b694a4fc1494f80a59f7bd6dc5d1d&_m=1c2448044e6b5g5WY5IOVjyVUj89qR3cB_xY-Va02xUngl0hwSGEF_92g8cn2_8IKab8u8EeQoojcjWMf0SV1wSDWt0FGs6VLfMk8NektBKSpKMm7w7T1XYZjq0Oe8SCqAEVYBdMqaCjIDcXFIRL5RfaDKWLslpGLh_47eS0LcJkajyggCiUAC1P_lyQcE0QyqtPRzf2jMQXnPVDilqcrtSoA1TEqTg1t2fJyS9fXreTrGOO1H_3HYkpF2H >

“The U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM) is keeping the pressure on the terrorist group al-Shabaab in Somalia by conducting an airstrike in the vicinity of Buulo Fulaay in southern Somalia killing one of the group’s members. In a released statement, AFRICOM said the strike “resolve and degrades al-Shabaab’s ability to threaten Somalia and its neighbors,” said U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen. Robert “Bob” Brown. That AFRICOM has hit al-Shabaab in Somalia with airstrikes. On January 1, the command conducted two airstrikes on al-Shabaab compound buildings.”

Africa

Reuters: At Least 48 Dead In Militia Attack On El Geneina, West Darfur - SUNA < Caution-http://links.counterextremism.com/u/click?_t=540b694a4fc1494f80a59f7bd6dc5d1d&_m=1c2448044e6b5g5WY5IOVjyVUj89qR3cB_xY-Va02xUngl0hwSGEF_92g8cn2_8IKab8u8EeQoojcjWMf0SV1wSDWt0FGs6VLfMk8NektBKSpKMm7w7T1XYZjq0Oe8SCqAEVYBdMqaCjIDcXFIRL5RfaDKWLslpGLh_47eS0LcJkajyggCiUAC1P_lyQcE0QyqtPRzf2jMQXnPVDilqcrtSoA1TEqTg1t2fJyS9fXreTrGOO1H_3HYkpF2H >

“At least 48 people died and 97 people were injured in a militia attack on the West Darfur city of El Geneina. The attack is increasing, and was triggered when a member of the Masalit tribe stabbed a member of an Arab tribe, hurt him, and killed him. As the nearby Kreinding camp for internally displaced people, from where SUNA said there was now a wave of violence, the government of Omar al-Bashir armed militias to help repress a revolt. “We have warned several times a

United Kingdom

Daily Mail: Britain's Youngest Terrorist Who Was Jailed For Plotting To Behead A Police Officer In A http://links.counterextremism.com/u/click?_t=540b694a4fc1494f80a59f7bd6dc5d1d&_m=1c2448044e6b5g5WY5IOVjyVUj89qR3cB_xY-Va02xUngl0hwSGEF_92g8cn2_8IKab8u8EeQoojcjWMf0SV1wSDWt0FGs6VLfMk8NektBKSpKMm7w7T1XYZjq0Oe8SCqAEVYBdMqaCjIDcXFIRL5RfaDKWLslpGLh_47eS0LcJkajyggCiUAC1P_lyQcE0QyqtPRzf2jMQXnPVDilqcrtSoA1TEqTg1t2fJyS9fXreTrGOO1H_3HYkpF2H >

“Britain's youngest convicted terrorist who planned to behead police officers at an Anzac Day parade can be released from prison in Melbourne. He exchanged more than 3,000 encrypted mobile app messages with Besim after he became a police officer. The teenager, from Blackburn in Lancashire, was jailed for life at Manchester Crown Court in October 2015. In a document detailing the decision, the Parole Board said: 'After considering the circumstances of the case, the teenager took on the role of 'organiser and adviser' and suggested beheading or using a car to kill officers.”

Metro: Brexit Will Disrupt Hunt For UK's Most Wanted Fugitives, Terrorism Expert Warns < Caution-
Emb3qd9fm2ydNEsBSycf-nO9XdoLMevaZZc_Vt-0BsWVziJ4QDFHJeBVyMfWP6Sj12saCGDnssAxuH
f41CWlqLkslOaiFXrdVdLLaJX1IAiObyA41mLxX_PrDoX3whqPelZAD1APpMH6Gb2eiaDxekDeCE_Md
9MROcqllzg3Ob6toD9_tRYvV46BNt5oK7o0XifzWRRyJ46gdSzvOKU-aTUKPUazfyWGwYNHjY_75Y1q

“The hunt for some of the UK's most wanted terrorists will be disrupted by Brexit, a former counter terrorism expert has warned. The expert was on the radar after the end of mutual security arrangements with the EU. The British diplomat was involved in a key role in the hunt for Osman after the January 1 departure from the EU. Sir Ivor was the British Ambassador to Italy at the time Osman was arrested. The Information System II (SIS II), which British law enforcement accessed around half a billion times annually, was used to track Osman's shifts to the far-right in the wake of the deadly riot at the US Capitol.”

Germany

Associated Press: 2 Syrians Charged With Terrorism Over Army Officer's Killing < Caution-http://links.cou
Emb3rGX3yyg2Inq0Tz2anBDXG7iCcpeGK83hp2C6rflzl3FkgGLMT-
4__rXy5iioDpnW_InnXHcaQaWHH0Zr6zxJy4sySB1dIK59RIBZ1VInqJLbf1fd_L5e7HKFEksDm94zMTR
ysbibdX3avOVOJZw6bp12t2LSg0eZavM_1stAQzICm-mXiR9AE22hBCvCp9Kuag1fn2pR3wEqKjX45b

“Two Syrians have been charged in Germany for alleged links to a terrorist organization on suspicion they were charged with supporting a terrorist organization on allegations they were acting on behalf of the Nusra Front in Naumburg, in eastern Germany, and in the western city of Essen. The pair are suspected of taking part in the attack on the site. Sami A.S. is suspected of filming the officer's shooting and preparing the footage for use as propaganda.”

Europe

Reuters: Greece Arrests Suspected Syrian Militant Wanted In Netherlands < Caution-http://links.cou
Emb3kA6GSyP_2vEMQmUSZGMnu4PEEQrhwlmgSPkd29sduTFPSq4Fr-
aqHt_lxysglsc3YK1V4ZzHTICrCFKghTjG46HSu8b1KrjVu5G6W8fKIGk17KO8fj pz7e3nS84JyBFSpxOt3
h2YBmmM80B0rFrw7Vdi7Hf6nzuaEylMqQTO6EV0HjjYDVTIhIBbunwEJutsCmCD43KkVKJ9mBIklpXo
7kwJGBdYwmQrOILD8HhPwBVxeK5lcpIz_bvzGHcFtSKLJzwrSUBVFvWGZ2sV8s-7sMpaDpd >

“Greek authorities have arrested a 37-year-old Syrian asylum seeker wanted in the Netherlands for suspected terrorism where he was arrested on Wednesday under an international arrest warrant issued by Dutch authorities, according to a Dutch official. The Syrian group affiliated with al Qaeda as well as migrant trafficking. Extradition procedures were under way.”

Australia

The Australian: 'Extremist' Sydney Man Accused Of Breaching Anti-Terrorism Control Order Over O
http://links.counterextremism.com/u/click?_t=540b694a4fc1494f80a59f7bd6dc5d1d&_m=1c2448044e_eICDxE6VxU2o4J0fbW6AFTTbcX9kKUBGLRx-uYfakiSGrD6eFKY-KxbKbBdFGOZaIAIPi5cLHOOrYRj1_pBmoEJOlyP5KXTsPGCoK7Ydxzjp7uCWWhpC3aJkELB4BUX2s9kDO67PQmviH9R952rTW0C83-EzJS_l8uFnHnUBvpS2ZYwKhmEc8BPkRO061cJDiKeJpmD_-1bsN2rPh86gb6vd-oMKC4_Ti9hXxqgNA3cBn

“A Sydney man has been arrested after he allegedly failed to comply with a condition of a control order by a 25-year-old was accused of breaching the Federal Court of Australia direction. The man, who was released AFP High Risk Terrorist Offenders team arrested the man at his Denistone home on Saturday morning. Continuing to see high risk terrorist offenders breach their control orders, police are ensuring offenders who protect the community from extremist material and the violence it promotes.”

Southeast Asia

International Business Times: Indonesian Terror Outfits 'Actively Recruiting And Raising Funds' Say
http://links.counterextremism.com/u/click?_t=540b694a4fc1494f80a59f7bd6dc5d1d&_m=1c2448044e_IASAmAqkYOmQMaeA3PKFB6ddqPoaVkpUL3Ua_lZhggwBlokej4WOL57YwrEqJlVEJ5eOOkr_QP7DbZ40u4u4HBQLWbTNTKeWlpOZec9XH4ASLL648d2axJZFR5Dt45UgaZA9Uve4om497t9pqGtNRDa3rgjG7eRxi_qJZzFMgGMPGf_8h7LI6KNjHdR_APpF8RqlbsM51U8jg%3D%3D

“Even as Indonesia is in the grips of the COVID-19 pandemic, terrorism cells are thriving in the country, the recruiting, spreading their ideology, raising funds and conducting training,” said the National Counter Terrorism. “However, he added that terror cells have not been able to dispatch as many militants to join outfits terrorism. “They are indeed planning attacks on security officials, state institutions, military and the police ... thousands of 'charity boxes on the pretext of donations for natural disasters, social aid as well as COVID-19

Technology

Associated Press: Extremists Exploit A Loophole In Social Moderation: Podcasts On Apple, Google
http://links.counterextremism.com/u/click?_t=540b694a4fc1494f80a59f7bd6dc5d1d&_m=1c2448044e_Emb3iBEL5w2GdzCh55HXs10Q3OBvVGQRjM0uyn48ejOAYVgi8RH_1IAAPa2BHdwWA67kZC9W-J0T1oYUdCQnH_IOXLNf7DEzwsNDpLCsCs0gtNYqZGWkwq35HT1M1CWmB9ad6goempFs8k99EM2nvkMS9hHSjsqogtd5uqNfkB2SVOW8tys8SDOyUq54bmfaB0wskKTaXnfHu3ztgrRTRYIDAM_du-pcj_ZNt2Xl

“Major social platforms have been cracking down on the spread of misinformation and conspiracy theories in material: podcasts. Podcasts made available by the two Big Tech companies let you tune into the world of the election misinformation, threatening or bullying, and breaking other rules also still live on as podcasts available. The day before the Capitol riot, a more popular “staged event” in a Jan. 11 episode of Red Pill News.

people, we are the storm, and we're coming to DC.”

<https://links.courterexte>

Best Copy Available

The Associated Press

Caution-

Military Times

US Army Japan to begin vaccinating remainder of its healthy population against coronavirus

Stars & Stripes

The U.S. Army in Japan announced plans late Friday to begin inoculating the remainder of its healthy population, including service members, civilian employees and dependents, against the coronavirus starting Tuesday.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/22692643.70242/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuc3RyaXBlcY5jb20vbmV3cy9wYWNPZmljL3VzLWFyYXktamFwYW4tdG8tYmVnaW4tdmFjY2luYXRpbmctcmVtYWluZGVyLW9mLWl0cy1oZWZsdGh5LXBvcHVzYXRpb24tYWdhaW5zdC1jb3JvbmF2aXJ1cy0xLjY1ODcwOQ/5758863d498edb7fd6780f78Df7d82fbc>

Army orders two South Korea garrisons to 'shelter in place' amid coronavirus outbreak

Stars & Stripes

Coronavirus clusters at the U.S. Army's largest installation in South Korea and at its former headquarters in Seoul are forcing personnel to "shelter in place" throughout the long holiday weekend.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/22692643.70242/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuc3RyaXBlcY5jb20vbmV3cy9wYWNPZmljL2FybXktb3JkZXJzLXR3by1zb3V0aC1rb3JlYS1nYXJyaXNvbnMtdG8tc2hlbHRlci1pbi1wbGFjZS1hbWlkLWNvcn9uYXZpcnVzLW91dGJyZWFrLTEuNjU4NzA1/5758863d498edb7fd6780f78D06ce2bdd>

INDOPACOM commander says Chinese aggressiveness helps US make more friends

Seapower

China's political, economic and military aggressiveness is driving Asian countries like India and Vietnam toward closer ties with the United States, the head of U.S. Indo-Pacific Command says.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/22692643.70242/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuc3RyaXBlcY5jb20vbmV3cy9wYWNPZmljL2FybXktb3JkZXJzLXR3by1zb3V0aC1rb3JlYS1nYXJyaXNvbnMtdG8tc2hlbHRlci1pbi1wbGFjZS1hbWlkLWNvcn9uYXZpcnVzLW91dGJyZWFrLTEuNjU4NzA1/5758863d498edb7fd6780f78D762db370>

Pentagon

Gen. Mark Milley key to military continuity as Biden takes office

The Associated Press

In taking charge of a Pentagon battered by leadership churn, the Biden administration will look to one holdover as a source of military continuity: Gen. Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/22692643.70242/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuc3RyaXBlcY5jb20vbmV3cy95b3VzLW1pbGloYXJ5LzlwMjEvMDEvMTcvZ2VuLW1hcmstbWlsbGV5LWtleS10by1taWxpdGFyeS1jb250aW51aXR5LWFzLWJpZGVuLXRha2VzLW9mZmljZS8/5758863d498edb7fd6780f78D290a9620>

General education: What Austin can learn from Mattis's rocky relationship with Congress

Defense News

The Warrior Monk was having a bad meeting.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/22692643.70242/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuZGVmZW5zZW5ld3MuY29tL2NvbmdyZXNzLzlwMjEvMDEvMTgvZ2VuZXJhbC1lZHVjYXRpb24td2hhdC1hdXN0aW4tY2FuLWxIYXJuLWZyb20tbWF0dGlzLXJvY2t5LXIjbGF0aW9ucy13aXRoLWNvbmdyZXNzLw/5758863d498edb7fd6780f78Db48c32fc>

Missile defense costs to soar \$5B a year: CBO

Breaking Defense

Pentagon investment in missile defense from 2020 through 2029 may total a whopping \$176 billion, says the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) in a new study.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/22692643.70242/aHR0cHM6Ly9icmVha2luZ2RlZmVuc2UuY29tLzlwMjEvMDEvbwVlzc2lsZS1kZWZlbnNlLWNvc3RzLXRvLXNvYXItNWItYS15ZWZyLWNiby8/5758863d498edb7fd6780f78Df3266022>

Acting SecDef defends Capitol reaction, says DoD is prepared for next week

Defense One

Defense Department “absolutely” concerned about domestic terrorism next week but feels bureaucratic issues that delayed national guard are resolved.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/22692643.70242/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuZGVmZW5zZW9uZS5jb20vdGhyZWFOcy8yMDIxLzAxL2FjdGluZy1zZW5kZWYtZGVmZW5kcy1jYXBpdG9sLXJlYWN0aW9uLXNheXMtZG9kLXByZXBhcmVklW5leHQtd2Vlay8xNzE0MzEv/5758863d498edb7fd6780f78D2031bcdf>

‘A piece of...’ Outgoing SecDef blasts expensive programs

Defense One

DOD’s biggest challenge is overcoming the “mindset of the Cold War.”

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/22692643.70242/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuZGVmZW5zZW9uZS5jb20vcG9saWN5LzlwMjEvMDEvcGllY2Utb3V0Z29pbmctc2VjZGVmLWJsYXN0cy1leHBlnNpdmUtcHJvZ3JhbXMvMTcxNDUwLw/5758863d498edb7fd6780f78D1559df69>

Arlington Cemetery to close for Inauguration Day amid massive security lockdown

Military.com

Arlington National Cemetery, which normally draws a stream of visitors on the nation's quadrennial Inauguration Day, has joined the growing list of public spaces that will be closed Jan. 20 amid a massive security lockdown in the District of Columbia.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/22692643.70242/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cubWlsaXRhcncuY29tL2RhaWx5LW5ld3MvMjAyMS8wMS8xNi9hcmxpbmd0b24tY2VtZXRlcnkY2xvc2UtaW5hdWd1cmF0aW9uLWRheS1hbWlkLW1hc3NpdmUtc2VjdXJpdHktbG9ja2Rvd24uaHRtbA/5758863d498edb7fd6780f78D541d8de8>

Trump's acting defense secretary says he 'cannot wait' to leave the job

Military.com

Inauguration Day, it appears, can't come soon enough for Acting Defense Secretary Christopher Miller.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/22692643.70242/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cubWlsaXRhcnkuY29tL2RhaWx5LW5ld3MvMjAyMS8wMS8xNS90cnVtcHMtYWN0aW5nLWRIZmVuc2Utc2VjcmV0YXJ5LXNheXMtaGUtY2Fubm90LXdhaXQtbGVhdmUtam9iLmh0bWw/5758863d498edb7fd6780f78D21d11754>

Military pledges proper housing for troops in DC as National Guard force grows to 25,000

Military.com

The Pentagon announced Friday that it has increased the number of National Guard troops authorized for inauguration security to 25,000, even as military officials scramble to find suitable quarters to house Guardsmen flooding into Washington, D.C.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/22692643.70242/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cubWlsaXRhcnkuY29tL2RhaWx5LW5ld3MvMjAyMS8wMS8xNS9taWxp dGFyeS1wbGVkZ2VzLXByb3Blci1ob3VzaW5nLXRyb29wcy1kYy1uYXRpb25hbC1ndWFyZC1mb3JjZS1ncm93cy0yNTAwMCM5odG1s/5758863d498edb7fd6780f78De1013770>

Extremist groups are actively trying to recruit military members, defense officials say

Military.com

The U.S. military is facing a real threat from domestic extremists, particularly those pushing white supremacist views who want to add service members -- and their tactical skills -- to their ranks, a senior defense official told reporters Thursday.

Caution-

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Acting defense secretary orders NSA director to immediately install former GOP operative as the agency's top lawyer
Washington Post

Acting defense secretary Christopher C. Miller ordered the director of the National Security Agency to install on Saturday a former GOP political operative as the NSA's top lawyer, according to four individuals familiar with the matter.

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Pentagon moves to block exam of tortured Guantánamo prisoner

New York Times

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/22692643.70242/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cubnl0aW1lcy5jb20vMjAyMS8wMSxNS91cy9wb2xpdmVudGFuYW1vLXByaXNvbmlWLyWhYX0aC10b3J0dXJlLmhhbWw/5758863d498edb7fd6780f78D6c8e9962>

Congress & Politics

As troop levels swell in DC, National Guard commander says he believes he has city officials' trust

Washington Post

The commanding general of the D.C. National Guard on Saturday defended his force's response to the deadly assault on the U.S. Capitol and asserted that his relationship with city officials remains solid.

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Capitol rioters included highly trained ex-military and cops

The Associated Press

As President Donald Trump's supporters massed outside the Capitol last week and sang the national anthem, a line of men wearing olive-drab helmets and body armor trudged purposefully up the marble stairs in a single-file line, each man holding the jacket collar of the one ahead.

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Lawmakers push to award Congressional Gold Medal to Capitol Police hero, Army vet

Military.com

Three House members are sponsoring legislation recommending the Congressional Gold Medal for U.S. Capitol Police Officer Eugene Goodman, who fought against an angry mob and eventually lured it upstairs and away from the unprotected Senate chamber during the Jan. 6 Capitol riots.

Caution-

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Senators raise concerns over pending ouster of military medical university president

Military.com

Defense Department officials have delayed a meeting on whether to fire the president of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, or USUHS, a retired Army two-star general who has led the military medical school for nearly five years.

Caution-

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MS8wMS8xNS9zZW5hdG9ycy1yYWlZS1jb25jZXJucy1vdmVyLXBibmRpbmctb3VzdGVyLW9mLW1pbGloYXJ5LW1lZGljYWwtdW5pdmVyc2l0eS1wcmVzaWRlbnQuaHRtbA/5758863d498edb7fd6780f78Db5382a5b

National Security

Russia follows US to withdraw from Open Skies Treaty

Defense News

Russia said Friday it will withdraw from an international treaty allowing observation flights over military facilities following the U.S. exit from the pact.

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US calls Bahrain, UAE 'major security partners'

The Associated Press

The United States called Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates "major security partners" early Saturday, a previously unheard of designation for the two countries home to major American military operations.

Caution-

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Army

Fort Bliss soldier charged with rape of fellow unit member a year before her death New Year's Eve

Army Times

A 1st Armored Division soldier at Fort Bliss, Texas, has been formally accused of three sexual assaults in the past year, including the alleged 2019 rape of a soldier from his unit who was found dead this New Year's Eve.

Caution-

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Army Reserve sergeant and AWOL soldier who joined YPG arrested amid Capitol riot fallout

Army Times

An Army Reserve sergeant described in charging documents as "an avowed white supremacist" was arrested Sunday in New Jersey for taking part in the Jan. 6 riot at the U.S. Capitol by supporters of President Donald Trump.

Caution-

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Contractor sentenced for Schofield Barracks bribery scheme

Military Times

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/22692643.70242/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cubWlsaXRhcnl0aW1lcy5jb20vbmV3cy95b3VyLWFyYXkvMjAyMS8wMS8xNi9jb250cmFjdG9yLXNlbnRlbnNlZC1mb3ltc2Nob2ZpZWxkLWJhcnJhY2tzLWJyaWJlcnk2NoZW1lLw/5758863d498edb7fd6780f78D50517080>

White Army vet charged in December shooting of a Black girl at Iowa Trump rally

The Associated Press

A white military veteran shot and wounded a 15-year-old girl when he fired his gun into a car carrying four Black teenagers during a tense confrontation at a rally in support of President Donald Trump near the Iowa Capitol last month.

Caution-

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Army offers \$25,000 cash reward for tips on drill sergeant's murder

Military.com

The Army Criminal Investigation Command, or CID, is offering a \$25,000 reward for information leading to an arrest in the brutal New Year's Day murder of a female drill sergeant at Joint Base San Antonio, or JBSA, in Texas.

Caution-

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Alaska bases limit alcohol sale hours to curb drinking-related suicides

Military.com

U.S. military commanders in Alaska have ordered alcohol sales to cease after 10 p.m. on two bases in an effort to control drinking-related mental health issues such as suicide.

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Army leaders bracing for budget reductions

National Defense

The Army is prepared to sacrifice near-term readiness for modernization if bleak budget forecasts come to pass, according to one senior official.

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Navy

As double-pump deployment looms, no COVID vaccine for the Ike
Navy Times

Slowly but surely, COVID-19 vaccines are being jabbed into sailors' arms across the fleet.

Caution-

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In the wake of tragedy, the US surface fleet is all in on simulators
Defense News

It has been nearly four years since one of the worst years in modern U.S. Navy history, when a string of accidents and collisions sidelined three ships and resulted in the deaths of 17 sailors. But the service's top surface warfare officer wants to make clear that it hasn't moved on.

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Sailor killed in Pearl Harbor attack laid to rest in Arizona
The Associated Press

An 18-year-old U.S. Navy sailor from Arizona who died at Pearl Harbor was buried with full military honors on Friday after his remains were identified last year, about 80 years after the Japanese attack.

Caution-

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Former sailor-turned-'QAnon Shaman' wants pardon from Trump after Capitol siege
Military.com

The attorney for a former sailor who was arrested after a mob stormed the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6 says his client is a gentle man who now regrets listening to the president's "patent invitation" to enter the building that day.

Caution-

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Navy's top officer visits Nimitz group in Gulf amid Iran tensions
Stars & Stripes

The Navy's top officer visited a warship in the Persian Gulf this week after ongoing tensions with Iran led the Pentagon to extend an aircraft carrier group's deployment to the region.

Caution-

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C9uYXZ5LXMtdG9wLW9mZmljZXltdmlzaXRzLW5pbWl0ei1ncm91cC1pbi1ndWxmLWFtaWQtaXJhbi10ZW5zaW9ucy0xLjY1ODYwOQ/5758863d498edb7fd6780f78D87977780

For the 1st time, Norfolk Naval Shipyard's new commanding officer is a woman

The Daily Press

The officer who led Norfolk Naval Shipyard's planning and execution of nuclear vessel overhauls is back after two years away, as the first female commanding officer of the Navy's oldest shipyard.

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US Navy to arm amphibious vessels with long-range missiles

UPI

The U.S. Navy plans to integrate anti-ship missiles aboard its amphibious ships, it announced this month, part of a larger effort to increase ship firepower.

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Fallen midshipman remembered by Naval Academy company as driven, 'iron man'

Capital Gazette

John Johnson was an accomplished midshipman.

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Air Force

Air Force investigating whether COVID killed Aviano airman

Air Force Times

The Air Force said Friday that the recent death of an airman at Aviano Air Base in Italy may have been caused by COVID-19.

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Barrett's legacy: an influential, if quiet, Air Force secretary

Air Force Times

As her tenure as Air Force secretary comes to an end, experts say Barbara Barrett, who kept a lower profile than her predecessors, will be remembered for several important accomplishments, including the quiet, steady stand-up of the Space Force.

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After training changes, Air Force SERE school sees near-historic low attrition

Military.com

The Air Force's elite survival school just accomplished an almost unheard-of feat: graduating a full class with almost no dropouts.

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Iraqi translator becomes US airman

Task & Purpose

In 2003, Airman 1st Class Saeed Shnawa was not Airman 1st Class Saeed Shnawa. He was a 21-year-old Iraqi student...

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<https://link.defensenews.com/click/22692643.70242/aHR0cHM6Ly90YXNrYW5kcHVycG9zZS5jb20vaW1taWdyYXRpb24t cnVuZG93bi9pcmFxaS10cmFuc2xhdG9yLWJlY29tZXMTdS1zLWFpcm1hbi8/5758863d498edb7fd6780f78Da7420631>

Second B-21 under construction as bomber moves toward first flight

Air Force Magazine

Production of a second B-21 stealth bomber is underway at Northrop Grumman's facility in Palmdale, Calif., while the first Raider is expected to roll out in early 2022 and fly in the middle of that year, according to Randall Walden, director of the Air Force Rapid Capabilities Office.

Caution-

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Marine Corps

Commandant, sergeant major of the Marine Corps publicly receive COVID-19 vaccine

Marine Corps Times

The top two Devil Dogs went public with their COVID-19 vaccines in the hopes of encouraging Marines to take the vaccine when offered.

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<https://link.defensenews.com/click/22692643.70242/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cubWFyaW5lY29ycHN0aW1lcy5jb20vbmV3cy95 b3VyLW1hcmluZS1jb3Jwcy8yMDIxLzAxLzE1L2JhcnJldHRzLWxlZ2FjeS1hbi1pbmZsdWVudGlhbC1pZi1xdWlldC1haXItZm9yY2Utc2Vjc mVOYXJ5Lw/5758863d498edb7fd6780f78Df8272f1e>

Oldest living Marine Corps veteran passes away at age 107

Marine Corps Times

The nation's oldest living Marine veteran died of a heart attack on Jan. 7.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/22692643.70242/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cubWFyaW5lY29ycHN0aW1lcy5jb20vbmV3cy95b3VyLW1hcmluZS1jb3Jwcy8yMDIxLzAxLzE1L29sZGVzdC1saXZpbmctbWFyaW5lLXZldGVyYW4tcGFzc2VzLWF3YXktYXQtYWdlLTUwNy8/5758863d498edb7fd6780f78Db859d545>

National Guard

FBI searches for stolen California National Guard Humvee

The Associated Press

The FBI announced a search Saturday for an armored military Humvee that was stolen from a National Guard facility in a Los Angeles suburb.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/22692643.70242/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cubWlSaXRhcnl0aW1lcy5jb20vbmV3cy95b3VyLW1pbGloYXJ5LzlwMjEvMDEvMTcvZmJpLXNlYXJjaGVzLWZvci1zdG9sZW4tY2FsaWZvcm5pYS1uYXRpb25hbC1ndWFyZC1oZW12ZWUv/5758863d498edb7fd6780f78D009c8806>

Thousands of National Guard troops pour into Washington as states answer the call

The Associated Press

By the busload and planeload, National Guard troops were pouring into the nation's capital on Saturday, as governors answered the urgent pleas of U.S. defense officials for more troops to help safeguard Washington even as they keep anxious eyes on possible violent protests in their own states.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/22692643.70242/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cubWlSaXRhcnl0aW1lcy5jb20vbmV3cy95b3VyLW1pbGloYXJ5LzlwMjEvMDEvMTcvdGhvdXNhbmRzLW9mLW5hdGlvbmFsLWd1YXJkLXRyb29wcy1wb3VyLWludG8td2FzaGluZ3Rvbi1hcy1zdGF0ZXMtYW5zd2VyLXRoZS1jYWxsLw/5758863d498edb7fd6780f78Dc85958e1>

270 Nebraska National Guard members head to Washington for inauguration

Omaha World-Herald

A Nebraska National Guard contingent departed Lincoln on Saturday with 270 personnel who will provide security in Washington for the upcoming presidential inauguration.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/22692643.70242/aHR0cHM6Ly9vbWFoYS5jb20vbmV3cy9zdGF0ZS1hbmQtcmlVnaW9uYWVwZ292dC1hbmQtcG9saXRpY3MvMjcwLW5lYnJhc2thLW5hdGlvbmFsLWd1YXJkLW1lbWJlcnMtaGVhZC10by13YXN0aW5ndG9uLWZvci1pbmF1Z3VyYXRpb24vYXJ0aWNsZV9hMTBmNTk2YS01ODU1LTExZWItYTZkYS0yZmRiZjI2M2JmNzEuaHRtbA/5758863d498edb7fd6780f78D1fcbb00c>

Military Culture & History

DC pizza shop is helping feed the National Guard

Military Times

Thousands of troops are filtering in and out of Capitol Hill after the deadly Jan. 6 riot, during the impeachment process, and in advance of the inauguration.

Caution-

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Our guests in segment one are Michael Bayer, former chairman of the Defense Business Board and the president of the Dumbarton Strategies consultancy, and Arnold Punaro, the chairman of the National Defense Industrial Association and CEO of the Punaro Group.

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Donald Trump's foreign policy legacy

War On The Rocks

In this episode of Horns of a Dilemma, Will Inboden, executive director at the Clements Center at the University of Texas at Austin, sits down with David Adesnik and John Hannah from the Foundation for Defense of Democracies, to discuss their recent work, "From Trump to Biden: The Way Ahead for United States National Security."

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Al Qaeda in Iran—and Afghanistan

Long War Journal

Hosts Tom Joscelyn and Bill Roggio discuss and critique Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's speech on the Iran-Al Qaeda axis.

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A Strategy for Success: The Desert Storm Air Campaign 30 Years Later

Mitchell Institute for Aerospace Studies

This episode will discuss key events and highlight important lessons learned, as we hear firsthand from the airmen in the fight what really happened. This episode is one of a special trilogy of podcasts commemorating the 30th anniversary of Desert Storm featuring key airmen who participated in the campaign.

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Defense Industry

US Army taps industry for autonomous drones to resupply troops

Defense News

The U.S. Army is tapping industry for drones that can deliver supplies to infantry brigade combat teams in the field, according to a request for information posted to the federal contracting website Beta.Sam.Gov on Jan. 13.

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French Army orders 364 Serval armored vehicles

Defense News

The French Army is expected to receive 108 Serval armored vehicles in 2022 as part of an order from manufacturers Nexter and Texelis totaling 364.

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Aerovironment buys Arcturus UAV in \$405M deal

Defense News

Aerovironment, a leading supplier of unmanned aircraft systems to the U.S. military, has purchased Arcturus UAV for \$405 million. Arcturus is currently competing for a \$1 billion Army contract to replace the Shadow tactical unmanned aircraft system.

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Australia selects AH-64E Apache Guardian to replace Tiger Armed Reconnaissance Helicopters

IHS Jane's 360

Canberra has selected the Boeing AH-64E Apache Guardian attack helicopter to replace the Australian Army's fleet of 22 Airbus Tiger Armed Reconnaissance Helicopters (ARHs), Australian Defence Minister Linda Reynolds said.

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Cyber, Space & Unmanned

Secrets of Tempest's ground-breaking radar revealed

C4ISRNET

Radar engineers on the Tempest fighter program have said they expect to break data-processing records. The secret, they explain, is all about miniaturization and going digital.

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Saudi Arabia makes artificial intelligence a cornerstone of its 2030 vision

C4ISRNET

As Saudi Arabia moves forward with an ambitious economic plan, the country's data and artificial intelligence authority released a multiphase strategy that aims to position the nation as a global leader in the field by 2030.

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Iran tests suicide drones that look similar to those used in Saudi attacks

The Associated Press

Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard conducted a drill Friday that saw suicide drones crash into targets and explode — triangle-shaped aircraft that strongly resembled those used in a 2019 attack in Saudi Arabia that temporarily cut the kingdom's oil production by half.

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China-US rivalry: how the Gulf War sparked Beijing's military revolution

South China Morning Post

Monday marks the 30th anniversary of Operation Desert Storm, when American-led coalition forces invaded Iraq. The Gulf War sparked 30 years of chaos and turmoil in the once powerful Middle Eastern country but also served as a rude awakening for China's military leaders.

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Commentary & Analysis

Biden doesn't need a new Middle East policy

Foreign Affairs

The Trump administration got the region right.

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Gaslighting can't obscure Trump's Iran failures

Defense One

The Biden administration must make a firm break from Trump's approach and restore the status quo ante.

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Retired Gen. Lloyd Austin would be outstanding defense secretary in Biden administration

Fox News

Our best secretaries of defense have been those who have worn the uniform.

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How Iran could get nuclear weapons on Biden's watch

19FortyFive

Could Iran develop a nuclear weapon on President Biden's watch? Yes.

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How the defense budget could actually increase (slightly)

War On The Rocks

Conventional wisdom is that defense spending will be cut or remain flat under the next administration. There is certainly reason to think it might.

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What's in a name? Reimagining irregular warfare activities for competition

War On The Rocks

"Irregular warfare" has an image problem. Artistic liberties in Hollywood and misadventures by former special operators cause "irregular warfare" to be conflated with either the highly kinetic exploits of elite units, or "little green men" attempting to overthrow fledgling dictators.

