

Message

From:

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

Sent:

2/21/2020 5:38:27 AM

To:

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

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

SOG OPSCEN-S3

(b)(7)(E)

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

CC:

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

Subject:

FW: SITREP-20200220 (b)(7)(E) OP-SOG-ORD-OPERATION SUBZERO

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

Attachments:

Report_SITREP-20200220 (b)(7)(E) OP-SOG-ORD-OPERATION SUBZERO .pdf

NSTR

Thanks,

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

Special Operations Supervisor

Special Operations Group + BORTAC

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

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

From: no-reply@cbp.dhs.gov <no-reply@cbp.dhs.gov>

Sent: Thursday, February 20, 2020 10:34 PM

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

Subject: SITREP-20200220 (b)(7)(E) OP-SOG-ORD-OPERATION SUBZERO,

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

SITREP

Operation: (b)(7)(E)

SITREP ID: SITREP-20200220 (b)(7)(E)

Date: 02/20/2020

Operation Name: OP-SOG-ORD-OPERATION SUBZERO

Assigned Station: HQ/SOG

Station(s) worked: SOG HQ, EPT SOD

Zone(s): ICE/ERO Chicago Field Office AOR

Shift/Covering period: (b)(7)(E)

POC s for any further information/coordinator: SBPA (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

GPS Coordinates: (b)(7)(E)

Call Outs: N/A

Daily Activity Report/Narrative/Effectiveness: Supported the Chicago ICE ERO Field Office Fugitive OPs Teams.

Medical Status: Good.

Significant Events: NSTR

Air Operations: N/A

(b)(7)(E)

Next 24 Hours: We will continue to assist Chicago ICE ERO as members of their Fugitive OPs Unit.

Associated Event Numbers

No Event # Logged -

SITREP Coordinates

(b)(7)(E)

Total Apprehensions

UDAs - 3

Message

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

Sent: 2/23/2020 3:53:57 PM

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

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

Subject: Fwd: Updated HQ Reporting Requirements SUB zERO

Attachments: SUB zERO 16-22.docx; ATT00001.htm

Chief,

You were copied but if you read below looks like (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) is requesting a little more details on the SITREP being its under more scrutiny. I think we have most of what he wants already on SITREPS now.

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy Tablet
Get Outlook for Android

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

Sent: Saturday, February 22, 2020 7:09:46 AM

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

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

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

Subject: Fwd: Updated HQ Reporting Requirements SUB zERO

FYSA

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

Acting Commander

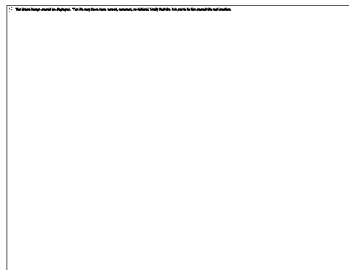
Special Operations Group (SOG)

Border Patrol Tactical Unit (BORTAC)

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

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

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



Begin forwarded message:

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

Date: February 21, 2020 at 4:52:01 PM MST

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

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

Subject: RE: Updated HQ Reporting Requirements SUB zERO

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

Supervisory Border Patrol Agent
Special Operations Group (SOG)
Border Patrol Tactical Unit (BORTAC)

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

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

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

Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2020 10:00 AM

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

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

Cc: LEOD-OPS-CELL (b)(7)(E)

Subject: Updated HQ Reporting Requirements SUB ZERO

All,

Thank you for all of the reports for the previous week. USBP contributed to more than 87 arrests during the first week alone. For future reporting requirements, please use the below format either in the body of an email or on a word doc as an attachment (attached as well for your use). Agents previously identified

will continue to report. If agents within certain areas, including Chicago, Burlington, and NYC continue to be assigned to multiple teams where it becomes burdensome to consolidate the reports, please have each agent send me a report and I will consolidate for the week. **Each week, your report will be due on or before Saturday, at the end of your shift, covering the previous week.** I will consolidate the report for all locations on Monday morning and include in the Chief's morning report.

This operation is being watched from all levels, from the White House to Congress and all levels of media and special interest groups. This operation has already received national media attention and will continue to do so. Details have become even more important. For this operation, we are in support of ICE ERO, and it is crucial that we are able to report on the correct narrative versus the negative narrative that some outlets will try and push. We are already set to brief committees on the Hill, have responded to numerous RFIs and are speaking to Chiefs of Police in numerous sanctuary cities. We expect this to continue, if not intensify. As always, don't hesitate to hit me up with any questions/issues/concerns.

Reporting Format: (Feel free to add, but do not reduce)

Field Office/Location: New York - Manhattan

Reporting Period: 16-22FEB2020

Manpower/Team: Agent(s) names, ICE/ERO Team supporting

Assigned Shift: (b)(7)(E)

BLUF:

- Total Arrests: ##
- Detainers Issued: ##
- Other:

EVENTS:

16FEB2020:

- Arrests: short synopsis of arrest(s) including date/time
Subject: Name, DOB, COC, IMM/CRIM History, Disposition (NTA. Reinstate, Bag & Baggage, Prosecution)
- Detainers Issues: Name, DOB, Location
- Additional Activity:

17FEB2020:

- Arrests: short synopsis of arrest(s) including date/time
Subject: Name, DOB, COC, IMM/CRIM History, Disposition (NTA. Reinstate, Bag & Baggage, Prosecution)
- Detainers Issues: Name, DOB, Location
- Additional Activity:

18FEB2020:

- Arrests: short synopsis of arrest(s) including date/time
Subject: Name, DOB, COC, IMM/CRIM History, Disposition (NTA. Reinstate, Bag & Baggage, Prosecution)
- Detainers Issues: Name, DOB, Location
- Additional Activity:

19FEB2020:

- Arrests: short synopsis of arrest(s) including date/time

Subject: Name, DOB, COC, IMM/CRIM History, Disposition (NTA. Reinstate, Bag & Baggage, Prosecution)

- Detainers Issues: Name, DOB, Location
- Additional Activity:

20FEB2020:

- Arrests: short synopsis of arrest(s) including date/time
Subject: Name, DOB, COC, IMM/CRIM History, Disposition (NTA. Reinstate, Bag & Baggage, Prosecution)
- Detainers Issues: Name, DOB, Location
- Additional Activity:

21FEB2020

- Assigned Day Off-Duty

22FEB2020:

Assigned Day Off-Duty

Additional Activity:

Issues/Concerns:

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

Assistant Chief

U.S. Border Patrol Headquarters

Law Enforcement Operations Directorate

Planning Division – Ops Cell

1300 Pennsylvania Ave NW

Washington D.C. 20229

Desk: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Mobile: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

Message

From:

Sent:

To:

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

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

SOG OPSCEN-S3

(b)(7)(E)

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

CC:

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

Subject: Update_SITREP-20200218 (b)(7)(E) OP-SOG-ORD-OPERATION SUBZERO

Attachments: Report_SITREP-20200218 (b)(7)(E) OP-SOG-ORD-OPERATION SUBZERO .pdf

SITREP

Operation: (b)(7)(E)

SITREP ID: SITREP-20200218 (b)(7)(E)

Date: 02/18/2020

Operation Name: OP-SOG-ORD-OPERATION SUBZERO

Assigned Station: HQ/SOG

Station(s) worked: SOG HQ, EPT SOD

Zone(s): ICE/ERO Chicago Field Office AOR

Shift/Covering period: (b)(7)(E)

POC s for any further information/coordinator: SOS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

GPS Coordinates (b)(7)(E)

Call Outs: N/A

Daily Activity Report/Narrative/Effectiveness: Supported the Chicago ICE ERO Field Office Fugitive OPs Teams. Two Apprehensions.

Medical Status: Good.

Significant Events: NSTR

Air Operations: N/A

(b)(7)(E)

Next 24 Hours: We will continue to assist Chicago ICE ERO as members of their Fugitive OPs Unit.

Associated Event Numbers

No Event # Logged -

SITREP Coordinates

(b)(7)(E)

Total Apprehensions

UDAs - 2

Thanks,

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

Special Operations Supervisor

Special Operations Group † BORTAC

Mobile:

Office:

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

Message

From:

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

Sent:

3/19/2020 3:14:50 PM

To:

CC:

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

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

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

Subject:

RE: PPE

Roger

From:

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

Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2020 9:14 AM

To:

Cc:

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

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

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

Subject: RE: PPE

10-4 Sir. They're tracking. They will pick it up and bring back to SOG.

Thank you,

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

Acting Deputy Commander
Special Operations Group (SOG)
Border Patrol Tactical Unit (BORTAC)

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

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

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



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

Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2020 9:13 AM

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

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

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

Subject: RE: PPE

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) said he sent it to (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)?

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

Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2020 9:06 AM

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

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

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

Subject: RE: PPE

No one is starting travel until tomorrow so if you send me the name and address I'll get a hold of them and have them pick it up.

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

Acting Deputy Commander
Special Operations Group (SOG)
Border Patrol Tactical Unit (BORTAC)

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

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

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



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

Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2020 9:04 AM

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

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

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

Subject: RE: PPE

Change 2, the package did go out yesterday and due there today by 0900 so it should be there now. If our folks are still there we can send them a return slip, if not we can contact the hotel and send the return label to them.

From: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2020 6:00 PM
To: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Cc: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Subject: Re: PPE

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

Respectfully,

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Assistant Chief Patrol Agent
Special Operations Group
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Office
Gov. Cell
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

WARNING: The attached document has been designated ~~Official Use Only - Law Enforcement Sensitive~~ and is to be controlled, handled, transmitted, distributed, and disposed of in accordance, with Department of Homeland Security and Bureau of Customs and Border Protection policy relating to Official Use Only information. This information may be distributed further within the Department and Bureau on a need-to-know-basis; however it may not be distributed outside of the Department and Bureau without authorization from the preparing office.

On Mar 18, 2020, at 5:59 PM (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) wrote:

Excellent! Thanks.

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Acting Deputy Commander
Special Operations Group (SOG)
Border Patrol Tactical Unit (BORTAC)
Office: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Cell: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

<image001.png>

From: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2020 5:58 PM
To: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Cc:

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

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

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

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

Subject: Re: PPE

From what was packed today it's still in the warehouse so issues Chief

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 18, 2020, at 5:53 PM,

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

wrote:

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

I hope I'm not sending this out too late.

Everyone from the SUBzero op.(New York, Chicago, New Jersey) is being recalled. We need to stop shipment of any PPE to those destinations.

Give me a call if you have any questions.

V/R

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

Acting Deputy Commander
Special Operations Group (SOG)
Border Patrol Tactical Unit (BORTAC)

Office: **(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)**

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

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

<image001.png>

Message

From:

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

Sent:

3/19/2020 3:18:52 PM

To:

CC:

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

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

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

Subject:

Re: PPE

Awesome- who would think that NOW PPE stuff is valuable....

Respectfully,

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

Assistant Chief Patrol Agent
Special Operations Group

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Office
Gov. Cell

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

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On Mar 19, 2020, at 9:17 AM, (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) wrote:

I talked to (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) and sent (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) the info... they will bring it back with them or I will send labels, but we are good either way

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 19, 2020, at 9:03 AM, (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) wrote:

Change 2, the package did go out yesterday and due there today by 0900 so it should be there now. If our folks are still there we can send them a return slip, if not we can contact the hotel and send the return label to them.

From: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2020 6:00 PM
To: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Cc: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Subject: Re: PPE

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

Respectfully,

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Assistant Chief Patrol Agent
Special Operations Group
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Office
Gov. Cell
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

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On Mar 18, 2020, at 5:59 PM, (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) wrote:

Excellent! Thanks.

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Acting Deputy Commander

Special Operations Group (SOG)
Border Patrol Tactical Unit (BORTAC)
Office: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Cell: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

<image001.png>

From: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2020 5:58 PM
To: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Cc: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Subject: Re: PPE

From what was packed today it's still in the warehouse so issues Chief

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 18, 2020, at 5:53 PM, (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) wrote:

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
I hope I'm not sending this out too late.
Everyone from the SUBzero op.(New York, Chicago,
New Jersey) is being recalled. We need to stop
shipment of any PPE to those destinations.
Give me a call if you have any questions.

V/R

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Acting Deputy Commander
Special Operations Group (SOG)
Border Patrol Tactical Unit (BORTAC)
Office: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Cell: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

<image001.png>

Message

From:

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

Sent:

3/19/2020 8:35:04 PM

To:

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

CC:

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

Subject:

SITREP-20200319 (b)(7)(E) OP-SOG-NYC-OPERATION SUBZERO (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

Attachments:

Report_SITREP-20200319 (b)(7)(E) OP-SOG-NYC-OPERATION SUBZERO .pdf

SITREP

Operation:

(b)(7)(E)

SITREP ID: SITREP-20200319

(b)(7)(E)

Date: 03/19/2020

Operation Name: OP-SOG-NYC-OPERATION SUBZERO

Assigned Station: HQ/SOG

Station(s) worked:

Zone(s):

Shift/Covering period:

(b)(7)(E)

POC s for any further information/coordinator:

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

GPS Coordinates:

(b)(7)(E)

Call Outs: None.

Daily Activity Report/Narrative/Effectiveness: Closed out Operation SUB zero with NYC Fug Ops turning in all equipment and planned return home.

Return to El Paso:

Fri 3/20: Charlotte, NC: (b)(7)(E)
Sat 3/21: Jackson, MS: (b)(7)(E)
Sun 3/22: Abilene, TX: (b)(7)(E)
Mon 3/23: El Paso.

Medical Status: Good.

Significant Events: NSTR.

Air Operations: N/A.

(b)(7)(E)

Next 24 Hours: Travel to Charlotte, NC: (b)(7)(E)

Associated Event Numbers

No Event # Logged -

SITREP Coordinates

(b)(7)(E)

Total Manpower

BOR/BTC SECT (b)(7)(E)

INT/SOG FIT (b)(7)(E)

Message

From:

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

Sent:

3/18/2020 11:59:34 PM

To:

CC:

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

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

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

Subject:

Re: PPE

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

Respectfully,

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

Assistant Chief Patrol Agent
Special Operations Group

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Office
Gov. Cell

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

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On Mar 18, 2020, at 5:59 PM, (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) wrote:

Excellent! Thanks.

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

Acting Deputy Commander
Special Operations Group (SOG)
Border Patrol Tactical Unit (BORTAC)
Office: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

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

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

<image001.png>

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

Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2020 5:58 PM

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

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

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

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

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

Subject: Re: PPE

From what was packed today it's still in the warehouse so issues Chief

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 18, 2020, at 5:53 PM, (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) wrote:

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

I hope I'm not sending this out too late.

Everyone from the SUBzero op.(New York, Chicago, New Jersey) is being recalled. We need to stop shipment of any PPE to those destinations.

Give me a call if you have any questions.

V/R

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

Acting Deputy Commander
Special Operations Group (SOG)
Border Patrol Tactical Unit (BORTAC)

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

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

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

<image001.png>

Message

From:

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

Sent:

3/18/2020 11:59:00 PM

To:

CC:

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

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

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

Subject:

RE: PPE

Excellent! Thanks.

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

Acting Deputy Commander
Special Operations Group (SOG)
Border Patrol Tactical Unit (BORTAC)
Office: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Cell: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)



From:

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

Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2020 5:58 PM

To:

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

Cc:

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

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

Subject: Re: PPE

From what was packed today it's still in the warehouse so issues Chief

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 18, 2020, at 5:53 PM, (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) wrote:

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

I hope I'm not sending this out too late.

Everyone from the SUBzero op.(New York, Chicago, New Jersey) is being recalled. We need to stop shipment of any PPE to those destinations.

Give me a call if you have any questions.

V/R

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

Acting Deputy Commander

Special Operations Group (SOG)

Border Patrol Tactical Unit (BORTAC)

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

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

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

<image001.png>

Message

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

Sent: 10/22/2019 9:51:00 PM

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

CC:

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

Subject: RE: Upcoming C2 trip to El Paso

Attachments: C2 El Paso Media Trip with C1 (v1).docx

Chief Patrol Agent (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

Deputy Commissioner Perez will be traveling and meeting Acting Commissioner Morgan in El Paso on 10/28/2019 for media interviews on 10/29/2019.

C2 will be arriving/departing separately from C1. C2's drafted schedule is attached to this email.

Who will be able to assist with C2's movements in El Paso (separate from C1)?

Please call me at (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) with any questions/comments. Thank you for your time and consideration.

V/R,

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

Adjutant to the Deputy Commissioner
U.S. Customs and Border Protection

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

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

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

Sent: Tuesday, October 22, 2019 4:56 PM

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

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

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

Subject: RE: Upcoming C2 trip to El Paso

Hey bud sorry just got back from the range. As discussed earlier, our section will not be able to accommodate because we will be out of town that week. If you can do me a favor and email your request to (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

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

and CC

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

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

and they will get you taken care of.

Hope all is well up in DC, let me know if there is anything else I can do to help.