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War on Terror teaches how to fight hate groups

Bloomberg

I was in the Pentagon on Sept. 11, 2001, a newly selected rear admiral, working in my office on the side of the building that was hit by the plane hijacked by al-Qaeda.

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Economic and diplomatic power is not a substitute for military strength

RealClear Defense

The current chaos in Washington, D.C. has given U.S. political discourse a distinct focus, a focus that will remain until 20 January, when Mr. Biden is inaugurated.

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US Army Japan to begin vaccinating remainder of its healthy population against coronavirus

Stars & Stripes

The U.S. Army in Japan announced plans late Friday to begin inoculating the remainder of its healthy population, including service members, civilian employees and dependents, against the coronavirus starting Tuesday.

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Army orders two South Korea garrisons to 'shelter in place' amid coronavirus outbreak

Stars & Stripes

Coronavirus clusters at the U.S. Army's largest installation in South Korea and at its former headquarters in Seoul are forcing personnel to "shelter in place" throughout the long holiday weekend.

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INDOPACOM commander says Chinese aggressiveness helps US make more friends

Seapower

China's political, economic and military aggressiveness is driving Asian countries like India and Vietnam toward closer ties with the United States, the head of U.S. Indo-Pacific Command says.

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DOD's biggest challenge is overcoming the "mindset of the Cold War."

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Arlington Cemetery to close for Inauguration Day amid massive security lockdown

Military.com

Arlington National Cemetery, which normally draws a stream of visitors on the nation's quadrennial Inauguration Day, has joined the growing list of public spaces that will be closed Jan. 20 amid a massive security lockdown in the District of Columbia.

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Trump's acting defense secretary says he 'cannot wait' to leave the job

Military.com

Inauguration Day, it appears, can't come soon enough for Acting Defense Secretary Christopher Miller.

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Military pledges proper housing for troops in DC as National Guard force grows to 25,000

Military.com

The Pentagon announced Friday that it has increased the number of National Guard troops authorized for inauguration security to 25,000, even as military officials scramble to find suitable quarters to house Guardsmen flooding into Washington, D.C.

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Extremist groups are actively trying to recruit military members, defense officials say

Military.com

The U.S. military is facing a real threat from domestic extremists, particularly those pushing white supremacist views who want to add service members -- and their tactical skills -- to their ranks, a senior defense official told reporters Thursday.

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Military.com

Three House members are sponsoring legislation recommending the Congressional Gold Medal for U.S. Capitol Police Officer Eugene Goodman, who fought against an angry mob and eventually lured it upstairs and away from the unprotected Senate chamber during the Jan. 6 Capitol riots.

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Senators raise concerns over pending ouster of military medical university president

Military.com

Defense Department officials have delayed a meeting on whether to fire the president of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, or USUHS, a retired Army two-star general who has led the military medical school for nearly five years.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/22692643.70242/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cubWlsaXRhcnkuY29tL2RhaWx5LW5ld3MvMjAyMS8wMS8xNS9zZW5hdG9ycy1yYWlZS1jb25jZXJucy1vdmVyLXBibmRpbmctb3VzdGVyLW9mLW1pbGloYXJ5LW1lZGljYWwtdW5pdmVyc2l0eS1wcmVzaWRlbnQuaHRtbA/5758863d498edb7fd6780f78Eb5382a5b>

National Security

Russia follows US to withdraw from Open Skies Treaty

Defense News

Russia said Friday it will withdraw from an international treaty allowing observation flights over military facilities following the U.S. exit from the pact.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/22692643.70242/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuZGVmZW5zZW5ld3MuY29tL2Fpci8yMDIxLzAxLzE1L3J1c3NpYS1mb2xsb3dzLXVzLXRvLXdpdGhkcmF3LWZyb20tb3Blbi1za2llycy10cmVhdHkv/5758863d498edb7fd6780f78E89dd3cc1>

US calls Bahrain, UAE 'major security partners'

The Associated Press

The United States called Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates "major security partners" early Saturday, a previously unheard of designation for the two countries home to major American military operations.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/22692643.70242/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cubWlsaXRhcnl0aW1lcY5jb20vbmV3cy95b3VyLW1pbGloYXJ5LzlwMjEvMDEvMTcvdXMtY2FsbHMtYmFocmFpbi11YWUtbnWFb3Itc2VjdXJpdHktdGFydG5lcnMv/5758863d498edb7fd6780f78Efd54e6d1>

Army

Fort Bliss soldier charged with rape of fellow unit member a year before her death New Year's Eve

Army Times

A 1st Armored Division soldier at Fort Bliss, Texas, has been formally accused of three sexual assaults in the past year, including the alleged 2019 rape of a soldier from his unit who was found dead this New Year's Eve.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/22692643.70242/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuYXJteXRpbWVzLmNvbS9uZXdzL3lvdXItYXJteS>

8yMDIxLzAxLzE1L2ZvcnQtYmxpc3Mtc29sZGllci1jaGFyZ2VkLXdpdGgtcmFwZS1vZi1mZWxsb3ctdW5pdC1tZW1iZXItYS15ZWFyLWJlZm9yZS1oZXItZGVhdGgtbmV3LXIiYXJzLWV2ZS8/5758863d498edb7fd6780f78Eb94d90ff

Army Reserve sergeant and AWOL soldier who joined YPG arrested amid Capitol riot fallout

Army Times

An Army Reserve sergeant described in charging documents as “an avowed white supremacist” was arrested Sunday in New Jersey for taking part in the Jan. 6 riot at the U.S. Capitol by supporters of President Donald Trump.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/22692643.70242/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuYXJteXRpbWVzLmNvbS9uZXdzL3lvdXIteS8yMDIxLzAxLzE4L2FybXktcmVzZXJ2ZS1zZXJnZWVudC1hbmQtYXNldmV3b2xkaWVvLXdoby1qb2luZWQteXBnLWFycmVzdGVkLWFTaWQtY2FwaXRvbC1yaW90LWZhbGxvdXQv/5758863d498edb7fd6780f78Efa8ede01>

Contractor sentenced for Schofield Barracks bribery scheme

Military Times

A former government contractor was sentenced to 70 months in prison for his role in a bribery scheme at Hawaii's Schofield Barracks, according to the Department of Justice.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/22692643.70242/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cubWlsaXRhcnl0aW1lcy5jb20vbmV3cy95b3VyLWFyYXkvMjAyMS8wMS8xNi9jb250cmFjdG9yLXNlbnRlbnNIZC1mb3Itc2Nob2ZpZWxkLWJhcnJhY2tzLWJyaWJlcnk2NoZW1lLw/5758863d498edb7fd6780f78E50517080>

White Army vet charged in December shooting of a Black girl at Iowa Trump rally

The Associated Press

A white military veteran shot and wounded a 15-year-old girl when he fired his gun into a car carrying four Black teenagers during a tense confrontation at a rally in support of President Donald Trump near the Iowa Capitol last month.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/22692643.70242/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cubWlsaXRhcnl0aW1lcy5jb20vbmV3cy95b3VyLW1pbGloYXJ5LzlwMjEvMDEvMTUvd2hpdGUteS12ZXQtY2hhcmdlZC1pbi1kZWNIbWJlci1zaG9vdGluZy1vZi1hLWJsYWNRlWdpcmwteS8yMDIxLzAxLzE4L2FybXktcmVzZXJ2ZS1zZXJnZWVudC1hbmQtYXNldmV3b2xkaWVvLXdoby1qb2luZWQteXBnLWFycmVzdGVkLWFTaWQtY2FwaXRvbC1yaW90LWZhbGxvdXQv/5758863d498edb7fd6780f78E517e2de9>

Army offers \$25,000 cash reward for tips on drill sergeant's murder

Military.com

The Army Criminal Investigation Command, or CID, is offering a \$25,000 reward for information leading to an arrest in the brutal New Year's Day murder of a female drill sergeant at Joint Base San Antonio, or JBSA, in Texas.

Caution-

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Alaska bases limit alcohol sale hours to curb drinking-related suicides

Military.com

Former sailor-turned-'QAnon Shaman' wants pardon from Trump after Capitol siege

Military.com

The attorney for a former sailor who was arrested after a mob stormed the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6 says his client is a gentle man who now regrets listening to the president's "patent invitation" to enter the building that day.

Caution-

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Navy's top officer visits Nimitz group in Gulf amid Iran tensions

Stars & Stripes

The Navy's top officer visited a warship in the Persian Gulf this week after ongoing tensions with Iran led the Pentagon to extend an aircraft carrier group's deployment to the region.

Caution-

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For the 1st time, Norfolk Naval Shipyard's new commanding officer is a woman

The Daily Press

The officer who led Norfolk Naval Shipyard's planning and execution of nuclear vessel overhauls is back after two years away, as the first female commanding officer of the Navy's oldest shipyard.

Caution-

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US Navy to arm amphibious vessels with long-range missiles

UPI

The U.S. Navy plans to integrate anti-ship missiles aboard its amphibious ships, it announced this month, part of a larger effort to increase ship firepower.

Caution-

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Fallen midshipman remembered by Naval Academy company as driven, 'iron man'

Capital Gazette

John Johnson was an accomplished midshipman.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/22692643.70242/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuY2FwaXRhbGdhemV0dGUuY29tL2VkdWNhdGlvbi9uYXZhbC1hY2FkZW15L2FjLWVuLWpvaG4tam9obnNvbi1uYXZhbC1hY2FkZW15LTIwMjEwMTE1LTJhYnoyMmxyZXJmMzNwY2p0cTVja3h4aW9pLXN0b3J5Lmh0bWw/5758863d498edb7fd6780f78Ec6a06291>

Air Force

Air Force investigating whether COVID killed Aviano airman

Air Force Times

The Air Force said Friday that the recent death of an airman at Aviano Air Base in Italy may have been caused by COVID-19.

Caution-

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Barrett's legacy: an influential, if quiet, Air Force secretary

Air Force Times

As her tenure as Air Force secretary comes to an end, experts say Barbara Barrett, who kept a lower profile than her predecessors, will be remembered for several important accomplishments, including the quiet, steady stand-up of the Space Force.

Caution-

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After training changes, Air Force SERE school sees near-historic low attrition

Military.com

The Air Force's elite survival school just accomplished an almost unheard-of feat: graduating a full class with almost no dropouts.

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Iraqi translator becomes US airman

Task & Purpose

In 2003, Airman 1st Class Saeed Shnawa was not Airman 1st Class Saeed Shnawa. He was a 21-year-old Iraqi student...

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/22692643.70242/aHR0cHM6Ly90YXNrYW5kcHVycG9zZS5jb20vaW1taWdyYXRpb24tcnVuZG93bi9pcmFxaS10cmFuc2xhdG9yLWJlY29tZXMTdS1zLWFPcm1hbi8/5758863d498edb7fd6780f78Ea7420631>

Second B-21 under construction as bomber moves toward first flight

Air Force Magazine

Production of a second B-21 stealth bomber is underway at Northrop Grumman's facility in Palmdale, Calif., while the first Raider is expected to roll out in early 2022 and fly in the middle of that year, according to Randall Walden, director of the Air Force Rapid Capabilities Office.

Caution-

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Marine Corps

Commandant, sergeant major of the Marine Corps publicly receive COVID-19 vaccine

Marine Corps Times

The top two Devil Dogs went public with their COVID-19 vaccines in the hopes of encouraging Marines to take the vaccine when offered.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/22692643.70242/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cubWFyaW5lY29ycHN0aW1lcy5jb20vbmV3cy95b3VyLW1hcmluZS1jb3Jwcy8yMDIxLzAxLzE3L21hcmluZS1jb21tYW5kYW50LXNlcmdlYW50LW1ham9yLXB1YmxpY2x5LXJlY2VpdmUtY292aWQtdmFjY2luZS8/5758863d498edb7fd6780f78Ef8272f1e>

Oldest living Marine Corps veteran passes away at age 107

Marine Corps Times

The nation's oldest living Marine veteran died of a heart attack on Jan. 7.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/22692643.70242/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cubWFyaW5lY29ycHN0aW1lcy5jb20vbmV3cy95b3VyLW1hcmluZS1jb3Jwcy8yMDIxLzAxLzE1L29sZGVzdC1saXZpbmctbWFyaW5lLXZldGVyYW4tcGFzc2VzLWF3YXktYXQtYWdlLTUwNy8/5758863d498edb7fd6780f78Eb859d545>

National Guard

FBI searches for stolen California National Guard Humvee

The Associated Press

The FBI announced a search Saturday for an armored military Humvee that was stolen from a National Guard facility in a Los Angeles suburb.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/22692643.70242/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cubWlsaXRhcnl0aW1lcy5jb20vbmV3cy95b3VyLW1pbGloYXJ5LzlwMjEvMDEvMTcvZmJpLXNlYXJjaGVzLWZvci1zdG9sZW4tY2FsaWZvcm5pYS1uYXRpb25hbC1ndWFyZC1oZW12ZWUv/5758863d498edb7fd6780f78E009c8806>

Thousands of National Guard troops pour into Washington as states answer the call

The Associated Press

By the busload and planeload, National Guard troops were pouring into the nation's capital on Saturday, as governors answered the urgent pleas of U.S. defense officials for more troops to help safeguard Washington even as they keep anxious eyes on possible violent protests in their own states.

Caution-

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270 Nebraska National Guard members head to Washington for inauguration

Omaha World-Herald

A Nebraska National Guard contingent departed Lincoln on Saturday with 270 personnel who will provide security in Washington for the upcoming presidential inauguration.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/22692643.70242/aHR0cHM6Ly9vbWFoYS5jb20vbWV3cy9zdGF0ZS1hbmQtcVnaW9uYWVwZ292dC1hbmQtcG9saXRpY3MvMjcW5lYnJhc2thLW5hdGlvbWFsLWd1YXJkLW1lbWJlcnMtaGVhZC10by13YXN0aW5ndG9uLWZvci1pbmF1Z3VyYXRpb24vYXJ0aWNsZV9hMTBmNTk2YS01ODU1LTExZWltYTZkYS0yZmRiZjI2M2JmNzEuaHRtbA/5758863d498edb7fd6780f78E1fcbb00c>

Military Culture & History

DC pizza shop is helping feed the National Guard

Military Times

Thousands of troops are filtering in and out of Capitol Hill after the deadly Jan. 6 riot, during the impeachment process, and in advance of the inauguration.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/22692643.70242/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cubWlsaXRhcnl0aW1lcy5jb20vb2ZmLWR1dHkvbWlsaXRhcnktY3VsdHVyZS8yMDIxLzAxLzE1L2RjLXBpenphLXNob3AtaXMtaGVscGluZy1mZWVvLXRoZS1uYXRpb25hbC1ndWFyZC8/5758863d498edb7fd6780f78E5be2c3ec>

What the US did right in Desert Storm

Military.com

In the late summer of 1990, the forces of Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein were poised on the Saudi border, having just overrun Kuwait. U.S. troops scrambled to get ashore and fall in on their gear, overcoming chaos at the Saudi ports.

Caution-

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Pay & Benefits

USO brings drinks, snacks and a 'warm welcome' to Guard troops at the Capitol

Military Times

As more than 25,000 National Guard troops have been called in to help law enforcement with security surrounding the inauguration of President-elect Joe Biden, a familiar face has joined them: the USO.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/22692643.70242/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cubWlsaXRhcnl0aW1lcy5jb20vcGF5LWJlbnVmaXRzLzlwMjEvMDEvMTUvbW9yZS10aGFuLWVwLW5lbnV1bWVwZGFyZS1yZXRpcmVlcy1zcG91c2VzLW5vdy1lbGlnaWJsZS1mb3ItY292aWQtdmFjY2luYXRpb24v/5758863d498edb7fd6780f78Ee2a2194b>

More than a million military retirees, spouses now eligible for COVID vaccination

Military Times

If you're one of the more than 1 million Tricare for Life beneficiaries who are age 75 and older, you're now eligible for the COVID-19 vaccination.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/22692643.70242/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cubWlsaXRhcnl0aW1lcy5jb20vcGF5LWJlbnVmaXRzLzlwMjEvMDEvMTUvbW9yZS10aGFuLWVwLW5lbnV1bWVwZGFyZS1yZXRpcmVlcy1zcG91c2VzLW5vdy1lbGlnaWJsZS1mb3ItY292aWQtdmFjY2luYXRpb24v/5758863d498edb7fd6780f78Eab07d019>

DoD now offering permanent 100% reimbursement rate for do-it-yourself moves

Military.com

A reimbursement increase for service members who move themselves that was put in place during the COVID-19 pandemic is now permanent.

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<https://link.defensenews.com/click/22692643.70242/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cubWlsaXRhcnkuY29tL2RhaWx5LW5ld3MvMjAyMS8wMS8xNS9kb2Qtbm93LW9mZmVyaW5nLXBldm1hbmVudC0xMDAtcmVpbWJ1cnNlbWVudC1yYXRILWRvLWI0LXlvdXJzZWxmLW1vdmVzLmh0bWw/5758863d498edb7fd6780f78E392918ae>

Podcasts

Defense & Aerospace Podcast [Washington Roundtable Jan 15, '21]

Defense & Aerospace Report

Our guests in segment one are Michael Bayer, former chairman of the Defense Business Board and the president of the Dumbarton Strategies consultancy, and Arnold Punaro, the chairman of the National Defense Industrial Association and CEO of the Punaro Group.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/22692643.70242/aHR0cHM6Ly9kZWZhZXJvcnVwb3J0LmNvbS8yMDIxLzAxLzE1L2RlZmVuc2UtYWVyb3NwYWNILXBvZGNhc3Qtd2FzaGluZ3Rvbi1yb3VuZHRhYmxlLWphbi0xNS0yMS8/5758863d498edb7fd6780f78E59727b13>

Donald Trump's foreign policy legacy

War On The Rocks

In this episode of Horns of a Dilemma, Will Inboden, executive director at the Clements Center at the University of Texas at Austin, sits down with David Adesnik and John Hannah from the Foundation for Defense of Democracies, to discuss their recent work, "From Trump to Biden: The Way Ahead for United States National Security."

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<https://link.defensenews.com/click/22692643.70242/aHR0cHM6Ly93YXJvbnRoZXJvY2tzLmNvbS8yMDIxLzAxL2RvbmFsZC10cnVtcHMTZm9yZWlnbi1wb2xpY3ktbGVnYWN5LWw/5758863d498edb7fd6780f78E216635cd>

Al Qaeda in Iran—and Afghanistan

Long War Journal

Hosts Tom Joscelyn and Bill Roggio discuss and critique Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's speech on the Iran-Al Qaeda axis.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/22692643.70242/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cubG9uZ3dhcmFvZ3RvbmFsZC10cnVtcHMTZm9yZWlnbi1wb2xpY3ktbGVnYWN5LWw/5758863d498edb7fd6780f78Ead4afed7>

A Strategy for Success: The Desert Storm Air Campaign 30 Years Later

Mitchell Institute for Aerospace Studies

This episode will discuss key events and highlight important lessons learned, as we hear firsthand from the airmen in the fight what really happened. This episode is one of a special trilogy of podcasts commemorating the 30th anniversary of Desert Storm featuring key airmen who participated in the campaign.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/22692643.70242/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cubWl0Y2h1bGxhZXJvc3BhY2Vwb3dldi5vcmcvYVVyb3NwYWNLWFkdmFudGFnZS1wb2RjYXN0/5758863d498edb7fd6780f78E2d3e0f85>

Defense Industry

US Army taps industry for autonomous drones to resupply troops

Defense News

The U.S. Army is tapping industry for drones that can deliver supplies to infantry brigade combat teams in the field, according to a request for information posted to the federal contracting website Beta.Sam.Gov on Jan. 13.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/22692643.70242/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuZGVmZW5zZW5ld3MuY29tL2xhbmQvMjAyMS8wMS8xNS91cy1hcm15LXRhcHMtaW5kdXN0cnktZm9yLWFl1dG9ub21vdXMtZHVjbmVzLXRvLXJlc3VwcGx5LXRyb29wcy8/5758863d498edb7fd6780f78E326fbcfd>

French Army orders 364 Serval armored vehicles

Defense News

The French Army is expected to receive 108 Serval armored vehicles in 2022 as part of an order from manufacturers Nexter and Texelis totaling 364.

Caution-

<https://link.defensenews.com/click/22692643.70242/aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuZGVmZW5zZW5ld3MuY29tL2xhbmQvMjAyMS8wMS8xNS9mcmVuY2gtYXJteS1vcmlcnMzMzY0LXNlcnZhbC1hcm1vcmlkLXZlaGljbGVzLW/5758863d498edb7fd6780f78E67ec23c7>

Aerovironment buys Arcturus UAV in \$405M deal

Defense News

Aerovironment, a leading supplier of unmanned aircraft systems to the U.S. military, has purchased Arcturus UAV for \$405 million. Arcturus is currently competing for a \$1 billion Army contract to replace the Shadow tactical unmanned aircraft system.

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Australia selects AH-64E Apache Guardian to replace Tiger Armed Reconnaissance Helicopters

IHS Jane's 360

Canberra has selected the Boeing AH-64E Apache Guardian attack helicopter to replace the Australian Army's fleet of 22 Airbus Tiger Armed Reconnaissance Helicopters (ARHs), Australian Defence Minister Linda Reynolds said.

Caution-

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Cyber, Space & Unmanned

Secrets of Tempest's ground-breaking radar revealed

C4ISRNET

Radar engineers on the Tempest fighter program have said they expect to break data-processing records. The secret, they explain, is all about miniaturization and going digital.

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Saudi Arabia makes artificial intelligence a cornerstone of its 2030 vision

C4ISRNET

s Saudi Arabia moves forward with an ambitious economic plan, the country's data and artificial intelligence authority released a multiphase strategy that aims to position the nation as a global leader in the field by 2030.

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Pentagon weapons tester wants to delay fielding of new Army tactical network tools

C4ISRNET

The U.S. Department of Defense's weapons tester recommended that the Army delay fielding decisions for radios and other communications gear from its most recent integrated tactical network toolset until a brigade has a chance to test them fully in March.

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International

French forces get new batch of micro-drones for recon missions

Defense News

The DGA French military procurement agency has ordered 300 micro-drones from Parrot for reconnaissance and intelligence missions by the conventional and special forces.

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Six Gulf states and Egypt have signed what has been dubbed the al-Ula agreement, ending a rift with Qatar that lasted more than three years. With signs that diplomatic relations are improving, regional analysts are wondering if joint military cooperation between the signatories is next.

Defense News

Gaslighting can't obscure Trump's Iran failures

Defense One

The Biden administration must make a firm break from Trump's approach and restore the status quo ante.

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Retired Gen. Lloyd Austin would be outstanding defense secretary in Biden administration

Fox News

Our best secretaries of defense have been those who have worn the uniform.

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How Iran could get nuclear weapons on Biden's watch

19FortyFive

Could Iran develop a nuclear weapon on President Biden's watch? Yes.

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How the defense budget could actually increase (slightly)

War On The Rocks

Conventional wisdom is that defense spending will be cut or remain flat under the next administration. There is certainly reason to think it might.

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What's in a name? Reimagining irregular warfare activities for competition

War On The Rocks

"Irregular warfare" has an image problem. Artistic liberties in Hollywood and misadventures by former special operators cause "irregular warfare" to be conflated with either the highly kinetic exploits of elite units, or "little green men" attempting to overthrow fledgling dictators.

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War on Terror teaches how to fight hate groups

Bloomberg

I was in the Pentagon on Sept. 11, 2001, a newly selected rear admiral, working in my office on the side of the building that was hit by the plane hijacked by al-Qaeda.

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Economic and diplomatic power is not a substitute for military strength

RealClear Defense

The current chaos in Washington, D.C. has given U.S. political discourse a distinct focus, a focus that will remain until 20 January, when Mr. Biden is inaugurated.

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US Army Japan to begin vaccinating remainder of its healthy population against coronavirus

Stars & Stripes

The U.S. Army in Japan announced plans late Friday to begin inoculating the remainder of its healthy population, including service members, civilian employees and dependents, against the coronavirus starting Tuesday.

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Acting SecDef defends Capitol reaction, says DoD is prepared for next week

Defense One

Defense Department “absolutely” concerned about domestic terrorism next week but feels bureaucratic issues that delayed national guard are resolved.

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‘A piece of...’ Outgoing SecDef blasts expensive programs

Defense One

DOD’s biggest challenge is overcoming the “mindset of the Cold War.”

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Arlington Cemetery to close for Inauguration Day amid massive security lockdown

Military.com

Arlington National Cemetery, which normally draws a stream of visitors on the nation's quadrennial Inauguration Day, has joined the growing list of public spaces that will be closed Jan. 20 amid a massive security lockdown in the District of Columbia.

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Trump's acting defense secretary says he 'cannot wait' to leave the job

Military.com

Inauguration Day, it appears, can't come soon enough for Acting Defense Secretary Christopher Miller.

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Military pledges proper housing for troops in DC as National Guard force grows to 25,000

Military.com

The Pentagon announced Friday that it has increased the number of National Guard troops authorized for inauguration security to 25,000, even as military officials scramble to find suitable quarters to house Guardsmen flooding into Washington, D.C.

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Extremist groups are actively trying to recruit military members, defense officials say

Military.com

The U.S. military is facing a real threat from domestic extremists, particularly those pushing white supremacist views who want to add service members -- and their tactical skills -- to their ranks, a senior defense official told reporters

Thursday.

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Acting defense secretary orders NSA director to immediately install former GOP operative as the agency's top lawyer
Washington Post

Acting defense secretary Christopher C. Miller ordered the director of the National Security Agency to install on Saturday a former GOP political operative as the NSA's top lawyer, according to four individuals familiar with the matter.

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Pentagon moves to block exam of tortured Guantánamo prisoner

New York Times

In his final days in office before a new administration takes over, Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy changed a regulation to sidestep court rulings requiring the medical examination.

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Congress & Politics

As troop levels swell in DC, National Guard commander says he believes he has city officials' trust

Washington Post

The commanding general of the D.C. National Guard on Saturday defended his force's response to the deadly assault on the U.S. Capitol and asserted that his relationship with city officials remains solid.

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39

US calls Bahrain, UAE 'major security partners'

The Associated Press

The United States called Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates "major security partners" early Saturday, a previously unheard of designation for the two countries home to major American military operations.

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Army

Fort Bliss soldier charged with rape of fellow unit member a year before her death New Year's Eve

Army Times

A 1st Armored Division soldier at Fort Bliss, Texas, has been formally accused of three sexual assaults in the past year, including the alleged 2019 rape of a soldier from his unit who was found dead this New Year's Eve.

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Army Reserve sergeant and AWOL soldier who joined YPG arrested amid Capitol riot fallout

Army Times

An Army Reserve sergeant described in charging documents as "an avowed white supremacist" was arrested Sunday in New Jersey for taking part in the Jan. 6 riot at the U.S. Capitol by supporters of President Donald Trump.

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Contractor sentenced for Schofield Barracks bribery scheme

Military Times

A former government contractor was sentenced to 70 months in prison for his role in a bribery scheme at Hawaii's Schofield Barracks, according to the Department of Justice.

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White Army vet charged in December shooting of a Black girl at Iowa Trump rally

The Associated Press

A white military veteran shot and wounded a 15-year-old girl when he fired his gun into a car carrying four Black teenagers during a tense confrontation at a rally in support of President Donald Trump near the Iowa Capitol last month.

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Army offers \$25,000 cash reward for tips on drill sergeant's murder

Military.com

The Army Criminal Investigation Command, or CID, is offering a \$25,000 reward for information leading to an arrest in the brutal New Year's Day murder of a female drill sergeant at Joint Base San Antonio, or JBSA, in Texas.

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Alaska bases limit alcohol sale hours to curb drinking-related suicides

Military.com

U.S. military commanders in Alaska have ordered alcohol sales to cease after 10 p.m. on two bases in an effort to control drinking-related mental health issues such as suicide.

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Army leaders bracing for budget reductions

National Defense

The Army is prepared to sacrifice near-term readiness for modernization if bleak budget forecasts come to pass, according to one senior official.

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Navy

As double-pump deployment looms, no COVID vaccine for the Ike

Navy Times

Slowly but surely, COVID-19 vaccines are being jabbed into sailors' arms across the fleet.

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In the wake of tragedy, the US surface fleet is all in on simulators

Defense News

It has been nearly four years since one of the worst years in modern U.S. Navy history, when a string of accidents and collisions sidelined three ships and resulted in the deaths of 17 sailors. But the service's top surface warfare officer wants to make clear that it hasn't moved on.

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Sailor killed in Pearl Harbor attack laid to rest in Arizona

The Associated Press

An 18-year-old U.S. Navy sailor from Arizona who died at Pearl Harbor was buried with full military honors on Friday after his remains were identified last year, about 80 years after the Japanese attack.

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Former sailor-turned-'QAnon Shaman' wants pardon from Trump after Capitol siege

Military.com

The attorney for a former sailor who was arrested after a mob stormed the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6 says his client is a gentle man who now regrets listening to the president's "patent invitation" to enter the building that day.

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Navy's top officer visits Nimitz group in Gulf amid Iran tensions

Stars & Stripes

The Navy's top officer visited a warship in the Persian Gulf this week after ongoing tensions with Iran led the Pentagon to extend an aircraft carrier group's deployment to the region.

Caution-

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For the 1st time, Norfolk Naval Shipyard's new commanding officer is a woman

The Daily Press

The officer who led Norfolk Naval Shipyard's planning and execution of nuclear vessel overhauls is back after two years away, as the first female commanding officer of the Navy's oldest shipyard.

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US Navy to arm amphibious vessels with long-range missiles

UPI

The U.S. Navy plans to integrate anti-ship missiles aboard its amphibious ships, it announced this month, part of a larger effort to increase ship firepower.

Caution-

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Fallen midshipman remembered by Naval Academy company as driven, 'iron man'

Capital Gazette

John Johnson was an accomplished midshipman.

Caution-

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Air Force

Air Force investigating whether COVID killed Aviano airman

Air Force Times

The Air Force said Friday that the recent death of an airman at Aviano Air Base in Italy may have been caused by COVID-19.

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Barrett's legacy: an influential, if quiet, Air Force secretary

Air Force Times

As her tenure as Air Force secretary comes to an end, experts say Barbara Barrett, who kept a lower profile than her predecessors, will be remembered for several important accomplishments, including the quiet, steady stand-up of the Space Force.

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After training changes, Air Force SERE school sees near-historic low attrition

Military.com

The Air Force's elite survival school just accomplished an almost unheard-of feat: graduating a full class with almost no dropouts.

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Iraqi translator becomes US airman

Task & Purpose

In 2003, Airman 1st Class Saeed Shnawa was not Airman 1st Class Saeed Shnawa. He was a 21-year-old Iraqi student...

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Second B-21 under construction as bomber moves toward first flight

Air Force Magazine

Production of a second B-21 stealth bomber is underway at Northrop Grumman's facility in Palmdale, Calif., while the first Raider is expected to roll out in early 2022 and fly in the middle of that year, according to Randall Walden, director of the Air Force Rapid Capabilities Office.

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Marine Corps

Commandant, sergeant major of the Marine Corps publicly receive COVID-19 vaccine

Marine Corps Times

The top two Devil Dogs went public with their COVID-19 vaccines in the hopes of encouraging Marines to take the vaccine when offered.

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Oldest living Marine Corps veteran passes away at age 107

Marine Corps Times

The nation's oldest living Marine veteran died of a heart attack on Jan. 7.

Caution-

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National Guard

FBI searches for stolen California National Guard Humvee

The Associated Press

The FBI announced a search Saturday for an armored military Humvee that was stolen from a National Guard facility in a Los Angeles suburb.

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Thousands of National Guard troops pour into Washington as states answer the call

The Associated Press

By the busload and planeload, National Guard troops were pouring into the nation's capital on Saturday, as governors answered the urgent pleas of U.S. defense officials for more troops to help safeguard Washington even as they keep anxious eyes on possible violent protests in their own states.

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270 Nebraska National Guard members head to Washington for inauguration

Omaha World-Herald

A Nebraska National Guard contingent departed Lincoln on Saturday with 270 personnel who will provide security in Washington for the upcoming presidential inauguration.

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Military Culture & History

DC pizza shop is helping feed the National Guard

Military Times

Thousands of troops are filtering in and out of Capitol Hill after the deadly Jan. 6 riot, during the impeachment process, and in advance of the inauguration.

Caution-

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What the US did right in Desert Storm

Military.com

In the late summer of 1990, the forces of Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein were poised on the Saudi border, having just overrun Kuwait. U.S. troops scrambled to get ashore and fall in on their gear, overcoming chaos at the Saudi ports.

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Pay & Benefits

USO brings drinks, snacks and a 'warm welcome' to Guard troops at the Capitol

Military Times

As more than 25,000 National Guard troops have been called in to help law enforcement with security surrounding the inauguration of President-elect Joe Biden, a familiar face has joined them: the USO.

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More than a million military retirees, spouses now eligible for COVID vaccination

Military Times

If you're one of the more than 1 million Tricare for Life beneficiaries who are age 75 and older, you're now eligible for the COVID-19 vaccination.

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DoD now offering permanent 100% reimbursement rate for do-it-yourself moves

Military.com

A reimbursement increase for service members who move themselves that was put in place during the COVID-19 pandemic is now permanent.

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Podcasts

Defense & Aerospace Podcast [Washington Roundtable Jan 15, '21]

Defense & Aerospace Report

Our guests in segment one are Michael Bayer, former chairman of the Defense Business Board and the president of the Dumbarton Strategies consultancy, and Arnold Punaro, the chairman of the National Defense Industrial Association and CEO of the Punaro Group.