V/R

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

SPECIAL OPERATIONS GROUP HQ

BORDER PATROL TACTICAL UNIT (BORTAC)

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

BIGGS ARMY AIRFIELD

EL PASO, TX 79916

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

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



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

Sent: Monday, October 21, 2019 8:47 AM

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

Cc:

Subject: Upcoming C2 trip to El Paso

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

How are you doing? I hope all is well.

C2 and C1 have an upcoming trip to El Paso on the 28th and the 29th. The times/locations are yet to be determined.

C1 will be flying in from Chicago, while C2 will be flying in from D.C.

Would SOD/SOG be able to assist with C2's arrival/departure and other movements? Tentatively looking at the following:

10/28/19

DCA 12:00PM → DFW 2:24PM AA0429;

DFW 3:28PM → ELP 4:07PM AA2743;

10/29/19

ELP 1:10PM→ ORD 5:10PM UA4508; and
ORD 6:00PM→IAD 8:53PM UA0843.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

V/R,

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

Adjutant to the Deputy Commissioner
U.S. Customs and Border Protection

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

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

Message

From: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Sent: 10/22/2019 10:05:29 PM
To: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Subject: RE: Upcoming C2 trip to El Paso

Thank you, sir.

From: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Sent: Tuesday, October 22, 2019 6:03 PM
To: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Cc: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

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

Subject: RE: Upcoming C2 trip to El Paso

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

Please coordinate with El Paso Sector SOD (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) and/or OFO/SRT Team Leader (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) since it is their AOR. (b)(7)(E) Both are cc'd here.

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

CHIEF PATROL AGENT
U.S. BORDER PATROL | SPECIAL OPERATIONS GROUP
OFFICE: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) | CELL: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

From: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Sent: Tuesday, October 22, 2019 3:51 PM
To: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Cc: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

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

Subject: RE: Upcoming C2 trip to El Paso

Chief Patrol Agent (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

Deputy Commissioner Perez will be traveling and meeting Acting Commissioner Morgan in El Paso on 10/28/2019 for media interviews on 10/29/2019.

C2 will be arriving/departing separately from C1. C2's drafted schedule is attached to this email.

Who will be able to assist with C2's movements in El Paso (separate from C1)?

Please call me at (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) with any questions/comments. Thank you for your time and consideration.

V/R,

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

Adjutant to the Deputy Commissioner

U.S. Customs and Border Protection

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

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

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

Sent: Tuesday, October 22, 2019 4:56 PM

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

Cc:

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

Subject: RE: Upcoming C2 trip to El Paso

Hey bud sorry just got back from the range. As discussed earlier, our section will not be able to accommodate because we will be out of town that week. If you can do me a favor and email your request to (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

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

and CC:

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

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

and they will get you taken care of.

Hope all is well up in DC, let me know if there is anything else I can do to help.

V/R

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

SPECIAL OPERATIONS GROUP HQ

BORDER PATROL TACTICAL UNIT (BORTAC)

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

BIGGS ARMY AIRFIELD

EL PASO, TX 79916

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

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



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

Sent: Monday, October 21, 2019 8:47 AM

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

Cc:

Subject: Upcoming C2 trip to El Paso

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

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10/29/19

ELP 1:10PM→ ORD 5:10PM UA4508; and

ORD 6:00PM→IAD 8:53PM UA0843.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

V/R,

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

Adjutant to the Deputy Commissioner

U.S. Customs and Border Protection

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

Office: **(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)**

Message

From:

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

Sent:

1/17/2020 4:57:15 PM

To:

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

CC:

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

Subject:

SOG Weekly Recap for week ending 1/17/20

SOG OPERATIONS RECAP

		Dates		Location		
--	--	-------	--	----------	--	--

SOG UNITS			CONUS or CONUS		Team Leader	NUMBER & NAMES OF PERSONNEL
	Start	End				
BORTAC						
1	(b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(E)					
2						
3						
4						
5						
6						
7						
8						
9						
10						
11						
12						
13						
14						

15

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

16

17

BORSTAR

1

2

3

4

5

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

7

7

8

9

10

11

SOGIU

1

2

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

3

4

5	(b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(E)						
6							
7							
8							
9							
MRT							
1	N/A						

SOG TRAINING RECAP

SOG UNITS		Dates		TRAINING OR OTHER	Location	Personnel
		Start	End			
BORTAC						
1	(b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(E)					
2						
3						
4						
5						
BORSTAR						
1	(b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(E)					
2						
3						
4						

5	(b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(E)					
6						
7						
8						
9						
10						
11						
SOGIU						
1	(b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(E)					
2						
3						
MRT						
1	N/A					
SOG						
1	N/A					

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

ASSISTANT CHIEF PATROL AGENT
U.S. BORDER PATROL | SPECIAL OPERATIONS GROUP
OFFICE: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) | CELL: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

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

Message

From:

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

Sent:

1/31/2020 4:29:13 PM

To:

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

CC:

Subject:

SOG Weekly Recap for week ending 1/31/2020

SOG RECAP WEEK ENDING 1/31/2020

OPERATIONS

BORTAC

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

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

16

17

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

18

19

BORSTAR

1

2

3

4

5

6

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

7

8

9

10

11

12

SOGIU

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9

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

TRAINING/OTHER

SOG UNITS	Dates		TRAINING OR OTHER	Location	Name of PERSONNEL
	Start	End			
BORTAC					
1	(b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(E)				
2					
3					
4					
5					

BORSTAR

1	(b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(E)
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	
11	
12	
13	
14	

SOGIU

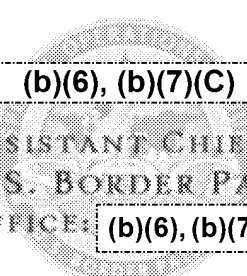
1	(b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(E)
2	
3	

MRT

1	N/A					
---	-----	--	--	--	--	--

SOG

1	N/A					
---	-----	--	--	--	--	--



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

ASSISTANT CHIEF PATROL AGENT

U.S. BORDER PATROL | SPECIAL OPERATIONS GROUP

OFFICE: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) | CELL: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

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

Message

From:

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

Sent:

2/14/2020 9:25:22 PM

To:

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

Subject:

Info

Respectfully,

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

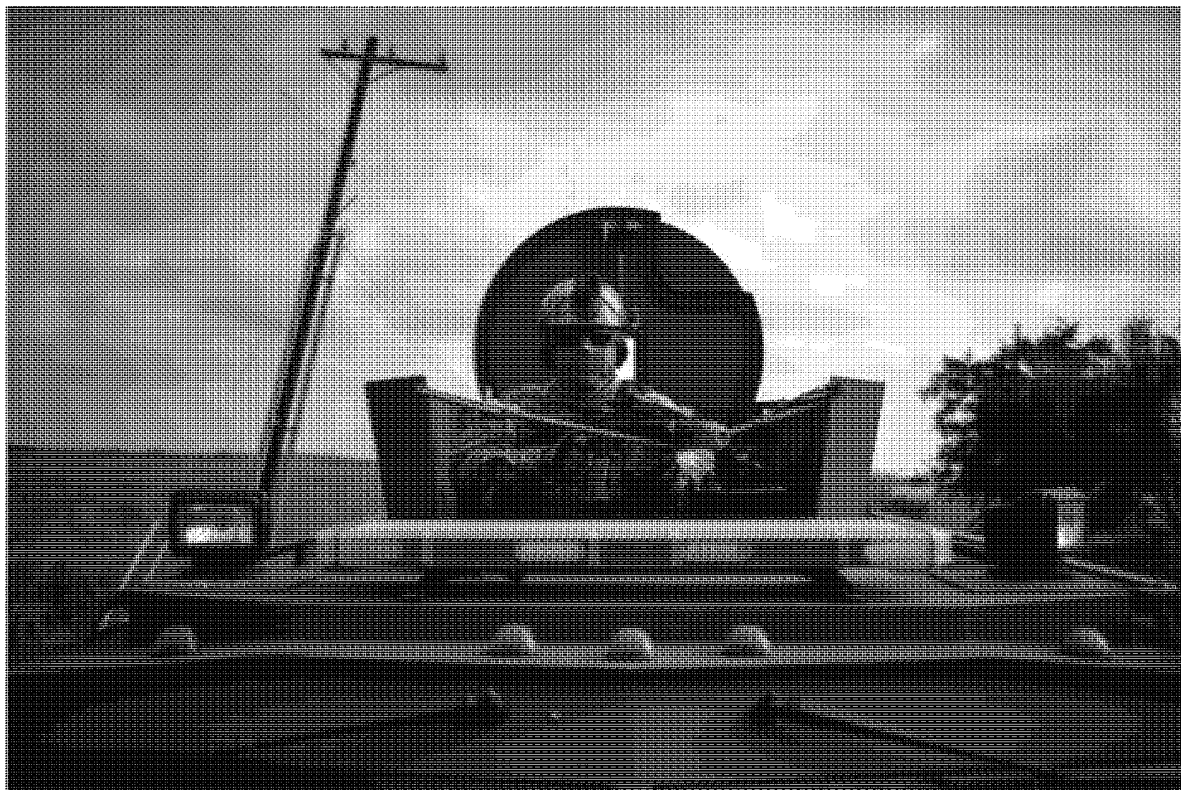
*Special Operations Supervisor
U.S.B.P. Special Operations Group
Border Patrol Tactical Unit*

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

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

Border Patrol Will Deploy Elite Tactical Agents to Sanctuary Cities

Agents from a special tactical team that normally confronts smugglers on the border are being sent to sanctuary cities across the country.



An agent with the U.S. Border Patrol Tactical Unit, known as BORTAC, an elite group that functions essentially as the SWAT of Border Patrol. Credit...Adrees Latif/Reuters

The Trump administration is deploying law enforcement tactical units from the southern border as part of a supercharged arrest operation in sanctuary cities across the country, an escalation in the president's battle against localities that refuse to participate in immigration enforcement.

The specially trained officers are being sent to cities including Chicago and New York to boost the enforcement power of local ICE officers, according to two officials who are familiar with the secret operation. Additional agents are expected to be sent to San Francisco, Los Angeles, Atlanta, Houston, Boston, New Orleans, Detroit and Newark, N.J.

The move reflects President Trump's persistence in cracking down on sanctuary cities, localities that have refused to cooperate in handing over immigrants targeted for deportation to federal authorities. It comes soon after the Justice Department and Department of Homeland Security announced a series of measures that will affect both American citizens and immigrants living in those places.

Lawrence Payne, a spokesman for Customs and Border Protection, confirmed the agency was deploying 100 officers to work with Immigration and Customs Enforcement, which conducts arrests in the interior of the country, "in order to enhance the integrity of the immigration system, protect public safety, and strengthen our national security."

The deployment of the teams will run from February through May, according to an email sent to Customs and Border Protection personnel, which was read to The New York Times by one official familiar with the planning.

Among the agents being deployed to sanctuary cities are members of the elite tactical unit known as BORTAC, which acts essentially as the SWAT team of the Border Patrol. With additional gear such as stun grenades and enhanced Special Forces-type training, including sniper certification, the officers typically conduct high-risk operations targeting individuals who are known to be violent, many of them with extensive criminal records.

The unit's work often takes place in the most rugged and swelteringly hot areas of the border. It can involve breaking into stash houses maintained by smuggling operations that are known to be filled with drugs and weapons.

In sanctuary cities, the BORTAC agents will be asked to support interior officers in run-of-the-mill immigration arrests, the officials said. Their presence could spark new fear in immigrant communities that have been on high alert under the stepped-up deportation and detention policies adopted after Mr. Trump took office.

In a statement, ICE's acting director, Matthew T. Albence, said the deployment comes in response to policies adopted by sanctuary cities, which have made it harder for immigration agents to do their jobs.

"As we have noted for years, in jurisdictions where we are not allowed to assume custody of aliens from jails, our officers are forced to make at-large

arrests of criminal aliens who have been released into communities,” he said. “When sanctuary cities release these criminals back to the street, it increases the occurrence of preventable crimes, and more importantly, preventable victims.”

But Gil Kerlikowske, the former commissioner of C.B.P., which oversees tactical units along the border, said sending the officers to conduct immigration enforcement within cities, where they are not trained to work, could escalate situations that are already volatile. He called the move a “significant mistake.”

“If you were a police chief and you were going to make an apprehension for a relatively minor offense, you don’t send the SWAT team. And BORTAC is the SWAT team,” said Mr. Kerlikowske, who is the former chief of police in Seattle. “They’re trained for much more hazardous missions than this.”

The Border Patrol squads will be charged with backing up ICE agents during deportation operations and standing by as a show of force, the officials said.

ICE agents typically seek out people with criminal convictions or multiple immigration violations as their primary targets for deportation, but family members and friends are often swept up in the enforcement net in what are known as “collateral” arrests, and many such people could now be caught up in any enhanced operations.

ICE leadership requested the help in sanctuary jurisdictions because agents there often struggle to track down undocumented immigrants without the help of the police and other state and local agencies. Law enforcement officers in areas that refuse to cooperate with ICE and the Border Patrol — which include both liberal and conservative parts of the country — often argue that doing so pushes undocumented people further into the shadows, ultimately making cities less safe because that segment of the population becomes less likely to report crimes or cooperate with investigations.

The goal of the new joint operation, one of the officials said, was to increase arrests in the sanctuary jurisdictions by at least 35 percent.

The operation reflects an increasingly hawkish approach to immigration enforcement, following the firings and resignations of leaders who have been viewed in the White House as unwilling to take the harsh steps Mr. Trump and his advisers view as necessary to slow illegal immigration.

Other recent attempts at aggressive enforcement by ICE have faltered, such as a series of raids targeting more than 2,000 migrant families that were planned during the summer of 2019. Mr. Trump's advance warnings on Twitter led many of those who were targeted to refuse to open their front doors, and ultimately, only 35 of those who had been targeted were arrested in the operation's first several weeks.

Even with the added show of force from BORTAC, agents will be limited in their abilities compared to the police or sheriff's deputies. Unlike operations on the border, where BORTAC agents may engage in armed confrontations with drug smuggling suspects using armored vehicles, immigration agents in cities are enforcing civil, rather than criminal infractions. They are not allowed to forcibly enter properties in order to make arrests, and the presence of BORTAC agents, while helpful in boosting the number of agents on the ground, may prove most useful for the visual message it sends.

The agents will not be busting down doors or engaging in shootouts, said one official with direct knowledge of the operation, who like the other official would not be identified because he was not authorized to discuss it.

Many ICE agents say their jobs have become increasingly difficult, three years into Mr. Trump's presidency, because of robust campaigns by immigrant advocacy organizations seeking to safeguard undocumented immigrants by educating them on the legal limitations that ICE officers face. As a result, in many communities where undocumented immigrants live, when ICE agents are spotted, people now turn immediately to their phones to alert neighbors that they should stay inside.

Mr. Trump campaigned on a promise to crack down on sanctuary cities. Within a few months of taking office, the Justice Department moved to withhold certain federal funds from the jurisdictions. Last week, the Justice Department filed suit against state and local governments in California, New Jersey and Washington over sanctuary policies there. Also this month, the Department of Homeland Security announced it would ban New Yorkers from enrolling in programs that allow travelers to speed through customs checkpoints in airports and at the border as a result of the state's decision to offer drivers licenses to undocumented immigrants and bar Homeland Security agencies from accessing the state's motor vehicle database.

The president again highlighted the issue in his State of the Union address, arguing that sanctuary cities “release dangerous criminal aliens to prey upon the public.”

In January, a New York City Council member wrote an open letter for his fellow councilors expressing concern about increasing ICE activity in the region, including collateral arrests. Last week, an acquaintance of a man in New York who was being arrested by ICE was shot in an incident that the agency later blamed on sanctuary policies.

The aggressive immigration enforcement tactics being implemented around the country are not limited to any one agency. In a widely circulated video recorded in El Paso, Texas, on Tuesday night, Border Patrol agents are shown subduing and using a Taser to apprehend a man in a Burger King restaurant.

The video shows the man pleading repeatedly with the agents while shouting that he had done nothing wrong. A female bystander asks the agents to leave the restaurant, as she cries while witnessing the episode. While the man was writhing in pain on the floor after being stunned repeatedly, another woman in the video approached the agents and asked, “Why are you still hitting him?”

A Border Patrol spokesman said in a statement that the apprehended man was a “suspected alien smuggler,” without offering any evidence to support that assertion. The spokesman did not respond to a request for the man’s name and nationality.

“The man refused to cooperate with the verbal instructions and attempted to avoid being handcuffed and a struggle ensued,” the Border Patrol spokesman said.

In the same statement, the spokesman said that a “citizen” had notified law enforcement of a suspicious vehicle parked on his property. The Border Patrol said the man apprehended by the agents on Tuesday was the driver of the vehicle and that “record checks indicated that the man was in the country illegally and had a positive criminal history.”

An ICE spokesman declined to comment on the specifics of the latest effort in sanctuary cities, citing the agency’s policy against sharing information about enforcement operations before they have taken place. However, the spokesman added that the agency had “made it abundantly clear for years that, in

jurisdictions where we are not allowed to assume custody of aliens from jails, our officers would be redirected to make at-large arrests.”

Message

From:

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

Sent:

2/14/2020 8:57:54 PM

To:

CC:

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

Subject:

Re: NYT Article

10-4, Sir.

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

Acting Commander

Special Operations Group (SOG)

Border Patrol Tactical Unit (BORTAC)

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

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

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



On Feb 14, 2020, at 12:57 PM, (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) wrote:

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

Share this with guys on the ground for Sub Zero so they have awareness.

Border Patrol Will Deploy Elite Tactical Agents to Sanctuary Cities

Agents from a special tactical team that normally confronts smugglers on the border are being sent to sanctuary cities across the country.

<image001.jpg>

An agent with the U.S. Border Patrol Tactical Unit, known as BORTAC, an elite group that functions essentially as the SWAT of Border Patrol. Credit...Adrees Latif/Reuters

<image002.png><image003.png>

By Caitlin Dickerson and Zolan Kanno-Youngs

- <!--[if !supportLists]--><![endif]-->Feb. 14, 2020Updated 3:02 p.m. ET
 - <!--[if !supportLists]--><![endif]-->
 - <!--[if !supportLists]--><![endif]-->
 - <!--[if !supportLists]--><![endif]-->
 - <!--[if !supportLists]--><![endif]-->
 - <!--[if !supportLists]--><![endif]-->
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The deployment of the teams will run from February through May, according to an email sent to Customs and Border Protection personnel, which was read to The New York Times by one official familiar with the planning.

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sniper certification, the officers typically conduct high-risk operations targeting individuals who are known to be violent, many of them with extensive criminal records.

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In sanctuary cities, the BORTAC agents will be asked to support interior officers in run-of-the-mill immigration arrests, the officials said. Their presence could spark new fear in immigrant communities that have been on high alert under the stepped-up deportation and detention policies adopted after Mr. Trump took office.

In a statement, ICE's acting director, Matthew T. Albence, said the deployment comes in response to policies adopted by sanctuary cities, which have made it harder for immigration agents to do their jobs.

"As we have noted for years, in jurisdictions where we are not allowed to assume custody of aliens from jails, our officers are forced to make at-large arrests of criminal aliens who have been released into communities," he said. "When sanctuary cities release these criminals back to the street, it increases the occurrence of preventable crimes, and more importantly, preventable victims."

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The operation reflects an increasingly hawkish approach to immigration enforcement, following the firings and resignations of leaders who have been viewed in the White House as unwilling to take the harsh steps Mr. Trump and his advisers view as necessary to slow illegal immigration.

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Simon Romero, Miriam Jordan and Annie Correal contributed reporting.

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

CHIEF PATROL AGENT

U.S. BORDER PATROL | SPECIAL OPERATIONS GROUP

OFFICE: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) | CELL: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

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

Message

From: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Sent: 2/15/2020 12:28:27 AM
To: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Subject: Re: NYT Article

Yup

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

SOG: (b)(7)(E)

El Paso, TX

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

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

From: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Sent: Friday, February 14, 2020 5:27:47 PM
To: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Subject: Re: NYT Article

Not surprised.

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

Chief Patrol Agent

USBP | SOG

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

From: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Sent: Friday, February 14, 2020 5:25:15 PM
To: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Subject: Fwd: NYT Article

It's all over social media.

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

SOG: (b)(7)(E)

El Paso, TX

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

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

From: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Sent: Friday, February 14, 2020 2:45:36 PM
To: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Subject: RE: NYT Article

It's already out on social media...Really American seems to be a left-wing social media site.



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

Sent: Friday, February 14, 2020 2:00 PM

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

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

Subject: Fwd: NYT Article

FYI

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

PAIC

SOG (b)(7)(E)

El Paso, TX

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

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

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

Sent: Friday, February 14, 2020 1:57:05 PM

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

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

Subject: NYT Article

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

Share this with guys on the ground for Sub Zero so they have awareness.

Border Patrol Will Deploy Elite Tactical Agents to Sanctuary Cities

Agents from a special tactical team that normally confronts smugglers on the border are being sent to sanctuary cities across the country.



An agent with the U.S. Border Patrol Tactical Unit, known as BORTAC, an elite group that functions essentially as the SWAT of Border Patrol.Credit...Adrees Latif/Reuters



By Caitlin Dickerson and Zolan Kanno-Youngs

• Feb. 14, 2020Updated 3:02 p.m. ET

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The Trump administration is deploying law enforcement tactical units from the southern border as part of a supercharged arrest operation in sanctuary cities across the country, an escalation in the president's battle against localities that refuse to participate in immigration enforcement.

The specially trained officers are being sent to cities including Chicago and New York to boost the enforcement power of local ICE officers, according to two officials who are familiar with the secret operation. Additional agents are expected to be sent to San Francisco, Los Angeles, Atlanta, Houston, Boston, New Orleans, Detroit and Newark, N.J.

The move reflects President Trump's persistence in cracking down on sanctuary cities, localities that have refused to cooperate in handing over immigrants targeted for deportation to federal authorities. It comes soon after the Justice Department and Department of Homeland Security announced a series of measures that will affect both American citizens and immigrants living in those places.

Lawrence Payne, a spokesman for Customs and Border Protection, confirmed the agency was deploying 100 officers to work with Immigration and Customs Enforcement, which conducts arrests in the interior of the country, "in order to enhance the integrity of the immigration system, protect public safety, and strengthen our national security."

The deployment of the teams will run from February through May, according to an email sent to Customs and Border Protection personnel, which was read to The New York Times by one official familiar with the planning.

Among the agents being deployed to sanctuary cities are members of the elite tactical unit known as BORTAC, which acts essentially as the SWAT team of the Border Patrol. With additional gear such as stun grenades and enhanced Special Forces-type training, including sniper certification, the officers typically conduct high-risk operations targeting individuals who are known to be violent, many of them with extensive criminal records.

The unit's work often takes place in the most rugged and swelteringly hot areas of the border. It can involve breaking into stash houses maintained by smuggling operations that are known to be filled with drugs and weapons.

In sanctuary cities, the BORTAC agents will be asked to support interior officers in run-of-the-mill immigration arrests, the officials said. Their presence could spark new fear in immigrant communities that have been on high alert under the stepped-up deportation and detention policies adopted after Mr. Trump took office.

In a statement, ICE's acting director, Matthew T. Albence, said the deployment comes in response to policies adopted by sanctuary cities, which have made it harder for immigration agents to do their jobs.

"As we have noted for years, in jurisdictions where we are not allowed to assume custody of aliens from jails, our officers are forced to make at-large arrests of criminal aliens who have been released into communities," he said. "When sanctuary cities release these criminals back to the street, it increases the occurrence of preventable crimes, and more importantly, preventable victims."

But Gil Kerlikowske, the former commissioner of C.B.P., which oversees tactical units along the border, said sending the officers to conduct immigration enforcement within cities, where they are not trained to work, could escalate situations that are already volatile. He called the move a "significant mistake."

"If you were a police chief and you were going to make an apprehension for a relatively minor offense, you don't send the SWAT team. And BORTAC is the SWAT team," said Mr. Kerlikowske, who is the former chief of police in Seattle. "They're trained for much more hazardous missions than this."

The Border Patrol squads will be charged with backing up ICE agents during deportation operations and standing by as a show of force, the officials said.

ICE agents typically seek out people with criminal convictions or multiple immigration violations as their primary targets for deportation, but family members and friends are often swept up in the enforcement net in what are known as "collateral" arrests, and many such people could now be caught up in any enhanced operations.

ICE leadership requested the help in sanctuary jurisdictions because agents there often struggle to track down undocumented immigrants without the help of the police and other state and local agencies. Law enforcement officers in areas that refuse to cooperate with ICE and the Border Patrol — which include both liberal and conservative parts of the country — often argue that doing so pushes undocumented people further into the shadows, ultimately making cities less safe because that segment of the population becomes less likely to report crimes or cooperate with investigations.

The goal of the new joint operation, one of the officials said, was to increase arrests in the sanctuary jurisdictions by at least 35 percent.

The operation reflects an increasingly hawkish approach to immigration enforcement, following the firings and resignations of leaders who have been viewed in the White House as unwilling to take the harsh steps Mr. Trump and his advisers view as necessary to slow illegal immigration.

Other recent attempts at aggressive enforcement by ICE have faltered, such as a series of raids targeting more than 2,000 migrant families that were planned during the summer of 2019. Mr. Trump's advance warnings on Twitter led many of those who were targeted to refuse to open their front doors, and ultimately, only 35 of those who had been targeted were arrested in the operation's first several weeks.

Even with the added show of force from BORTAC, agents will be limited in their abilities compared to the police or sheriff's deputies. Unlike operations on the border, where BORTAC agents may engage in armed confrontations with drug smuggling suspects using armored vehicles, immigration agents in cities are enforcing civil, rather than criminal infractions. They are not allowed to forcibly enter properties in order to make arrests, and the presence of BORTAC agents, while helpful in boosting the number of agents on the ground, may prove most useful for the visual message it sends.

The agents will not be busting down doors or engaging in shootouts, said one official with direct knowledge of the operation, who like the other official would not be identified because he was not authorized to discuss it.

Many ICE agents say their jobs have become increasingly difficult, three years into Mr. Trump's presidency, because of robust campaigns by immigrant advocacy organizations seeking to safeguard undocumented immigrants by educating them on the legal limitations that ICE officers face. As a result, in many communities where undocumented immigrants live, when ICE agents are spotted, people now turn immediately to their phones to alert neighbors that they should stay inside.

Mr. Trump campaigned on a promise to crack down on sanctuary cities. Within a few months of taking office, the Justice Department moved to withhold certain federal funds from the jurisdictions. Last week, the Justice Department filed suit against state and local governments in California, New Jersey and Washington over sanctuary policies there. Also this month, the Department of Homeland Security announced it would ban New Yorkers from enrolling in programs that allow travelers to speed through customs checkpoints in airports and at the border as a result of the state's decision to offer drivers licenses to undocumented immigrants and bar Homeland Security agencies from accessing the state's motor vehicle database.

The president again highlighted the issue in his State of the Union address, arguing that sanctuary cities "release dangerous criminal aliens to prey upon the public."

In January, a New York City Council member wrote an open letter for his fellow councilors expressing concern about increasing ICE activity in the region, including collateral arrests. Last week, an acquaintance of a man in New York who was being arrested by ICE was shot in an incident that the agency later blamed on sanctuary policies.

The aggressive immigration enforcement tactics being implemented around the country are not limited to any one agency. In a widely circulated video recorded in El Paso, Texas, on Tuesday night, Border Patrol agents are shown subduing and using a Taser to apprehend a man in a Burger King restaurant.

The video shows the man pleading repeatedly with the agents while shouting that he had done nothing wrong. A female bystander asks the agents to leave the restaurant, as she cries while witnessing the episode. While the man was writhing in pain on the floor after being stunned repeatedly, another woman in the video approached the agents and asked, “Why are you still hitting him?”

A Border Patrol spokesman said in a statement that the apprehended man was a “suspected alien smuggler,” without offering any evidence to support that assertion. The spokesman did not respond to a request for the man’s name and nationality.

“The man refused to cooperate with the verbal instructions and attempted to avoid being handcuffed and a struggle ensued,” the Border Patrol spokesman said.

In the same statement, the spokesman said that a “citizen” had notified law enforcement of a suspicious vehicle parked on his property. The Border Patrol said the man apprehended by the agents on Tuesday was the driver of the vehicle and that “record checks indicated that the man was in the country illegally and had a positive criminal history.”

An ICE spokesman declined to comment on the specifics of the latest effort in sanctuary cities, citing the agency’s policy against sharing information about enforcement operations before they have taken place. However, the spokesman added that the agency had “made it abundantly clear for years that, in jurisdictions where we are not allowed to assume custody of aliens from jails, our officers would be redirected to make at-large arrests.”

Simon Romero, Miriam Jordan and Annie Correal contributed reporting.

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

CHIEF PATROL AGENT

U.S. BORDER PATROL | SPECIAL OPERATIONS GROUP

OFFICE: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) | CELL: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

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

Message

From:

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

Sent:

2/14/2020 9:37:50 PM

To:

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

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

Subject:

RE: NYT Article

10-4

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

ASSISTANT CHIEF PATROL AGENT
U.S. BORDER PATROL | SPECIAL OPERATIONS GROUP
OFFICE: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) | CELL: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

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

From:

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

Sent: Friday, February 14, 2020 2:28 PM

To:

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

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

Subject: RE: NYT Article

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

Also share this with the SODs so they provide awareness to their teams participating in this op.

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

CHIEF PATROL AGENT
U.S. BORDER PATROL | SPECIAL OPERATIONS GROUP
OFFICE: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) | CELL: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

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

Sent: Friday, February 14, 2020 1:57 PM

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

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

Subject: NYT Article

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

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- Feb. 14, 2020Updated 3:02 p.m. ET

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

CHIEF PATROL AGENT

U.S. BORDER PATROL | SPECIAL OPERATIONS GROUP

OFFICE: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) | CELL: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

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

Message

From:

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

Sent:

2/14/2020 9:38:38 PM

To:

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

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

(b)(7)(E)

DRT SOD COMMAND

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

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

(b)(7)(E)

LRT SOD PAIC DPAIC

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

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

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

(b)(7)(E)

RGV SOD PAIC-DPAIC

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

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

Subject:

FW: NYT Article

Good article. Have a good weekend all.

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

ASSISTANT CHIEF PATROL AGENT
U.S. BORDER PATROL | SPECIAL OPERATIONS GROUP
OFFICE: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) | CELL: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

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

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

Sent: Friday, February 14, 2020 1:57 PM

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

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

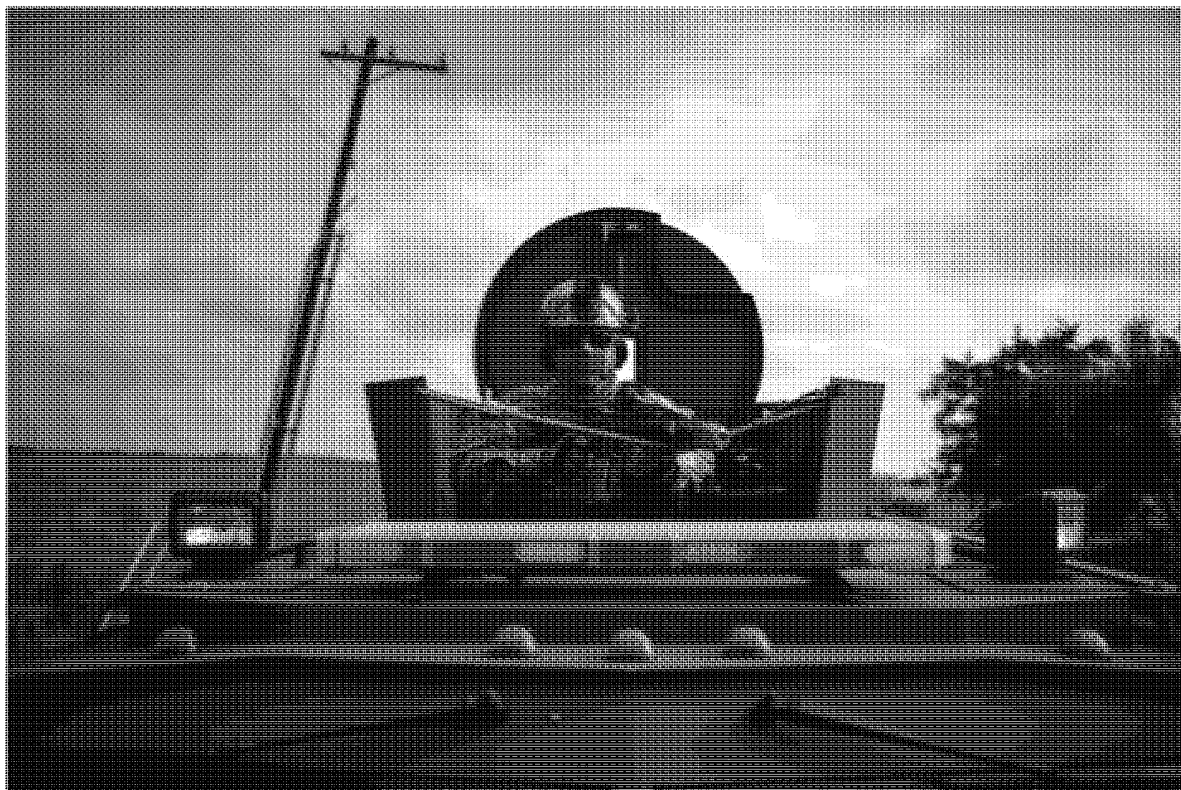
Subject: NYT Article

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

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• Feb. 14, 2020 Updated 3:02 p.m. ET

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

CHIEF PATROL AGENT

U.S. BORDER PATROL | SPECIAL OPERATIONS GROUP

OFFICE: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) CELL: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

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

Message

From:

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

Sent:

2/15/2020 10:08:23 PM

To:

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

CC:

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

Subject:

Re: NYT Article

10-4 Sir.