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Donald Trump's foreign policy legacy

War On The Rocks

In this episode of Horns of a Dilemma, Will Inboden, executive director at the Clements Center at the University of Texas at Austin, sits down with David Adesnik and John Hannah from the Foundation for Defense of Democracies, to discuss their recent work, "From Trump to Biden: The Way Ahead for United States National Security."

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Al Qaeda in Iran—and Afghanistan

Long War Journal

Hosts Tom Joscelyn and Bill Roggio discuss and critique Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's speech on the Iran-Al Qaeda axis.

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A Strategy for Success: The Desert Storm Air Campaign 30 Years Later

Mitchell Institute for Aerospace Studies

This episode will discuss key events and highlight important lessons learned, as we hear firsthand from the airmen in the fight what really happened. This episode is one of a special trilogy of podcasts commemorating the 30th anniversary of Desert Storm featuring key airmen who participated in the campaign.

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Defense Industry

US Army taps industry for autonomous drones to resupply troops

Defense News

The U.S. Army is tapping industry for drones that can deliver supplies to infantry brigade combat teams in the field, according to a request for information posted to the federal contracting website Beta.Sam.Gov on Jan. 13.

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French Army orders 364 Serval armored vehicles

Defense News

The French Army is expected to receive 108 Serval armored vehicles in 2022 as part of an order from manufacturers Nexter and Texelis totaling 364.

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Aerovironment buys Arcturus UAV in \$405M deal

Defense News

Aerovironment, a leading supplier of unmanned aircraft systems to the U.S. military, has purchased Arcturus UAV for \$405 million. Arcturus is currently competing for a \$1 billion Army contract to replace the Shadow tactical unmanned aircraft system.

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Australia selects AH-64E Apache Guardian to replace Tiger Armed Reconnaissance Helicopters

IHS Jane's 360

Canberra has selected the Boeing AH-64E Apache Guardian attack helicopter to replace the Australian Army's fleet of 22 Airbus Tiger Armed Reconnaissance Helicopters (ARHs), Australian Defence Minister Linda Reynolds said.

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Cyber, Space & Unmanned

Secrets of Tempest's ground-breaking radar revealed

C4ISRNET

Radar engineers on the Tempest fighter program have said they expect to break data-processing records. The secret, they explain, is all about miniaturization and going digital.

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Saudi Arabia makes artificial intelligence a cornerstone of its 2030 vision

C4ISRNET

As Saudi Arabia moves forward with an ambitious economic plan, the country's data and artificial intelligence authority released a multiphase strategy that aims to position the nation as a global leader in the field by 2030.

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Pentagon weapons tester wants to delay fielding of new Army tactical network tools

C4ISRNET

The U.S. Department of Defense's weapons tester recommended that the Army delay fielding decisions for radios and other communications gear from its most recent integrated tactical network toolset until a brigade has a chance to test them fully in March.

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International

French forces get new batch of micro-drones for recon missions

Defense News

The DGA French military procurement agency has ordered 300 micro-drones from Parrot for reconnaissance and intelligence missions by the conventional and special forces.

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Six Gulf states and Egypt have signed what has been dubbed the al-Ula agreement, ending a rift with Qatar that lasted more than three years. With signs that diplomatic relations are improving, regional analysts are wondering if joint military cooperation between the signatories is next.

Defense News

ix Gulf states and Egypt have signed what has been dubbed the al-Ula agreement, ending a rift with Qatar that lasted more than three years. With signs that diplomatic relations are improving, regional analysts are wondering if joint military cooperation between the signatories is next.

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See the weapons at North Korea's latest military parade

Defense News

North Korea displayed new submarine-launched ballistic missiles under development and other military hardware in a parade that underlined leader Kim Jong Un's defiant calls to expand the country's nuclear weapons program.

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Iran tests suicide drones that look similar to those used in Saudi attacks

The Associated Press

Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard conducted a drill Friday that saw suicide drones crash into targets and explode — triangle-shaped aircraft that strongly resembled those used in a 2019 attack in Saudi Arabia that temporarily cut the kingdom's oil production by half.

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China-US rivalry: how the Gulf War sparked Beijing's military revolution

South China Morning Post

Monday marks the 30th anniversary of Operation Desert Storm, when American-led coalition forces invaded Iraq. The Gulf War sparked 30 years of chaos and turmoil in the once powerful Middle Eastern country but also served as a rude awakening for China's military leaders.

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Commentary & Analysis

Biden doesn't need a new Middle East policy

Foreign Affairs

The Trump administration got the region right.

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Gaslighting can't obscure Trump's Iran failures

Defense One

The Biden administration must make a firm break from Trump's approach and restore the status quo ante.

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Retired Gen. Lloyd Austin would be outstanding defense secretary in Biden administration

Fox News

Our best secretaries of defense have been those who have worn the uniform.

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How Iran could get nuclear weapons on Biden's watch

19FortyFive

Could Iran develop a nuclear weapon on President Biden's watch? Yes.

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How the defense budget could actually increase (slightly)

War On The Rocks

Conventional wisdom is that defense spending will be cut or remain flat under the next administration. There is certainly reason to think it might.

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What's in a name? Reimagining irregular warfare activities for competition

War On The Rocks

"Irregular warfare" has an image problem. Artistic liberties in Hollywood and misadventures by former special operators cause "irregular warfare" to be conflated with either the highly kinetic exploits of elite units, or "little green men" attempting to overthrow fledgling dictators.

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War on Terror teaches how to fight hate groups

Bloomberg

I was in the Pentagon on Sept. 11, 2001, a newly selected rear admiral, working in my office on the side of the building that was hit by the plane hijacked by al-Qaeda.

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Economic and diplomatic power is not a substitute for military strength

RealClear Defense

The current chaos in Washington, D.C. has given U.S. political discourse a distinct focus, a focus that will remain until 20 January, when Mr. Biden is inaugurated.

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Sacco, Cristina (EOM)

From: Federal Aviation Administration <usafaa@info.dot.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 1:52 PM
To: Graves, David L CIV DTRA OI (USA)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] FAA Issues Commercial Space Reentry Site Operator License to Space Florida

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ation has recently been updated, and is now available.

[Redacted]

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Commercial Space Reentry Site Operator License to S

Administration (FAA) approved Space Florida's application for a commercial space Reentry Site Operator License (RS

at the site. The license, which was issued after the company met all safety and risk requirements, is valid for five ye

t Impact (FONSI) are posted on the project web page < Caution-

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to horizontally land reentry vehicles. It anticipates up to one reentry in 2021, and increasing to up to six reentries an
ese documents will be subject to FAA approval and will be tiered from the recently completed environmental assess

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Sacco, Cristina (EOM)

From: U.S. Department of Defense <govdelivery@subscriptions.defense.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 4:19 PM
To: Graves, David L CIV DTRA OI (USA)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Force Health Protection Guidance (Supplement 15) Department of Defense Guidance for Coronavirus Disease 2019 Laboratory Testing Services

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Force Health Protection Guidance (Supplement 15) Department of Defense Guidance for Coronavirus Disease 2019 Laboratory Testing Services Jan. 19, 2021 The memo provides updates to previous Defense Department coronavirus disease 2019 laboratory testing guidance.

Read More [Caution-<https://www.defense.gov/Newsroom/Releases/Release/Article/2476119/force-health-protection-guidance-supplement-15-department-of-defense-guidance-f/?source=GovDelivery>]

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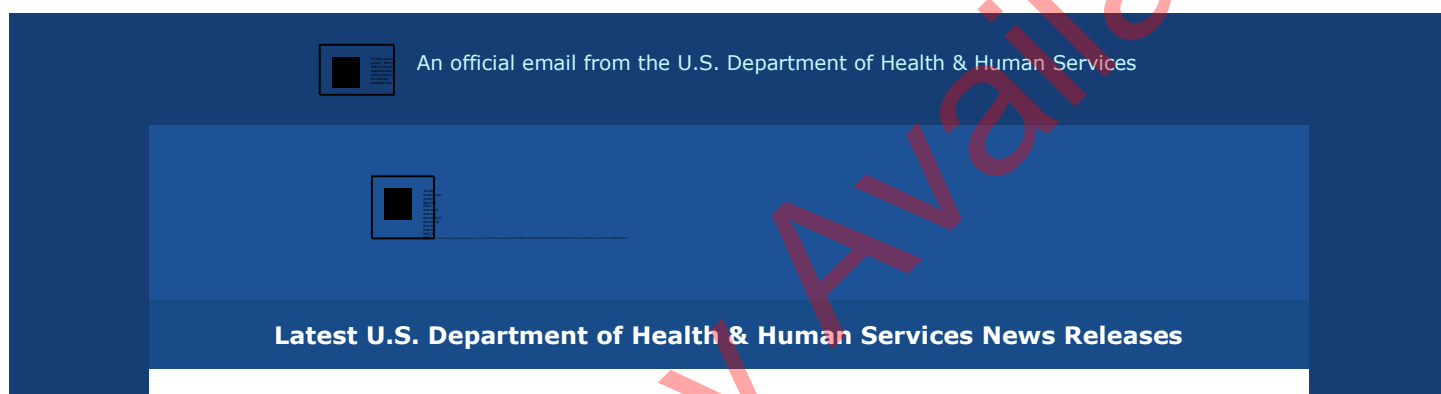
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Sacco, Cristina (EOM)

From: HHS Updates <donotreply@connect.hhs.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 11:31 AM
To: Graves, David L CIV DTRA OI (USA)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Here's What You Missed from HHS: January 17, 2021

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HHS Issues Final Rule to Increase Professional Development Opportunities for Health Care Professionals

<https://click.connect.hhs.gov/?qs=721127ef264a611a20d731897b9546d1b77029aecf459928e9>

January 15, 2021

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released a rule < Caution-<https://click.connect.hhs.gov/?qs=721127ef264a611a20d731897b9546d1b77029aecf459928e9>> complimenting an action Congress took in regards to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in the 21st Century C

OCR Seeks Information on Addressing Disability Discrimination in Health Care

<https://click.connect.hhs.gov/?qs=721127ef264a611a248cda0e599c5c39f>

January 15, 2021

The Office for Civil Rights (OCR) at the U.S Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announces the issuance of a new rule < Caution-<https://click.connect.hhs.gov/?qs=721127ef264a611a866f92112227d355f68efe2bda7260da7f911421a86496dca5>>

OCR Publishes Proposed Rule Protecting Infants Born Alive from Discrimination

<https://click.connect.hhs.gov/?qs=721127ef264a611aa60795c0924fe8146>

January 15, 2021

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office for Civil Rights (OCR) issued a proposed rule prohibiting discrimination against individuals seeking treatment for infants with disabilities. Read full news release < Caution-<https://click.connect.hhs.gov/?qs=721127ef264a611a25e00b230a9fe8d47599821e47171a4a5f8d45e8c02b9474a>

Health Insurer Pays \$5.1 Million to Settle Data Breach Affecting Over 9.3 Million People < Caution- <https://click.connect.hhs.gov/?qs=721127ef264a611a25e00b230a9fe8d47599821e47171a4a5f8d45e8c02b9474a> January 15, 2021

Excellus Health Plan, Inc. has agreed to pay \$5.1 million to the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) for a breach of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Privacy and Security Rules related to a breach affecting over 9.3 million people. Read full news release < Caution-
<https://click.connect.hhs.gov/?qs=721127ef264a611a25e00b230a9fe8d47599821e47171a4a5f8d45e8c02b9474a>

HHS Announces Provider Relief Fund Reporting Update < Caution- <https://click.connect.hhs.gov/?qs=721127ef264a611a1ab2003ce324c1b74261ade295e470ec8b6e252c5e873e12d> January 15, 2021

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), is announcing a new reporting requirement for the passage of the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act. Read full news release < Caution-
<https://click.connect.hhs.gov/?qs=721127ef264a611a1ab2003ce324c1b74261ade295e470ec8b6e252c5e873e12d>

OCR Provides Technical Assistance to Ensure Crisis Standards of Care Protection < Caution- <https://click.connect.hhs.gov/?qs=721127ef264a611ae5b36d3022fb6616e> January 14, 2021

The Office for Civil Rights (OCR) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is announcing it has announced the formation of the Crisis Standards of Care (CSC) Advisory Council, and the Indian Health Service to revise each entity's crisis standards of care ("CSC") guidelines to ensure the protection of civil liberties. Read full news release < Caution-
<https://click.connect.hhs.gov/?qs=721127ef264a611aafef0a46db9693b78810d5321392b9d557ab10cf2008002d9>

OWS Weekly Briefings < Caution-

<https://click.connect.hhs.gov/?qs=721127ef264a611a6fd1281b179289b7d19b973dc7218ff20a197020aa89d4e4bf334aa18a42>



Tune in to HHS's Operation Warp Speed briefings every week to get the latest news on COVID-19 vaccines. Visit the Operation Warp Speed YouTube to catch the latest briefing and previous briefings.

Visit the YouTube page » < Caution-
<https://click.connect.hhs.gov/?qs=721127ef264a611a6fd1281b179289b7d19b973dc7218ff20a197020aa89d4e4bf334aa18a42>

HHS Expands Access to Treatment for Opioid Use Disorder < Caution-
<https://click.connect.hhs.gov/?qs=721127ef264a611a6dbc3ca365ba7fd88>
January 14, 2021

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is announcing it will publish *Practice Guidelines for the Admin*
<https://click.connect.hhs.gov/?qs=721127ef264a611a425afdb61917877db01f98b162316dd3ee0fa9068ae0cfa873>
certain certification requirements needed to prescribe buprenorphine for opioid use disorder (OUD) treatment. Rea
<https://click.connect.hhs.gov/?qs=721127ef264a611ab86579ee9d85e93a248b08ae8bf55813a4a2c7b94305d40c1>

Statement from HHS Chief of Staff Brian Harrison on Promoting Fairness and
<https://click.connect.hhs.gov/?qs=721127ef264a611a05e4acfd60d681418>
January 13, 2021

HHS announced through a policy memorandum < Caution-<https://click.connect.hhs.gov/?qs=721127ef264a611a3>
divisions will review and revise their procedures related to civil enforcement actions and adjudications to ensure th
<https://click.connect.hhs.gov/?qs=721127ef264a611ac87fbe25510bb167209756539c9deec5b961644b2e4113284>

HHS Improves Agency Procedures Relating to Transparency and Fairness in
<https://click.connect.hhs.gov/?qs=721127ef264a611a20de6882fd67fa22b>
January 12, 2021

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released a final rule designed to enhance HHS practices inv
<https://click.connect.hhs.gov/?qs=721127ef264a611a3e57b485339289b84a3f124e0fd58b1959100cfcb46598f166>

Nationwide Study Shows Continued Rise in Opioid Affected Births < Caution
<https://click.connect.hhs.gov/?qs=721127ef264a611a7e990290aa3ed42b8>
January 12, 2021

A new study conducted by researchers at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) shows that th
news release < Caution-<https://click.connect.hhs.gov/?qs=721127ef264a611a7e990290aa3ed42b8f466626e492d>

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<https://click.connect.hhs.gov/?qs=721127ef264a611ae18f0841cab23ba8c7f9b2121b9557f81576a228cfc99972fc39b1>



As Americans receive COVID-19 vaccines over the next few months, it is important to continue to follow public health safety measures in your community. Learn more about COVID-19 vaccines and how to stay safe.

Visit [CDC.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus) » < Caution-
<https://click.connect.hhs.gov/?qs=721127ef264a611af8a9fa51c2d1d4d23aa2600cdb56cbd1301b0296b3fed96d0>



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Sacco, Cristina (EOM)

From: Steve Redifer <sredifer@hdiac.org>
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 3:42 PM
To: Graves, David L CIV DTRA OI (USA)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] January Update from the HDIAC Director

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Dear David L Graves,

Steve Redifer, HDIAC Director, with another quick update of our activities.

Please allow me to wish you and yours a Happy New Year – everyone on the HDIAC team extends their best wishes for a prosperous 2021! I also want to thank you for your continued support to the HDIAC and its mission. I am grateful to you, as there is no question that homeland defense and security has to be a team effort.

We have a number of exciting events upcoming, and we recently have had some of our most successful webinars to date, so I wanted to share an update with you.

A glimpse into our recent and upcoming work:

- **Webinars**

- Our most recent webinar was presented on 15 January, and we were pleased to host Dr. Stephen Thomas, Chief, Infectious Disease Division, State University of New York Upstate Medical University as he presented ***“The Continued Threat of Infectious Diseases to the U.S. Military;”*** if you missed it, you can catch it here: [Caution-https://www.hdiac.org/podcast/continued-threat-of-infectious-diseases-to-military/](https://www.hdiac.org/podcast/continued-threat-of-infectious-diseases-to-military/) < [Caution-https://www.hdiac.org/podcast/continued-threat-of-infectious-diseases-to-military/](https://www.hdiac.org/podcast/continued-threat-of-infectious-diseases-to-military/) > .
- On 21 January, we will be hosting Ambassador (Retired) Rich Kauzlarich of George Mason University’s Schar School of Policy and Government for a presentation titled ***“Energy Security”*** and you can learn more here: [Caution-https://www.hdiac.org/podcast/energy-security/](https://www.hdiac.org/podcast/energy-security/) < [Caution-https://www.hdiac.org/podcast/energy-security/](https://www.hdiac.org/podcast/energy-security/) >
- February will bring Dr. Christina Baxter speaking on the threat of biological agents as well as Mr. Alan Carr of Los Alamos National Laboratory discussing nuclear weapons testing.

- **Podcasts**

- In December, we released a two-part series in which the HDIAC Deputy, Dirk Plante, has a discussion about nuclear weapons treaties with Pranay Vaddi, a fellow in the Nuclear Policy Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.
- For January, we recently released a critical infrastructure podcast featuring Dr. Tonya Neaves of George Mason University.
- For February, we are planning a cultural studies podcast featuring Dr. Robert Rubinstein, a Distinguished Professor of Anthropology and Professor of International Relations at the Maxwell School of Syracuse

University. Dr. Rubinstein and I will be talking about Military Anthropology and the role it has played in military operations.

- **State of the Art Reports**

- Our next State of the Art Report is also nearing completion, and it will focus on critical infrastructure protection and resilience, one of our 8 technical focus areas. For a look at our two previous SOARs, check out [Caution-https://www.hdiac.org/hdiac-report/](https://www.hdiac.org/hdiac-report/) < [Caution-https://www.hdiac.org/hdiac-report/](https://www.hdiac.org/hdiac-report/) >

- **HDIAC Training Services**

- Finally, we just released our first training video series covering the threat posed by homemade explosives and improvised explosive devices - we hope it will be beneficial to you. You can find our training courses here and we are happy to customize one for your organization: [Caution-https://www.hdiac.org/training-course/](https://www.hdiac.org/training-course/) < [Caution-https://www.hdiac.org/training-course/](https://www.hdiac.org/training-course/) >

As always, please encourage your colleagues to sign up at our website; if you are interested in becoming a Subject Matter Expert you can find more information here: [Caution-https://www.hdiac.org/sme/](https://www.hdiac.org/sme/) < [Caution-https://www.hdiac.org/sme/](https://www.hdiac.org/sme/) >

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Warm regards and Semper Fidelis,
Steve

Steve Redifer
Director, Homeland Defense and Security Information Analysis Center
901 North Stuart St, Suite 401
Arlington, VA 22203
Phone: (877) 363-7422 (Toll Free)

Sacco, Cristina (EOM)

From: Maritime Administration <marad@info.dot.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 2:33 PM
To: Graves, David L CIV DTRA OI (USA)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] MARAD Authorizes the Construction of Two Additional National Security Multi-Mission Vessels

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MARAD 02-21
Tuesday, January 19, 2021
Tel.: 202-366-5807
maradpressooffice@dot.gov < Caution-mailto:maradpressooffice@dot.gov >

Email:

MARAD Authorizes the Construction of Two Additional National Security Multi-Mission Vessels

WASHINGTON—The U.S. Department of Transportation’s Maritime Administration (MARAD) today authorized the construction of two additional National Security Multi-Mission Vessels (NSMV), which will replace aging training vessels at Maine Maritime Academy in Castine, Maine, and Texas A&M Maritime Academy in Galveston, Texas. MARAD previously authorized the construction of the first two NSMVs, destined for SUNY Maritime College in Bronx, New York, and Massachusetts Maritime Academy, in Bourne, Massachusetts, on April 8, 2020.

“The NSMV is part of a strategy to bolster maritime education, revitalize U.S. shipbuilding, and provide a much-needed shot in the arm to the U.S. maritime industry,” added Doug Burnett, the Chief Counsel of MARAD, who is acting in lieu of the Administrator. “America must be a maritime nation if it is to continue to lead the world in this century.”

With this authorization, recapitalization of our nation’s aging maritime training fleet is nearly complete. Construction of all authorized vessels at Philly Shipyard, Inc. will also strengthen America’s industrial base while supporting more than 1,200 shipyard jobs in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

The NSMV will feature numerous instructional spaces, a full training bridge, and have space for up to 600 cadets in a first-rate maritime academic environment at sea. State maritime academies graduate approximately 70 percent of all new officers each year—the merchant mariners who help keep cargoes and our economy moving. Many also support U.S. national security by crewing military sealift vessels.

The NSMV is also a highly functional national asset that includes modern medical facilities, a helicopter pad, the ability to accommodate up to 1,000 people in times of humanitarian need, and roll-on/roll-off and container storage capacity for use during disaster relief missions.

In May 2019, MARAD awarded TOTE Services, LLC a contract to be the Vessel Construction Manager for the NSMV program. This contract is an innovative approach to federal shipbuilding where the government benefits from commercial best practices for ship design and construction. In April 2020, TOTE Services awarded Philly Shipyard, Inc. a contract to construct up to five NSMVs with fixed prices and schedules.

###

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Sacco, Cristina (EOM)

From: U.S. Department of Defense <govdelivery@subscriptions.defense.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 12:10 PM
To: Graves, David L CIV DTRA OI (USA)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Military Tax Services Available Through Military OneSource

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Military Tax Services Available Through Military OneSource Jan. 19, 2021 | By Terri Moon Cronk Filing taxes can be a daunting task every year, but the Defense Department has helpful resources for active-duty service members and their families, and its all free through Military OneSource beginning today.

Read More [Caution-<https://www.defense.gov/Explore/News/Article/Article/2475303/military-tax-services-available-through-military-onesource/?source=GovDelivery>]

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Sacco, Cristina (EOM)

From: U.S. Fire Administration <usfa@service.govdelivery.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 9:27 AM
To: Graves, David L CIV DTRA OI (USA)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] National Operations Briefing for Fire and EMS

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Daily operations briefing January 19, 2021

to provide a snapshot of significant national events with potential impact on the fire and emergency se

Daily Operations Briefing (PDF) < Caution-
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Sacco, Cristina (EOM)

From: FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) <fema@service.govdelivery.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 12:59 PM
To: Graves, David L CIV DTRA OI (USA)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] NIMS Alert 03-21: FEMA Releases EOC Toolkit Documents

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FEMA RELEASES EOC TOOLKIT DOCUMENTS

FEMA is releasing five Emergency Operations Center Toolkit documents < Caution-
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These documents will contribute to developing an Emergency Operation Center that can successfully meet the jurisdiction's needs. The toolkit documents will cover topics such as hazard vulnerability assessments, physical site selection, mitigation considerations, capabilities and requirements, information management systems, as well as training and exercises.

The toolkit is a collective effort with FEMA, emergency management stakeholders and subject matter experts at various levels, representing FEMA, the Department of Health and Human Services, state and private sector partners.

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Sacco, Cristina (EOM)

From: U.S. Department of Defense <govdelivery@subscriptions.defense.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 8:16 AM
To: Graves, David L CIV DTRA OI (USA)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Sports Heroes Who Served: From Lacrosse Captain to Army Leader

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Sports Heroes Who Served: From Lacrosse Captain to Army Leader Jan. 19, 2021 | By David Vergun As a cadet at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York, Edward C. Meyer led the lacrosse team to the national championships in 1951. He rose to become Army chief of staff from 1979 to 1983.

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Sacco, Cristina (EOM)

From: U.S. Department of Defense <govdelivery@subscriptions.defense.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 5:07 PM
To: Graves, David L CIV DTRA OI (USA)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Statement by Acting Secretary of Defense Christopher Miller on Operation Warp Speed Vaccine Doses Delivered Today

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Statement by Acting Secretary of Defense Christopher Miller on Operation Warp Speed Vaccine Doses Delivered Today
Jan. 19, 2021 Acting Defense Secretary Christopher Miller released a statement on vaccine distribution numbers for today.

Read More [Caution-<https://www.defense.gov/Newsroom/Releases/Release/Article/2476213/statement-by-acting-secretary-of-defense-christopher-miller-on-operation-warp-s/?source=GovDelivery>]

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Sacco, Cristina (EOM)

From: U.S. Department of Defense <govdelivery@subscriptions.defense.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 10:06 AM
To: Graves, David L CIV DTRA OI (USA)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Statement on Carrier Strike Group 2021 Joint Declaration Signing

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Statement on Carrier Strike Group 2021 Joint Declaration Signing Jan. 19, 2021 Acting Secretary of Defense Christopher C. Miller and UK Secretary of State for Defense Ben Wallace have co-signed the Joint Declaration for the Carrier Strike Group 2021 deployment.

Read More [Caution-<https://www.defense.gov/Newsroom/Releases/Release/Article/2475243/statement-on-carrier-strike-group-2021-joint-declaration-signing/?source=GovDelivery>]

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Sacco, Cristina (EOM)

From: U.S. Customs and Border Protection <cbp@service.govdelivery.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 2:02 PM
To: Graves, David L CIV DTRA OI (USA)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] U.S. Customs and Border Protection Newsroom Update

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Philadelphia CBP Officers Seize \$44,000 in Unreported Currency from Jamaica-bound Travelers < Caution-

<https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDAsInVyYSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoimjAyMTAxMTkuMzM1NzA0MzEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5jYnAuZ292L25ld3NyY29tL2xvY2FsLW1lZGhLXJlbGVhc2UvcGhpYGFkZWxwaGlhLWNicC1vZmZpY2Vycy1zZWl6ZS00NDAwMC11bnJlcG9ydGVkLWN1cnJlbnN5LWphbWFpY2EtYm91bmQifQ.YfXQVOzSjPetJrk-X8B9VXsWO6co4CPtDQjxXuV-0N4/s/975234540/br/93317286323-l> >

01/19/2021 01:06 PM EST

PHILADELPHIA – U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers seized more than \$44,000 from a Jamaica-bound couple at Philadelphia International Airport on Friday. CBP seized more than \$44,000 in unreported currency from a Jamaica-bound couple. CBP...

Baltimore CBP Grinds Out ZT Penalty on Trusted Traveler < Caution-

<https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDEsInVyYSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoimjAyMTAxMTkuMzM1NzA0MzEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5jYnAuZ292L25ld3NyY29tL2xvY2FsLW1lZGhLXJlbGVhc2UvcGhpYGFkZWxwaGlhLWNicC1ncmluZHMtb3V0LXp0LXB1bmFsdHktdHJ1c3RIZC10cmF2ZWxlcjI9.mVkjIJu9FzXjYNmnlUkvwnSLCezsC1hj60hAmOyiTVs/s/975234540/br/93317286323-l> >

01/19/2021 12:53 PM EST

BALTIMORE – A Global Entry member bogeyed his trusted traveler privilege and scored a \$500 Zero Tolerance penalty after a Customs and Border Protection canine alert to his golf bag Monday at Baltimore Washington International Thurgood Marshall...

Laredo CBP Officers Seize Over \$650K in Hard Narcotics < Caution-

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01/19/2021 12:50 PM EST

LAREDO, Texas—U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), Office of Field Operations (OFO) officers at the Juarez-Lincoln Bridge seized heroin that totaled over \$650,000 in street value over one enforcement action. “Operational vigilance in border...

Brownsville CBP Officers Seize \$1.8 Million in Narcotics in Three Seizures < Caution-

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01/19/2021 12:42 PM EST

BROWNSVILLE, Texas – U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers at the Brownsville Port of Entry intercepted alleged narcotics in three separate enforcement actions that have a combined estimated street value of \$1,892,620. “Our CBP officers’...

Oficiales de CBP de Brownsville Incautan \$1.8 Millones en Narcóticos en Tres Incautaciones < Caution-

<https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDQsInVyaSI6ImJwMjppbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoimjAyMTAxMTkuMzM1NzA0MzEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5jYnAuZ292L25ld3Nyb29tL2xvY2FsLW1lZGhlLXJlbGVhc2Uvb2ZpY2lhbGVzLWRILWNicC1kZS1icm93bnN2aWxsZS1pbmNhdXRhbi0xOC1taWxs25lcy1lbi1uYXJjLXRpY29zLWVuIn0.mQMT4f7BUUwoXIXHLWofxH60OuXXJyiLwUCyxHNyle4/s/975234540/br/93317286323-l> >

01/19/2021 12:41 PM EST

BROWNSVILLE, Texas – Los oficiales de Aduanas y Protección Fronteriza (CBP, por sus siglas en inglés) que trabajaban en el Puerto de Entrada de Brownsville interceptaron presuntos narcóticos en tres acciones policiales separadas que tienen un valor...

\$8 Million in Fake Cartier Bracelets seized by CBP in Cincinnati & Louisville on the Same Day from the Same Shipper Heading to the Same Address < Caution-
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01/19/2021 11:46 AM EST

CINCINNATI— As E-Commerce is a growing segment of the U.S. economy, and consumer habits continue to change, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers continue to stop shipments that contain illicit goods that pose economic security risks. On...

CBP at JFK Seize Various Prohibitive Food Items < Caution-
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01/19/2021 11:11 AM EST

JAMAICA, N.Y. — On January 13, U. S. Customs and Border Protection Agriculture Specialists (CBPAS) at John F. Kennedy International Airport examined a shipment from China. During the course of the inspection, CBP agriculture specialists discovered...

Agents Arrest Aggravated Felon, Sex Offender < Caution-
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01/19/2021 10:18 AM EST

YUMA, Ariz. – Yuma Sector Border Patrol agents arrested an aggravated felon on Sunday who had several arrests and convictions, the most serious being for statutory sexual seduction. Jose Nicolas Olivares-Gonzalez At approximately 6:30 p.m., agents...

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Sacco, Cristina (EOM)

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Political Scientist Author Charged With Acting As An Unregistered Agent Of The Iranian Government < Caution-

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01/19/2021 12:00 AM EST

A criminal complaint was unsealed today in federal court in Brooklyn charging Kaveh Lotfolah Afrasiabi, also known as "Lotfolah Kaveh Afrasiabi," with acting and conspiring to act as an unregistered agent of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in violation of the Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA). Afrasiabi was arrested yesterday at his home in Watertown, Massachusetts, and will make his initial appearance this morning in federal court in Boston, Massachusetts, before United States Magistrate Judge Jennifer C. Boal.



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Foreign-Language Training Companies Admit to Participating in Conspiracy to Defraud the United States < Caution-

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01/19/2021 12:00 AM EST

Two providers of foreign-language services, Comprehensive Language Center Inc. (CLCI), based in the Washington, D.C., area, and Berlitz Languages Inc. (Berlitz), based in New Jersey, were charged with participating in a conspiracy to defraud the United States by impeding, impairing, obstructing, and defeating competitive bidding for a multi-million dollar foreign-language training contract issued by the National Security Agency (NSA) in 2017, the Department of Justice announced today.

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Statement of Acting Attorney General Jeffrey A. Rosen Regarding Nationwide Safety and Security for Inauguration Day < Caution-
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01/19/2021 12:00 AM EST

Tomorrow, the Nation and the world will witness an orderly and peaceful transfer of power in the United States, as the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court swears in President-Elect Biden. Throughout our Nation's proud history, this ceremony has served as a beacon of democracy and a testament to the enduring strength of our Constitution.

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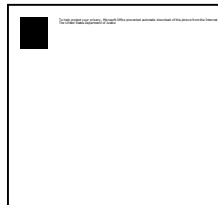
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Sacco, Cristina (EOM)

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Political Scientist Author Charged With Acting As An Unregistered Agent Of The Iranian Government < Caution-

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01/19/2021 12:00 AM EST

A criminal complaint was unsealed today in federal court in Brooklyn charging Kaveh Lotfolah Afrasiabi, also known as “Lotfolah Kaveh Afrasiabi,” with acting and conspiring to act as an unregistered agent of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in violation of the Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA). Afrasiabi was arrested yesterday at his home in Watertown, Massachusetts, and will make his initial appearance this morning in federal court in Boston, Massachusetts, before United States Magistrate Judge Jennifer C. Boal.

Jeffrey Lowe and Tiger King LLC Ordered to Relinquish Big Cat Cubs to United States for Placement in Suitable Facilities < Caution-


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01/19/2021 12:00 AM EST

On Jan. 15, 2021, a federal court issued a preliminary injunction in favor of the United States and against Jeffrey and Lauren Lowe, Greater Wynnewood Exotic Animal Park LLC, and Tiger King LLC based on claimed violations of the Endangered Species Act and the Animal Welfare Act.

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United States Reaches Agreement with Midwest Can for Clean Air Act Violations < Caution-

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01/19/2021 12:00 AM EST

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Department of Justice announced a settlement today that will require Midwest Can Company, one of the largest manufacturers of portable fuel containers in the United States, to pay a \$1.7 million civil penalty to resolve Clean Air Act violations.

Assistant Attorney General Makan Delrahim Delivers Final Address < Caution-

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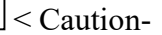
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Sacco, Cristina (EOM)

From: APHIS Stakeholder Registry <aphis@subscribers.usda.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 1:31 PM
To: Graves, David L CIV DTRA OI (USA)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] USDA Announces Deregulation of Petunias Developed Using Genetic Engineering

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Orange PetuniasDear BRS Stakeholder,

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) today announces the deregulation of petunia varieties, designated as A1-DFR, developed using genetic engineering to produce orange flowers.

After reviewing the petition and available data, APHIS published for a 30-day public comment period a preliminary determination of nonregulated status for A1-DFR petunias, a draft Plant Pest Risk Assessment that examined plant pest risks, a draft Environmental Assessment that analyzed the potential issues and environmental impacts, and a preliminary Finding of No Significant Impact. After thoroughly reviewing all public comments, APHIS has determined the A1-DFR petunia variety is unlikely to pose a plant pest risk to agricultural crops or other plants in the United States. Therefore, A1-DFR petunias, and any progeny derived from them are no longer to be considered regulated under APHIS Biotechnology Regulations at 7 CFR part 340

With this deregulation, the 15 A1-DFR varieties identified in the Westhoff petition have been removed from the APHIS list of varieties that require import authorization. APHIS will retain all other varieties developed using genetic engineering on the list of varieties requiring import authorization. If an importer of a listed variety has reason to believe the variety contains the same plant-trait-mechanism of action combination as A1-DFR petunias, the importer can seek confirmation that the variety is not regulated under 7 CFR part 340, by providing APHIS with information demonstrating the plant meets the criteria for exemption from regulation (guidance can be found on the BRS Confirmation Request Process web page [Caution-<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/biotechnology/permits-notifications-petitions/confirmations>]).

The final environmental documents can be accessed on the News [Caution-
https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/biotechnology/brs-news-and-information/ct_news] page of the BRS website.

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From: Military Health System <mhs@usmhs.dod.govdelivery.com>
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Subject: [Trusted Sender] Lessons of service-before-self epitomize Dr. King's legacy

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Dr. King's dedication to serving others inspired his civil rights career.

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Lessons of service before self epitomize Dr. King's legacy

"I believe what self-centered men have torn down, men other-centered can build up.

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One Marine's journey to recovery through adaptive sports

I was assigned to the U.S. Marine Corps Wounded Warrior Regiment in July 2018.

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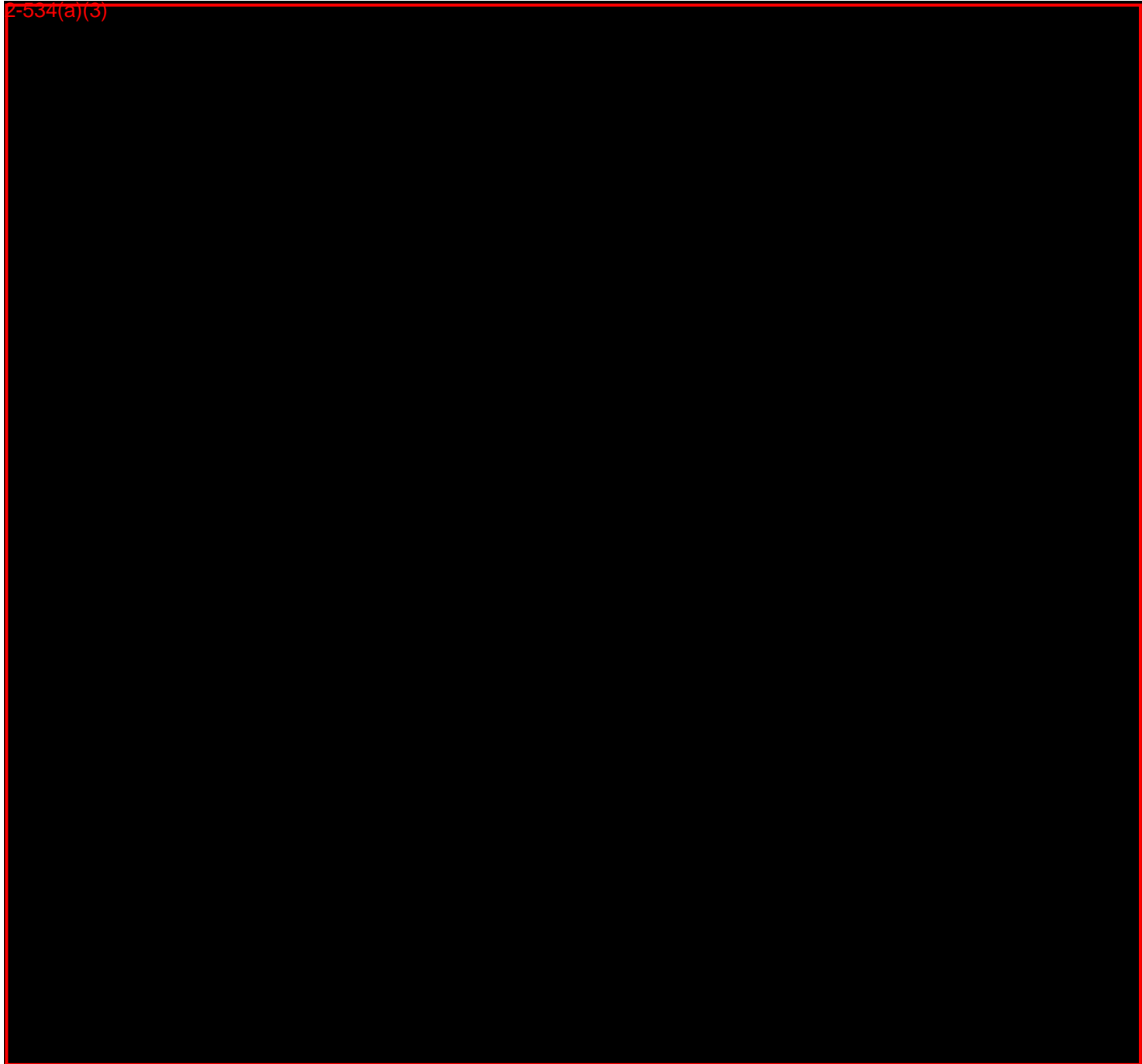
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HealthdotMil [Caution-http://www.health.mil/?utm_medium=govdelivery&utm_source=email] Questions for MHS? Contact Us [Caution-http://www.health.mil/ContactUs.aspx?utm_medium=govdelivery&utm_source=email]

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Graves, David L CIV DTRA OI (USA)

To:

Graves, David L CIV DTRA OI (USA)

Subject:

FW: [CFIX] **EXEMPT** Law Enforcement Sensitive - Potential for Interruption to Critical Infrastructure

§ 2-534(a)(3)



2-534(a)(3)





COVID-19 Vaccine Information



JANUARY 2021

FOR MORE INFORMATION: www.cdc.gov/COVID19



COVID-19 and Vaccine Basics

What is known about COVID-19?

- Infection with SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, can result in a range of illness, from mild symptoms to severe illness and death.
- We don't know how SARS-CoV-2 will affect each person.
- Some people, such as adults 65 and older or people with certain medical conditions, are more likely than others to become severely ill.



How to prevent COVID-19

- Wear a mask that covers your mouth and nose.
- Avoid close contact with others. Stay at least 6 feet (about 2 arm lengths) from other people.
- Avoid crowds and poorly ventilated spaces.
- Wash hands often with soap and water.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol if soap and water are not available.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily.
- Get a COVID-19 vaccine.



COVID-19 vaccination is a safer way to build protection

- Getting the virus that causes COVID-19 may offer some natural protection, known as an antibody or immune. But experts don't know how long this protection lasts.
- The risk of severe illness and death from COVID-19 far outweighs any benefits of natural immunity.
- COVID-19 vaccination will help protect you by building immunity without the risk of severe illness.



Key facts about COVID-19 vaccination



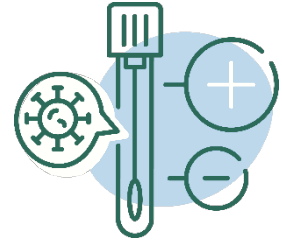
Getting vaccinated
can help prevent
getting sick with
COVID-19



People who have
already gotten sick
with COVID-19 may
still benefit from
getting vaccinated



COVID-19 vaccines
cannot give you
COVID-19



COVID-19 vaccines
will not cause you
to test positive on
COVID-19 viral
tests*

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/about-vaccines/vaccine-myths.html>

*<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/testing-overview.html>

Safety of COVID-19 vaccines is a top priority

COVID-19 vaccines are being held to the **same safety standards** as all vaccines.

Before Authorization



ACIP

- **FDA** carefully reviews all safety data from clinical trials.
- **ACIP** reviews all safety data before recommending use.

After Authorization



- **FDA** and **CDC** closely monitor vaccine safety and side effects. There are systems in place that allow CDC and FDA to watch for safety issues.

VAERS

Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System
www.vaers.hhs.gov



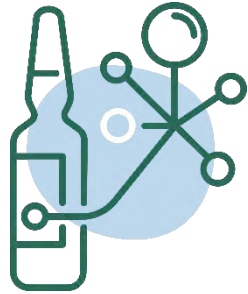
v-safe
after vaccination
health checker



V-safe: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/safety/vsafe.html>

COVID-19 vaccination will help protect you from COVID-19

Getting a COVID-19 vaccine...



- Will help create an immune response in your body against the virus



- May help keep you from getting severely ill, even if you do get COVID-19

What to expect before, during, and after COVID-19 vaccination

Before



- Learn about COVID-19 vaccines.
- See if COVID-19 vaccination is recommended for you.

During



- Read the fact sheet that tells you about the specific COVID-19 vaccine you receive.
- Receive a vaccination record card.

After



- Expect some side effects.
- Enroll in v-safe. V-safe will remind you if you need a second shot.
- Continue using all the measures to protect yourself and others.

V-safe: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/safety/vsafe.html>

Vaccination is one measure to help stop the pandemic

- While COVID-19 mRNA vaccines appear to be highly effective, additional preventive tools remain important to limit the spread of COVID-19.
- The combination of getting vaccinated and following CDC recommendations to protect yourself and others offers the best protection from COVID-19.
 - Cover your nose and mouth with a mask.
 - Stay at least 6 feet from people who don't live with you.
 - Avoid crowds and poorly ventilated indoor spaces.
 - Wash your hands.



Protect yourself, your family, friends, coworkers, and your community. Get vaccinated.

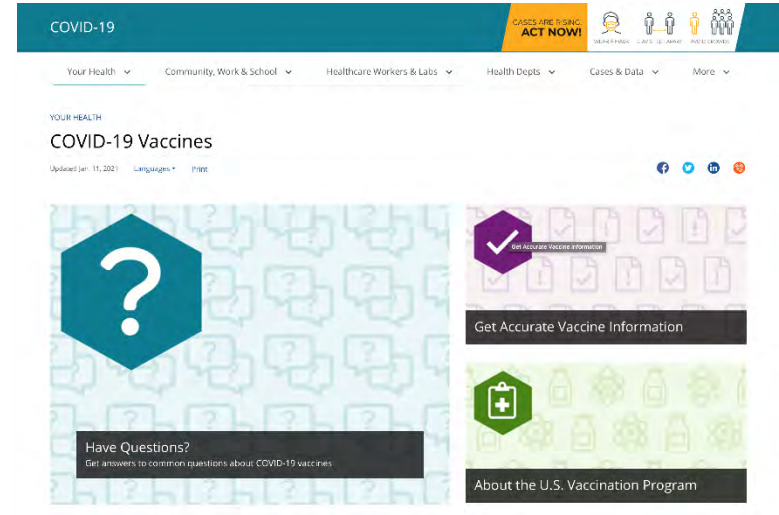
- Choose to get vaccinated when it is offered.
- Participate in **v-safe** and help CDC monitor for any health effects after vaccination.
- Share your experience with coworkers, friends, and family.
- Know the basics about the COVID-19 vaccine. Help answer questions from your family and friends.
- Show you received the vaccine by wearing a sticker or button prominently.



CDC COVID-19 Vaccine Websites



<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/index.html>



<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/index.html>



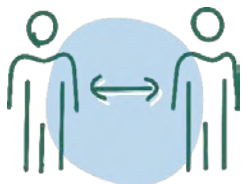
Getting Vaccinated

After Vaccination

- Continue COVID-19 prevention measures:



Cover your
nose and mouth
with a mask.



Stay at least 6
feet from people
who don't live
with you.



Avoid crowds
and poorly
ventilated
spaces.



Wash your
hands.



Clean and
disinfect
frequently
touched surfaces.

- Enroll in **V-safe**
- If you have questions about your health and vaccination, call your doctor, nurse, or clinic.



For more information about COVID-19 and vaccines:
www.cdc.gov/COVID19



An official website of the United States government

[Here's how you know](#)



FEMA

National Incident Management System

NIMS Components – Guidance and Tools

National Qualification System

Resource Typing

Inventorizing

Mutual Aid

Incident Command System

Emergency Operations Centers

Communities across the nation experience a diverse set of threats, hazards, and events. The size, frequency, complexity and scope of these incidents vary, but all involve a range of personnel and organizations to coordinate efforts to save lives, stabilize the incident, and protect property and the environment.

Every day, jurisdictions and organizations work together to share resources, integrate tactics, and act collaboratively. Whether these organizations are nearby or are supporting each other from across the country, their success depends on a common, interoperable approach to sharing resources, coordinating and managing incidents, and communicating information.

The National Incident Management System (NIMS) defines this comprehensive approach.

Download the [National Incident Management System Doctrine](#).

National Qualification System

The National Qualification System (NQS) provides a foundational guideline on the typing of

personnel resources within the NIMS framework, plus supporting tools.

Supplemental Guidance & Tools

Overarching NIMS guidelines for the National Qualification System, plus two supplemental guides for qualification review boards and coaches/evaluators.

[View All Guides](#)

NQS Job Titles and Position Qualifications

Minimum qualifications criteria for personnel serving in defined incident management and support positions. These documents can also be found on the [Resource Typing Library Tool](#).

[View All Criteria](#)

NQS Position Task Books

Competencies, behaviors, and tasks that personnel should demonstrate to become qualified for a defined incident management and support position.

[View All Position Task Books](#)

OneResponder

OneResponder is web-based application for resource management, hosted in a cloud environment that is free and accessible to all members of the whole community.

[Visit OneResponder.net](#)

Resource Typing

Resource typing is defining and categorizing, by capability, the resources requested, deployed and used in incidents. Resource typing definitions establish a common language and defines a resource's (for equipment, teams, and units) minimum capabilities. NIMS resource typing definitions serve as the common language for the mobilization of resources.

Resource Typing Library Tool

Inventorying

Resource owners and providers should inventory and maintain current information on their shareable resources. Resource inventories should be adaptable and scalable. While a resource inventory can be as simple as a paper or electronic spreadsheet, many resource providers use information technology (IT) based inventory systems.

The Incident Resource Inventory System (IRIS) is a distributed software tool, provided at no-cost by FEMA. IRIS allows users to identify and inventory their resources for mutual aid operations and share information with other agencies.

Incident Resource Inventory System

Mutual Aid

Mutual aid agreements already exist in various forms among and between all levels of government. These agreements authorize mutual aid between two or more neighboring communities, between all jurisdictions within a state and between states. Agreements can also be with and between private sector entities, NGOs and other whole-community partners. The emergency management community should consider resources and capabilities across the whole community, and develop written agreements that facilitate access to potentially needed resources.

NIMS Guideline for Mutual Aid

Incident Command System Resources

The Incident Command System (ICS) is a management system designed to enable effective and efficient domestic incident management by integrating a combination of facilities, equipment, personnel, procedures, and communications operating within a common organizational structure. It enables incident managers to identify the key concerns associated with the incident—often under urgent conditions—without sacrificing attention to any component of the command system.

ICS is normally structured to facilitate activities in six major functional areas:

- Command
- Operations
- Planning

- Logistics
- Intelligence and Investigations
- Finance and Administration

Incident Command System Resources

NIMS Intelligence & Investigations Function Guidance

Emergency Operations Centers

Jurisdictions establish Emergency Operations Centers (EOC) to meet their unique requirements and needs, so no two EOCs are designed exactly the same. Within this section, FEMA has provided tools and resources for building or maintaining EOCs, in accordance with NIMS.

Emergency Operations Center Skillsets

Modified Position Task Book approaches to qualify EOC personnel while remaining flexible to accommodate diverse EOC organizational structures.

[View All Skillsets](#)

Emergency Operations Center Toolkit

Toolkit documents cover topics such as hazard vulnerability assessments, physical site selection, mitigation considerations, capabilities and requirements, information management systems, as well as training and exercises.

[Download the EOC Toolkit](#)

Senior Leaders Toolkit

Includes quick reference guides and a NIMS senior leader briefing template to help emergency management and senior leaders understand their role and responsibility during incidents.

[Download the Toolkit](#)

Last updated January 19, 2021

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[Inspector General](#)



FEMA

FOLLOW FEMA

Graves, David L CIV DTRA OI (USA)

To: Graves, David L CIV DTRA OI (USA)
Subject: FW: (U//FOUO) JRIC Daily: 19 January 2021

From: JRIC
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 1:01 PM
Subject: (U//FOUO) JRIC Daily: 19 January 2021

UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
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This document is the Joint Regional Intelligence Center Daily for 19 January 2021.

Warning: This document is Unclassified//For Official Use Only (U//FOUO). It contains sensitive information that cannot be released to the public or outside of the public safety community.

(U) GLOBAL

Nothing Significant to Report (NSTR)

(U) NATIONAL

Ohio Police Officer Killed in the Line of Duty < Caution-<https://apnews.com/article/ohio-shootings-vandalism-toledo-7e359c468e7f0100126a7f8abd0c8137> >

- On 18 January, Christopher Harris, 27, fatally shot Toledo Police Officer Brandon Stalker, 24, after Harris came out of a home armed following an hours-long standoff with police.
- Authorities returned gunfire and killed Harris; he was wanted in connection to a cathedral vandalism incident.
- Officer Stalker joined the Toledo Police Department in July 2018.

Connecticut Resident Sentenced for Providing Support to ISIS < Caution-<https://www.justice.gov/usao-edny/pr/defendant-sentenced-more-12-years-prison-conspiring-provide-material-support-isis> >

- Last week, a Brooklyn federal courthouse sentenced Azizjon Rakhmatov, 33, an Uzbekistan citizen, to 12.5 years in prison for conspiring to provide material support to ISIS.
- In 2014, Rakhmatov discussed providing money to help facilitate a co-conspirator's travel to Syria to fight on behalf of ISIS.

(U) CALIFORNIA

Sacramento Sheriff's Deputy and K-9 Officer Killed < Caution-

<https://www.abc10.com/article/news/crime/cal-expo-police-incident-sacramento/103-04aff833-e0aa-4537-8408-cdef1c2db6b3> >

- On 18 January, an unnamed Sacramento County Sheriff's deputy and his K-9 partner died following a car pursuit and fatal shooting involving a parolee outside the Cal Expo race track; authorities have not confirmed if there was a warrant for the parolee's arrest.
- The unnamed deputy was a six-year veteran of the Sacramento County Sheriff's Office.

(U) CYBER

NSTR

(U//FOUO) CALENDAR

Upcoming Events

NSTR

Training < Caution-<https://www.jric.org/default.aspx/MenuItemID/263/MenuGroup/Public.htm> >

For the safety of students and instructors, and in accordance with social distancing guidance amid the COVID-19 pandemic, JRIC TLO will be limiting the number of students in each training class.

- 20 January: BehavioralThreat Assessment - Preventing the Active Shooter < Caution-
<https://www.jric.org/EBForms.aspx?EBID=976&EBType=WLR&RefID=> > in Foothill Ranch
- 21 January: Cyber WarriorAcademy < Caution-
<https://www.jric.org/EBForms.aspx?EBID=971&EBType=WLR&RefID=> > in Corona
- 25 January: FundingTerrorism and Domestic Sex Trafficking < Caution-
<https://www.jric.org/EBForms.aspx?EBID=974&EBType=WLR&RefID=> > in Riverside
- 4 February: SovereignCitizen Extremists < Caution-
<https://www.jric.org/EBForms.aspx?EBID=977&EBType=WLR&RefID=> > in Foothill Ranch
- 8 February: FundingTerrorism and Domestic Sex Trafficking < Caution-
<https://www.jric.org/EBForms.aspx?EBID=978&EBType=WLR&RefID=> > in Foothill Ranch
- 11 February: PolicingViolent Extremism (ISIS/ISIL) < Caution-
<https://www.jric.org/EBForms.aspx?EBID=975&EBType=WLR&RefID=> > in Corona
- 17 February: BehavioralThreat Assessment - Preventing the Active Shooter < Caution-
<https://www.jric.org/EBForms.aspx?EBID=980&EBType=WLR&RefID=> > in Riverside
- 23 February: SovereignCitizen Extremists < Caution-
<https://www.jric.org/EBForms.aspx?EBID=979&EBType=WLR&RefID=> > in Wilmington
- 25 February: Cyber WarriorAcademy < Caution-
<https://www.jric.org/EBForms.aspx?EBID=973&EBType=WLR&RefID=> > in Camarillo
- 11 March: PolicingViolent Extremism (ISIS/ISIL) < Caution-
<https://www.jric.org/EBForms.aspx?EBID=981&EBType=WLR&RefID=> > in San Bernardino
- Additional training offered by Los AngelesHIDTA < Caution-
[https://lahidtatraining.org/\(X\(1\)S\(cnveej1gugslnspnyq4jetuf\)\)/default.aspx?AspxAutoDetectCookieSupport=1](https://lahidtatraining.org/(X(1)S(cnveej1gugslnspnyq4jetuf))/default.aspx?AspxAutoDetectCookieSupport=1) > .

(U) NOTABLE ANNIVERSARY DATES

- 2007, Ethiopia: Twenty-five killed in attack on community inGunagdo; Ogaden National Liberation Front believed responsible.

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THE UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
JUSTICE NEWS

Department of Justice

Office of Public Affairs

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, January 19, 2021

U.S. Army Soldier Arrested for Attempting to Assist ISIS to Conduct Deadly Ambush on U.S. Troops

Provided Tactical Guidance in Attempt to Help ISIS to Attack U.S. Forces in the Middle East

The Justice Department, along with the New York City Police Department (NYPD) and U.S. Army Counterintelligence, announced today the arrest of a private first class in the U.S. Army, on federal terrorism charges based on Bridges' alleged efforts to assist ISIS to attack and kill U.S. soldiers in the Middle East.

Cole James Bridges, aka Cole Gonzales, 20, of Stowe, Ohio, was charged by complaint with attempting to provide material support to a designated foreign terrorist organization and attempting to murder U.S. military service members. The FBI and U.S. Army Counterintelligence arrested Bridges today, and he will be presented later today in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Georgia.

"Bridges is charged with giving military advice and guidance on how to kill fellow soldiers to individuals he thought were part of ISIS," said Assistant Attorney General for National Security John C. Demers. "This alleged personal and professional betrayal of comrades and country is terrible to contemplate, but fortunately, the FBI was able to identify the threat posed by Bridges, and today's charges are the first step in holding him accountable for his crimes. ISIS ideology continues to infect those who would threaten the nation's security from within and without, and we will continue to fight this threat."

"As alleged, Cole Bridges betrayed the oath he swore to defend the United States by attempting to provide ISIS with tactical military advice to ambush and kill his fellow service members," said Acting U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York Audrey Strauss. "Our troops risk their lives for our country, but they should never face such peril at the hands of one of their own. Today, thanks to the efforts of the agents and detectives of the JTTF, and our partners in the Department of Defense, Bridges is in custody and facing federal terrorism charges for his alleged crimes."

"As we allege today, Bridges, a private in the U.S. Army, betrayed our country and his unit when he plotted with someone he believed was an ISIS sympathizer to help ISIS attack and kill U.S. soldiers in the Middle East," said FBI Assistant Director in Charge of the New York Office William F. Sweeney Jr. "Fortunately, the person with whom he communicated was an FBI employee, and we were able to prevent his evil desires from coming to fruition. Bridges could have chosen a life of honorable service, but instead he traded it for the possibility of life in prison. This case should serve as a reminder that the FBI's New York JTTF will never quit in its commitment to protect our Nation from all those who seek to do it harm."

"Army Counterintelligence's top priority is protecting the force so it can remain committed to fighting and winning our nation's wars," said Army Counterintelligence Coordinating Authority Director Roy T. Cochran. "The results of this investigation show the efforts of Army Counterintelligence agents working alongside our partners in the FBI. We are dedicated to protecting our soldiers, civilians, and families from terrorist acts and insider threats."

According to the criminal complaint charging Bridges, which was unsealed today in Manhattan federal court:

Bridges joined the U.S. Army in approximately September 2019 and was assigned as a cavalry scout in the 3rd Infantry Division based in Fort Stewart, Georgia. Beginning in at least 2019, Bridges began researching and consuming online propaganda promoting jihadists and their violent ideology. Bridges also expressed his support for the Islamic State of Iraq and al-Sham (ISIS) and jihad on social media. In or about October 2020, Bridges began communicating with an FBI online covert employee (the "OCE"), who was posing as an ISIS supporter in contact with ISIS fighters in the Middle East. During these communications, Bridges expressed his frustration with the U.S. military and his desire to aid ISIS. Bridges then provided training and guidance to purported ISIS fighters who were planning attacks, including advice about potential targets in New York City, such as the 9/11 Memorial. Bridges also provided the OCE with portions of a U.S. Army training manual and guidance about military combat tactics, for use by ISIS.

In or about December 2020, Bridges began to supply the OCE with instructions for the purported ISIS fighters on how to attack U.S. forces in the Middle East. Among other things, Bridges diagrammed specific military maneuvers intended to help ISIS fighters maximize the lethality of attacks on U.S. troops. Bridges further provided advice about the best way to fortify an ISIS encampment to repel an attack by U.S. Special Forces, including by wiring certain buildings with explosives to kill the U.S. troops. Then, in January 2021, Bridges provided the OCE with a video of himself in body armor standing before a flag often used by ISIS fighters and making a gesture symbolic of support for ISIS. Approximately a week later, Bridges sent a second video in which Bridges, using a voice manipulator, narrated a propaganda speech in support of the anticipated ambush by ISIS on U.S. troops.

Bridges is charged in the complaint with (1) attempting to provide material support to ISIS, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 2339B, which carries a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison; and (2) attempting to murder U.S. military service members, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 1114, which carries a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison. The statutory penalties are prescribed by Congress and are provided here for informational purposes only, as any sentencing of the defendant would be determined by the judge.

The Justice Department praised the outstanding efforts of the FBI's New York Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF), which consists of agents and analysts from the FBI, the NYPD, and over 50 other federal, state, and local agencies, U.S. Army Counterintelligence, the FBI Washington Field Office, the FBI Atlanta Field Office and its Savannah Resident Agency, the FBI Cleveland Field Office, the FBI's Counterterrorism Division, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Georgia, the Air Force Office of Special Investigations, U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Command, and the U.S. Army 3rd Infantry Division.

This prosecution is being handled by the Office's Terrorism and International Narcotics Unit. Assistant U.S. Attorneys Sam Adelsberg, Matthew Hellman, and Sidhardha Kamaraju are in charge of the prosecution, with assistance from Trial Attorneys Michael Dittoe and Lauren Goddard of the Counterterrorism Section of the Department of Justice's National Security Division.

Attachment(s):

[Download Bridges Complaint.pdf](#)

Topic(s):

Counterterrorism
National Security

Component(s):

[National Security Division \(NSD\)](#)

Press Release Number:

21-70

Updated January 19, 2021

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FBI • Published 54 mins ago • Last Update 50 mins ago

FBI says finding pipe bomb maker a 'top priority' before Biden inauguration, official reveals

Law enforcement concerned the person could still be active

By [Jake Gibson](#) | Fox News

Fox News Flash top headlines for January 19

Fox News Flash top headlines are here. Check out what's clicking on Foxnews.com.

The [FBI](#) warned law enforcement agencies Tuesday that the person who constructed pipe bombs and left them [near the Capitol](#) on Jan. 6 has not yet been identified and is a "top priority" on the eve of Joe Biden's [inauguration](#), according to a law enforcement official briefed on inauguration security concerns.

The FBI also warned fellow law enforcement agencies Tuesday that there is concern this person is still active and could be attempting to make more explosive devices, according to the law enforcement official.

As the attack on the Capitol was unfolding on Jan. 6, law enforcement officials found two pipe bombs only blocks away, one outside the Republican National Committee headquarters, and another outside the Democratic National Committee headquarters. [Federal officials](#) have made clear in the days since that both of those pipe bombs were legitimate destructive devices with functioning components.

'NO TOLERANCE' FOR INAUGURATION DAY VIOLENCE: ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL

The devices were "rendered safe" by federal authorities and did not detonate. Components from those devices are being analyzed at the FBI Laboratory in Quantico, Va.



An explosive device is shown outside of the Republican National Committee office, Jan. 6, 2021, in Washington. (AP Photo)

The pipe bombs are still the subject of an open investigation, and federal authorities are looking very closely at them, according to a separate senior federal law enforcement official, who said, "Every explosive device tells a story."

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With components of the devices still in good condition, authorities will be looking for signatures such as how they were manufactured, where the fuel was obtained and any similarities to

thousands of other devices in federal databases.

There are pictures of a person authorities want to speak to in connection with these devices, but notably that person's face was completely covered up in the photo.

Jake Gibson is a producer working at the Fox News Washington bureau who covers politics, law enforcement and intelligence issues.