I'll let the guys know.

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

Acting Commander

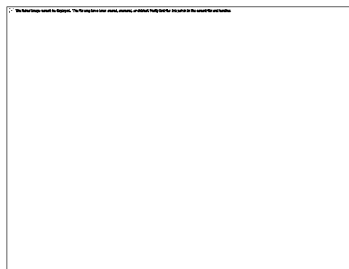
Special Operations Group (SOG)

Border Patrol Tactical Unit (BORTAC)

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

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

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



On Feb 15, 2020, at 1:50 PM,

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

wrote:

HQ is requesting some operational pics or videos of any enforcement actions (with context) the ERO support team can take. Make sure they clear with ERO before sending. We will vet them at SOG first before forwarding to HQ to protect the teams' identities.

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

Chief Patrol Agent

USBP | SOG

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

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

Sent: Friday, February 14, 2020 1:57:05 PM

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

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

Subject: NYT Article

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

Share this with guys on the ground for Sub Zero so they have awareness.

Border Patrol Will Deploy Elite Tactical Agents to Sanctuary Cities

Agents from a special tactical team that normally confronts smugglers on the border are being sent to sanctuary cities across the country.

<image001.jpg>

An agent with the U.S. Border Patrol Tactical Unit, known as BORTAC, an elite group that functions essentially as the SWAT of Border Patrol. Credit...Adrees Latif/Reuters

<image002.png><image003.png>

By Caitlin Dickerson and Zolan Kanno-Youngs

Feb. 14, 2020 Updated 3:02 p.m. ET

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The specially trained officers are being sent to cities including Chicago and New York to boost the enforcement power of local ICE officers, according to two officials who are familiar with the secret operation. Additional agents are expected to be sent to San Francisco, Los Angeles, Atlanta, Houston, Boston, New Orleans, Detroit and Newark, N.J.

The move reflects President Trump's persistence in cracking down on sanctuary cities, localities that have refused to cooperate in handing over immigrants targeted for deportation to federal authorities. It comes soon after the Justice Department and Department of Homeland Security announced a series of measures that will affect both American citizens and immigrants living in those places.

Lawrence Payne, a spokesman for Customs and Border Protection, confirmed the agency was deploying 100 officers to work with Immigration and Customs Enforcement, which conducts arrests in the interior of the country, "in order to enhance the integrity of the immigration system, protect public safety, and strengthen our national security."

The deployment of the teams will run from February through May, according to an email sent to Customs and Border Protection personnel, which was read to The New York Times by one official familiar with the planning.

Among the agents being deployed to sanctuary cities are members of the elite tactical unit known as BORTAC, which acts essentially as the SWAT team of the Border Patrol. With additional gear such as stun grenades and enhanced Special Forces-type training, including sniper certification, the officers typically conduct high-risk operations targeting individuals who are known to be violent, many of them with extensive criminal records.

The unit's work often takes place in the most rugged and swelteringly hot areas of the border. It can involve breaking into stash houses maintained by smuggling operations that are known to be filled with drugs and weapons.

In sanctuary cities, the BORTAC agents will be asked to support interior officers in run-of-the-mill immigration arrests, the officials said. Their presence could spark new fear in immigrant communities that have been on high alert under the stepped-up deportation and detention policies adopted after Mr. Trump took office.

In a statement, ICE's acting director, Matthew T. Albence, said the deployment comes in response to policies adopted by sanctuary cities, which have made it harder for immigration agents to do their jobs.

"As we have noted for years, in jurisdictions where we are not allowed to assume custody of aliens from jails, our officers are forced to make at-large arrests of criminal aliens who have been released into communities," he said. "When sanctuary cities release these criminals back to the street, it increases the occurrence of preventable crimes, and more importantly, preventable victims."

But Gil Kerlikowske, the former commissioner of C.B.P., which oversees tactical units along the border, said sending the officers to conduct immigration enforcement within cities, where they are not trained to work, could escalate situations that are already volatile. He called the move a "significant mistake."

"If you were a police chief and you were going to make an apprehension for a relatively minor offense, you don't send the SWAT team. And BORTAC is the SWAT team," said

Mr. Kerlikowske, who is the former chief of police in Seattle. “They’re trained for much more hazardous missions than this.”

The Border Patrol squads will be charged with backing up ICE agents during deportation operations and standing by as a show of force, the officials said.

ICE agents typically seek out people with criminal convictions or multiple immigration violations as their primary targets for deportation, but family members and friends are often swept up in the enforcement net in what are known as “collateral” arrests, and many such people could now be caught up in any enhanced operations.

ICE leadership requested the help in sanctuary jurisdictions because agents there often struggle to track down undocumented immigrants without the help of the police and other state and local agencies. Law enforcement officers in areas that refuse to cooperate with ICE and the Border Patrol — which include both liberal and conservative parts of the country — often argue that doing so pushes undocumented people further into the shadows, ultimately making cities less safe because that segment of the population becomes less likely to report crimes or cooperate with investigations.

The goal of the new joint operation, one of the officials said, was to increase arrests in the sanctuary jurisdictions by at least 35 percent.

The operation reflects an increasingly hawkish approach to immigration enforcement, following the firings and resignations of leaders who have been viewed in the White House as unwilling to take the harsh steps Mr. Trump and his advisers view as necessary to slow illegal immigration.

Other recent attempts at aggressive enforcement by ICE have faltered, such as a series of raids targeting more than 2,000 migrant families that were planned during the summer of 2019. Mr. Trump’s advance warnings on Twitter led many of those who were targeted to refuse to open their front doors, and ultimately, only 35 of those who had been targeted were arrested in the operation’s first several weeks.

Even with the added show of force from BORTAC, agents will be limited in their abilities compared to the police or sheriff’s deputies. Unlike operations on the border, where BORTAC agents may engage in armed confrontations with drug smuggling suspects using armored vehicles, immigration agents in cities are enforcing civil, rather than criminal infractions. They are not allowed to forcibly enter properties in order to make arrests, and the presence of BORTAC agents, while helpful in boosting the number of agents on the ground, may prove most useful for the visual message it sends.

The agents will not be busting down doors or engaging in shootouts, said one official with direct knowledge of the operation, who like the other official would not be identified because he was not authorized to discuss it.

Many ICE agents say their jobs have become increasingly difficult, three years into Mr. Trump’s presidency, because of robust campaigns by immigrant advocacy organizations seeking to safeguard undocumented immigrants by educating them on the legal limitations that ICE officers face. As a result, in many communities where undocumented immigrants live, when ICE agents are spotted, people now turn immediately to their phones to alert neighbors that they should stay inside.

Mr. Trump campaigned on a promise to crack down on sanctuary cities. Within a few months of taking office, the Justice Department moved to withhold certain federal funds from the jurisdictions. Last week, the Justice Department filed suit against state and local governments in California, New Jersey and Washington over sanctuary policies there. Also this month, the Department of Homeland Security announced it would ban New Yorkers from enrolling in programs that allow travelers to speed through customs checkpoints in airports and at the border as a result of the state's decision to offer drivers licenses to undocumented immigrants and bar Homeland Security agencies from accessing the state's motor vehicle database.

The president again highlighted the issue in his State of the Union address, arguing that sanctuary cities "release dangerous criminal aliens to prey upon the public."

In January, a New York City Council member wrote an open letter for his fellow councilors expressing concern about increasing ICE activity in the region, including collateral arrests. Last week, an acquaintance of a man in New York who was being arrested by ICE was shot in an incident that the agency later blamed on sanctuary policies.

The aggressive immigration enforcement tactics being implemented around the country are not limited to any one agency. In a widely circulated video recorded in El Paso, Texas, on Tuesday night, Border Patrol agents are shown subduing and using a Taser to apprehend a man in a Burger King restaurant.

The video shows the man pleading repeatedly with the agents while shouting that he had done nothing wrong. A female bystander asks the agents to leave the restaurant, as she cries while witnessing the episode. While the man was writhing in pain on the floor after being stunned repeatedly, another woman in the video approached the agents and asked, "Why are you still hitting him?"

A Border Patrol spokesman said in a statement that the apprehended man was a "suspected alien smuggler," without offering any evidence to support that assertion. The spokesman did not respond to a request for the man's name and nationality.

"The man refused to cooperate with the verbal instructions and attempted to avoid being handcuffed and a struggle ensued," the Border Patrol spokesman said.

In the same statement, the spokesman said that a "citizen" had notified law enforcement of a suspicious vehicle parked on his property. The Border Patrol said the man apprehended by the agents on Tuesday was the driver of the vehicle and that "record checks indicated that the man was in the country illegally and had a positive criminal history."

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Simon Romero, Miriam Jordan and Annie Correal contributed reporting.

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

CHIEF PATROL AGENT
U.S. BORDER PATROL | SPECIAL OPERATIONS GROUP
OFFICE: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) CELL: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

Message

From:

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

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

Sent:

2/15/2020 9:46:49 PM

To:

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

Subject:

Re: NYT Article

HQ is requesting operapics / video

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

Chief Patrol Agent

USBP | SOG

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

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

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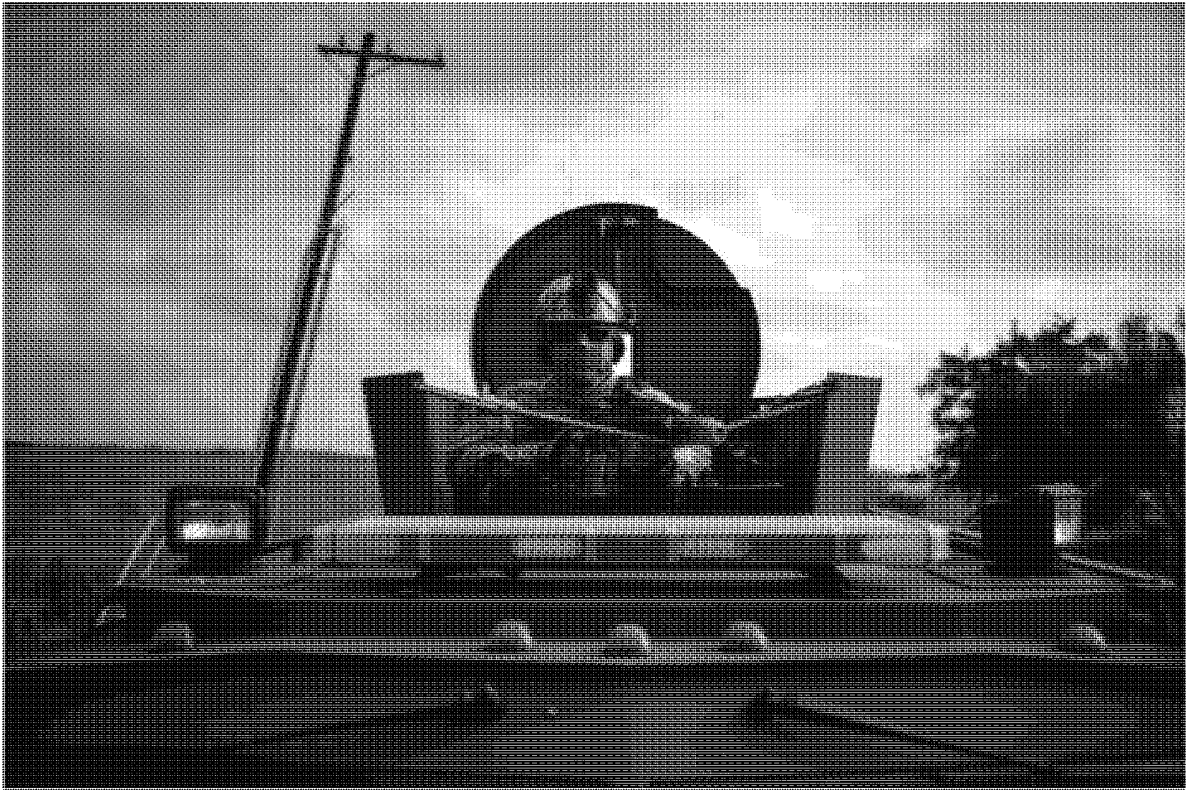
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Feb. 14, 2020Updated 3:02 p.m. ET

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

CHIEF PATROL AGENT

U.S. BORDER PATROL | SPECIAL OPERATIONS GROUP

OFFICE: **(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)** | CELL: **(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)**

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

Message

From: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Sent: 2/15/2020 9:25:46 PM
To: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Subject: Re: NYT Article

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) also sent it out to you guys yesterday. We do. Have anything on it

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Chief Patrol Agent
USBP | SOG
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

From: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Sent: Saturday, February 15, 2020 11:45:16 AM
To: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Subject: Fwd: NYT Article

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

Can I give you a call on Monday about this or are you guys planning a conference call to fill everyone in.

Chief (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) saw the article and asked me about it. I didn't have a whole lot to tell him.

Thanks,

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

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Date: February 14, 2020 at 16:38:43 EST
To: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) DRT SOD COMMAND STAFF
(b)(7)(E) (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) LRT SOD PAIC
DPAIC (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)(b)(7)(E)
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

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

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

RGV SOD

(b)(7)(E)

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

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

Subject: FW: NYT Article

Good article. Have a good weekend all.

<image004.png>

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

Sent: Friday, February 14, 2020 1:57 PM

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

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

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

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<image002.png>

<image003.png>

By Caitlin Dickerson and Zolan Kanno-Youngs

Feb. 14, 2020 Updated 3:02 p.m. ET

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

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OFFICE: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) | CELL: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

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

Message

From:

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

Sent:

2/15/2020 11:22:25 PM

To:

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

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

Subject:

Re: NYT Article

T4, sir.

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

SOG, (b)(7)(E)

El Paso, TX

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

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

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Chief Patrol Agent
USBP | SOG

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

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

Sent: Friday, February 14, 2020 1:57:05 PM

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

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

Subject: NYT Article

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

Share this with guys on the ground for Sub Zero so they have awareness.

Border Patrol Will Deploy Elite Tactical Agents to Sanctuary Cities

Agents from a special tactical team that normally confronts smugglers on the border are being sent to sanctuary cities across the country.



An agent with the U.S. Border Patrol Tactical Unit, known as BORTAC, an elite group that functions essentially as the SWAT of Border Patrol.Credit...Adrees Latif/Reuters



By Caitlin Dickerson and Zolan Kanno-Youngs

Feb. 14, 2020Updated 3:02 p.m. ET

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The Trump administration is deploying law enforcement tactical units from the southern border as part of a supercharged arrest operation in sanctuary cities across the country, an escalation in the president's battle against localities that refuse to participate in immigration enforcement.

The specially trained officers are being sent to cities including Chicago and New York to boost the enforcement power of local ICE officers, according to two officials who are familiar with the secret operation. Additional agents are expected to be sent to San Francisco, Los Angeles, Atlanta, Houston, Boston, New Orleans, Detroit and Newark, N.J.

The move reflects President Trump's persistence in cracking down on sanctuary cities, localities that have refused to cooperate in handing over immigrants targeted for deportation to federal authorities. It comes soon after the Justice Department and Department of Homeland Security announced a series of measures that will affect both American citizens and immigrants living in those places.

Lawrence Payne, a spokesman for Customs and Border Protection, confirmed the agency was deploying 100 officers to work with Immigration and Customs Enforcement, which conducts arrests in the interior of the country, "in order to enhance the integrity of the immigration system, protect public safety, and strengthen our national security."

The deployment of the teams will run from February through May, according to an email sent to Customs and Border Protection personnel, which was read to The New York Times by one official familiar with the planning.

Among the agents being deployed to sanctuary cities are members of the elite tactical unit known as BORTAC, which acts essentially as the SWAT team of the Border Patrol. With additional gear such as stun grenades and enhanced Special Forces-type training, including sniper certification, the officers typically conduct high-risk operations targeting individuals who are known to be violent, many of them with extensive criminal records.

The unit's work often takes place in the most rugged and swelteringly hot areas of the border. It can involve breaking into stash houses maintained by smuggling operations that are known to be filled with drugs and weapons.

In sanctuary cities, the BORTAC agents will be asked to support interior officers in run-of-the-mill immigration arrests, the officials said. Their presence could spark new fear in immigrant communities that have been on high alert under the stepped-up deportation and detention policies adopted after Mr. Trump took office.

In a statement, ICE's acting director, Matthew T. Albence, said the deployment comes in response to policies adopted by sanctuary cities, which have made it harder for immigration agents to do their jobs.

"As we have noted for years, in jurisdictions where we are not allowed to assume custody of aliens from jails, our officers are forced to make at-large arrests of criminal aliens who have been released into communities," he said. "When sanctuary cities release these criminals back to the street, it increases the occurrence of preventable crimes, and more importantly, preventable victims."

But Gil Kerlikowske, the former commissioner of C.B.P., which oversees tactical units along the border, said sending the officers to conduct immigration enforcement within cities, where they are not trained to work, could escalate situations that are already volatile. He called the move a "significant mistake."