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Sacco, Cristina (EOM)

From: Ferraro, Alexandra (HSEMA) </O=DC GOVERNMENT/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=AA04E9A90A014BE29A48AD566D9D0015-ALEXANDRA>

Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 1:08 PM

To: Ripley, Patricia L. (WF) (DET); §2-534(a)(2) (MPD); Newman, William J. (WF) (FBI); Phillips, Steve; michael.ebey@usss.dhs.gov; richard.rogers@usss.dhs.gov; christina.fabac@usss.dhs.gov; matthew.n.phillips@usss.dhs.gov; adam.kirkwood@usss.dhs.gov; Rosanna.donaghey@usss.dhs.gov; Barmonde, Thomas (WF) (DET); Cook, James A.; Chite, Mark; DAMON.C.EDWARDS@cbp.dhs.gov; Hawkins, Derron (FEMS); Jackson, Keishea (FEMS); Mccray, Jonice; amanda.s.mason4.mil@mail.mil; anh-chi.p.murphy.mil@mail.mil; jonathan.s.ebbert.mil@mail.mil; benjamin.goldberg@dot.gov; gerrityd@state.gov; zurburgkinghm@state.gov; herrerama@state.gov; CeasarDN@state.gov; Andres, Alyse; Tu, Raymond H. (BA) (FBI); Wightman, Michael C. (BA) (FBI); Ellis, Loren M. (CIRG) (FBI); Erlendson, Jennifer J. (CIRG) (FBI); Louryk, John B. (WF) (TFO); Marc.L.Bosley@fps.dhs.gov; Ed.Wojciechowski@mail.house.gov; Lauren_Eagan@saa.senate.gov; George.Adams@oig.hhs.gov; James.Lehman@oig.hhs.gov; mark.a.rasmussen.civ@mail.mil; andrew.d.hasser.mil@mail.mil; wanda.c.squirewell.civ@mail.mil; marvin.c.solomon.civ@mail.mil; william.c.furmanski.civ@mail.mil; jonathan.m.morgenstein.mil@mail.mil; jessica.curtis@mcac.maryland.gov; Cardella, Alex; Janczyk, Jeffrey P. (WF) (TFO); Barbieri, Michael (MPD); Alvarez, Daniel (WF) (OGA); ADonald@wmata.com; MASalata@wmata.com; EMoscouLewis@wmata.com; Marcenelle, Madeline (HSEMA); Mein, John (EOM); Harvin, Donell (HSEMA); stephebj@nctc.gov; PATRJOM@nctc.gov; Gilliard, Darrell K.; William.grice@ncis.navy.mil; lillian.fata@ncis.navy.mil; Roosevelt.Glover@NCIS.NAVY.MIL; kristoffer.carlson@NCIS.NAVY.MIL; KBahe@NCIS.NAVY.MIL; Waller, Markiest; paige.vandenneever@NCIS.NAVY.MIL; isaiah.cooper@NCIS.NAVY.MIL; nicholas.suszan@NCIS.NAVY.MIL; Alexander, Eryn R. (IOD) (FBI); samuel.g.gross.mil@mail.mil; Lay, Amy L.; jeremy.roush@fairfaxcounty.gov; Miller, Michael T. (WF) (OGA); douglas.m.triptyany.mil@mail.mil; Thorward, Brent C. (WF) (DET); catherine.taylor43.mil@mail.mil; John.Erickson@uscg.gov; marilyn.guzman@uscg.gov; Deegan, John; David.Millard@uscg.gov; Usman.Saleem@uscg.gov; john.nugent@uscg.gov; ryan.mccamley@uscg.gov; john.donohue@uscg.gov; julie.farnam@uscg.gov; Dillon, Joseph; CGINTELPLLOT@uscg.mil; ronald.mcgarvey@usmc.mil; Smith, Johnnie (USMS); Madagu, Jonathan (USMS); Rose, Michael (HQ-JSD) (USMS); Knutson, Brett (WF) (DET); Rossi, Michael A. (CTD) (CON); Dingeldein, James E. (WF) (DET); mark_varanelli@nps.gov; Michael_Libby@nps.gov; elizabeth.adams@vdm.virginia.gov; Gene.E.Roddy@whmo.mil; Douglas.R.Reedy@whmo.mil; Jeffrey.W.Kuck@whmo.mil; Gary.Halton@whmo.mil; 'Hessling, Paul E COL USARMY NG NGB (USA)'

Cc: Stapleton, Hope T. (WF) (FBI); tmorris@fbi.gov; Loftus, Ashlea (WF) (FBI); Kukowski, Jed (WF) (FBI)

Subject: (U//FOUO//LES) January 19 Officer Awareness Inauguration Information

Attachments: image001.png; (U--FOUO--LES) January 19-Officer Awareness Inauguration Information.pdf

Categories: Green

Jeffrey.W.Kuck@whmo.mil; Gary.Halton@whmo.mil; 'Hessling, Paul E COL USARMY NG NGB (USA)'

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Cc: Stapleton, Hope T. (WF) (FBI) <htstapleton@fbi.gov>; tmorris@fbi.gov

Subject: DHS Reports

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§ 2-534(a)(3)

From: § 2-534(a)(2) (MPD) § 2-534(a)(2) [dc.gov](mailto:§ 2-534(a)(2)@dc.gov)

Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 9:14 AM

To: Newman, William J. (WF) (FBI) <wjnewman@fbi.gov>; Phillips, Steve <hphillips@usss.dhs.gov>; michael.ebey@usss.dhs.gov <michael.ebey@usss.dhs.gov>; richard.rogers@usss.dhs.gov <richard.rogers@usss.dhs.gov>; christina.fabac@usss.dhs.gov <christina.fabac@usss.dhs.gov>; matthew.n.phillips@usss.dhs.gov <matthew.n.phillips@usss.dhs.gov>; adam.kirkwood@usss.dhs.gov <adam.kirkwood@usss.dhs.gov>; Rosanna.donaghey@usss.dhs.gov <Rosanna.donaghey@usss.dhs.gov>; Barmonde, Thomas (WF) (DET) <TBARMONDE@fbi.gov>; Cook, James A. <cookjam@amtrak.com>; Chite, Mark <Mark.Chite@amtrak.com>; DAMON.C.EDWARDS@cbp.dhs.gov <DAMON.C.EDWARDS@cbp.dhs.gov>; Hawkins, Derron (FEMS) <derron.hawkins@dc.gov>; Jackson, Keishea (FEMS) <keishea.jackson@dc.gov>; Mccray, Jonice <jonice.t.mccray.nfg@mail.mil>; amanda.s.mason4.mil@mail.mil <amanda.s.mason4.mil@mail.mil>; anh-chi.p.murphy.mil@mail.mil <anh-chi.p.murphy.mil@mail.mil>; jonathan.s.ebbert.mil@mail.mil <jonathan.s.ebbert.mil@mail.mil>; benjamin.goldberg@dot.gov <benjamin.goldberg@dot.gov>; gerrityd@state.gov <gerrityd@state.gov>; zurburkinghm@state.gov <zurburkinghm@state.gov>; herrerama@state.gov <herrerama@state.gov>; CeasarDN@state.gov <CeasarDN@state.gov>; Andres, Alyse <andrewsav@state.gov>; Tu, Raymond H. (BA) (FBI) <rhtu@fbi.gov>; Wightman, Michael C. (BA) (FBI) <mcwightman@fbi.gov>; Ellis, Loren M. (CIRG) (FBI) <lmellis@fbi.gov>; Erlendson, Jennifer J. (CIRG) (FBI) <jjerlendson@fbi.gov>; Louryk, John B. (WF) (TFO) <jblouryk@fbi.gov>; Marc.L.Bosley@fps.dhs.gov <Marc.L.Bosley@fps.dhs.gov>; Ed.Wojciechowski@mail.house.gov <Ed.Wojciechowski@mail.house.gov>; Lauren.Eagan@saa.senate.gov <Lauren.Eagan@saa.senate.gov>; George.Adams@oig.hhs.gov <George.Adams@oig.hhs.gov>; James.Lehman@oig.hhs.gov <James.Lehman@oig.hhs.gov>; mark.a.rasmussen.civ@mail.mil <mark.a.rasmussen.civ@mail.mil>; andrew.d.hasser.mil@mail.mil <andrew.d.hasser.mil@mail.mil>; wanda.c.squirewell.civ@mail.mil <wanda.c.squirewell.civ@mail.mil>; marvin.c.solomon.civ@mail.mil <marvin.c.solomon.civ@mail.mil>; william.c.furmanski.civ@mail.mil <william.c.furmanski.civ@mail.mil>; jonathan.m.morgenstein.mil@mail.mil <jonathan.m.morgenstein.mil@mail.mil>; jessica.curtis@mcac.maryland.gov <jessica.curtis@mcac.maryland.gov>; Cardella, Alex <alex.cardella@mcac.maryland.gov>; Janczyk, Jeffrey P. (WF) (TFO) <jpjanczyk@fbi.gov>; Barbieri, Michael (MPD) <michael.barbieri@dc.gov>; Alvarez, Daniel (WF) (OGA) <DALVAREZ2@fbi.gov>; ADonald@wmata.com <ADonald@wmata.com>; MASalata@wmata.com <MASalata@wmata.com>; EMoscouLewis@wmata.com

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Cc: Stapleton, Hope T. (WF) (FBI) <htstapleton@fbi.gov>; Morris, Tiffany (WF) (FBI) <tmorris@fbi.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] - RE: INAUG: (U//FOUO) AACPD Stolen Military Uniforms

Good Morning All,

Please see attached bulletin from Anne Arundel County PD regarding stolen military uniforms for your awareness.

§2-534(a)(2)

Lieutenant, Intelligence Branch
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D.C. Metropolitan Police Department
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Sacco, Cristina (EOM)

From: Ripley, Patricia L. (WF) (DET) <PLRIPLEY@fbi.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 12:41 PM
To: §2-534(a)(2) (MPD); Newman, William J. (WF) (FBI); Phillips, Steve; michael.ebey@usss.dhs.gov; richard.rogers@usss.dhs.gov; christina.fabac@usss.dhs.gov; matthew.n.phillips@usss.dhs.gov; adam.kirkwood@usss.dhs.gov; Rosanna.donaghey@usss.dhs.gov; Barmonde, Thomas (WF) (DET); Cook, James A.; Chite, Mark; DAMON.C.EDWARDS@cbp.dhs.gov; Hawkins, Derron (FEMS); Jackson, Keishea (FEMS); Mccray, Jonice; amanda.s.mason4.mil@mail.mil; anh-chi.p.murphy.mil@mail.mil; jonathan.s.ebbert.mil@mail.mil; benjamin.goldberg@dot.gov; gerrityd@state.gov; zurburgkinghm@state.gov; herrera@state.gov; CeasarDN@state.gov; Andres, Alyse; Tu, Raymond H. (BA) (FBI); Wightman, Michael C. (BA) (FBI); Ellis, Loren M. (CIRG) (FBI); Erlendson, Jennifer J. (CIRG) (FBI); Louryk, John B. (WF) (TFO); Marc.L.Bosley@fps.dhs.gov; Ed.Wojciechowski@mail.house.gov; Lauren_Eagan@saa.senate.gov; George.Adams@oig.hhs.gov; James.Lehman@oig.hhs.gov; mark.a.rasmussen.civ@mail.mil; andrew.d.hasser.mil@mail.mil; wanda.c.squirewell.civ@mail.mil; marvin.c.solomon.civ@mail.mil; william.c.furmanski.civ@mail.mil; jonathan.m.morgenstein.mil@mail.mil; jessica.curtis@mcac.maryland.gov; Cardella, Alex; Janczyk, Jeffrey P. (WF) (TFO); Barbieri, Michael (MPD); Alvarez, Daniel (WF) (OGA); ADonald@wmata.com; MASalata@wmata.com; EMoscouLewis@wmata.com; Ferraro, Alexandra (HSEMA); Marcenelle, Madeline (HSEMA); Mein, John; Donell, Harvin; stephebj@nctc.gov; PATRJOM@nctc.gov; Gilliard, Darrell K.; William.grice@ncis.navy.mil; lillian.fata@ncis.navy.mil; Roosevelt.Glover@NCIS.NAVY.MIL; kristoffer.carlson@NCIS.NAVY.MIL; Kbahe@NCIS.NAVY.MIL; Waller, Markiest; paige.vandenheever@NCIS.NAVY.MIL; isaiah.cooper@NCIS.NAVY.MIL; nicholas.suszan@NCIS.NAVY.MIL; Alexander, Eryn R. (IOD) (FBI); samuel.g.gross.mil@mail.mil; Lay, Amy L.; jeremy.roush@fairfaxcounty.gov; Miller, Michael T. (WF) (OGA); douglas.m.trippany.mil@mail.mil; Thorward, Brent C. (WF) (DET); catherine.taylor43.mil@mail.mil; John.Erickson@uscg.gov; marilyn.guzman@uscg.gov; Deegan, John; David.Millard@uscg.gov; Usman.Saleem@uscg.gov; john.nugent@uscg.gov; ryan.mccamley@uscg.gov; john.donohue@uscg.gov; julie.farnam@uscg.gov; Dillon, Joseph; CGINTEL@uscg.mil; ronald.mcgarvey@usmc.mil; Smith, Johnnie (USMS); Madagu, Jonathan (USMS); Rose, Michael (HQ-JSD) (USMS); Knutson, Brett (WF) (DET); Rossi, Michael A. (CTD) (CON); Dingeldein, James E. (WF) (DET); mark_varanelli@nps.gov; Michael_Libby@nps.gov; elizabeth.adams@vdm.virginia.gov; Gene.E.Roddy@whmo.mil; Douglas.R.Reedy@whmo.mil; Jeffrey.W.Kuck@whmo.mil; Gary.Halton@whmo.mil; 'Hessling, Paul E COL USARMY NG NGB (USA)'
Cc: Stapleton, Hope T. (WF) (FBI); Morris, Tiffany (WF) (FBI)
Subject: DHS Reports
Attachments: (U--FOUO) DHS - Source shares TTPs to circumvent the security fencing around the Capitol OSIR-04001-0208-21.pdf

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From: §2-534(a)(2) (MPD) §2-534(a)(2) dc.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 9:14 AM

To: Newman, William J. (WF) (FBI) <wjnewman@fbi.gov>; Phillips, Steve <hphillips@usss.dhs.gov>; michael.ebey@usss.dhs.gov <michael.ebey@usss.dhs.gov>; richard.rogers@usss.dhs.gov <richard.rogers@usss.dhs.gov>; christina.fabac@usss.dhs.gov <christina.fabac@usss.dhs.gov>; matthew.n.phillips@usss.dhs.gov <matthew.n.phillips@usss.dhs.gov>; adam.kirkwood@usss.dhs.gov <adam.kirkwood@usss.dhs.gov>; Rosanna.donaghey@usss.dhs.gov <Rosanna.donaghey@usss.dhs.gov>; Barmonde, Thomas (WF) (DET) <TBARMONDE@fbi.gov>; Cook, James A. <cookjam@amtrak.com>; Chite, Mark <Mark.Chite@amtrak.com>; DAMON.C.EDWARDS@cbp.dhs.gov <DAMON.C.EDWARDS@cbp.dhs.gov>; Hawkins, Derron (FEMS) <derron.hawkins@dc.gov>; Jackson, Keishea (FEMS) <keishea.jackson@dc.gov>; Mccray, Jonice <jonice.t.mccray.nfg@mail.mil>; amanda.s.mason4.mil@mail.mil <amanda.s.mason4.mil@mail.mil>; anh-chi.p.murphy.mil@mail.mil <anh-chi.p.murphy.mil@mail.mil>; jonathan.s.ebbert.mil@mail.mil <jonathan.s.ebbert.mil@mail.mil>; benjamin.goldberg@dot.gov <benjamin.goldberg@dot.gov>; gerrityd@state.gov <gerrityd@state.gov>; zurburgkinghm@state.gov <zurburgkinghm@state.gov>; herrerama@state.gov <herrerama@state.gov>; CeasarDN@state.gov <CeasarDN@state.gov>; Andres, Alyse <andrewsav@state.gov>; Tu, Raymond H. (BA) (FBI) <rhtu@fbi.gov>; Wightman, Michael C. (BA) (FBI) <mcwightman@fbi.gov>; Ellis, Loren M. (CIRG) (FBI) <lmellis@fbi.gov>; Erlendson, Jennifer J. (CIRG) (FBI) <jjerlendson@fbi.gov>; Louryk, John B. (WF) (TFO) <jblouryk@fbi.gov>; Marc.L.Bosley@fps.dhs.gov <Marc.L.Bosley@fps.dhs.gov>; Ed.Wojciechowski@mail.house.gov <Ed.Wojciechowski@mail.house.gov>; Lauren_Eagan@saa.senate.gov <Lauren_Eagan@saa.senate.gov>; George.Adams@oig.hhs.gov <George.Adams@oig.hhs.gov>; James.Lehman@oig.hhs.gov <James.Lehman@oig.hhs.gov>; mark.a.rasmussen.civ@mail.mil <mark.a.rasmussen.civ@mail.mil>; andrew.d.hasser.mil@mail.mil <andrew.d.hasser.mil@mail.mil>; wanda.c.squirewell.civ@mail.mil <wanda.c.squirewell.civ@mail.mil>; marvin.c.solomon.civ@mail.mil <marvin.c.solomon.civ@mail.mil>; william.c.furmanski.civ@mail.mil <william.c.furmanski.civ@mail.mil>; jonathan.m.morgenstein.mil@mail.mil <jonathan.m.morgenstein.mil@mail.mil>; jessica.curtis@mcac.maryland.gov <jessica.curtis@mcac.maryland.gov>; Cardella, Alex <alex.cardella@mcac.maryland.gov>; Janczyk, Jeffrey P. (WF) (TFO) <jpjanczyk@fbi.gov>; Barbieri, Michael (MPD) <michael.barbieri@dc.gov>; Alvarez, Daniel (WF) (OGA) <DALVAREZ2@fbi.gov>; ADonald@wmata.com <ADonald@wmata.com>; MASalata@wmata.com <MASalata@wmata.com>; EMoscoulLewis@wmata.com <EMoscoulLewis@wmata.com>; Ferraro, Alexandra (HSEMA) <alexandra.ferraro@dc.gov>; Marcenelle, Madeline (HSEMA) <madeline.marcenelle@dc.gov>; Mein, John <john.mein@dc.gov>; Donell, Harvin <donell.harvin@dc.gov>; Ripley, Patricia L. (WF) (DET) <PLRIPLEY@fbi.gov>; stephebj@nctc.gov <stephebj@nctc.gov>; PATRJOM@nctc.gov <PATRJOM@nctc.gov>; Gilliard, Darrell K. <darrell.k.gilliard.civ@mail.mil>; William.grice@ncis.navy.mil <William.grice@ncis.navy.mil>; lillian.fata@ncis.navy.mil <lillian.fata@ncis.navy.mil>; Roosevelt.Glover@NCIS.NAVY.MIL <Roosevelt.Glover@NCIS.NAVY.MIL>; kristoffer.carlson@NCIS.NAVY.MIL <kristoffer.carlson@NCIS.NAVY.MIL>; KBahe@NCIS.NAVY.MIL <KBahe@NCIS.NAVY.MIL>; Waller, Markiest <Markiest.Waller@ncis.navy.mil>; paige.vandenneever@NCIS.NAVY.MIL <paige.vandenneever@NCIS.NAVY.MIL>; isaiah.cooper@NCIS.NAVY.MIL

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Cc: Stapleton, Hope T. (WF) (FBI) <htstapleton@fbi.gov>; Morris, Tiffany (WF) (FBI) <tmorris@fbi.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL EMAIL] - RE: INAUG: (U//FOUO) AACPD Stolen Military Uniforms

Good Morning All,

Please see attached bulletin from Anne Arundel County PD regarding stolen military uniforms for your awareness.

§2-534(a)(2)

Lieutenant, Intelligence Branch

Homeland Security Bureau

D.C. Metropolitan Police Department

Cell: **§2-534(a)(2)**

Email: **§2-534(a)(2)** [dc.gov](mailto:§2-534(a)(2)@dc.gov)

Get important updates on the 59th Presidential Inauguration from DC Government. Text INAUG2021 to 888-777 for updates on public safety, street closures, weather alerts, and more.

2-534(a)(3)



Sacco, Cristina (EOM)

From: Mccray, Jonice T NFG NG DCARNG (USA) <jonice.t.mccray.nfg@mail.mil>
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 10:43 AM
To: NTIC (HSEMA); §2-534(a)(2) (MPD); Furmanski, William C II CIV NORAD-USNC JFHQ - NCR (USA); Miller, James T CIV USARMY MDW (USA); Peele, Darius T CIV USARMY MDW (USA); Solomon, Marvin CIV CPMS (USA); Byrum, James D (Jay) CIV USARMY USACIDC (USA)
Subject: FW: TrapWire-GasCan_PropaneTank Awareness Bulletin.pdf
Attachments: TrapWire-GasCan_PropaneTank Awareness Bulletin.pdf
Importance: High
Categories: Green

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NCR Partners FYSA see below email chain and attachment.

From: Mccray, Jonice T NFG NG DCARNG (USA)
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 10:41 AM
To: NG DC DCARNG List NGDC ATP <ng.dc.dcarng.list.ngdc-atfp@mail.mil>; Amanda L SFC USARMY NG DCARNG Taylor (USA) (amanda.l.taylor119.mil@mail.mil) <amanda.l.taylor119.mil@mail.mil>; Amanda S Maj USAF NG DCANG Mason (USA) (amanda.s.mason4.mil@mail.mil) <amanda.s.mason4.mil@mail.mil>; Ayinde A 1LT USARMY Akinbinu (USA) (ayinde.a.akinbinu.mil@mail.mil) <ayinde.a.akinbinu.mil@mail.mil>; Brian C Maj USAF 113 WG Nosich (USA) (brian.nosich@us.af.mil) <brian.nosich@us.af.mil>; Constance A Lee 2LT USAF 113 WG (constance.a.lee2.mil@mail.mil); Edward A Sylvia 3LT USAF 113 WG (edward.a.sylvia3.mil@mail.mil); Isom, John Michael (Michael) MAJ USARMY NG DCARNG (USA) <john.m.isom3.mil@mail.mil>; Jarad J 2d LT USAF 113 WG Torres (USA) (jarad.torres@us.af.mil) <jarad.torres@us.af.mil>; Jennifer R Wagner 10LT USAF 113 WG (jennifer.r.wagner10.mil@mail.mil); Jeremy R Armiger 1LT USAF 113 WG (jeremy.r.armiger.mil@mail.mil); Jesus A SFC USARMY NG MDARNG Perezferrer (USA) (jesus.a.perezferrer.mil@mail.mil) <jesus.a.perezferrer.mil@mail.mil>; Jones, Damon L SPC USARMY (USA) <damon.l.jones14.mil@mail.mil>; Juawana K SGT USARMY NG DCARNG Bilbro (USA) (juawana.k.bilbro.mil@mail.mil) <juawana.k.bilbro.mil@mail.mil>; Michael G MAJ USARMY NG DCARNG Hoffmann (USA) (michael.g.hoffmann.mil@mail.mil) <michael.g.hoffmann.mil@mail.mil>; Michael J Slavens Jr SrA USAF (USA) (michael.slavens.2@us.af.mil) <michael.slavens.2@us.af.mil>; Mikhel O Plenty 1LT USAF 113 WG (mikhel.o.plenty.mil@mail.mil); Namkung, Brian SGT USARMY NG VAANG (USA) <brian.namkung.mil@mail.mil>; Oldham, Erin K SPC USARMY (USA) <erin.k.oldham.mil@mail.mil>; Orlando Negron Concepcion 1LT USAF 113 WG (orlando.negronconcepcion.mil@mail.mil); Paul M Sagnay 1LT USAF 113 WG (paul.m.sagnay.mil@mail.mil); Shylah A MSgt USAF 113 WG Hoff (USA) (shylah.hoff@us.af.mil) <shylah.hoff@us.af.mil>; Timothy R Sibold 1LT USAF 113 WG (timothy.r.sibold.mil@mail.mil); Todd N CPT USARMY Miguel (USA) (todd.n.miguel.mil@mail.mil) <todd.n.miguel.mil@mail.mil>; Tony T Vo3 1LT USAF 113 WG (tony.t.vo3.mil@mail.mil); USA (evander.w.mclean.mil@mail.mil) <evander.w.mclean.mil@mail.mil>
Cc: Hunter, Craig M LTC USARMY NG DCARNG (USA) <craig.m.hunter.mil@mail.mil>; Williamson, Octavia Vonetta SGM USARMY NG DCARNG (USA) <octavia.v.williamson.mil@mail.mil>; Robinson, Moses P II COL USARMY NG DCARNG (USA) <moses.p.robinson3.mil@mail.mil>; Weir, Robert F COL USARMY NG DCARNG (USA) <robert.f.weir4.mil@mail.mil>
Subject: §2-534(a)(3), 2-534(a)(10)
Importance: High

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J34 Team,

Please see attached TrapWire Situational Awareness Bulletin for information regarding Propane Tank incidents in the NCR since 6JAN21. 2-534(a)(3), 2-534(a)(10)

Very Respectfully,

Ms. Jonice T. McCray
Force Protection Information Officer
District of Columbia National Guard
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ng.dc.dcarng.list.ngdc-atfp@mail.mil (ATFP Group Email)
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202-631-6142 (c)

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Sacco, Cristina (EOM)

From: Graves, David L CIV DTRA OI (USA) <david.l.graves6.civ@mail.mil>
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 10:35 AM
To: Graves, David L CIV DTRA OI (USA)
Subject: LE-3 [MAY CONTAIN USPER INFO]
Attachments: 19 January 2021 CBP COVID-19 Update - Mexico and Latin America.pdf; (U) NOAA Met Update Graphic 0630ET 19 JAN 21.pdf; (U) NOAA Met Update Brief 0630ET 19 JAN 21.pdf; USFA daily_ops_brief 01-19-2021.pdf; 19 January 2021 Border Intelligence Daily.pdf; (LES) NVRIC-VFC SITREP 21-22 Impacts to Northern Virginia from Civil Unrest and the 2021 Inauguration.pdf; [DVIC PHILA-PD] Pass through-(FOUO-LES) FOR DISSIMINATION Threat to POTUS-Elect.pdf; (U) Reuters - Iran army commandos start drills near mouth of Gulf.pdf; (U) Foreign Policy - Far-Right Extremism Is a Global Problem.pdf; (U FOUO) TSA IA UPFRONT - 20210118.pdf; USDOJ - Statement of Acting Attorney General Jeffrey A. Rosen Regarding Nationwide Safety and Security for Inauguration Day.pdf; (U) US Dept. of Transportation – Daily Open Source Reporting - 20210119.pdf

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2-534(a)(3)

ARGUMENT

Far-Right Extremism Is a Global Problem

And it is time to treat it like one.

BY **HEATHER ASHBY** | JANUARY 15, 2021, 1:03 PM

From Brazil to the United States, Hungary to New Zealand, right-wing extremist ideas and groups are posing a grave threat to democratic societies. Within this context, the ongoing support U.S. President Donald Trump receives from parts of his base despite the drop in his **approval numbers** and the riot at the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6 reflects the continued evolution of a global threat. As **New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Arden** emphasized after a right-wing terrorist killed over 50 people at a pair of mosques in her country, “there is no question that ideas and language of division and hate have existed for decades, but their form of distribution, the tools of organization—they are new.” If there is any hope of repairing those divides and advancing equality, rule of law, an inclusive civil society, and respect for human rights, the United States needs to work with other countries and multilateral organizations to build a coalition to combat the growth and spread of right-wing extremism.

Nearly 20 years after the attacks of 9/11 and the subsequent launch of what American leaders dubbed the “global war on terror,” the world finds itself confronting a new threat. Throughout the 2000s and 2010s, as the international community focused on al Qaeda, the Islamic State, and other groups espousing a particular interpretation of Islam to justify their terrorism, right-wing extremism grew around the world. Social media platforms and chatrooms offered important mediums for people to share ideas, connect, and learn from each other regardless of geographical location, facilitating connections that might otherwise have been difficult to form.

While right-wing ideology and groups are not new to many parts of Europe, the growth in immigration from Muslim countries, increased movement of individuals within the European Union, and the mainstreaming of far-right ideas from populist politicians as a response to the rise in immigration contributed to a **right-wing surge** in the 2010s. For example, the Norwegian far-right terrorist Anders Behring Breivik executed his brutal and deadly attack in Oslo and on Utoya Island in July 2011. In his manifesto, he

described a need to defend Europe from **Muslim domination** and multiculturalism. In **response** to the attacks, Norway changed its laws to redefine the requirements for a terrorist conviction, agreed to share fingerprint information from criminal investigations with the United States and EU to enable other countries to monitor the actions of individuals who cross borders, and launched a **nationwide strategy** against hate speech in 2016. The strategy embraced recommendations from the United Nations incorporating both international and domestic approaches. Norway's whole-of-society approach to addressing extremism ensures that citizens are actively involved in promoting the country's values to combat threats.

As Norway was still working on its response, major right-wing terrorism hit the United States. In 2015, Dylann Roof killed nine Black people in the historic Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in South Carolina. Similar to Breivik, he believed that white people needed to be protected from the dangers of other groups. For Roof, that included Jewish people, Latinos, and Black people. Roof also espoused key features of right-wing extremist ideas focused on **nostalgia** for a historic white past of greatness to counter perceived white victimization in the present.

Although the U.S. response to the attack did not result in a nationwide reckoning on right-wing extremism as Breivik's strike in Norway did, it did lead to **dialogue and initiatives** at the local level in South Carolina that pointed to steps that could be taken at the national level as well. The 2015 murders forced South Carolina residents, activists, politicians, and academics to confront the state's long history of racism and discrimination. Civil rights activists and the University of South Carolina joined forces to **establish** the South Carolina Collaborative for Race and Reconciliation, to encourage local communities to confront racism and the state's history by building stronger alliances and relationships across racial lines.

The deadly attack in Christchurch, New Zealand, in 2019 underscored how right-wing extremism had continued to grow around the world. Similar to Breivik, the Christchurch shooter, who mentioned the Norwegian by name in his own manifesto, referenced **protecting white people** of European descent from immigration, Muslims, and other threats he described as amounting to "white genocide." The New Zealand government moved quickly after the attack to **address** right-wing extremism. It changed the country's gun laws to ban the kind of semi-automatic weapon used in the attack, and it demonstrated visible support for New Zealand's Muslim community. New Zealand worked with France and technology companies to find solutions to eliminate terrorist and violent extremist content on social media platforms based on applicable laws of the countries supportive of the **Christchurch Call**, as the plan became known, as

well as industry standards and international human rights law, including the freedom of expression. The attack also led to a nationwide interrogation of the country's values and treatment of its diverse communities. In a **report** released in December 2020, the Royal Commission of Inquiry into the attack reveals the failure of the country's security forces to track the right-wing extremist threat and the hate, discrimination, and poor treatment Muslims and other groups have encountered in New Zealand. The report provides a series of recommendations including strengthening engagement with those communities and restructuring the security agencies that are responsible for counterterrorism.

Over the course of the 2000s, right-wing extremist ideas were mainstreamed as they permeated political parties and influenced politicians.

It isn't just outright attacks that mark the spread of extreme right-wing ideology. Over the course of the 2000s, those ideas were mainstreamed as they permeated political parties and influenced politicians.

In 2010, Viktor Orban became Hungary's prime minister. During his tenure, he has expressed **anti-refugee and anti-immigration** ideas and argued that Europe was being overtaken by other cultures and groups, particularly Muslims. Using the power that comes from controlling the state, Orban and his party have undermined democracy by changing laws to place loyalists in the **civil service**, **attacking academic institutions**, **limiting press freedom**, and pushing the concept of a singular **Hungarian national identity**. Orban has even praised Trump for his "America first" platform. In response, thousands of Hungarian citizens have **marched** to **protest** the government as an Orban spokesperson blamed the demonstrations on **George Soros**. Recently, opposition parties have **united** to challenge Orban and his party's rule in the 2022 elections.

In 2014, Narendra Modi and his right-wing party won the majority in the Indian elections. Before his victory, the U.S. government had **denied** Modi a visa because of his suspected support for and indifference to Hindu extremist mob attacks on Muslims in the Indian state of Gujarat in 2002, when he was chief minister there. Despite his more recent embrace by the international community, Modi has encouraged the most extreme factions of his party and, with allies, has brought extremist ideas into the mainstream, advancing the idea of India as a Hindu country irrespective of its great diversity. Politicians from his Bharatiya Janata Party have also sought to advance a

narrative of **Hindu victimhood** to justify supporting anti-democratic measures like the **2019 Citizenship Amendment Bill**, which excludes Muslims from a list of persecuted religious groups from neighboring countries who could be eligible for Indian citizenship. To challenge Modi and the government's actions, hundreds of thousands of Indians have mobilized to provide counter-narratives to their propaganda and **disinformation**. The Indian news site **AltNews** fact-checks politicians, articles, and other information, identifying misleading and false reports to inform the public.

The 2018-2019 rise of Jair Bolsonaro to the presidency in Brazil demonstrated how right-wing extremist ideas have continued to emerge. During his campaign, Bolsonaro advocated a **platform** of returning Brazil to its former glory through attacks on government institutions and minorities, as well as violence against criminals, activists, and opposition parties. Using social media, he was able to grow his support across the country. Bolsonaro has also been a **vocal supporter** of Trump and even endorsed Trump during his reelection campaign. As a result of Bolsonaro's attacks on Brazilian democracy, marginalized groups in Brazil are becoming more involved in politics to reimagine the country's civil society. Black women in Brazil are running for office on **platforms** focused on human rights and dignity, anti-racism, and equality

These examples all show that, rather than treating right-wing extremism as isolated incidents parochial to particular countries, it is time to recognize it as a global and evolving phenomenon. If the United States and the international community do not quickly mobilize resources to unite against this threat, they may lose an important chance to stem its spread. The actions that individual countries, local governments, journalists, and ordinary citizens have taken to combat right-wing extremism over the past decade offer examples for what an international effort might look like.

U.S. President-elect Joe Biden has an opportunity following the U.S. Capitol riot to marshal the international community around addressing right-wing extremism. The Biden administration should work with partner countries to expand the scope and mission of the Global Counterterrorism Forum to address right-wing extremism and its different permutations. This will not be easy, since the United States and other countries will have to confront historical and national biases and traumas involving race, religion, and ethnicity, making tough and strategic choices on how to move forward. But it is necessary.

A key to battling right-wing extremism will be addressing disinformation. Social media, chatrooms, and websites (along with algorithms tracking an individual's internet behavior) enable people around the world to **construct their own reality** and reinforce

existing beliefs while making them susceptible to **influence** from different groups and individuals. Anti-democratic ideas are able to spread more rapidly and find audiences across national borders. Biden had the right idea when he suggested holding an international conference on democracy to discuss the challenges the world is facing. However, such a conference will make little progress if disinformation is not a part of the discussion and plan of action. That's where an existing network like the Global Counterterrorism Forum, which has experience facilitating the sharing of ideas, improving international digital literacy, and offering a united front, could come in.

As the global population continues to become **younger**, it is imperative to develop international approaches to address extremist ideas that make individuals, societies, and institutions vulnerable. Between the economic shocks of 2008 and those resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, young people are demanding change from Chile to Hong Kong. As a result, the Biden administration should work with the United Nations to better assist these generations through vocal and financial support for organizations advancing an inclusive civil society, democracy, and equality. That should help protect them from falling prey to extremism to begin with.

Battling right-wing extremism will not be easy, as many politicians and political parties have incorporated elements of its ideas into their platforms, but democracy, equality, rule of law, and human rights around the world are worth the fight.

Heather Ashby is a national security and foreign policy professional.

TAGS: FAR RIGHT PARTIES, TERRORISM, UNITED STATES

[VIEW
COMMENTS](#)

NOAA WEATHER OUTLOOK

Today through Thursday

Today: Tuesday, January 19, 2021

There is not expected to be any significant changes to the weather pattern affecting California over the next two days.

- A developing low-pressure system off the Southern California coast and strengthening high pressure from the Northern Rockies into the Great Basin will produce strong winds across much of the state of California Tuesday and Wednesday.
- High winds warnings and advisories continue in effect across much of California where wind gusts may reach 70-80 mph at higher elevations and 50 to 70 mph in valleys and along the coast.
- These high winds have the potential to produce widespread downed trees and tree limbs, significant property damage and numerous power outages.

In addition, the combination of the high winds and low relative humidities will continue to support a significant fire weather, especially along coastal sections from San Francisco to San Diego.

- The only potential beneficial part of this weather pattern is the increased chances of rainfall for portions of Southern California into southern Arizona Tuesday night into Wednesday as the above-mentioned area of low pressure pushes slowly eastward off the northern Baja.
- Rainfall totals here are not expected to be heavy with the greatest totals associated with this area of low pressure remaining to the southeast across northwest Mexico.

An active lake effect snow pattern expected across all of the Great Lakes today and over the lower Great Lakes tomorrow.

- This will support locally heavy snowfall accumulations downwind of Lakes Erie and Ontario across portions of western and northwestern New York State where lake effect snow warnings are currently in effect.
- Locally heavy snows also possible downwind of Lake Superior across portions of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, and downwind of the northern portion of Lake Michigan across the northern portion of the Lower Peninsula of Michigan where winter weather advisories are currently in effect.

Heavy snow is also likely today across portions of the Southern Rockies where accumulations in excess of a foot are possible across the San Juan mountains of southwest Colorado and also the Sangre De Cristo range from south-central Colorado down into northern New Mexico.

Tomorrow: Wednesday, January 20, 2021



A pair of low pressure centers will move through northern New England. A frontal boundary will stretch from them out across the west Atlantic eventually cutting across central Florida. From there the front will continue across the northern Gulf of Mexico to a low pressure center over the southern tip of Texas. The front will then snake across northern Mexico, eventually ending in central California. South of this front and west of the Baja Peninsula, a strong area of low pressure will approach the Desert Southwest.

- Rain and thunderstorms will develop across southern California and Arizona.
- Rain and higher elevation snow possible from central Arizona east into west-central New Mexico.
- Rain will develop from southern New Mexico/Rio Grande Valley east across Texas, the Lower Mississippi Valley to the Tennessee Valley.
- Some mixed wintry precipitation could develop across portions of Kentucky and Tennessee.

To the north, another weather system will slide across the northern Great Plains into the Upper Midwest.

- A large area of snow will extend from the far northern Upper Midwest, east across the northern Great Lakes, into the eastern Great Lakes/Appalachians and Northeast.

Day 3: Thursday, January 21, 2021

The area of low pressure near the Baja Peninsula will creep towards the Desert Southwest. The remnants of the above mentioned frontal boundary will continue to stretch from central California across southern Arizona into Mexico eventually making its way to an area of low pressure just off the Texas Gulf coast.

- Again, an area of rain will extend from southern California/Arizona/New Mexico east into the Southeast.
- Rain and higher elevation snow expected across the northern portions of Arizona and New Mexico.

Another long frontal system will extend from Ontario/Quebec, across the eastern Great Lakes, across the Midwest to the central Plains. The front will continue across the central Rockies and northern Great Gain and southern Oregon to another area of low pressure over the East Pacific.

- Snow will be widespread across the Great Lakes, Northeast and New England. Snow expected to be heavy across portions of upstate New York.
- More snow will be found across the northern Great Basin, Intermountain Northwest, northern and central Rockies.
- Rain will develop along the West Coast from Vancouver Island to just north of San Francisco.

Severe Weather Outlooks

Today: Tuesday, January 19, 2021

Organized areas of severe thunderstorms not expected.

-- Some of the larger population centers in the risk area are:

Day 1 Risk	Area (sq. mi.)	Area Pop.	Some Larger Population Centers in Risk Area
No Risk Areas Forecast			

[Click here for technical details](#)

Tomorrow: Wednesday, January 20, 2021

Organized areas of severe thunderstorms not expected.

-- Some of the larger population centers in the risk area are:

Day 2 Risk	Area (sq. mi.)	Area Pop.	Some Larger Population Centers in Risk Area
No Risk Areas Forecast			

[Click here for technical details](#)

Day 3: Thursday, January 21, 2021

Organized areas of severe thunderstorms not expected.

-- Some of the larger population centers in the risk area are:

Day 3 Risk	Area (sq. mi.)	Area Pop.	Some Larger Population Centers in Risk Area
No Risk Areas Forecast			

[Click here for technical details](#)

Fire Weather Outlooks

Today: Tuesday, January 19, 2021

Critical fire weather conditions expected for the lower coastal hill of central to southern California.

Elevated fire weather conditions will surround the Critical area extending from the San Francisco Bay region south to the Mexican border.

-- Some of the larger population centers in the risk area are:

Day 1 Fire Weather Outlook

Risk	Area (sq. mi.)	Area Pop.	Some Larger Population Centers in Risk Area
Critical	7,187	8,525,532	Los Angeles, CA...Santa Ana, CA...Anaheim, CA...Glendale, CA...Santa C

[Click here for technical details](#)

Tomorrow: Wednesday, January 20, 2021

Critical fire weather conditions not expected.

Elevated fire weather conditions possible for portions of Los Angeles and Ventura counties.

-- Some of the larger population centers in the risk area are:

Day 2 Fire Weather Outlook

Risk	Area (sq. mi.)	Area Pop.	Some Larger Population Centers in Risk Area
No Risk Areas Forecast			

[Click here for technical details](#)

WASHINGTON DC WEATHER FORECAST

Sunrise: 7:23am Sunset: 5:15pm

Normal High: 43 Normal Low: 28

Record High: 71 (1951) Record Low: -4 (1994)

Yesterday's High/Low Temperatures: 48/34

Today: Mostly sunny, with a high near 47. Southwest wind 6 to 11 mph, with gusts as high as 23 mph.

Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around 31. West wind 5 to 7 mph.

Wednesday: Scattered flurries before 1pm. Mostly sunny, with a high near 38. Breezy, with a northwest wind 11 to 20 mph, with gusts as high as 38 mph.

Wednesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 26. Northwest wind 5 to 8 mph becoming light and variable.

Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 45. Southwest wind 7 to 9 mph.

Thursday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 31.

Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 45.

Friday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 27.

Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 37.

FORECAST FOR BLUEMONT VA

Today: Partly sunny, with a high near 42. Southwest wind 7 to 14 mph, with gusts as high as 23 mph.

Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around 29. West wind 8 to 10 mph.

Wednesday: Scattered flurries before 1pm. Mostly sunny, with a high near 32. Breezy, with a northwest wind 15 to 23 mph, with gusts as high as 41 mph.

Wednesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 23. Northwest wind 7 to 10 mph becoming south after midnight.

Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 41. Southwest wind 9 to 11 mph, with gusts as high as 22 mph.

Thursday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 29.

Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 38.

Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 24.

Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 31.

Regis Walter

NOAA Meteorologist

NOC NOAA Watch Desk

National Operations Center

Department of Homeland Security

(w) 202-282-9937

(c) 240-380-0538

(UNCLASS) regis.walter@dhs.gov

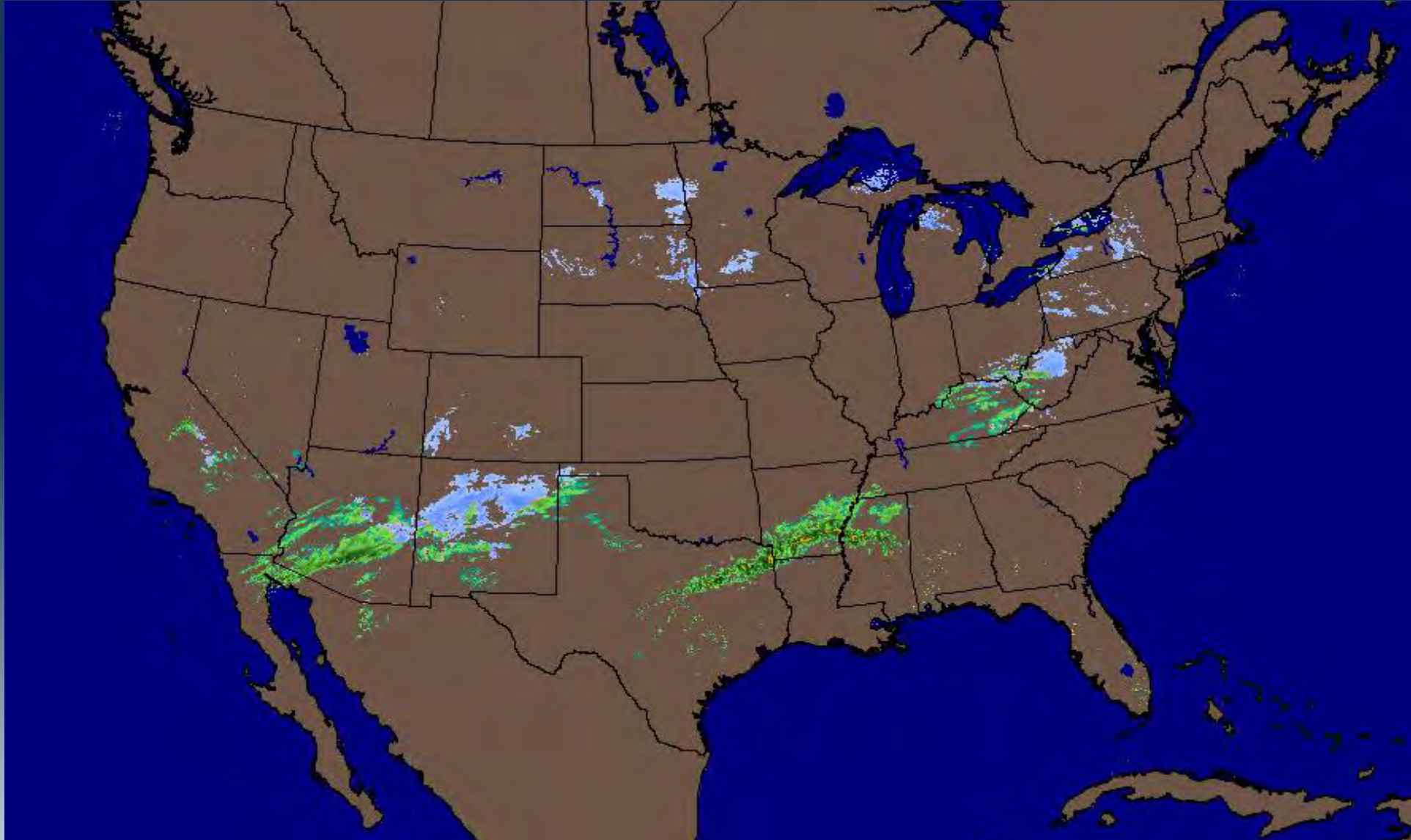


Daily Weather Briefing January 19, 2021



Regis Walter
NOAA Meteorologist

Current Radar

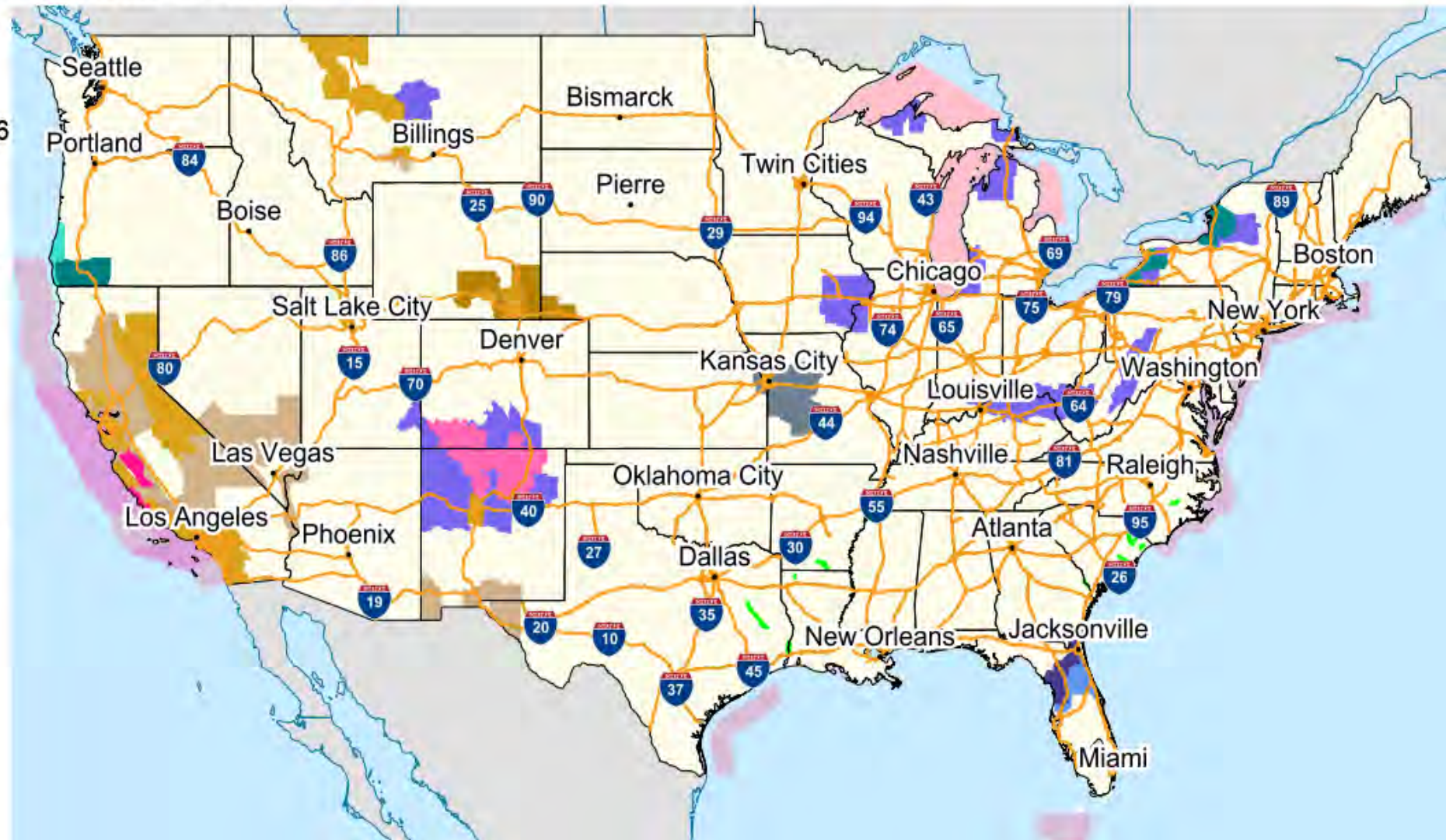


NOAA Daily Weather Briefing

Watches, Warnings and Advisories

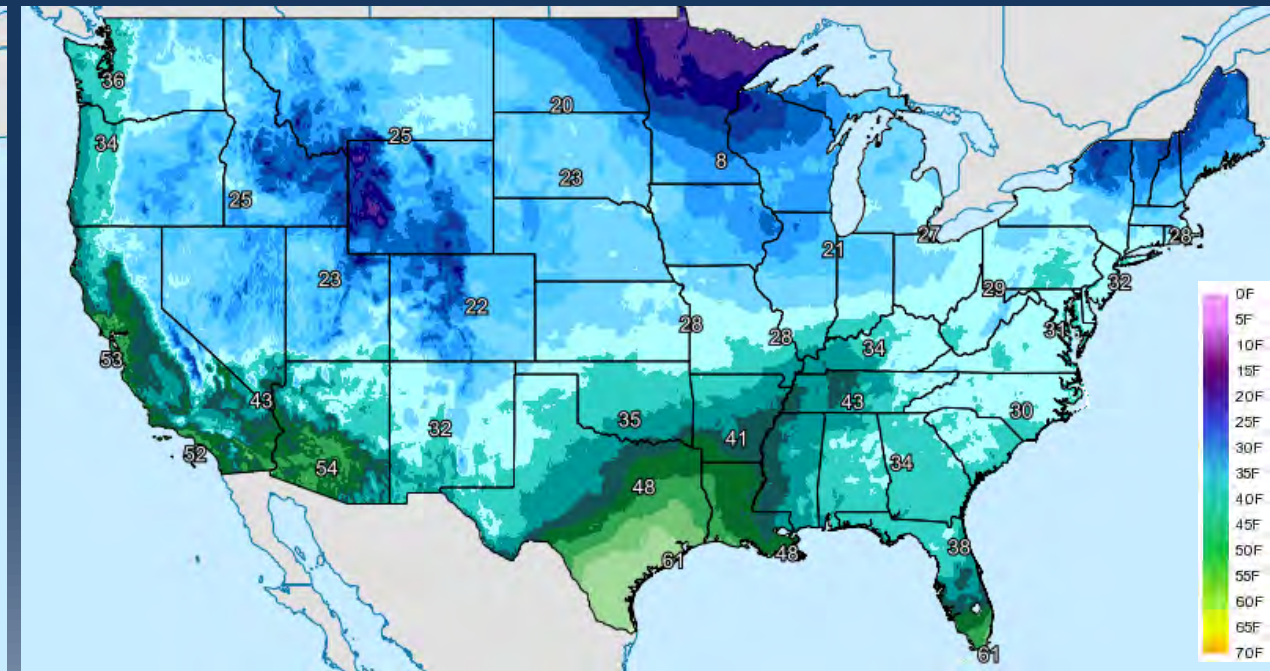
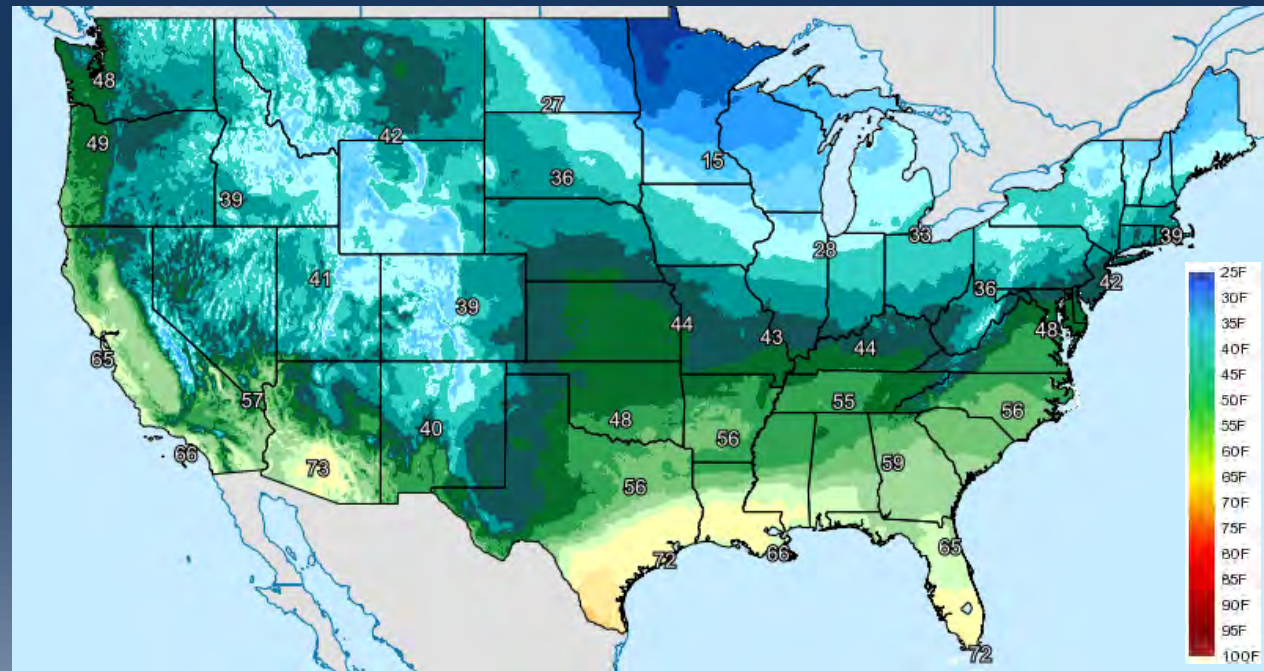
Current Watches, Warnings, and Advisories

- Winter Storm Warning Pop: 174,647
- High Wind Warning Pop: 22,733,825
- Flood Warning Pop: 161,391
- Lake Effect Snow Warning Pop: 1,383,346
- Gale Warning Pop: 89,391
- Freeze Warning Pop: 1,392,606
- Red Flag Warning Pop: 17,118,036
- Winter Weather Advisory Pop: 5,241,104
- Flood Advisory Pop:
- High Surf Advisory Pop: 8,582,373
- Small Craft Advisory Pop: 261,975
- Dense Fog Advisory Pop: 2,585,862
- Lake Wind Advisory Pop: 170,172
- Wind Advisory Pop: 25,626,192
- Frost Advisory Pop: 1,336,968
- Freezing Fog Advisory Pop: 297,168
- Beach Hazards Statement Pop: 714,717
- High Wind Watch Pop: 177,636
- Gale Watch Pop: 17,091

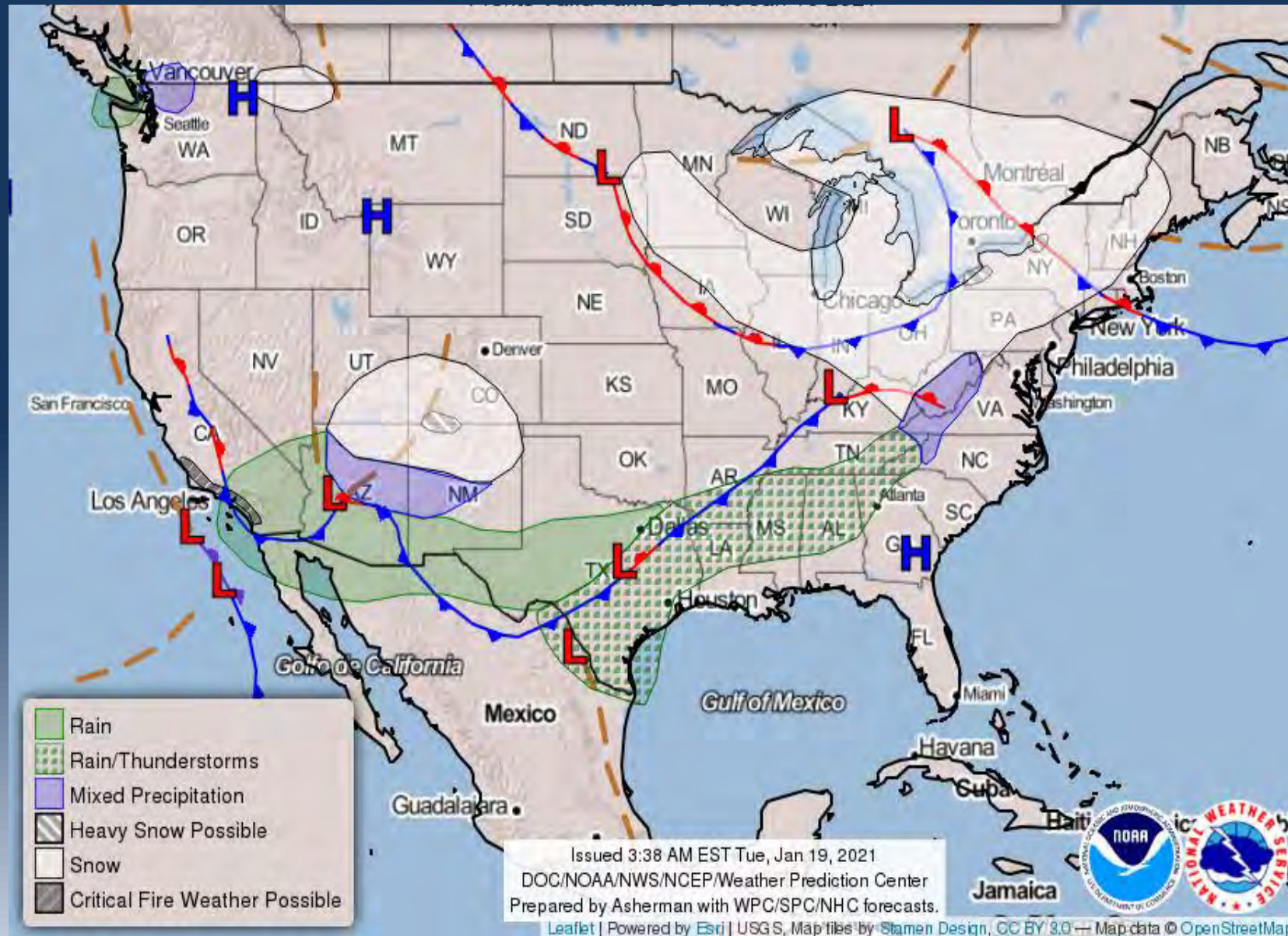


Graphic Created
January 19th, 2021
6:20 AM EST

Today's Highs / Tonight's Lows



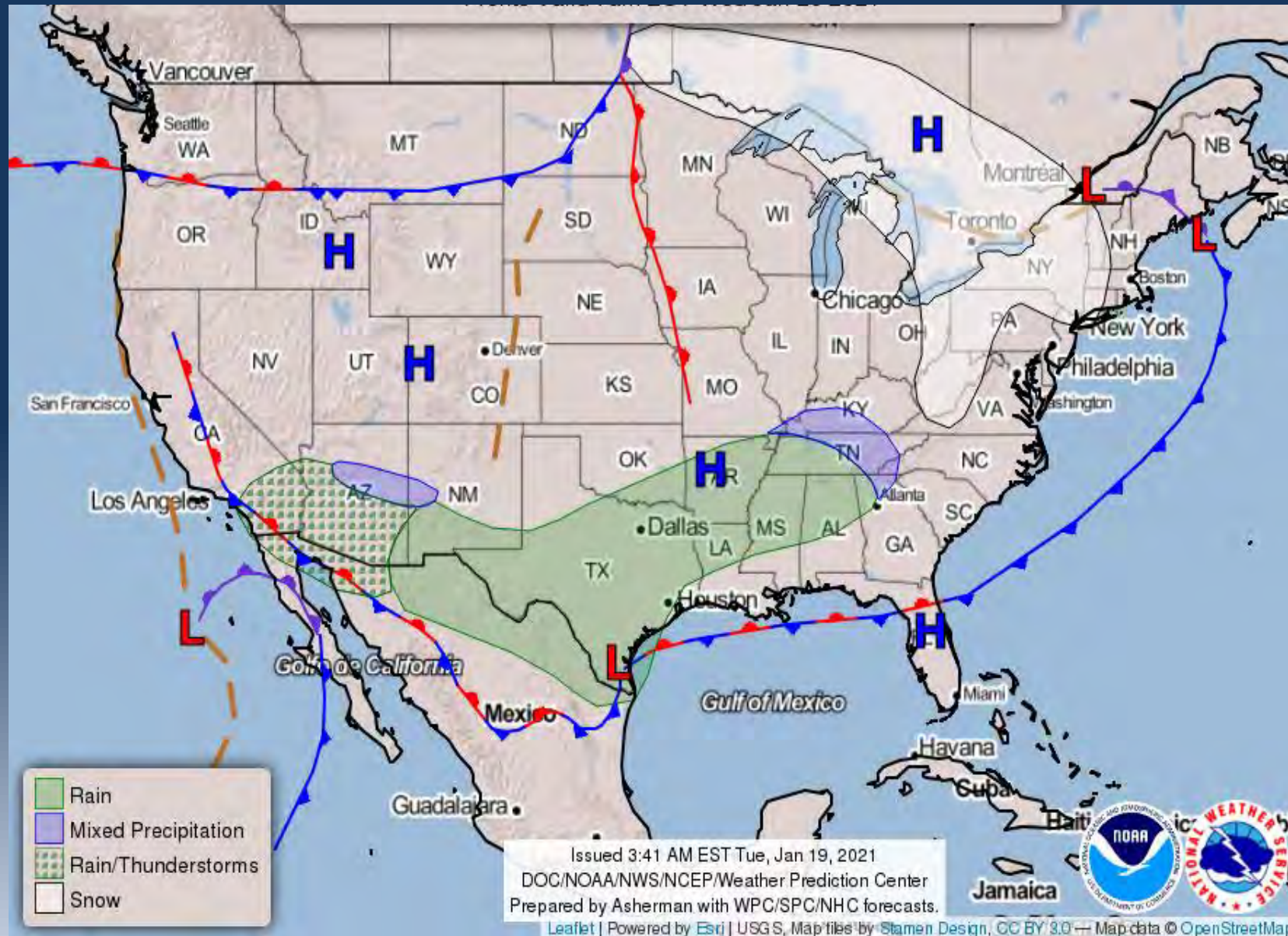
Today's Weather Map



NOAA Daily Weather Briefing



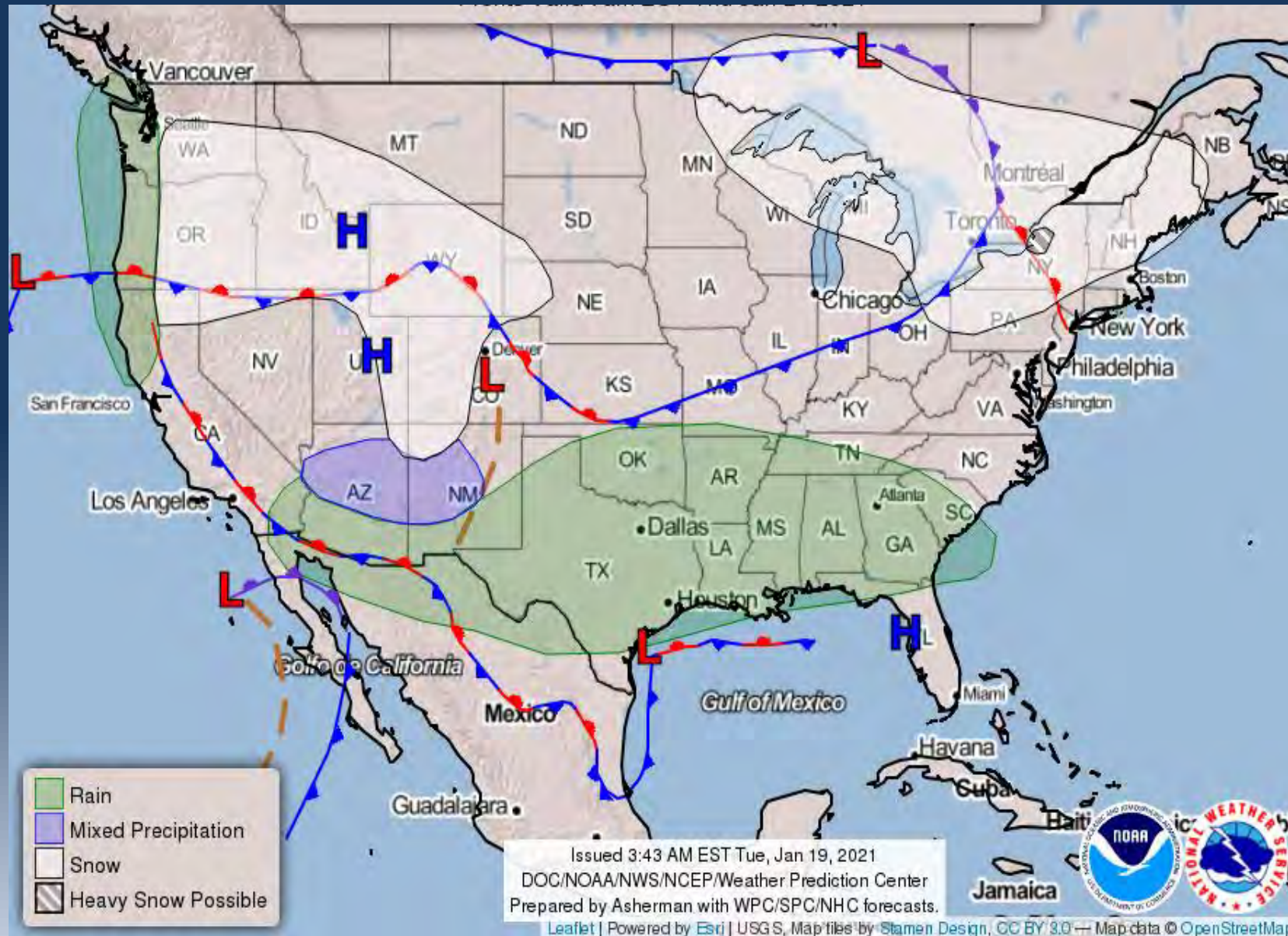
Tomorrow's Weather Map



NOAA Daily Weather Briefing



Day 3 Weather Map

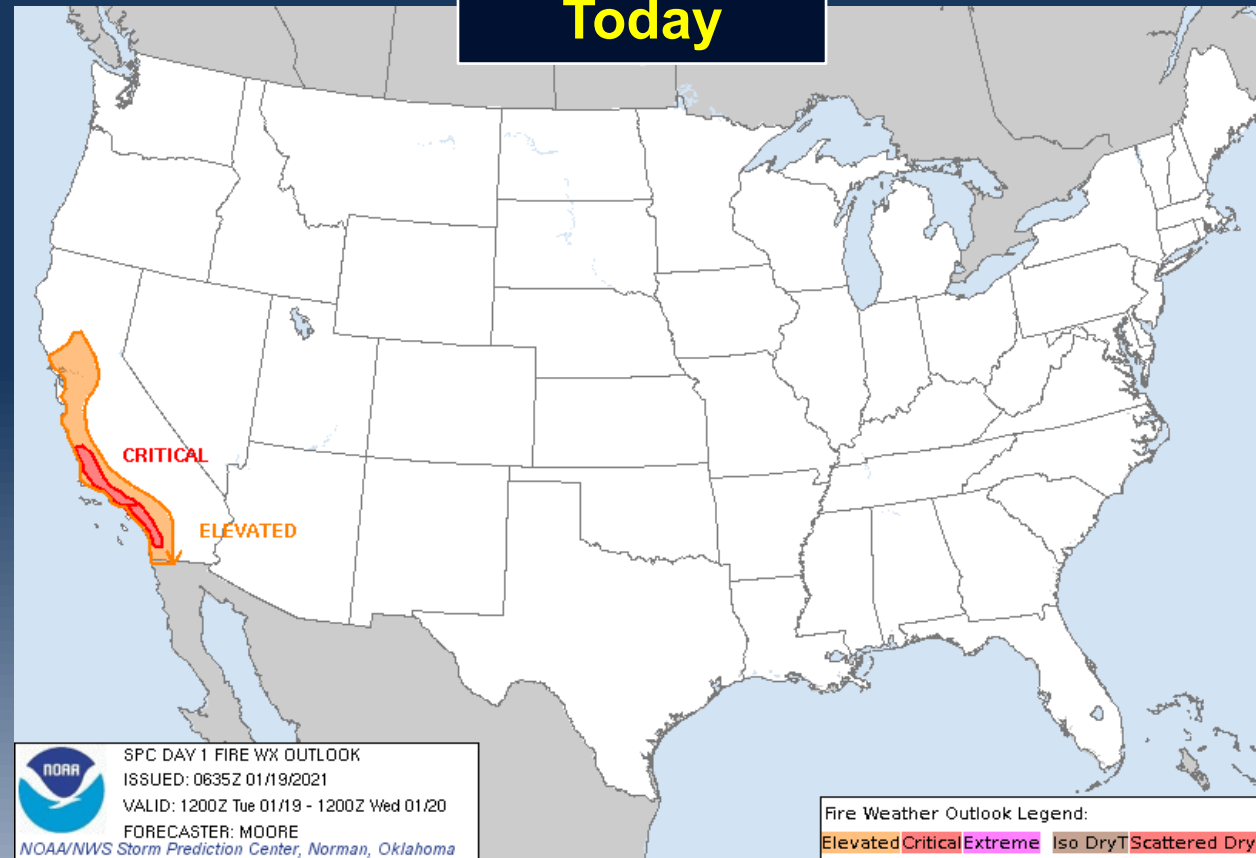


NOAA Daily Weather Briefing

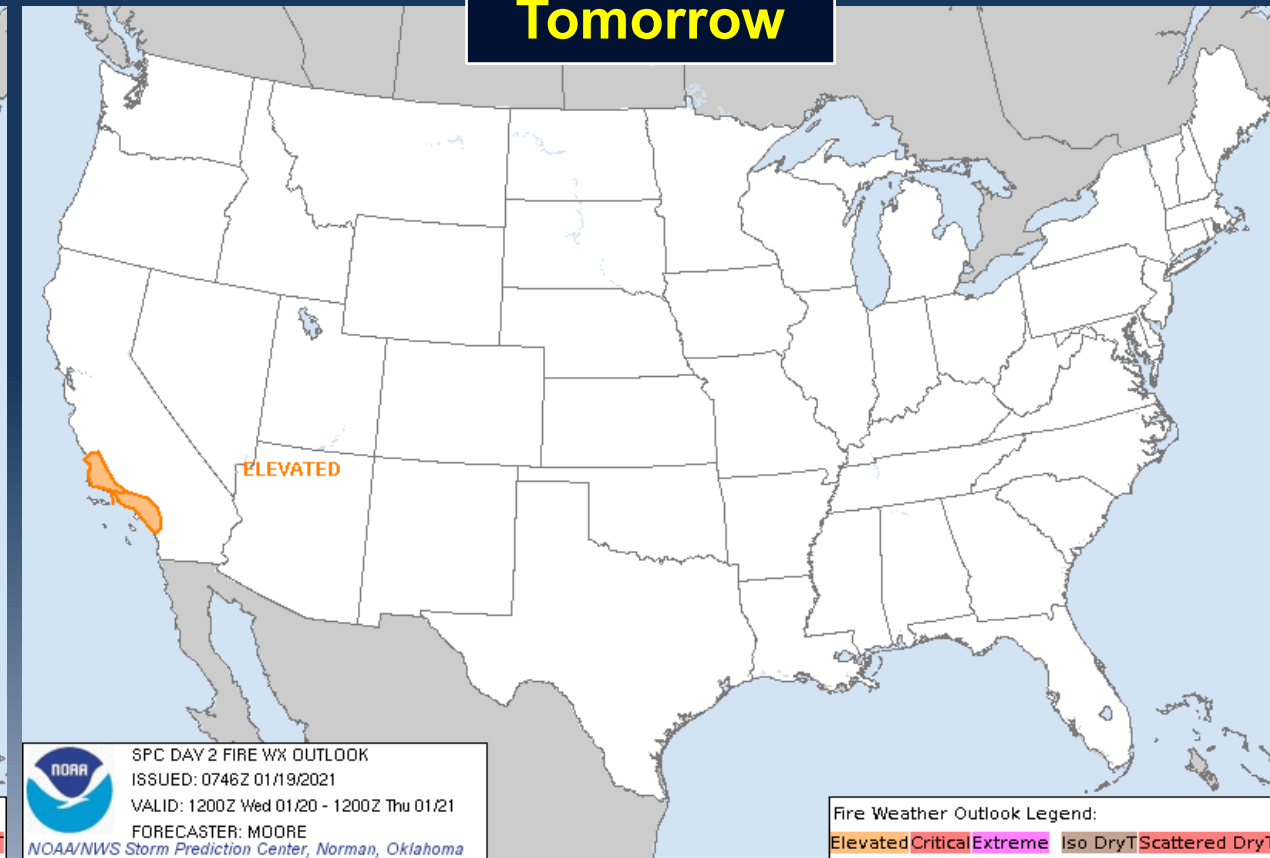


Fire Weather Outlooks

Today



Tomorrow



[Click here for Days 3-8](#)