"If you were a police chief and you were going to make an apprehension for a relatively minor offense, you don't send the SWAT team. And BORTAC is the SWAT team," said Mr. Kerlikowske, who is the former chief of police in Seattle. "They're trained for much more hazardous missions than this."

The Border Patrol squads will be charged with backing up ICE agents during deportation operations and standing by as a show of force, the officials said.

ICE agents typically seek out people with criminal convictions or multiple immigration violations as their primary targets for deportation, but family members and friends are often swept up in the enforcement net in what are known as "collateral" arrests, and many such people could now be caught up in any enhanced operations.

ICE leadership requested the help in sanctuary jurisdictions because agents there often struggle to track down undocumented immigrants without the help of the police and other state and local agencies. Law enforcement officers in areas that refuse to cooperate with ICE and the Border Patrol — which include both liberal and conservative parts of the country — often argue that doing so pushes undocumented people further into the shadows, ultimately making cities less safe because that segment of the population becomes less likely to report crimes or cooperate with investigations.

The goal of the new joint operation, one of the officials said, was to increase arrests in the sanctuary jurisdictions by at least 35 percent.

The operation reflects an increasingly hawkish approach to immigration enforcement, following the firings and resignations of leaders who have been viewed in the White House as unwilling to take the harsh steps Mr. Trump and his advisers view as necessary to slow illegal immigration.

Other recent attempts at aggressive enforcement by ICE have faltered, such as a series of raids targeting more than 2,000 migrant families that were planned during the summer of 2019. Mr. Trump's advance warnings on Twitter led many of those who were targeted to refuse to open their front doors, and ultimately, only 35 of those who had been targeted were arrested in the operation's first several weeks.

Even with the added show of force from BORTAC, agents will be limited in their abilities compared to the police or sheriff's deputies. Unlike operations on the border, where BORTAC agents may engage in armed confrontations with drug smuggling suspects using armored vehicles, immigration agents in cities are enforcing civil, rather than criminal infractions. They are not allowed to forcibly enter properties in

order to make arrests, and the presence of BORTAC agents, while helpful in boosting the number of agents on the ground, may prove most useful for the visual message it sends.

The agents will not be busting down doors or engaging in shootouts, said one official with direct knowledge of the operation, who like the other official would not be identified because he was not authorized to discuss it.

Many ICE agents say their jobs have become increasingly difficult, three years into Mr. Trump's presidency, because of robust campaigns by immigrant advocacy organizations seeking to safeguard undocumented immigrants by educating them on the legal limitations that ICE officers face. As a result, in many communities where undocumented immigrants live, when ICE agents are spotted, people now turn immediately to their phones to alert neighbors that they should stay inside.

Mr. Trump campaigned on a promise to crack down on sanctuary cities. Within a few months of taking office, the Justice Department moved to withhold certain federal funds from the jurisdictions. Last week, the Justice Department filed suit against state and local governments in California, New Jersey and Washington over sanctuary policies there. Also this month, the Department of Homeland Security announced it would ban New Yorkers from enrolling in programs that allow travelers to speed through customs checkpoints in airports and at the border as a result of the state's decision to offer drivers licenses to undocumented immigrants and bar Homeland Security agencies from accessing the state's motor vehicle database.

The president again highlighted the issue in his State of the Union address, arguing that sanctuary cities "release dangerous criminal aliens to prey upon the public."

In January, a New York City Council member wrote an open letter for his fellow councilors expressing concern about increasing ICE activity in the region, including collateral arrests. Last week, an acquaintance of a man in New York who was being arrested by ICE was shot in an incident that the agency later blamed on sanctuary policies.

The aggressive immigration enforcement tactics being implemented around the country are not limited to any one agency. In a widely circulated video recorded in El Paso, Texas, on Tuesday night, Border Patrol agents are shown subduing and using a Taser to apprehend a man in a Burger King restaurant.

The video shows the man pleading repeatedly with the agents while shouting that he had done nothing wrong. A female bystander asks the agents to leave the restaurant, as she cries while witnessing the episode. While the man was writhing in pain on the floor after being stunned repeatedly, another woman in the video approached the agents and asked, "Why are you still hitting him?"

A Border Patrol spokesman said in a statement that the apprehended man was a "suspected alien smuggler," without offering any evidence to support that assertion. The spokesman did not respond to a request for the man's name and nationality.

"The man refused to cooperate with the verbal instructions and attempted to avoid being handcuffed and a struggle ensued," the Border Patrol spokesman said.

In the same statement, the spokesman said that a "citizen" had notified law enforcement of a suspicious vehicle parked on his property. The Border Patrol said the man apprehended by the agents on Tuesday was the driver of the vehicle and that "record checks indicated that the man was in the country illegally and had a positive criminal history."

An ICE spokesman declined to comment on the specifics of the latest effort in sanctuary cities, citing the agency's policy against sharing information about enforcement operations before they have taken place. However, the spokesman added that the agency had "made it abundantly clear for years that, in jurisdictions where we are not allowed to assume custody of aliens from jails, our officers would be redirected to make at-large arrests."

Simon Romero, Miriam Jordan and Annie Correal contributed reporting.

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

CHIEF PATROL AGENT

U.S. BORDER PATROL | SPECIAL OPERATIONS GROUP

OFFICE: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) | CELL: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

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

Message

Sent: 3/3/2020 11:26:47 PM

To: PORVAZNIK, ANTHONY J; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

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

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

Subject: Sub zERO Media

Chief,

FYSA – we were just advised by the SOG team supporting ERO in Chicago that they will be shadowed by a CNN crew tomorrow. We have one BORTAC SBPA and one BPAL assigned to the ERO unit that will be shadowed. It appears this was coordinated/approved by the ERO CoC. They have been instructed to let ERO handle all the interviews, but I'm sure the NYT article will be a point of discussion.

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

CHIEF PATROL AGENT

U.S. BORDER PATROL | SPECIAL OPERATIONS GROUP

OFFICE: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) | CELL: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

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

Message

From: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Sent: 1/24/2020 4:57:56 PM
To: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Subject: FW: OP SUB zERO - Roster (update)
Attachments: CoC Meeting RE TEAM BREAKDOWN.docx; 2020_1_22_SOG_OP SUB zERO Roster.xlsx; 20200119-Updated Deployment Order (b)(7)(E) Op SUB zERO-ICE-ERO support V2.docx

Sorry but there was a last minute change. This is the updated version

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Deputy Chief Patrol Agent
USBP SOG
Cell (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

From: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Sent: Friday, January 24, 2020 9:53 AM
To: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Cc: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Subject: RE: OP SUB zERO - Roster (update)

Sir,

Please see updated roster. (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) (BTC assigned Medic) replaced (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) (LRT/BST)

NAME: Last, First, MI	Home SECTOR STATION	TDY Location
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)	(b)(7)(E)	

Respectfully,

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Special Operations Supervisor

USBP SOG – OPSCEN

Main: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Desk:

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

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

Sent: Friday, January 24, 2020 9:42 AM

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

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

Subject: RE: OP SUB zERO - Roster

FYSA, Sir. BORTAC is requesting one small change to their roster. I will be updating this shortly and will send the updates.

Respectfully,

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

Special Operations Supervisor

USBP SOG – OPSCEN

Main: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Desk:

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

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

Sent: Friday, January 24, 2020 9:39 AM

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

Cc:

Subject: RE: OP SUB zERO - Roster

Thank you

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

Deputy Chief Patrol Agent

USBP SOG

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

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

Sent: Friday, January 24, 2020 9:38 AM

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

Cc:

Subject: FW: OP SUB zERO - Roster

Sir,

As requested. I will follow up with HQ. Thank you.

Respectfully,

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

Special Operations Supervisor

USBP SOG – OPSCEN

Main: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Desk: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Mobile: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

From: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Sent: Friday, January 24, 2020 9:35 AM
To: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Subject: OP SUB zERO - Roster

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

Please see updated roster and breakdown for distribution to SOG DCPA as requested.

NAME: Last, First, MI	Home SECTOR STATION	TDY Location
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)	(b)(7)(E)	

TEAM BREAKDOWN

(b)(7)(E)

Respectfully,

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Special Operations Supervisor
USBP SOG – OPSCEN
Main: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Desk: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Mobile: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

Message

From: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Sent: 2/22/2020 2:09:46 PM
To: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
CC: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Subject: Fwd: Updated HQ Reporting Requirements SUB zERO
Attachments: SUB zERO 16-22.docx; ATT00001.htm

FYSA

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Acting Commander
Special Operations Group (SOG)
Border Patrol Tactical Unit (BORTAC)
Office: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Cell: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)



Begin forwarded message:

From: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Date: February 21, 2020 at 4:52:01 PM MST
To: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Cc:
Subject: RE: Updated HQ Reporting Requirements SUB zERO

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Supervisory Border Patrol Agent
Special Operations Group (SOG)
Border Patrol Tactical Unit (BORTAC)
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) (Office)
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) (Cell)
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

From: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Sent: Tuesday, February 18, 2020 10:00 AM
To: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

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

Cc: LEOD-OPS-CELL (b)(7)(E)
Subject: Updated HQ Reporting Requirements SUB zERO

All,

Thank you for all of the reports for the previous week. USBP contributed to more than 87 arrests during the first week alone. For future reporting requirements, please use the below format either in the body of an email or on a word doc as an attachment (attached as well for your use). Agents previously identified will continue to report. If agents within certain areas, including Chicago, Burlington, and NYC continue to be assigned to multiple teams where it becomes burdensome to consolidate the reports, please have each agent send me a report and I will consolidate for the week. **Each week, your report will be due on or before Saturday, at the end of your shift, covering the previous week.** I will consolidate the report for all locations on Monday morning and include in the Chief's morning report.

This operation is being watched from all levels, from the White House to Congress and all levels of media and special interest groups. This operation has already received national media attention and will continue to do so. Details have become even more important. For this operation, we are in support of ICE ERO, and it is crucial that we are able to report on the correct narrative versus the negative narrative that some outlets will try and push. We are already set to brief committees on the Hill, have responded to

numerous RFIs and are speaking to Chiefs of Police in numerous sanctuary cities. We expect this to continue, if not intensify. As always, don't hesitate to hit me up with any questions/issues/concerns.

Reporting Format: (Feel free to add, but do not reduce)

Field Office/Location: New York - Manhattan

Reporting Period: 16-22FEB2020

Manpower/Team: Agent(s) names, ICE/ERO Team supporting

Assigned Shift: (b)(7)(E)

BLUF:

- <!--[if !supportLists]--><![endif]-->Total Arrests: ##
- <!--[if !supportLists]--><![endif]-->Detainers Issued: ##
- <!--[if !supportLists]--><![endif]-->Other:

EVENTS:

16FEB2020:

- <!--[if !supportLists]--><![endif]-->Arrests: short synopsis of arrest(s) including date/time Subject: Name, DOB, COC, IMM/CRIM History, Disposition (NTA. Reinstate, Bag & Baggage, Prosecution)
- <!--[if !supportLists]--><![endif]-->Detainers Issues: Name, DOB, Location
- <!--[if !supportLists]--><![endif]-->Additional Activity:

17FEB2020:

- <!--[if !supportLists]--><![endif]-->Arrests: short synopsis of arrest(s) including date/time Subject: Name, DOB, COC, IMM/CRIM History, Disposition (NTA. Reinstate, Bag & Baggage, Prosecution)
- <!--[if !supportLists]--><![endif]-->Detainers Issues: Name, DOB, Location
- <!--[if !supportLists]--><![endif]-->Additional Activity:

18FEB2020:

- <!--[if !supportLists]--><![endif]-->Arrests: short synopsis of arrest(s) including date/time Subject: Name, DOB, COC, IMM/CRIM History, Disposition (NTA. Reinstate, Bag & Baggage, Prosecution)
- <!--[if !supportLists]--><![endif]-->Detainers Issues: Name, DOB, Location
- <!--[if !supportLists]--><![endif]-->Additional Activity:

19FEB2020:

- <!--[if !supportLists]--><![endif]-->Arrests: short synopsis of arrest(s) including date/time Subject: Name, DOB, COC, IMM/CRIM History, Disposition (NTA. Reinstate, Bag & Baggage, Prosecution)
- <!--[if !supportLists]--><![endif]-->Detainers Issues: Name, DOB, Location
- <!--[if !supportLists]--><![endif]-->Additional Activity:

20FEB2020:

- <!--[if !supportLists]--><![endif]-->Arrests: short synopsis of arrest(s) including date/time Subject: Name, DOB, COC, IMM/CRIM History, Disposition (NTA. Reinstate, Bag & Baggage, Prosecution)
- <!--[if !supportLists]--><![endif]-->Detainers Issues: Name, DOB, Location

- <!--[if !supportLists]--><![endif]-->Additional Activity:

21FEB2020

- <!--[if !supportLists]--><![endif]-->Assigned Day Off-Duty

22FEB2020:

Assigned Day Off-Duty

Additional Activity:

Issues/Concerns:

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

Assistant Chief

U.S. Border Patrol Headquarters

Law Enforcement Operations Directorate

Planning Division – Ops Cell

1300 Pennsylvania Ave NW

Washington D.C. 20229

Desk: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Mobile: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

Message

From: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Sent: 3/3/2020 11:51:27 PM
To: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
CC: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Subject: Re: SUB zERO

He should communicate with the ERO lead and make sure they're on the same sheet. (b)(5)
(b)(5) And CNN is not friendly... They will spin any scenario.

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Special Operations Group – BORTAC
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) (desk)
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) (cell)

From: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Sent: Tuesday, March 3, 2020 6:23:13 PM
To: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Cc: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Subject: SUB zERO

Sir,
FYI. I wanted to loop you in just in case you see something on the news.
SOS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) called earlier today. Apparently, News Channel, CNN, will be shadowing the ERO team in Chicago that SBPA (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) and IU BPA (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) are attached to. (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) said that they are unclear on exactly what is going to go on but SOG/BP personnel are going to do their best to stay out of the way and let it be the "ERO" show. (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) made comms with (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) at HQ. They were also unaware of CNN shadowing teams. (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) will continue to send updates.

V/R

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Acting Commander
Special Operations Group (SOG)
Border Patrol Tactical Unit (BORTAC)
Office: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Cell: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)



Message

From:

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

Sent:

3/4/2020 2:42:23 PM

To:

(b)(6)

CC:

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

Subject:

SUBzERO

Sir,

Here are some additional notes from this morning's operation to clarify any confusion:

- univision was the media outlet on today's event with 2 reporters, (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
- (b)(6) BP/SOG direct POC, was on scene along with the Chicago ICE ERO FOD
- Yesterday, SOG IU (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) and (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) were advised that ICE was planning a media ride along and we would serve only as an additional body (b)(7)(E)
(b)(7)(E)
- (b)(7)(E) the ride along. SUBJECT (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
- All communications with the media were done by the ICE ERO FOD, no other ICE or BP agents made contact with the media whatsoever.
- Team and media arrived at target location and (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) opened the door and was arrested without incident.
- According to (b)(6) Univision's agreement is to not record any agent's or officer's faces during the event. If a face was recorded they are to blur it out.
- No media rode in any GOV. They had their own vehicle and followed agents to the location.

Target's info:

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) is a 22 year old Honduran national convicted (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) His arrest was reported in the Chicago Tribune in August 2017. IDOC recently released this offender without notifying ICE despite a detainer on file.

Respectfully,

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

Acting Commander

Special Operations Group (SOG)
Border Patrol Tactical Unit (BORTAC)

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

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

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



Message

From:

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

Sent:

3/7/2020 1:53:54 AM

To:

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

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

EPT-SOD-J3

(b)(7)(E)

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

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

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

SOG OPSCEN-S3

(b)(7)(E)

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

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

Subject:

RE: SITREP-20200306 (b)(7)(E) OP-SOG-ORD-OPERATION SUBZERO

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

Thanks

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

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

Special Operations Group — BORTAC

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

(desk)

(cell)

From:

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

Sent: Friday, March 6, 2020 4:17 PM

To:

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

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

EPT-SOD-J3

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

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

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

SOG OPSCEN-S3

(b)(7)(E)

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

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

Subject: FW: SITREP-20200306 (b)(7)(E) OP-SOG-ORD-OPERATION SUBZERO

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

Update to media ride along on 04MAR20. All contact with the media was done by the ICE ERO FOD, as you can see in the video. Since the media outlet was Univision, the article is in Spanish.

<https://www.univision.com/local/chicago-wgbo/el-paso-a-paso-de-como-opera-ice-en-ciudades-santuario-captado-por-las-camaras-de-univision-chicago>

Second article was not part of the media event nor was our team involved.