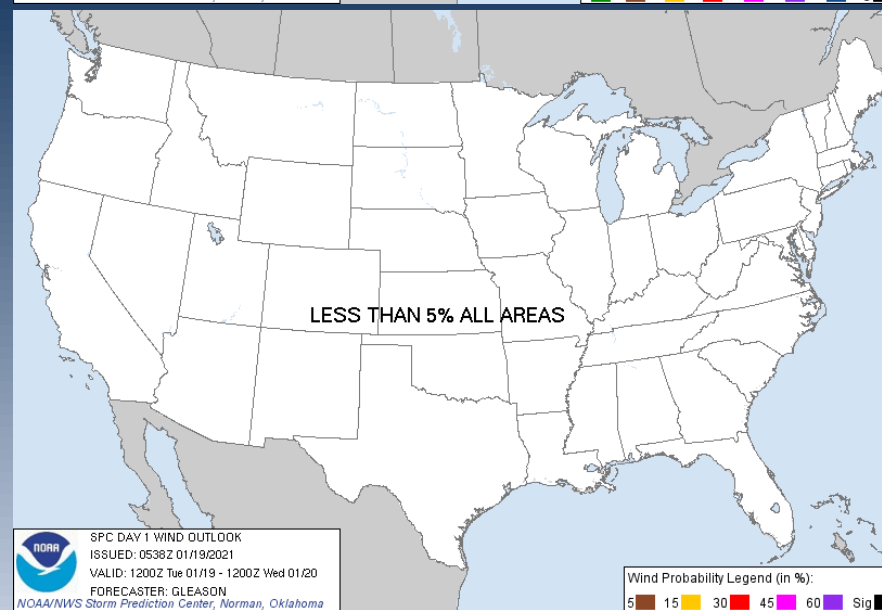
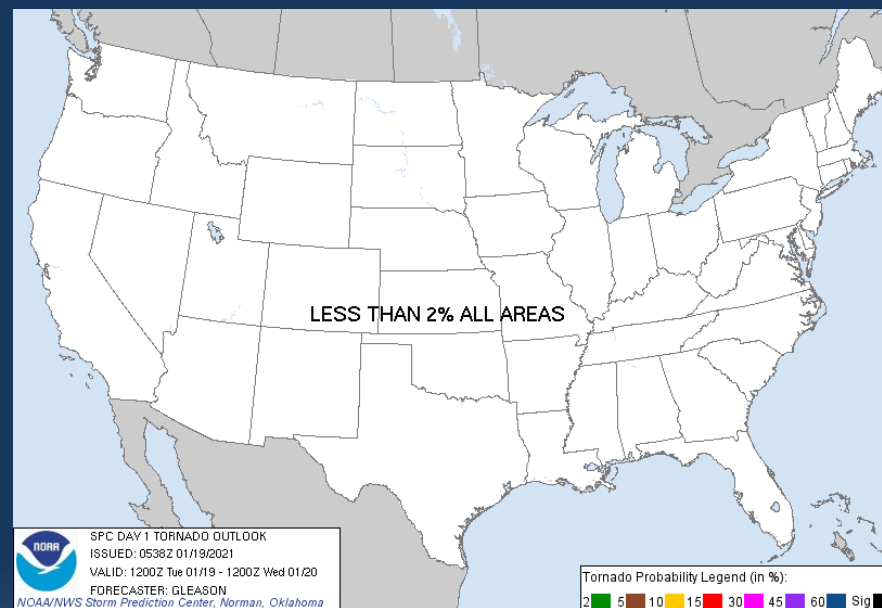
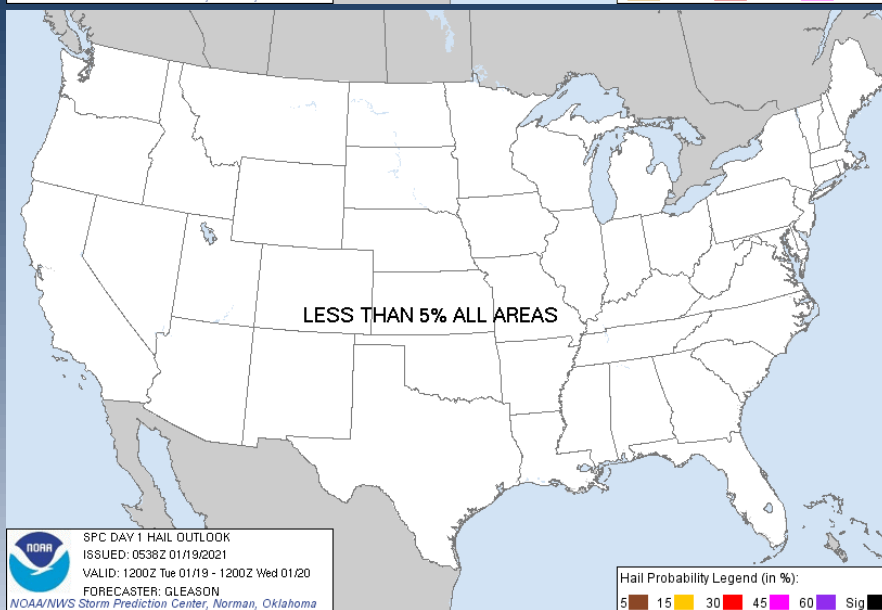
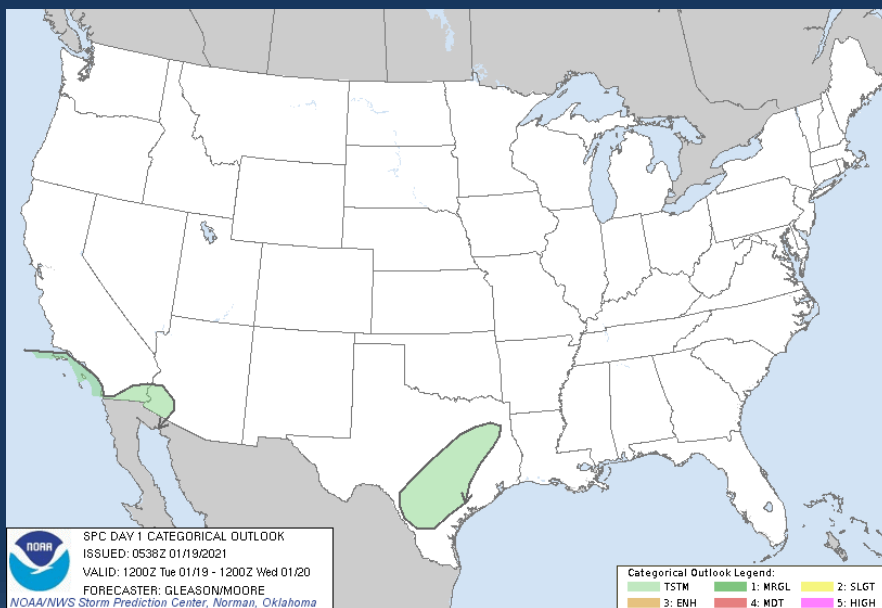
NOAA Daily Weather Briefing



Today's Convective Outlooks

Categorical

- Thunderstorms
- Marginal Risk
- Slight Risk
- Enhanced Risk
- Moderate Risk
- High Risk



Tornado

within 25 mi. of a point

- 2% any tornado
- 5%
- 10%
- 15%
- 30%
- 45%
- 60%

10% EF2+ tornado

Damaging Wind

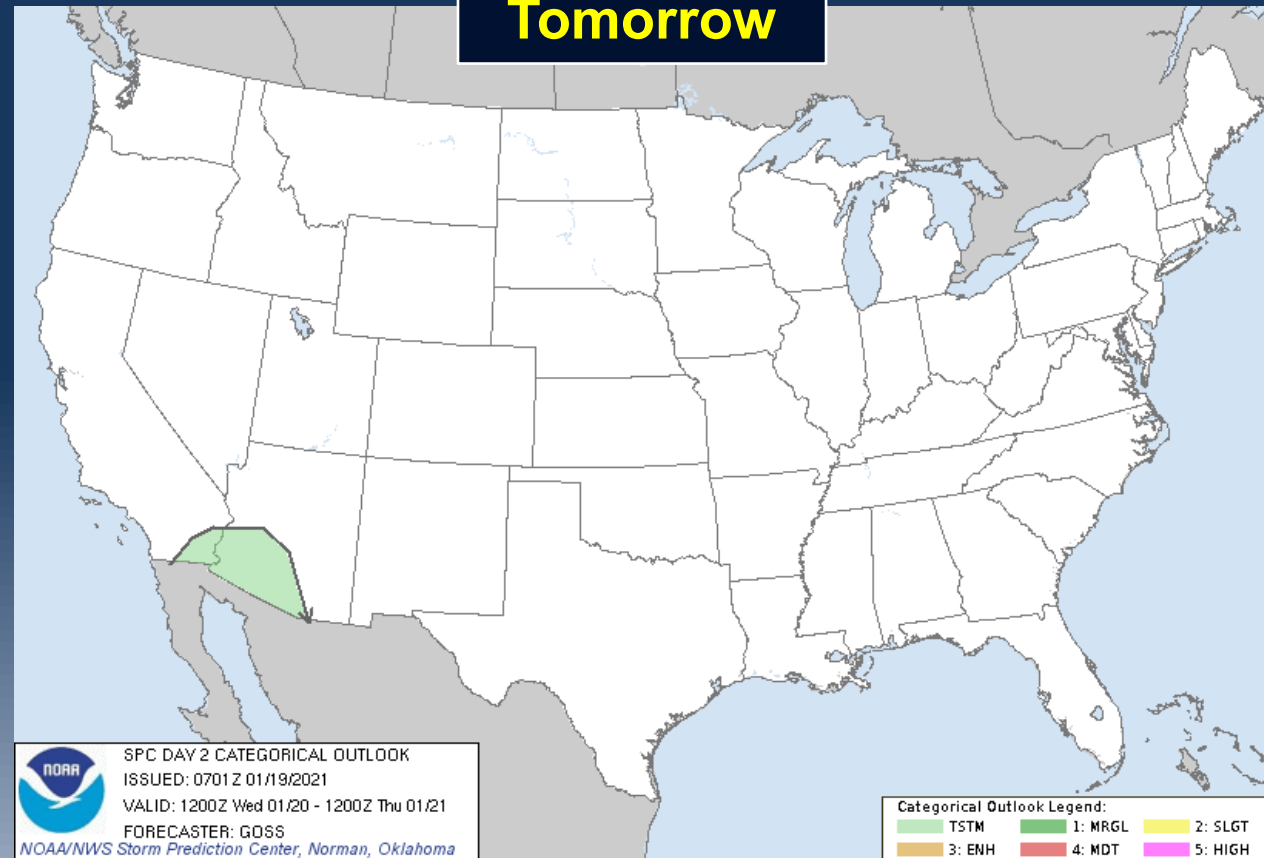
within 25 mi. of a point

- 5% 50+ kts
- 15%
- 30%
- 45%
- 60%

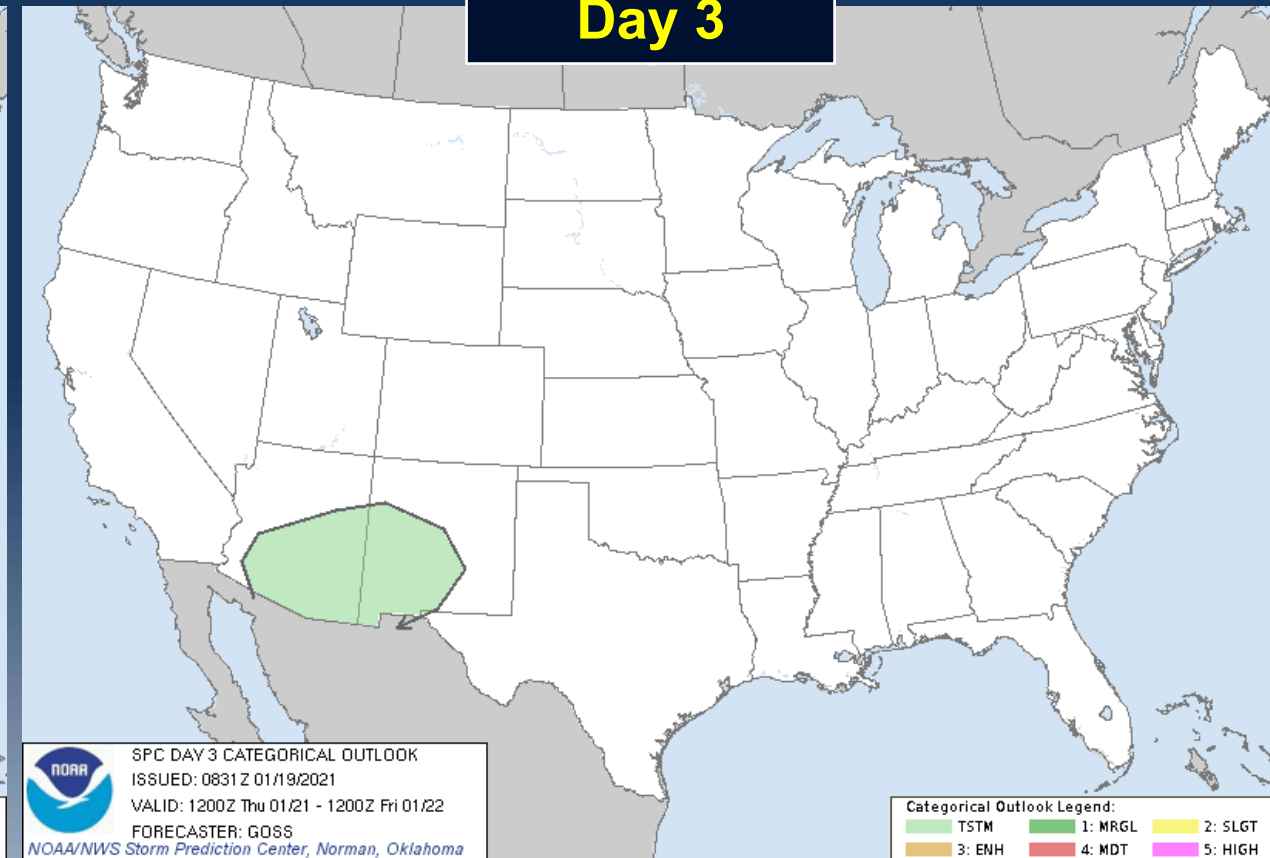
10% 65+ kts

Days 2 & 3 Convective Outlooks

Tomorrow



Day 3



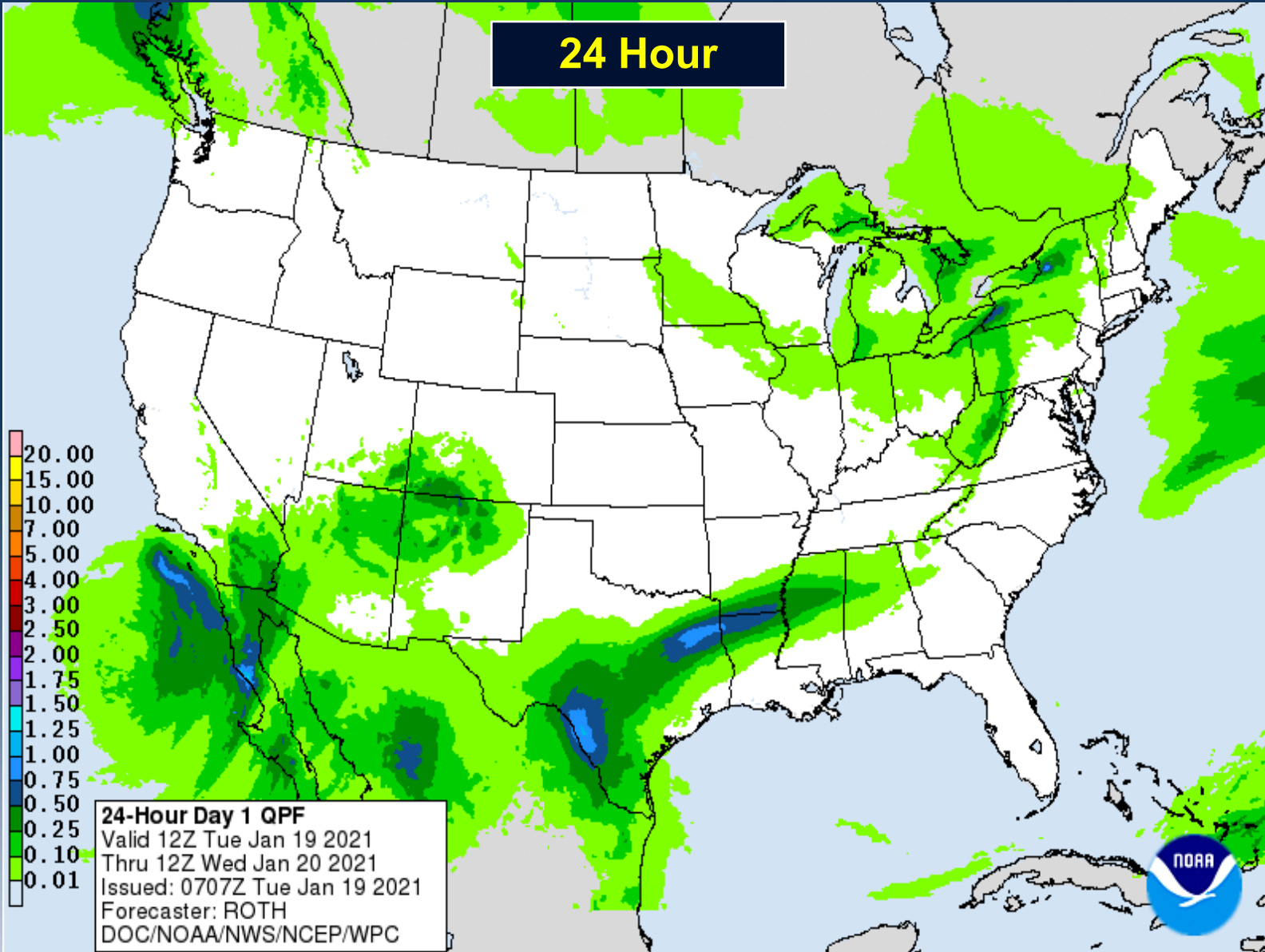
[Click here for Days 4-8](#)