From: (b)(7)(E)

Sent: Friday, March 6, 2020 4:10 PM

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

Subject: SITREP-20200306 (b)(7)(E) OP-SOG-ORD-OPERATION SUBZERO

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

SITREP

Operation: (b)(7)(E)

SITREP ID: SITREP-20200306 (b)(7)(E)

Date: 03/06/2020

Operation Name: OP-SOG-ORD-OPERATION SUBZERO

Assigned Station: HQ/SOG

Station(s) worked: (b)(7)(E)

Zone(s): ICE/ERO Chicago Field Office AOR

Shift/Covering period: (b)(7)(E)

POC s for any further information/coordinator: SBPA (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

GPS Coordinates: (b)(7)(E)

Call Outs: N/A

Daily Activity Report/Narrative/Effectiveness: One Agent assisted Chicago ICE ERO as a member of their Fugitive OPs Unit. No apprehensions to report.

Medical Status: Good.

Significant Events: UPDATE TO MEDIA RIDE ALONG: <https://www.univision.com/local/chicago-wgbo/el-paso-a-paso-de-como-opera-ice-en-ciudades-santuario-captado-por-las-camaras-de-univision-chicago>

Air Operations: N/A

(b)(7)(E)

Next 24 Hours: All personnel will be on ADOD.

Associated Event Numbers

No Event # Logged -

SITREP Coordinates

(b)(7)(E)

Total Manpower

INT/SOG FIT (b)(7)(E)

Message

From:

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

Sent:

3/27/2020 10:00:24 PM

To:

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

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

CC:

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

Subject:

SOG Weekly Recap for week ending 3/28/2020

SOG RECAP WEEK ENDING 3/14/2020

OPERATIONS

SOG UNITS	Dates		Location	Team Leader
	Start	End		

LEGEND

CURRENT:

PLANNED:

CC

BORTAC

1

2

3

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

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

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22

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

23

24

25

26

BORSTAR

1

2

3

4

5

6

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

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12	(b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(E)
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SOGIU

1	(b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(E)
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MRT				
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7					
8					
9					

TRAINING

FY 20 CURRENT & PLANNED OR OTHER TRAINING CALENDAR					
CURRENT=8		PLANNED=9		TOTAL=31	
Legend: Current <input type="checkbox"/> Planned <input type="checkbox"/> Required to travel <input type="checkbox"/>					
SOG UNITS		Dates		TRAINING OR OTHER	Location
		Start	End		
BORTAC					
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(E)					
BORSTAR					
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(E)					
SOGIU					
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(E)					
MRT					
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(E)					
SOG					

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

ASSISTANT CHIEF PATROL AGENT

U.S. BORDER PATROL | SPECIAL OPERATIONS GROUP

OFFICE: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) | CELL: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

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

Message

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

Sent: 10/22/2019 1:59:23 PM

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

CC:

Subject: RE: Upcoming C2 trip to El Paso

Defer to SOD.

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
CHIEF PATROL AGENT
U.S. BORDER PATROL | SPECIAL OPERATIONS GROUP
OFFICE: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) | CELL: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

From: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Sent: Tuesday, October 22, 2019 6:08 AM
To: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Cc: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Subject: FW: Upcoming C2 trip to El Paso

FYSA on C1 & C2 visit to El Paso and support request for C2 security detail. We'll start identifying personnel but I advised (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) to have them run it though SOG CoC for your awareness and discretion.

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Special Operations Group – BORTAC
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) (desk)
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) (cell)

From: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Sent: Monday, October 21, 2019 9:17 PM
To: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Cc: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Subject: Fwd: Upcoming C2 trip to El Paso

Sir,

See below. Don't know why request are still coming through the operators and not official channels. I informed (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) to forward to (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) for follow up with commissioner office, but appeared he's out on AL. Let me know how you would like to proceed with this.

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

----- Original message -----

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

Date: 10/21/19 9:01 PM (GMT-07:00)

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

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

Subject: FW: Upcoming C2 trip to El Paso

Sir

This request just came in from the Commissioner's Office for a security detail for C2 for his upcoming visit to El Paso. (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) auto reply says he won't be here until next week, the day he flies in. How would you like me to proceed with this request?

V/R

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

SPECIAL OPERATIONS GROUP HQ
BORDER PATROL TACTICAL UNIT (BORTAC)

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

EL PASO, TX 79916

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

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



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

Sent: Monday, October 21, 2019 8:47 AM

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

Cc:

Subject: Upcoming C2 trip to El Paso

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

How are you doing? I hope all is well.

C2 and C1 have an upcoming trip to El Paso on the 28th and the 29th. The times/locations are yet to be determined.

C1 will be flying in from Chicago, while C2 will be flying in from D.C.

Would SOD/SOG be able to assist with C2's arrival/departure and other movements? Tentatively looking at the following:

10/28/19

DCA 12:00PM→ DFW 2:24PM AA0429;

DFW 3:28PM→ ELP 4:07PM AA2743;

10/29/19

ELP 1:10PM→ ORD 5:10PM UA4508; and

ORD 6:00PM→IAD 8:53PM UA0843.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

V/R,

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

Adjutant to the Deputy Commissioner

U.S. Customs and Border Protection

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

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

Message

From: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Sent: 1/24/2020 5:04:28 PM
To: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Subject: RE: OP SUB zERO - Roster (update)

10-4

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
CHIEF PATROL AGENT
U.S. BORDER PATROL | SPECIAL OPERATIONS GROUP
OFFICE: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) | CELL: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

From: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Sent: Friday, January 24, 2020 9:58 AM
To: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Subject: FW: OP SUB zERO - Roster (update)

Sorry but there was a last minute change. This is the updated version

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Deputy Chief Patrol Agent
USBP SOG
Cell (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

From: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Sent: Friday, January 24, 2020 9:53 AM
To: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Cc:
Subject: RE: OP SUB zERO - Roster (update)

Sir,

Please see updated roster. (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) (BTC assigned Medic) replaced (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) (LRT/BST)

NAME: Last, First, MI	Home SECTOR STATION	TDY Location
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)	(b)(7)(E)	

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

(b)(7)(E)

Respectfully,

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

Special Operations Supervisor
USBP SOG – OPSCEN

Main: **(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)**
Desk:

Mobile: **(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)**

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

Sent: Friday, January 24, 2020 9:42 AM

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

Cc:

Subject: RE: OP SUB zERO - Roster

FYSA, Sir. BORTAC is requesting one small change to their roster. I will be updating this shortly and will send the updates.

Respectfully,

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

Special Operations Supervisor
USBP SOG – OPSCEN

Main: **(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)**
Desk:

Mobile: **(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)**

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

Sent: Friday, January 24, 2020 9:39 AM

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

Cc:

Subject: RE: OP SUB zERO - Roster

Thank you

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

Deputy Chief Patrol Agent
USBP SOG
Cell **(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)**

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

Sent: Friday, January 24, 2020 9:38 AM

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

Cc:

Subject: FW: OP SUB zERO - Roster

Sir,

As requested. I will follow up with HQ. Thank you.

Respectfully,

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Special Operations Supervisor
USBP SOG – OPSCEN
Main: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Desk: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Mobile: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

From: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Sent: Friday, January 24, 2020 9:35 AM
To: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Subject: OP SUB zERO - Roster

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

Please see updated roster and breakdown for distribution to SOG DCPA as requested.

NAME: Last, First, MI	Home SECTOR STATION	TDY Location
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)	(b)(7)(E)	

TEAM BREAKDOWN

(b)(7)(E)

Respectfully,

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

Special Operations Supervisor
USBP SOG – OPSCEN

Main:

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

Desk:

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

Message

From: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Sent: 2/14/2020 9:23:23 PM
To: HASTINGS, BRIAN S (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) PORVAZNIK, ANTHONY J
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Subject: RE: NYT Article

10-4

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
CHIEF PATROL AGENT
U.S. BORDER PATROL | SPECIAL OPERATIONS GROUP
OFFICE: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) | CELL: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

From: HASTINGS, BRIAN S (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Sent: Friday, February 14, 2020 2:23 PM
To: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) PORVAZNIK, ANTHONY J
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Subject: RE: NYT Article

Chief,

I don't believe so. I wouldn't be surprised if this wasn't leaked on purpose.

From: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Sent: Friday, February 14, 2020 4:21 PM
To: HASTINGS, BRIAN S (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Subject: RE: NYT Article

I'm sure. Do you need me to do anything?

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
CHIEF PATROL AGENT
U.S. BORDER PATROL | SPECIAL OPERATIONS GROUP
OFFICE: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) | CELL: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

From: HASTINGS, BRIAN S (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Sent: Friday, February 14, 2020 2:20 PM
To: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) PORVAZNIK, ANTHONY J
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Subject: RE: NYT Article

More Friday night fun. It's getting quite a bit of attention and inquiries.

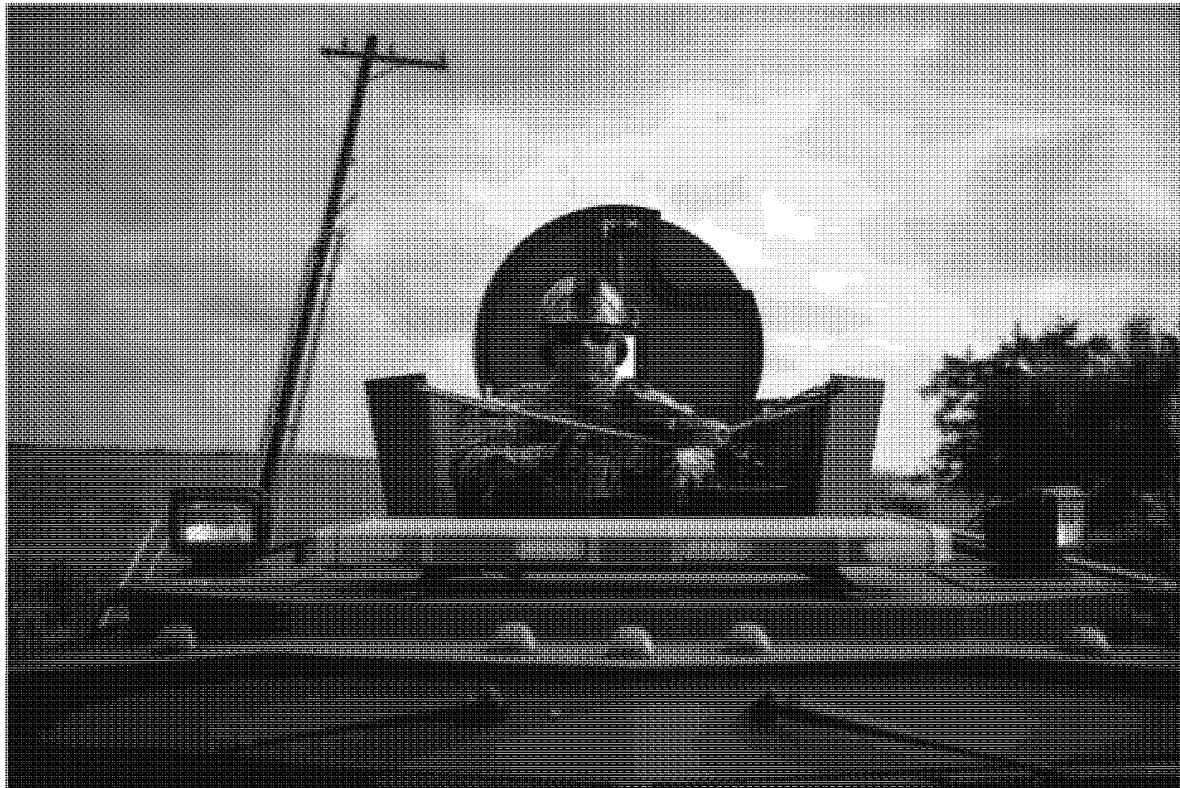
From: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Sent: Friday, February 14, 2020 3:56 PM
To: HASTINGS, BRIAN S (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) PORVAZNIK, ANTHONY J

Subject: NYT Article

So much for OPSEC... This is getting crazy.

Border Patrol Will Deploy Elite Tactical Agents to Sanctuary Cities

Agents from a special tactical team that normally confronts smugglers on the border are being sent to sanctuary cities across the country.



An agent with the U.S. Border Patrol Tactical Unit, known as BORTAC, an elite group that functions essentially as the SWAT of Border Patrol. Credit...Adrees Latif/Reuters



By Caitlin Dickerson and Zolan Kanno-Youngs

- Feb. 14, 2020 Updated 3:02 p.m. ET

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The Trump administration is deploying law enforcement tactical units from the southern border as part of a supercharged arrest operation in sanctuary cities across the country, an escalation in the president's battle against localities that refuse to participate in immigration enforcement.

The specially trained officers are being sent to cities including Chicago and New York to boost the enforcement power of local ICE officers, according to two officials who are familiar with the secret operation. Additional agents are expected to be sent to San Francisco, Los Angeles, Atlanta, Houston, Boston, New Orleans, Detroit and Newark, N.J.

The move reflects President Trump's persistence in cracking down on sanctuary cities, localities that have refused to cooperate in handing over immigrants targeted for deportation to federal authorities. It comes soon after the Justice Department and Department of Homeland Security announced a series of measures that will affect both American citizens and immigrants living in those places.

Lawrence Payne, a spokesman for Customs and Border Protection, confirmed the agency was deploying 100 officers to work with Immigration and Customs Enforcement, which conducts arrests in the interior of the country, "in order to enhance the integrity of the immigration system, protect public safety, and strengthen our national security."

The deployment of the teams will run from February through May, according to an email sent to Customs and Border Protection personnel, which was read to The New York Times by one official familiar with the planning.

Among the agents being deployed to sanctuary cities are members of the elite tactical unit known as BORTAC, which acts essentially as the SWAT team of the Border Patrol. With additional gear such as stun grenades and enhanced Special Forces-type training, including sniper certification, the officers typically conduct high-risk operations targeting individuals who are known to be violent, many of them with extensive criminal records.

The unit's work often takes place in the most rugged and swelteringly hot areas of the border. It can involve breaking into stash houses maintained by smuggling operations that are known to be filled with drugs and weapons.

In sanctuary cities, the BORTAC agents will be asked to support interior officers in run-of-the-mill immigration arrests, the officials said. Their presence could spark new fear in immigrant communities that have been on high alert under the stepped-up deportation and detention policies adopted after Mr. Trump took office.

In a statement, ICE's acting director, Matthew T. Albence, said the deployment comes in response to policies adopted by sanctuary cities, which have made it harder for immigration agents to do their jobs.

"As we have noted for years, in jurisdictions where we are not allowed to assume custody of aliens from jails, our officers are forced to make at-large arrests of criminal aliens who have been released into communities," he said. "When sanctuary cities release these criminals back to the street, it increases the occurrence of preventable crimes, and more importantly, preventable victims."

But Gil Kerlikowske, the former commissioner of C.B.P., which oversees tactical units along the border, said sending the officers to conduct immigration enforcement within cities, where they are not trained to work, could escalate situations that are already volatile. He called the move a “significant mistake.”

“If you were a police chief and you were going to make an apprehension for a relatively minor offense, you don’t send the SWAT team. And BORTAC is the SWAT team,” said Mr. Kerlikowske, who is the former chief of police in Seattle. “They’re trained for much more hazardous missions than this.”

The Border Patrol squads will be charged with backing up ICE agents during deportation operations and standing by as a show of force, the officials said.

ICE agents typically seek out people with criminal convictions or multiple immigration violations as their primary targets for deportation, but family members and friends are often swept up in the enforcement net in what are known as “collateral” arrests, and many such people could now be caught up in any enhanced operations.

ICE leadership requested the help in sanctuary jurisdictions because agents there often struggle to track down undocumented immigrants without the help of the police and other state and local agencies. Law enforcement officers in areas that refuse to cooperate with ICE and the Border Patrol — which include both liberal and conservative parts of the country — often argue that doing so pushes undocumented people further into the shadows, ultimately making cities less safe because that segment of the population becomes less likely to report crimes or cooperate with investigations.

The goal of the new joint operation, one of the officials said, was to increase arrests in the sanctuary jurisdictions by at least 35 percent.

The operation reflects an increasingly hawkish approach to immigration enforcement, following the firings and resignations of leaders who have been viewed in the White House as unwilling to take the harsh steps Mr. Trump and his advisers view as necessary to slow illegal immigration.

Other recent attempts at aggressive enforcement by ICE have faltered, such as a series of raids targeting more than 2,000 migrant families that were planned during the summer of 2019. Mr. Trump’s advance warnings on Twitter led many of those who were targeted to refuse to open their front doors, and ultimately, only 35 of those who had been targeted were arrested in the operation’s first several weeks.

Even with the added show of force from BORTAC, agents will be limited in their abilities compared to the police or sheriff’s deputies. Unlike operations on the border, where BORTAC agents may engage in armed confrontations with drug smuggling suspects using armored vehicles, immigration agents in cities are enforcing civil, rather than criminal infractions. They are not allowed to forcibly enter properties in order to make arrests, and the presence of BORTAC agents, while helpful in boosting the number of agents on the ground, may prove most useful for the visual message it sends.

The agents will not be busting down doors or engaging in shootouts, said one official with direct knowledge of the operation, who like the other official would not be identified because he was not authorized to discuss it.

Many ICE agents say their jobs have become increasingly difficult, three years into Mr. Trump’s presidency, because of robust campaigns by immigrant advocacy organizations seeking to safeguard undocumented immigrants by educating them on the legal limitations that ICE officers face. As a result, in many communities where undocumented immigrants live, when ICE agents are spotted, people now turn immediately to their phones to alert neighbors that they should stay inside.

Mr. Trump campaigned on a promise to crack down on sanctuary cities. Within a few months of taking office, the Justice Department moved to withhold certain federal funds from the jurisdictions. Last week, the Justice Department filed suit against state and local governments in California, New Jersey and Washington over sanctuary policies there. Also this month, the Department of Homeland Security announced it would ban New Yorkers from enrolling in programs that allow travelers to speed through customs checkpoints in airports and at the border as a result of the state's decision to offer drivers licenses to undocumented immigrants and bar Homeland Security agencies from accessing the state's motor vehicle database.

The president again highlighted the issue in his State of the Union address, arguing that sanctuary cities "release dangerous criminal aliens to prey upon the public."

In January, a New York City Council member wrote an open letter for his fellow councilors expressing concern about increasing ICE activity in the region, including collateral arrests. Last week, an acquaintance of a man in New York who was being arrested by ICE was shot in an incident that the agency later blamed on sanctuary policies.

The aggressive immigration enforcement tactics being implemented around the country are not limited to any one agency. In a widely circulated video recorded in El Paso, Texas, on Tuesday night, Border Patrol agents are shown subduing and using a Taser to apprehend a man in a Burger King restaurant.

The video shows the man pleading repeatedly with the agents while shouting that he had done nothing wrong. A female bystander asks the agents to leave the restaurant, as she cries while witnessing the episode. While the man was writhing in pain on the floor after being stunned repeatedly, another woman in the video approached the agents and asked, "Why are you still hitting him?"

A Border Patrol spokesman said in a statement that the apprehended man was a "suspected alien smuggler," without offering any evidence to support that assertion. The spokesman did not respond to a request for the man's name and nationality.

"The man refused to cooperate with the verbal instructions and attempted to avoid being handcuffed and a struggle ensued," the Border Patrol spokesman said.

In the same statement, the spokesman said that a "citizen" had notified law enforcement of a suspicious vehicle parked on his property. The Border Patrol said the man apprehended by the agents on Tuesday was the driver of the vehicle and that "record checks indicated that the man was in the country illegally and had a positive criminal history."

An ICE spokesman declined to comment on the specifics of the latest effort in sanctuary cities, citing the agency's policy against sharing information about enforcement operations before they have taken place. However, the spokesman added that the agency had "made it abundantly clear for years that, in jurisdictions where we are not allowed to assume custody of aliens from jails, our officers would be redirected to make at-large arrests."

Simon Romero, Miriam Jordan and Annie Correal contributed reporting.

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

CHIEF PATROL AGENT

U.S. BORDER PATROL | SPECIAL OPERATIONS GROUP

OFFICE: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) | CELL: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

Message

From: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Sent: 2/27/2020 3:31:06 PM
To: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) CLEM, CHRIS T
CC: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Subject: Re: BORTAC Ops in El Paso, TX

Thanks.

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Chief Patrol Agent
USBP | SOG
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

From: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Sent: Thursday, February 27, 2020 6:35:17 AM
To: CLEM, CHRIS T (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Cc: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Subject: FW: BORTAC Ops in El Paso, TX

In case you get asked, the Mayor inquired with DC about how many agents besides BTC were being pulled from El Paso to support the ERO interior operations. DC gave him a generic response.

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

Office:
Cellular:
HSDN (SIPR):
Address:

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

From: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Sent: Thursday, February 27, 2020 6:33 AM
To: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) EPT-LEOD (b)(7)(E)
Cc: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Subject: RE: BORTAC Ops in El Paso, TX

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

Thanks. For our part, we sent (b)(7)(E)

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

Office:
Cellular:
HSDN (SIPR):
Address:

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

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

Sent: Thursday, February 27, 2020 6:10 AM

To: EPT-LEOD (b)(7)(E)

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

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

Subject: FW: BORTAC Ops in El Paso, TX

Good Morning team,

We yesterday we received the following question, which came from the mayor's office in El Paso.

City of El Paso mayor's office called regarding BORTAC operations.

Specifically, the mayor would like to know if other CBP personnel - other than BORTAC - will/are being deployed out of the El Paso Sector? His primary concern is, will the El Paso area's non-BORTAC personnel numbers be affected by this deployment?

I reached out to USBP-HQ-STRATCOMM to see if we had a standard response. (See Below)

I want to make sure you are aware of the question, and get your feedback on the response.

CBP is deploying 100 officers and agents to supplement ICE ERO in order to enhance the integrity of the immigration system, protect public safety, and strengthen our national security. There will be (b)(7)(E) Border Patrol Agents (BPAs) and (b)(7)(E) Customs and Border Protection Officers (CBPOs) placed on short term temporary duty assignments (TDY) to field offices selected by ICE ERO. The purpose of this detail will be to augment ICE/ERO Criminal Alien Program (CAP), Fugitive Operations (FUGOPS) Teams, and/or Alternatives to Detention Enforcement Teams.

In short, the (b)(7)(E) BPAs are BTC, BST and BPAs are from various locations.

Respectfully,

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

Assistant Chief

USBP HQ
LEOD Ops Central

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



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

Sent: Wednesday, February 26, 2020 6:54 PM

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

USBP-HQ-STRATCOM (b)(7)(E)

(b)(7)(E)

Cc: OPSCENTRALSECTORS (b)(7)(E)

Subject: Re: BORTAC Ops in El Paso, TX

Excerpt from a letter to Congressional Members recently drafted.

CBP is deploying 100 officers and agents to supplement ICE ERO in order to enhance the integrity of the immigration system, protect public safety, and strengthen our national security. There will be (b)(7)(E) Border Patrol Agents (BPAs) and (b)(7)(E) Customs and Border Protection Officers (CBPOs) placed on short term temporary duty assignments (TDY) to field offices selected by ICE ERO. The purpose of this detail will be to augment ICE/ERO Criminal Alien Program (CAP), Fugitive Operations (FUGOPS) Teams, and/or Alternatives to Detention Enforcement Teams.

In short, the (b)(7)(E) BPAs are BTC, BST and BPAIs are from various locations.

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

Director, Strategic Communications

United States Border Patrol Headquarters

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

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

Sent: Wednesday, February 26, 2020 5:13 PM

To: USBP-HQ-STRATCOM

Cc: OPSCENTRALSECTORS

Subject: FW: BORTAC Ops in El Paso, TX

Evening,

Wanted to give you all a heads up on this request.

Is there a standard response that can be put together.

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

Assistant Chief

USBP HQ

LEOD Ops Central

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



-----Original Message-----

From: BPTasking (b)(7)(E)

Sent: Wednesday, February 26, 2020 5:07 PM

To: OPSCENTRALSECTORS (b)(7)(E)

Cc: USBP-HQ-STRATCOM (b)(7)(E) BPTasking (b)(7)(E)

Subject: FW: BORTAC Ops in El Paso, TX

Question for EPT, see details below.

Thank you,

Please send all replies to (b)(7)(E)

-----Original Message-----

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

Sent: Wednesday, February 26, 2020 4:58 PM

To: BPTasking (b)(7)(E)

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

Subject: BORTAC Ops in El Paso, TX

City of El Paso mayor's office called regarding BORTAC operations.

Specifically, the mayor would like to know if other CBP personnel - other than BORTAC - will/are being deployed out of the El Paso Sector? His primary concern is, will the El Paso area's non-BORTAC personnel numbers be affected by this deployment?

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

Sent from my iPhone

Message

From: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Sent: 2/15/2020 9:32:16 PM
To: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Subject: Re: NYT Article

Just tried you. Neither do I. We were as surprised as you. Some booger eating moron leaked this.

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Chief Patrol Agent
USBP | SOG
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

From: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Sent: Saturday, February 15, 2020 11:45:16 AM
To: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Subject: Fwd: NYT Article

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

Can I give you a call on Monday about this or are you guys planning a conference call to fill everyone in.

Chief (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) saw the article and asked me about it. I didn't have a whole lot to tell him.

Thanks,

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

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Date: February 14, 2020 at 16:38:43 EST
To: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) DRT SOD COMMAND STAFF
(b)(7)(E) (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) LRT SOD PAIC
(b)(7)(E) (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

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

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

RGV SOD PAIC-DPAIC

(b)(7)(E)

(b)(7)(E)

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

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

Subject: FW: NYT Article

Good article. Have a good weekend all.

<image004.png>

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

Sent: Friday, February 14, 2020 1:57 PM

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

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

Subject: NYT Article

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

Share this with guys on the ground for Sub Zero so they have awareness.

Border Patrol Will Deploy Elite Tactical Agents to Sanctuary Cities

Agents from a special tactical team that normally confronts smugglers on the border are being sent to sanctuary cities across the country.

<image001.jpg>

An agent with the U.S. Border Patrol Tactical Unit, known as BORTAC, an elite group that functions essentially as the SWAT of Border Patrol. Credit...Adrees Latif/Reuters

<image002.png>

<image003.png>

By Caitlin Dickerson and Zolan Kanno-Youngs

Feb. 14, 2020 Updated 3:02 p.m. ET

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The Trump administration is deploying law enforcement tactical units from the southern border as part of a supercharged arrest operation in sanctuary cities across the country, an escalation in the president's battle against localities that refuse to participate in immigration enforcement.

The specially trained officers are being sent to cities including Chicago and New York to boost the enforcement power of local ICE officers, according to two officials who are familiar with the secret operation. Additional agents are expected to be sent to San Francisco, Los Angeles, Atlanta, Houston, Boston, New Orleans, Detroit and Newark, N.J.

The move reflects President Trump's persistence in cracking down on sanctuary cities, localities that have refused to cooperate in handing over immigrants targeted for deportation to federal authorities. It comes soon after the Justice Department and Department of Homeland Security announced a series of measures that will affect both American citizens and immigrants living in those places.

Lawrence Payne, a spokesman for Customs and Border Protection, confirmed the agency was deploying 100 officers to work with Immigration and Customs Enforcement, which conducts arrests in the interior of the country, "in order to enhance the integrity of the immigration system, protect public safety, and strengthen our national security."

The deployment of the teams will run from February through May, according to an email sent to Customs and Border Protection personnel, which was read to The New York Times by one official familiar with the planning.

Among the agents being deployed to sanctuary cities are members of the elite tactical unit known as BORTAC, which acts essentially as the SWAT team of the Border Patrol. With additional gear such as stun grenades and enhanced Special Forces-type training, including sniper certification, the officers typically conduct high-risk operations targeting individuals who are known to be violent, many of them with extensive criminal records.

The unit's work often takes place in the most rugged and swelteringly hot areas of the border. It can involve breaking into stash houses maintained by smuggling operations that are known to be filled with drugs and weapons.

In sanctuary cities, the BORTAC agents will be asked to support interior officers in run-of-the-mill immigration arrests, the officials said. Their presence could spark new fear in immigrant communities that have been on high alert under the stepped-up deportation and detention policies adopted after Mr. Trump took office.

In a statement, ICE's acting director, Matthew T. Albence, said the deployment comes in response to policies adopted by sanctuary cities, which have made it harder for immigration agents to do their jobs.

"As we have noted for years, in jurisdictions where we are not allowed to assume custody of aliens from jails, our officers are forced to make at-large arrests of criminal aliens who

have been released into communities,” he said. “When sanctuary cities release these criminals back to the street, it increases the occurrence of preventable crimes, and more importantly, preventable victims.”

But Gil Kerlikowske, the former commissioner of C.B.P., which oversees tactical units along the border, said sending the officers to conduct immigration enforcement within cities, where they are not trained to work, could escalate situations that are already volatile. He called the move a “significant mistake.”

“If you were a police chief and you were going to make an apprehension for a relatively minor offense, you don’t send the SWAT team. And BORTAC is the SWAT team,” said Mr. Kerlikowske, who is the former chief of police in Seattle. “They’re trained for much more hazardous missions than this.”

The Border Patrol squads will be charged with backing up ICE agents during deportation operations and standing by as a show of force, the officials said.

ICE agents typically seek out people with criminal convictions or multiple immigration violations as their primary targets for deportation, but family members and friends are often swept up in the enforcement net in what are known as “collateral” arrests, and many such people could now be caught up in any enhanced operations.

ICE leadership requested the help in sanctuary jurisdictions because agents there often struggle to track down undocumented immigrants without the help of the police and other state and local agencies. Law enforcement officers in areas that refuse to cooperate with ICE and the Border Patrol — which include both liberal and conservative parts of the country — often argue that doing so pushes undocumented people further into the shadows, ultimately making cities less safe because that segment of the population becomes less likely to report crimes or cooperate with investigations.

The goal of the new joint operation, one of the officials said, was to increase arrests in the sanctuary jurisdictions by at least 35 percent.

The operation reflects an increasingly hawkish approach to immigration enforcement, following the firings and resignations of leaders who have been viewed in the White House as unwilling to take the harsh steps Mr. Trump and his advisers view as necessary to slow illegal immigration.

Other recent attempts at aggressive enforcement by ICE have faltered, such as a series of raids targeting more than 2,000 migrant families that were planned during the summer of 2019. Mr. Trump’s advance warnings on Twitter led many of those who were targeted to refuse to open their front doors, and ultimately, only 35 of those who had been targeted were arrested in the operation’s first several weeks.

Even with the added show of force from BORTAC, agents will be limited in their abilities compared to the police or sheriff’s deputies. Unlike operations on the border, where BORTAC agents may engage in armed confrontations with drug smuggling suspects using armored vehicles, immigration agents in cities are enforcing civil, rather than criminal infractions. They are not allowed to forcibly enter properties in order to make arrests, and the presence of BORTAC agents, while helpful in boosting the number of agents on the ground, may prove most useful for the visual message it sends.

The agents will not be busting down doors or engaging in shootouts, said one official with direct knowledge of the operation, who like the other official would not be identified because he was not authorized to discuss it.

Many ICE agents say their jobs have become increasingly difficult, three years into Mr. Trump's presidency, because of robust campaigns by immigrant advocacy organizations seeking to safeguard undocumented immigrants by educating them on the legal limitations that ICE officers face. As a result, in many communities where undocumented immigrants live, when ICE agents are spotted, people now turn immediately to their phones to alert neighbors that they should stay inside.

Mr. Trump campaigned on a promise to crack down on sanctuary cities. Within a few months of taking office, the Justice Department moved to withhold certain federal funds from the jurisdictions. Last week, the Justice Department filed suit against state and local governments in California, New Jersey and Washington over sanctuary policies there. Also this month, the Department of Homeland Security announced it would ban New Yorkers from enrolling in programs that allow travelers to speed through customs checkpoints in airports and at the border as a result of the state's decision to offer drivers licenses to undocumented immigrants and bar Homeland Security agencies from accessing the state's motor vehicle database.

The president again highlighted the issue in his State of the Union address, arguing that sanctuary cities "release dangerous criminal aliens to prey upon the public."

In January, a New York City Council member wrote an open letter for his fellow councilors expressing concern about increasing ICE activity in the region, including collateral arrests. Last week, an acquaintance of a man in New York who was being arrested by ICE was shot in an incident that the agency later blamed on sanctuary policies.

The aggressive immigration enforcement tactics being implemented around the country are not limited to any one agency. In a widely circulated video recorded in El Paso, Texas, on Tuesday night, Border Patrol agents are shown subduing and using a Taser to apprehend a man in a Burger King restaurant.

The video shows the man pleading repeatedly with the agents while shouting that he had done nothing wrong. A female bystander asks the agents to leave the restaurant, as she cries while witnessing the episode. While the man was writhing in pain on the floor after being stunned repeatedly, another woman in the video approached the agents and asked, "Why are you still hitting him?"

A Border Patrol spokesman said in a statement that the apprehended man was a "suspected alien smuggler," without offering any evidence to support that assertion. The spokesman did not respond to a request for the man's name and nationality.

"The man refused to cooperate with the verbal instructions and attempted to avoid being handcuffed and a struggle ensued," the Border Patrol spokesman said.

In the same statement, the spokesman said that a "citizen" had notified law enforcement of a suspicious vehicle parked on his property. The Border Patrol said the man apprehended by the agents on Tuesday was the driver of the vehicle and that "record checks indicated that the man was in the country illegally and had a positive criminal history."

An ICE spokesman declined to comment on the specifics of the latest effort in sanctuary cities, citing the agency's policy against sharing information about enforcement operations before they have taken place. However, the spokesman added that the agency had "made it abundantly clear for years that, in jurisdictions where we are not allowed to assume custody of aliens from jails, our officers would be redirected to make at-large arrests."

Simon Romero, Miriam Jordan and Annie Correal contributed reporting.