NOAA Daily Weather Briefing

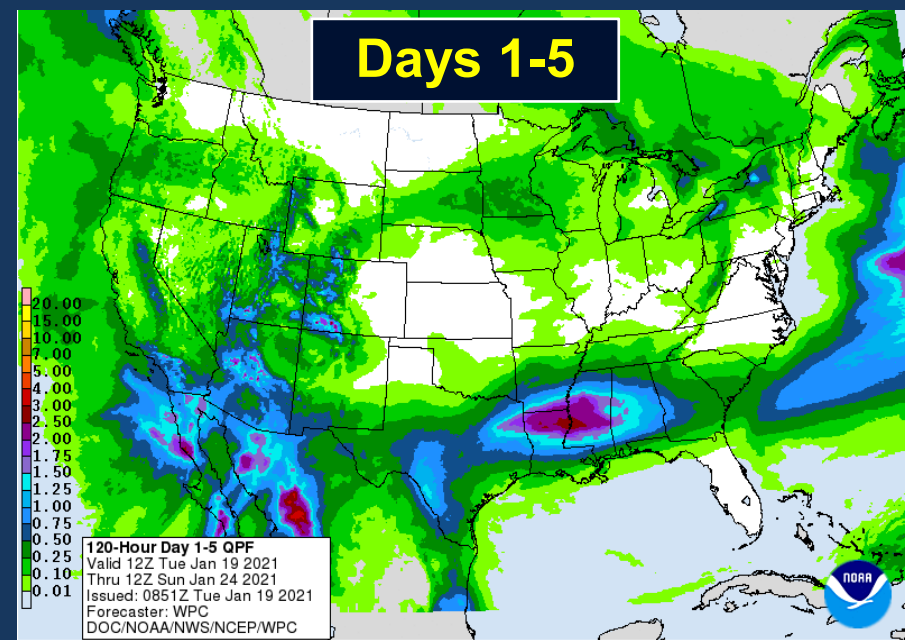


Precipitation Forecast

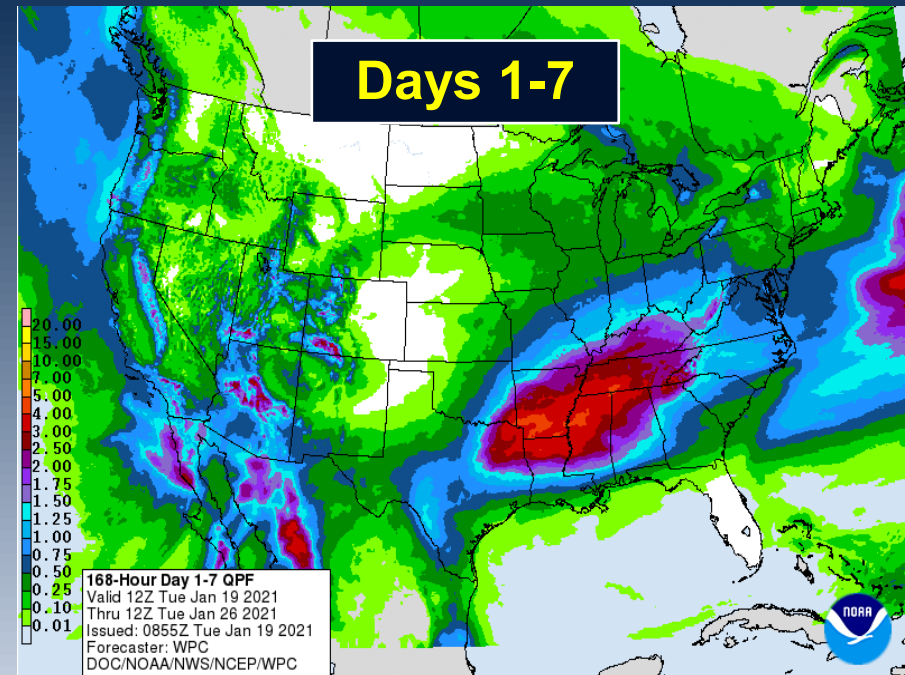
24 Hour



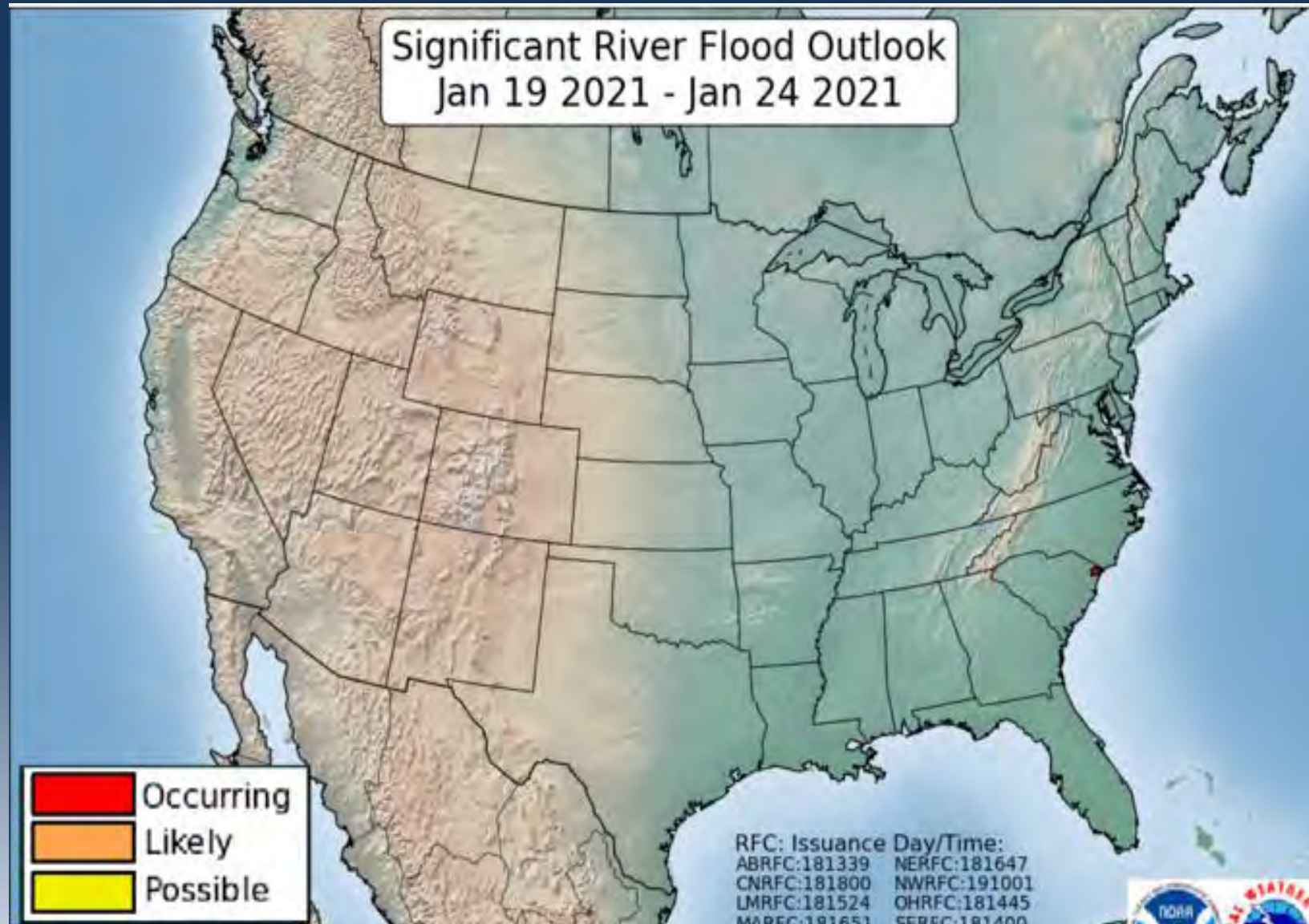
Days 1-5



Days 1-7



Significant River Flood Outlook

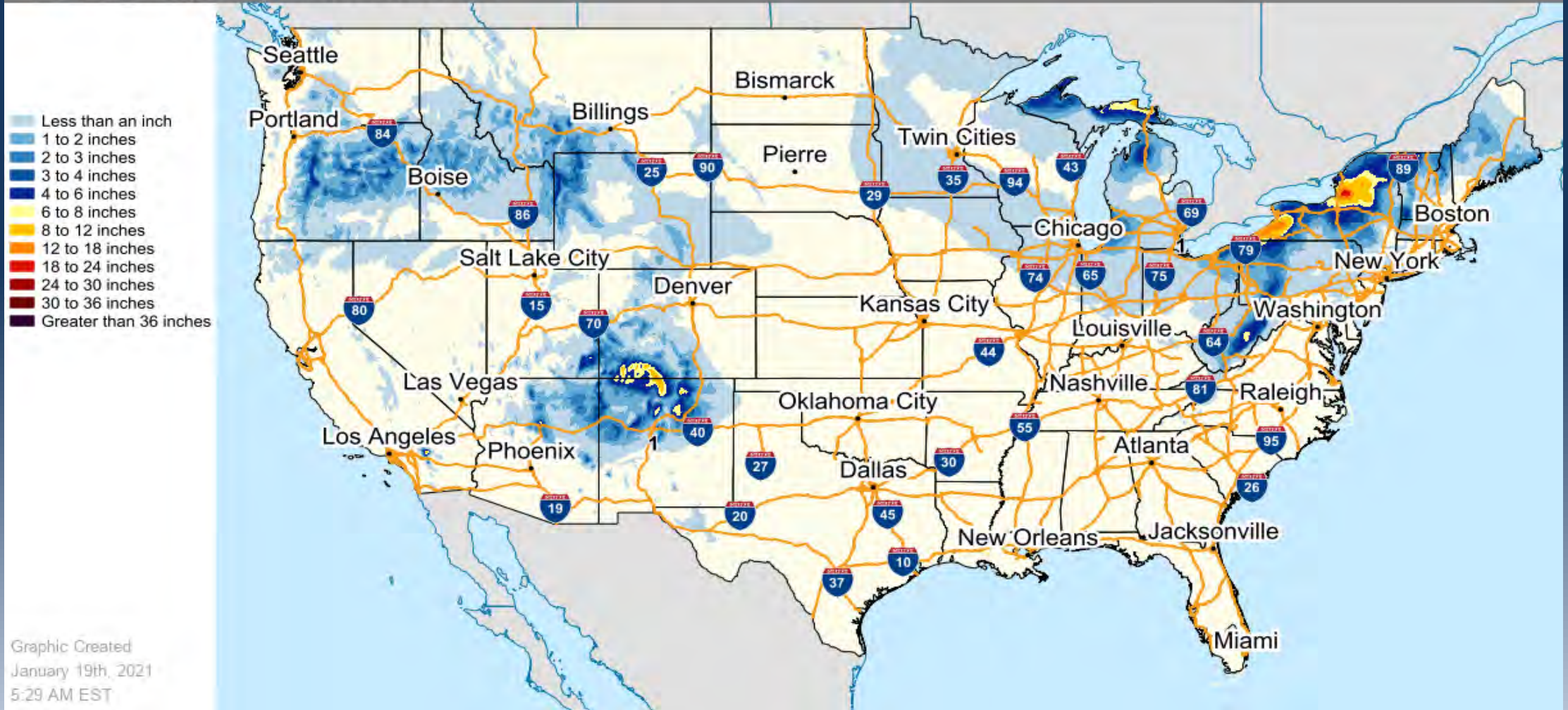


3 Day Total Snowfall Forecast



Forecast Snowfall

Valid Ending Friday January 22nd, 2021 at 7 AM EST



3 Day Total Ice Accumulation Forecast

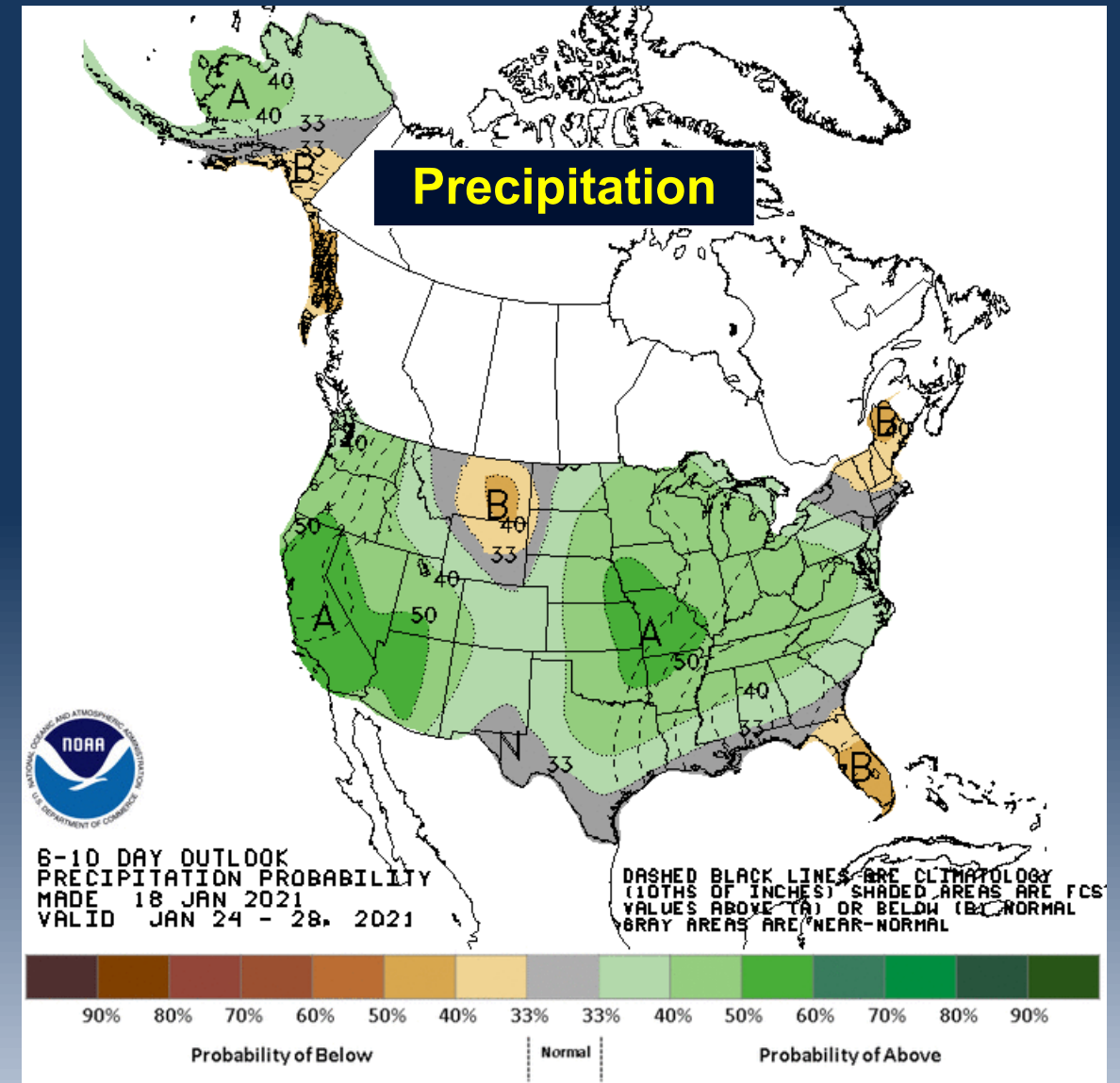
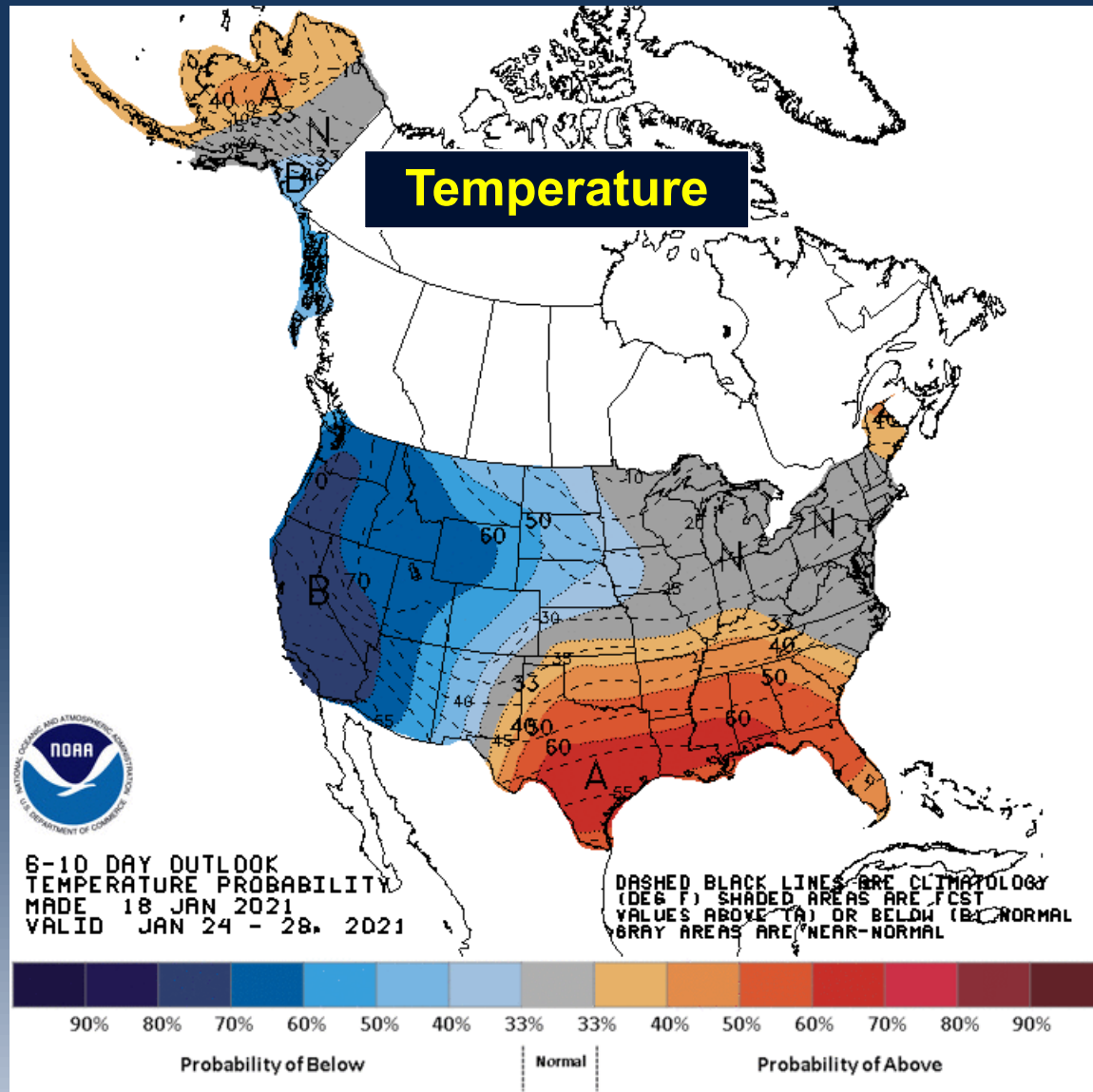


Ice Accumulation Forecast

Valid Ending Friday January 22nd, 2021 at 7 AM EST



6-10 Day Outlook



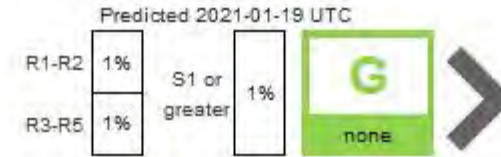
[8-14 Day Outlook](#) [One-Month Outlook](#) [Seasonal Outlooks](#)

NOAA Daily Weather Briefing

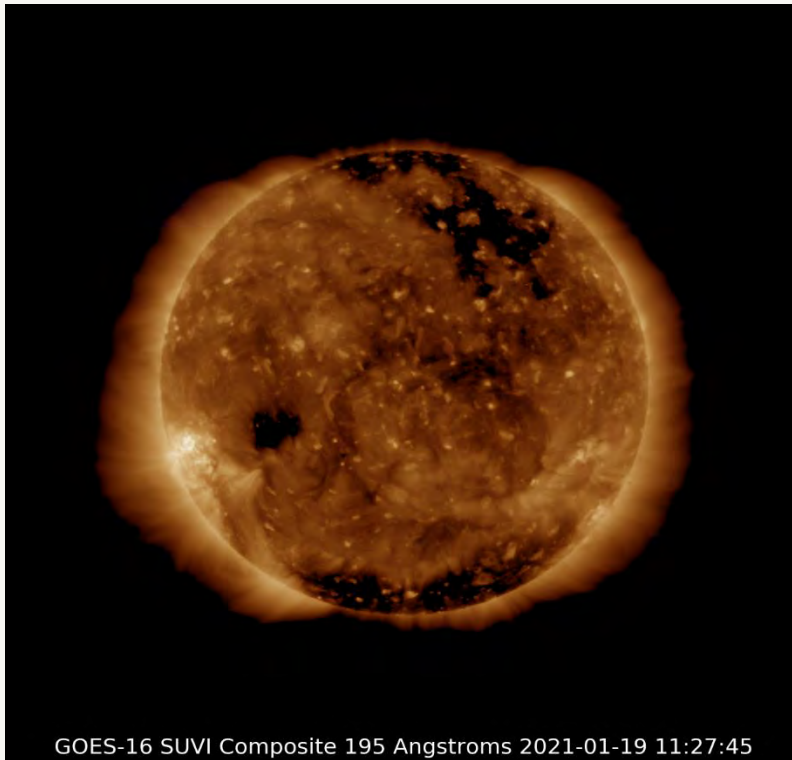


Space Weather Observations

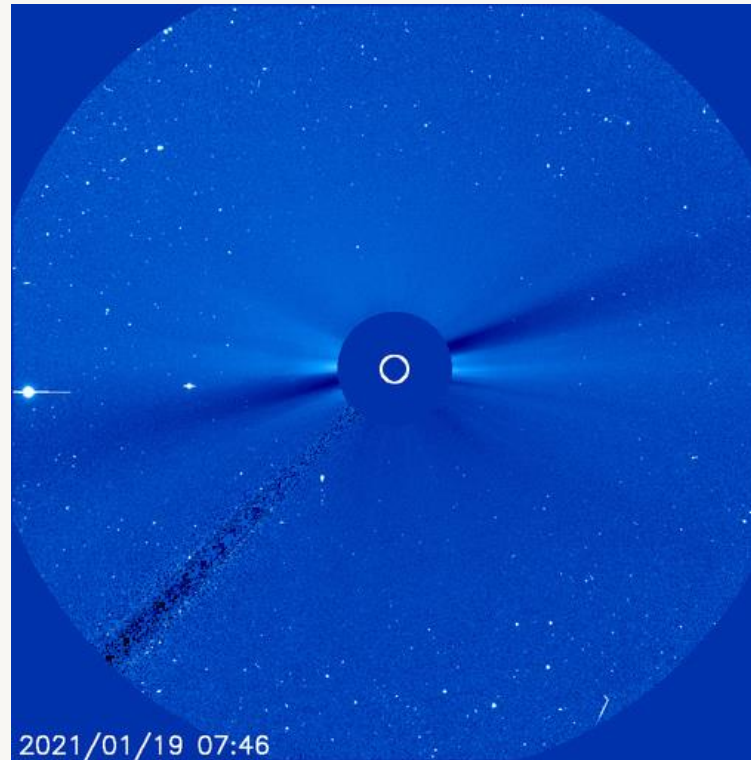
SPACE WEATHER CONDITIONS on NOAA Scales



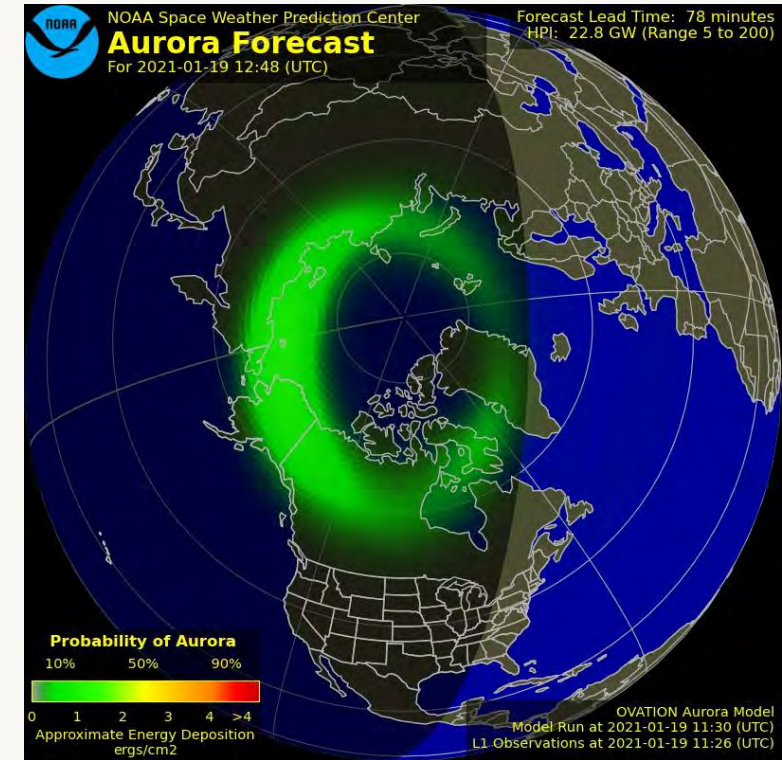
THE SUN'S X-RAYS



CORONAL MASS EJECTIONS



THE AURORA



National Weather Service Forecast for Washington, DC

Sunrise: 7:23am Sunset: 5:15pm
Normal High: 43 Normal Low: 28
Record High: 71 (1951) Record Low: -4 (1994)
Yesterday's High/Low Temperatures: 48/34

Today	Tonight	Wednesday	Wednesday Night	Thursday	Thursday Night	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday
								
Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Scattered Flurries and Breezy	Mostly Clear	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny	Mostly Clear	Sunny
High: 47 °F	Low: 31 °F	High: 38 °F	Low: 26 °F	High: 45 °F	Low: 31 °F	High: 45 °F	Low: 27 °F	High: 37 °F

Today: Mostly sunny, with a high near 47. Southwest wind 6 to 11 mph, with gusts as high as 23 mph.

Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around 31. West wind 5 to 7 mph.

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Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 45. Southwest wind 7 to 9 mph.

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Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 45.

Friday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 27.

Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 37.

Click to find your
local forecast












Your local "City, St", Zip Code, Address,
Latitude/Longitude, National Park/Monument

Go!

NOAA Daily Weather Briefing



National Weather Service Forecast for Bluemont, VA

Today	Tonight	Wednesday	Wednesday Night	Thursday	Thursday Night	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday
								
Partly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Scattered Flurries and Breezy	Mostly Clear	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny
High: 42 °F	Low: 29 °F	High: 32 °F	Low: 23 °F	High: 41 °F	Low: 29 °F	High: 38 °F	Low: 24 °F	High: 31 °F
<p>Today: Partly sunny, with a high near 42. Southwest wind 7 to 14 mph, with gusts as high as 23 mph.</p> <p>Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around 29. West wind 8 to 10 mph.</p> <p>Wednesday: Scattered flurries before 1pm. Mostly sunny, with a high near 32. Breezy, with a northwest wind 15 to 23 mph, with gusts as high as 41 mph.</p> <p>Wednesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 23. Northwest wind 7 to 10 mph becoming south after midnight.</p> <p>Thursday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 41. Southwest wind 9 to 11 mph, with gusts as high as 22 mph.</p> <p>Thursday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 29.</p> <p>Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 38.</p> <p>Friday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 24.</p> <p>Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 31.</p>								

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**AEROSPACE AND DEFENSE**

JANUARY 19, 2021 / 5:57 AM / UPDATED 2 HOURS AGO

Iran army commandos start drills near mouth of Gulf

By Reuters Staff



FILE PHOTO: Major General Hossein Salami is seen during a ceremony to mark the one year anniversary of the killing of senior Iranian military commander General Qassem Soleimani in a U.S. attack, in Tehran, Iran January 1, 2021. Majid Asgaripour/WANA (West Asia News Agency) via REUTERS

DUBAI (Reuters) - Iranian army commandos and paratroopers started exercises near the mouth of the Gulf on Tuesday, the last full day of U.S. President Donald Trump's

administration.

State television showed paratroopers landing behind mock enemy lines near the port of Jask on the Gulf of Oman and preparing attacks with missile launchers.

“The recent war games show to enemies the Iranian nation’s will to defend its independence and territorial integrity,” Revolutionary Guards commander General Hossein Salami told state TV. “Our fingers are on the trigger on behalf of the nation.”

Last week, the Revolutionary Guards fired long-range ballistic missiles at mock enemy warships in the Indian Ocean and tested domestically manufactured drones in Iran’s central desert region.

Last Wednesday, Iran tested short-range naval missiles in the Gulf, and exercises earlier this month featured a wide array of domestically produced drones.

Iran has one of the biggest missile programmes in the Middle East, regarding them as a deterrent and retaliatory force against the United States and other adversaries in the event of war.

Periodic confrontations have taken place between Iran’s military and U.S. forces in the Gulf since 2018, when Trump abandoned Iran’s 2015 nuclear deal with world powers and reinstated harsh sanctions against Tehran.

U.S. President-elect Joe Biden has said the United States will rejoin the nuclear deal if Iran resumes strict compliance.

Reporting by Dubai Newsroom; Editing by Angus MacSwan

Our Standards: The Thomson Reuters Trust Principles.



Department of Transportation US Public News Compilation Compiled on January 19, 2021

AVIATION

[Boeing 737 MAX to Get EU Flight Clearance Next Week](#)

01/19/2021

Boeing's 737 MAX airliner will receive final clearance to resume flying in Europe next week, the head of the EU's air safety watchdog said on Tuesday. The EU Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) is one of the last major regulators to approve changes to the MAX and its anti-stall software, blamed for two deadly crashes that grounded the jet in March 2019. Executive Director Patrick Ky said in an online media briefing. "We expect to publish it next week, which means the MAX will be cleared to fly again," Ky said. A separate certification of the MAX-200 variant will likely follow in "coming weeks", he added, allowing flights to resume before summer.

[Vietravel Airlines to Start Flying Next Monday](#)

01/19/2021

Vietravel Airlines is scheduled to make its maiden flight on January 25, and began ticket sales on Tuesday, its CEO, Vu Duc Bien, said. Vietnam's newest carrier will operate one or two flights a day each from HCMC and Hanoi to major tourist destinations like Nha Trang, Phu Quoc, Da Nang, and Hue. The carrier hopes to break even in its second year of operations. Vietravel Airlines has hired some 200 pilots and flight attendants, and is looking to expand its fleet to 30 to prepare for international operations, flying to Southeast Asia, especially Thailand, the Middle East and Northeast Asia, markets that Vietravel, the travel company that owns it, serves. It is the sixth carrier in what is a fiercely competitive aviation market after Vietnam Airlines, Vietjet, Jetstar Pacific, Vietnam Air Services Company, and Bamboo Airways.

[UK Aviation 'Almost Closed' As Tough New Rules Begin](#)

01/18/2021

As the toughest ever peacetime rules for travelers to the UK become law, a leading aviation figure has said that the industry is "in effect, almost closed". Under current lockdown rules, leisure travel and non-essential trips are outlawed for UK residents until further notice. Karen Dee, chief executive of the Airport Operators' Association, told the *BBC Today* program, "We believe that vaccinations and a testing framework of some kind is going to be key to giving people the confidence that they need to travel again. The real barrier for us is the quarantine period. We're keen to work with government to see what is the testing regime that we can put in place."

MARITIME

[Greece Reiterates Intention to Extend Territorial Waters in Crete](#)

01/19/2021

Greek Foreign Minister Nikos Dendias reiterated on Tuesday the government's intention to extend the country's territorial waters to 12 nautical miles south of Crete, during a debate on a bill delimitating maritime borders between Greece and Italy. The bill follows an agreement signed between the two countries on June 9, 2020. The deal is an extension of a 1977 accord and paves the way for the two countries to explore for and exploit marine resources in the area. Lawmakers will debate for two days – Tuesday and Wednesday – on the draft legislation that will extend Greece's coastal zone (territorial waters) to 12 nautical miles in the sea area of the Ionian Sea and the Ionian Islands to Cape Tainaro in the Peloponnese.

[Canada Assumes Command of Standing NATO Maritime Group One](#)

01/18/2021

Commodore Bradley Peats of the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) officially assumed command of Standing NATO Maritime Group One (SNMG1) during a change of command ceremony held in Lisbon, Portugal today. SNMG1 is one of four NATO Standing Naval Forces (SNF) that provide the Alliance with a continuous naval capability and presence which forms the core of the Very High Readiness Joint Task Force (Maritime). NATO Standing Naval Forces presence and activities promote and preserve unfettered access to the global ocean commons and help maintain freedom of the seas and freedom of navigation throughout all international waters which is central to the Alliance's security and economic prosperity.

[Turkish, Greek Teams Resume Talks at NATO](#)

01/18/2021

Turkish and Greek military representatives have come together as part of a de-confliction mechanism launched by NATO, a week before the much-anticipated exploratory talks for the resolution of the problems stemming from the Aegean and Mediterranean seas. Following a few round of talks in Brussels, the Greek side rejected to attend the meetings after Turkey re-dispatched the Oruç Reis exploration vessel to the disputed waters in Mediterranean. The parties could reconvene as a result of continued de-escalation in the region as well as on ties between Turkey and the EU.

RAIL / TRANSIT

[Iran, Turkey Sign 3 Railroad Deals](#)

01/18/2021

Iran and Turkey have signed three new agreements on railroad transport, the managing director of the Islamic Republic of Iran Railways said. Saeed Rasouli said the three

agreements are aimed at maximizing the capacity of railroad travels and freight services between the two neighbors. He also noted that Tehran and Ankara have agreed to strengthen an east-west corridor that links China to Turkey through Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran. Rasouli said the new agreements would accelerate the implementation of various projects such as a southern route connecting China to Europe, the railroads linking Turkey to Afghanistan and Pakistan, as well as the routes connecting Iran's southern ports to Turkey. The Iranian official added that revival of a transnational rail service linking Istanbul, Tehran and Islamabad is expected to pave the way for connection to the new Silk Road.

VEHICLE / ROAD

[Tesla Unveils New Electric Vehicle Made Exclusively in China](#)

01/19/2021

U.S. automaker Tesla on Monday delivered its second electrically-powered vehicle made exclusively in China for the Chinese market. "Model Y deliveries in China have officially begun," the company announced on Twitter. The Model Y follows the Model 3 as the first Tesla vehicles for sale in China produced at Tesla's \$2 billion Gigafactory plant in Shanghai, which opened just two years ago. The company is looking to increase its vehicle sales volume from about 500,000 vehicles in 2020 to 20 million annually over the next decade. The online China Economic newspaper says Tesla also plans to invest \$6.4 million in the construction of a supercharger manufacturing plant in Shanghai with an initial planned annual production capacity of 10,000 superchargers. It is expected to be operational in the first quarter of 2021.

PIPELINE / HAZMAT

[Environmental Group Files Complaint to Stop Work on Nord Stream 2](#)

01/18/2021

Environmental activist group Nabu on Monday said it had filed a complaint with the German maritime authority, BSH, to temporarily halt construction work of the Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline in German waters. The complaint against BSH's move on Friday to expand the period during which construction work can theoretically take place automatically halts any work on the project, BSH confirmed. Focus earlier reported that two environmental groups, Nabu and DUH, had filed complaints and that this was effectively a freeze on construction work.

COMMERCIAL USE OF SPACE

[Virgin Orbit Used a Modified 747 to Launch a Rocket into Space](#)

01/19/2021

Virgin Orbit, a flight company set up by British entrepreneur Richard Branson, has completed a second launch demonstration that carried 10 payloads for NASA's Launch Services Program. Rather than traditional rocket-launching tech used by Amazon CEO

Jeff Bezos' Blue Origin and Elon Musk's SpaceX, Virgin Orbit launches its rockets from the wing of an aircraft while in flight. According to Virgin Orbit, one of its LauncherOne rockets reached space during its second launch demonstration. Virgin Orbit contends that its air launch system is better than ground-based launch pads because the rockets have a superior payload capacity and it's less vulnerable to the weather conditions that have hampered many SpaceX launches. With this successful demonstration in the books, Virgin Orbit will officially transition into commercial service for its next mission.

TERRORISM / EXTREMISM

Pakistani Student Arrested for Sending Money to ISIS Terrorists in Syria

01/19/2021

A university student in Pakistan has been arrested on charges of having links with global terror groups and sending money to the dreaded Islamic State terrorists in Syria, police said on Monday. Muhammad Omer Bin Khalid, who is studying at Karachi's reputed NED University of Engineering and Technology, was arrested while trying to leave Karachi via a train, according to the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) of Sindh Police. He said as per initial estimates, Omer has already sent over one million rupees to terrorists. "We detained him initially and seized two mobile phones from him and also a laptop on December 17 last year. At the time, however, the suspect was released on bail as the CTD had no concrete evidence against him," the officer said.

Two Syrians Charged with Terrorism Over Army Officer's Killing

01/18/2021

Two Syrians have been charged in Germany for alleged links to a terrorist organization on suspicion they were involved in the killing of an army officer in their homeland in 2012, prosecutors said Monday. The pair are suspected of taking part in the killing of a captured lieutenant colonel of the Syrian government forces in July 2012, prosecutors said. They said that Khedr A.K. guarded the man as he was brought to the execution site. Sami A.S. is suspected of filming the officer's shooting and preparing the footage for use as propaganda. It was not immediately clear when the two came to Germany.

CYBER

Health Insurer Fined \$5.1 Million Over Data Breach

01/18/2021

An American health insurer has agreed to pay \$5.1m to the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) at the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to settle potential violations of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Privacy and Security Rules. Excellus is a New York-based health services corporation that provides health insurance coverage to over 1.5 million people in upstate and western New York. A breach report filed by Excellus on September 9, 2015, stated that cyber-attackers had gained unauthorized access to the company's information technology systems.

The breach began on or before December 23, 2013, and dragged on until May 11, 2015. After gaining entry to the company's systems, malicious hackers installed malware and conducted reconnaissance activities that ultimately resulted in the disclosure of protected health information (PHI) of more than 9.3 million individuals.

ADDITIONAL REPORTING

Factional Risks Hover as Libya's UN Peace Process Advances

01/19/2021

Libyans working under a U.N. peace process on Tuesday agreed a mechanism to choose a new temporary government to oversee the run-up to elections late this year, in the hope that it can avoid being scampered by factional rivalries. It follows weeks of negotiation after a political dialogue in Tunis in November among 75 Libyans, selected by the U.N. Libya mission, charted a roadmap towards elections but failed to agree on how to form an interim government. The mechanism to choose a transitional government was proposed on Saturday by a smaller committee, drawn from the political dialogue members, that met in Geneva last week. It was voted on by the full body on Monday and Tuesday.

Afghan President, NATO Chief Discuss Peace Talks

01/19/2021

Afghan President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani and NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg held a phone conversation during which they discussed the peace talks between the Kabul government and the Taliban. The two sides on Monday discussed "the Afghan peace process and NATO's continued support for Afghanistan Defense and Security forces", Xinhua news agency quoted the statement issued by Ghani's office as saying. "NATO remains committed to supporting the Afghan Defense and Security forces and continues its mission to train, advise and assist the forces," the statement quoted Stoltenberg as saying. This round will focus on a ceasefire and reduction in violence in the war-torn country, TOLO News reported.

Young Tunisians Clash with Police Days After Revolution Anniversary

01/18/2021

Hundreds of youths clashed with police in cities across Tunisia late on Monday, throwing stones and gasoline bombs in the capital as security forces used tear gas and water cannons to try to quell the unrest. Up to 300 young men clashed with police in the capital's Ettadamon district, while residents of Kasserine, Gafsa, Sousse and Monastir described street violence in those cities. Rioting and protests have followed the 10th anniversary of a revolution that brought democracy but few material gains for most Tunisians, with anger growing at chronic joblessness and poor state services. However, with no clear agenda, political leadership or backing from major parties, it is not clear whether the demonstrations will gain momentum or die down, as many previous rounds of protests have since 2011.

§ 2-534(a)(3)



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THE UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
JUSTICE NEWS

Department of Justice

Office of Public Affairs

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, January 19, 2021

Statement of Acting Attorney General Jeffrey A. Rosen Regarding Nationwide Safety and Security for Inauguration Day

[Click to view video.](#)

Tomorrow, the Nation and the world will witness an orderly and peaceful transfer of power in the United States, as the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court swears in President-Elect Biden. Throughout our Nation's proud history, this ceremony has served as a beacon of democracy and a testament to the enduring strength of our Constitution.

By contrast, the violence we witnessed at the Capitol two weeks ago was an intolerable travesty, which is why the Justice Department has now brought charges against more than one-hundred individuals and has investigations of many others underway.

The Department of Justice is committed, together with our federal, state, and local law enforcement partners, to ensuring a safe and peaceful Inauguration – one that reflects our Nation's enduring highest values.

As I have repeatedly said over the last two weeks, the Justice Department will have no tolerance for anyone who attempts to mar the day with violence or other criminal conduct. Anyone who does that will be caught, and they will be prosecuted.

Indeed, over the past two weeks, we have seen friends, family members, co-workers, and others reporting information to us about those who were involved in the breach of the Capitol on January 6th. The FBI has received nearly 200,000 digital tips from the public. The American people have demonstrated that they will not allow mob violence to go unanswered. Violence and senseless criminal conduct are not the right way to resolve differences or promote change in our country.

So, rest assured that every level of law enforcement and the National Guard are working around the clock here in Washington, D.C., to provide safety and security for Inauguration Day, and that federal, state, and local law enforcement all around the country are doing the same in our state capitols and government buildings across all fifty states.

As Americans, we all should seek to have a safe and peaceful Inauguration Day, and if we hold fast to our country's Constitution and traditions, we will.

Component(s):

Office of the Attorney General

Press Release Number:

21-68

Updated January 19, 2021

Sacco, Cristina (EOM)

From: Padilla, Daniel O <Daniel.O.Padilla@fps.dhs.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 9:43 AM
To: Chambers, William; James.t.harris98.civ@mail.mil; Kimberly.sims@dc.gov; Lisa.reid@atf.gov; McKinney, Maurice E.; Montagna, Carolyn (MPD); Mora, Orlando; MwBradshaw@wmata.com; Oneil.ormsby@montgomerycountymd.gov; Wilson, Richmond C; Roderick.alford@usdoj.gov; TDlynch@fbi.gov; Tholmes@wmata.com; Verna, William (MPD); Drinkard, Michelle (USMS); John.P.Goshco.civ@mail.mil
Subject: (U//FOUO//LES) USSS SIR Bulletin
Attachments: image002.png; Griffin53593.pdf; Shivers57272.pdf; Smith36324.pdf
Categories: Green

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FYSA: UPDATE

2-534(a)
(3)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Sacco, Cristina (EOM)

From: Padilla, Daniel O <Daniel.O.Padilla@fps.dhs.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 9:15 AM
To: BURR JEFFREY P; Chambers, William; James.t.harris98.civ@mail.mil; Kimberly.sims@dc.gov; Lisa.reid@atf.gov; McKinney, Maurice E.; Montagna, Carolyn (MPD); Mora, Orlando; MwBradshaw@wmata.com; Oneil.ormsby@montgomerycountymd.gov; Wilson, Richmond C; Roderick.alford@usdoj.gov; TDlynch@fbi.gov; Tholmes@wmata.com; Verna, William (MPD)
Subject: (U//FOUO//LES) Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) Joint Operational Command Center (JOCC)
Attachments: image003.png; image004.png; 20210117 EIB.pdf
Categories: Green

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Good Morning All;

UNCLASSIFIED//LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE

FYSA: Attached is the United States Marshals Service (USMS) Office of Protective Intelligence Executive Intelligence Brief.

Very Respectfully;

Inspector Daniel O. Padilla #853
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Joint Operation Command Center JOCC
Federal Protective Service Region 11
[202-657-0900](tel:202-657-0900) (Office)
[§ 2-534\(a\)\(2\)](tel:202-534-2121) (Cell)
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Sacco, Cristina (EOM)

From: Snyder, Marc R. (OPE) (FBI) <MRSnyder@fbi.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 8:49 AM
Subject: FBI OPS Inauguration Daily SitRep 19 January 2021
Attachments: OPS 2021 Inauguration Daily Sitrep-20210119_TLP-AMBER.pdf

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Good morning,

Please see the attached OPS Inauguration Daily SITREP for Tuesday, 01/19/2021.

This report is classified at the **TLP: AMBER** level and should be shared accordingly.

TLP: AMBER documents contain information that may be shared with members of your own organization, and with clients or customers who need to know the information to protect themselves or prevent further harm.

Thank you,

FBI Office of Partner Engagement

Sacco, Cristina (EOM)

From: Padilla, Daniel O <Daniel.O.Padilla@fps.dhs.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 8:21 AM
To: BURR JEFFREY P; Chambers, William; James.t.harris98.civ@mail.mil; Kimberly.sims@dc.gov; McKinney, Maurice E.; Montagna, Carolyn (MPD); Mora, Orlando; MwBradshaw@wmata.com; Oneil.ormsby@montgomerycountymd.gov; Wilson, Richmond C; Roderick.alford@usdoj.gov; TDlynch@fbi.gov; Tholmes@wmata.com; Verna, William (MPD); Lisa.reid@atf.gov
Subject: (U//FOUO//LES) Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) Joint Operational Command Center (JOCC)
Attachments: image001.png; image002.png; (U--FOUO) IIF - Heightened Threat Environment Surrounding Presidential Transition May Increase Potential for 01172021.pdf
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Very Respectfully;

Inspector Daniel O. Padilla #853
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Joint Operation Command Center JOCC
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