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

CHIEF PATROL AGENT

U.S. BORDER PATROL | SPECIAL OPERATIONS GROUP

OFFICE: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) | CELL: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

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

Message

From: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Sent: 3/3/2020 11:38:15 PM
To: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Subject: FW: Sub zERO Media
Importance: High

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

I keep sending messages meant for you to (b)(6), (b)(7)(C). He pops up first for some reason. One of two coming.

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

CHIEF PATROL AGENT
U.S. BORDER PATROL | SPECIAL OPERATIONS GROUP
OFFICE: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) | CELL: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

From: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Sent: Tuesday, March 3, 2020 4:27 PM
To: PORVAZNIK, ANTHONY J (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Cc: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Subject: Sub zERO Media
Importance: High

Chief,

FYSA – we were just advised by the SOG team supporting ERO in Chicago that they will be shadowed by a CNN crew tomorrow. We have one BORTAC SBPA and one BPAI assigned to the ERO unit that will be shadowed. It appears this was coordinated/approved by the ERO CoC. They have been instructed to let ERO handle all the interviews, but I'm sure the NYT article will be a point of discussion.

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

CHIEF PATROL AGENT
U.S. BORDER PATROL | SPECIAL OPERATIONS GROUP
OFFICE: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) | CELL: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

Message

From: (b)(6)
Sent: 2/14/2020 9:48:45 PM
To: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Subject: Re: CBP

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of DHS. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you recognize and/or trust the sender. Contact the CBP Security Operations Center<mailto:(b)(7)(E)> with questions or concerns.

Thanks

Can you confirm that BORTAC is part of the deployment?

On Fri, Feb 14, 2020 at 3:37 PM (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) wrote:

>
> Yes
>
> > On Feb 14, 2020, at 4:31 PM, (b)(6) wrote:
> >
> > CAUTION: This email originated from outside of DHS. DO NOT click links or open attachments unless you recognize and/or trust the sender. Contact the CBP Security Operations Center (b)(7)(E) with questions or concerns.
> >
> >
> > Thanks (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
> >
> > Can you confirm that CBP is deploying 100 officers to work with
> > Immigration and Customs Enforcement?
> >
> >> On Fri, Feb 14, 2020 at 3:02 PM (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) wrote:
> >> (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
> >> You can call DHS and ICE for further comment.
> >>
> >> More info on background:
> >>
> >> CBP agents and officers who are being detailed to help ICE come from a number of different sectors and job positions. While some of them are trained in tactical operations, that is one of the many areas of training. All CBP officers and agents are FLETC-trained, just like ICE, and are more than capable of helping ICE fulfil their mission.
> >
> >
> >
> > --
> > (b)(6)
> > Staff Reporter
> > Chicago Sun-Times
> > (b)(6)

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(b)(6)
Staff Reporter
Chicago Sun-Times
(b)(6)

Message

From: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Sent: 2/14/2020 10:14:37 PM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: Re: CBP

Some agents but not exclusively.

DHS statement:

"The crisis at the border affects communities throughout the United States and has a huge impact on ICE. The crisis at the border led to a significant increase in the number of non-detained cases which surpassed 3.2 million in FY19, up from 2.6 million in FY18 and 2.4 million in FY17. With 5,300 ERO law enforcement officers – some of whom were detailed to the border - ICE does not have sufficient resources to effectively manage the sustained increase in non-detained cases which is exacerbated by the rise of sanctuary jurisdictions. The CBP agents and officers who are being detailed to help ICE come from a number of different sectors and job positions. While some of them are trained in tactical operations, that is one of the many areas of training. These officers have also been trained in routine immigration enforcement actions which is what they have been asked to do. All CBP officers and agents are FLETC-trained, just like ICE, and are more than capable of helping ICE fulfil their mission."

On Feb 14, 2020, at 5:10 PM, (b)(6)
(b)(6) wrote:

On Feb 14, 2020, at 4:49 PM, (b)(6) wrote:

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Thanks

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On Fri, Feb 14, 2020 at 3:37 PM (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) wrote:

Yes

On Feb 14, 2020, at 4:31 PM, (b)(6)
(b)(6) wrote:

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

Can you confirm that CBP is deploying 100 officers to work with Immigration and Customs Enforcement?

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

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

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--

(b)(6)

Staff Reporter

Chicago Sun-Times

(b)(6)

--

(b)(6)

Staff Reporter

Chicago Sun-Times

(b)(6)

Message

From: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Sent: 2/14/2020 10:15:57 PM
To: (b)(6) (NBCUniversal) (b)(6)
Subject: Re: Telemundo 52 Statement Request 02/14

DHS statement:

"The crisis at the border affects communities throughout the United States and has a huge impact on ICE. The crisis at the border led to a significant increase in the number of non-detained cases which surpassed 3.2 million in FY19, up from 2.6 million in FY18 and 2.4 million in FY17. With 5,300 ERO law enforcement officers – some of whom were detailed to the border - ICE does not have sufficient resources to effectively manage the sustained increase in non-detained cases which is exacerbated by the rise of sanctuary jurisdictions. The CBP agents and officers who are being detailed to help ICE come from a number of different sectors and job positions. While some of them are trained in tactical operations, that is one of the many areas of training. These officers have also been trained in routine immigration enforcement actions which is what they have been asked to do. All CBP officers and agents are FLETC-trained, just like ICE, and are more than capable of helping ICE fulfil their mission."

On Feb 14, 2020, at 3:58 PM, (b)(6) (NBCUniversal) (b)(6) wrote:

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Good afternoon,


I am reaching out for a statement from CBP regarding a New York Times report that Border Patrol will deploy elite tactical agents to Sanctuary cities, including Los Angeles.

According to the NYT... *"Lawrence Payne, a spokesman for Customs and Border Protection, confirmed the agency was deploying 100 officers to work with Immigration and Customs Enforcement, which conducts arrests in the interior of the country, "in order to enhance the integrity of the immigration system, protect public safety, and strengthen our national security."*

Any statement you could share with us? Also, anyone we could interview on this, in the Los Angeles area?

Please let me know.

Thank you,

(b)(6) Telemundo 52 Assignment Editor
Direct: (b)(6) | Office: (b)(6)
100 Universal City Plaza, Bldg 2120/2, Universal City, CA 91608
 (b)(6)

Message

From: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Sent: 2/14/2020 9:13:20 PM
To: (b)(6) (Reuters) (b)(6)
Subject: Re: Tactical teams

Some but not everyone.

On Feb 14, 2020, at 4:12 PM, (b)(6) wrote:

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Thank you (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Big story.

Can you also confirm that members of the BORTAC will be among the deployment?

From: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Sent: Friday, February 14, 2020 4:04 PM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: Re: Tactical teams

I can confirm story and cities. DHS and ICE will answer further but some info on background:

CBP agents and officers who are being detailed to help ICE come from a number of different sectors and job positions. While some of them are trained in tactical operations, that is one of the many areas of training. All CBP officers and agents are FLETC-trained, just like ICE, and are more than capable of helping ICE fulfil their mission.

On Feb 14, 2020, at 3:53 PM, (b)(6) (Reuters)
(b)(6) wrote:

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Hi all,

Can you confirm the following about the tactical deployment:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/02/14/us/Border-Patrol-ICE-Sanctuary-Cities.html>

- That officers will go to Chicago, New York, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Atlanta, Houston, Boston, New Orleans, Detroit and Newark, N.J.
- The deployment of the teams will run from February through May
- Among the agents being deployed to sanctuary cities are members of the elite tactical unit known as BORTAC, which acts essentially as the SWAT team of the Border Patrol

- “With additional gear such as stun grenades and enhanced Special Forces-type training, including sniper certification, the officers typically conduct high-risk operations targeting individuals who are known to be violent, many of them with extensive criminal records” – from the NYT article

And some questions:

- Why are they being deployed?
- What will they do?
- What happens to their border duties?

My cell is (b)(6). Working on something now.

Best,

(b)(6)

--

(b)(6)

Immigration Reporter

Reuters

(b)(6) (o) / (b)(6) (c)

(b)(6)

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<https://www.thomsonreuters.com/en/resources/disclosures.html>

Message

From: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Sent: 2/14/2020 9:14:05 PM
To: (b)(6) (Reuters); (b)(6)
Subject: Re: Tactical teams

ICE and DHS have more info

On Feb 14, 2020, at 4:12 PM, (b)(6) wrote:

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From: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Sent: Friday, February 14, 2020 4:04 PM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: Re: Tactical teams

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- What happens to their border duties?

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Best,

(b)(6)

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(b)(6)

Immigration Reporter

Reuters

(b)(6)

(o)

(b)(6)

(c)

(b)(6)

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<https://www.thomsonreuters.com/en/resources/disclosures.html>

Message

From: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Sent: 2/14/2020 10:15:56 PM
To: (b)(6) (NBCUniversal) (b)(6)
Subject: Re: Telemundo 52 Statement Request 02/14

DHS statement:

"The crisis at the border affects communities throughout the United States and has a huge impact on ICE. The crisis at the border led to a significant increase in the number of non-detained cases which surpassed 3.2 million in FY19, up from 2.6 million in FY18 and 2.4 million in FY17. With 5,300 ERO law enforcement officers – some of whom were detailed to the border - ICE does not have sufficient resources to effectively manage the sustained increase in non-detained cases which is exacerbated by the rise of sanctuary jurisdictions. The CBP agents and officers who are being detailed to help ICE come from a number of different sectors and job positions. While some of them are trained in tactical operations, that is one of the many areas of training. These officers have also been trained in routine immigration enforcement actions which is what they have been asked to do. All CBP officers and agents are FLETC-trained, just like ICE, and are more than capable of helping ICE fulfil their mission."

On Feb 14, 2020, at 3:58 PM, (b)(6) (NBCUniversal) (b)(6) wrote:

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Good afternoon,

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According to the NYT... *"Lawrence Payne, a spokesman for Customs and Border Protection, confirmed the agency was deploying 100 officers to work with Immigration and Customs Enforcement, which conducts arrests in the interior of the country, "in order to enhance the integrity of the immigration system, protect public safety, and strengthen our national security."*

Any statement you could share with us? Also, anyone we could interview on this, in the Los Angeles area?

Please let me know.

Thank you,

(b)(6) Telemundo 52 Assignment Editor
Direct: (b)(6) Office: (b)(6)
100 Universal City Plaza, Bldg 2120/2, Universal City, CA 91608



(b)(6)

Message

From: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Sent: 2/14/2020 10:14:36 PM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: Re: CBP

Some agents but not exclusively.

DHS statement:

"The crisis at the border affects communities throughout the United States and has a huge impact on ICE. The crisis at the border led to a significant increase in the number of non-detained cases which surpassed 3.2 million in FY19, up from 2.6 million in FY18 and 2.4 million in FY17. With 5,300 ERO law enforcement officers – some of whom were detailed to the border - ICE does not have sufficient resources to effectively manage the sustained increase in non-detained cases which is exacerbated by the rise of sanctuary jurisdictions. The CBP agents and officers who are being detailed to help ICE come from a number of different sectors and job positions. While some of them are trained in tactical operations, that is one of the many areas of training. These officers have also been trained in routine immigration enforcement actions which is what they have been asked to do. All CBP officers and agents are FLETC-trained, just like ICE, and are more than capable of helping ICE fulfil their mission."

On Feb 14, 2020, at 5:10 PM, (b)(6)
(b)(6) wrote:

On Feb 14, 2020, at 4:49 PM, (b)(6) wrote:

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Thanks

Can you confirm that BORTAC is part of the deployment?

On Fri, Feb 14, 2020 at 3:37 PM (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) wrote:

Yes

On Feb 14, 2020, at 4:31 PM, (b)(6)
(b)(6) wrote:

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the sender. Contact the CBP Security Operations Center: (b)(7)(E) with questions or concerns.

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

Can you confirm that CBP is deploying 100 officers to work with Immigration and Customs Enforcement?

On Fri, Feb 14, 2020 at 3:02 PM (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

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

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

You can call DHS and ICE for further comment.

More info on background:

CBP agents and officers who are being detailed to help ICE come from a number of different sectors and job positions. While some of them are trained in tactical operations, that is one of the many areas of training. All CBP officers and agents are FLETC-trained, just like ICE, and are more than capable of helping ICE fulfil their mission.

--

(b)(6)

Staff Reporter

Chicago Sun-Times

(b)(6)

--

(b)(6)

Staff Reporter

Chicago Sun-Times

(b)(6)

Message	
From:	(b)(6)
Sent:	2/14/2020 3:16:34 PM
To:	(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Subject:	Re: CBP statement

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Also, is BORTAC actually going in with full tactical gear and all of the equipment to execute arrests? What exactly will they be doing to assist ERO?

On Fri, Feb 14, 2020 at 9:58 AM (b)(6) wrote:
Thanks for this yesterday. Also want to give you another chance to respond to criticism. We've got some folks saying the tactical units like BORTAC shouldn't be helping ERO in urban areas. They say it's out of their jurisdiction and those units usually work in the wilderness or rural areas. And the unit is akin to a SWAT team, making it odd they would support administrative arrests.

Let me know.

On Thu, Feb 13, 2020 at 10:00 PM (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) wrote:

From a senior DHS official:

- o Los Angeles, CA
- o Atlanta, GA
- o Chicago, IL
- o San Francisco, CA
- o Boston, MA
- o New Orleans, LA
- o Houston, TX
- o Newark, NJ
- o Detroit, MI

From: (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, February 13, 2020 9:58 PM
To: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Subject: Re: CBP statement

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

anything that addresses BORTAC? I'm also told they're heading to NY, Chicago, San Francisco, LA, ATL, Houston, Boston, New Orleans, Detroit, and Newark.

Let me know if I'm missing something.

On Thu, Feb 13, 2020 at 9:45 PM (b)(6) wrote:

Thank you

On Thu, Feb 13, 2020 at 9:18 PM (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) wrote:

Just making sure you got this:

“CBP is deploying 100 officers and agents to supplement ICE Enforcement Removal Operations in order to enhance the integrity of the immigration system, protect public safety, and strengthen our national security.”

--

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

Homeland Security Correspondent

The New York Times

Cell/WhatsApp/Signal: (b)(6)

(b)(6)

--

(b)(6)

Homeland Security Correspondent

The New York Times

Cell/WhatsApp/Signal: (b)(6)

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(b)(6)

Homeland Security Correspondent

The New York Times

Cell/WhatsApp/Signal: (b)(6)

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Homeland Security Correspondent

The New York Times

Cell/WhatsApp/Signal: (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Message

From: Kanno-Youngs, Zolan (b)(6)
Sent: 2/14/2020 2:58:49 PM
To: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Subject: Re: CBP statement

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

Thanks for this yesterday. Also want to give you another chance to respond to criticism. We've got some folks saying the tactical units like BORTAC shouldn't be helping ERO in urban areas. They say it's out of their jurisdiction and those units usually work in the wilderness or rural areas. And the unit is akin to a SWAT team, making it odd they would support administrative arrests.

Let me know.

On Thu, Feb 13, 2020 at 10:00 PM (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) wrote:

From a senior DHS official:

- o Los Angeles, CA
- o Atlanta, GA
- o Chicago, IL
- o San Francisco, CA
- o Boston, MA
- o New Orleans, LA
- o Houston, TX
- o Newark, NJ
- o Detroit, MI

From: Kanno-Youngs, Zolan (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, February 13, 2020 9:58 PM
To: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Subject: Re: CBP statement

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

anything that addresses BORTAC? I'm also told they're heading to NY, Chicago, San Francisco, LA, ATL, Houston, Boston, New Orleans, Detroit, and Newark.

Let me know if I'm missing something.

On Thu, Feb 13, 2020 at 9:45 PM Kanno-Youngs, Zolan (b)(6) wrote:

Thank you

On Thu, Feb 13, 2020 at 9:18 PM (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) wrote:

Just making sure you got this:

“CBP is deploying 100 officers and agents to supplement ICE Enforcement Removal Operations in order to enhance the integrity of the immigration system, protect public safety, and strengthen our national security.”

--

Zolan Kanno-Youngs

Homeland Security Correspondent

The New York Times

Cell/WhatsApp/Signal: (b)(6)

(b)(6)

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Zolan Kanno-Youngs

Homeland Security Correspondent

The New York Times

Cell/WhatsApp/Signal: (b)(6)

(b)(6)

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Zolan Kanno-Youngs

Homeland Security Correspondent

The New York Times

Cell/WhatsApp/Signal: (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Message

From:

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

Sent:

2/14/2020 8:51:35 PM

To:

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

Subject:

NYT Article

Attachments:

Border Patrol Will Deploy Elite Tactical Agents to Sanctuary Cities.pdf; ATT00001.htm

Message

From: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Sent: 10/3/2019 4:38:33 PM
To: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Subject: FW: DHS Morning Briefing (10-3-19)
Attachments: DHS Morning Briefing (10-3-19).pdf

I was wrong, this is Techmis, not Bulletin. I like it though.

From: DHS Daily (b)(7)(E)
Sent: Thursday, October 3, 2019 5:40 AM
To: noreply@techmis.com
Subject: DHS Morning Briefing (10-3-19)



DHS MORNING BRIEFING

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

Mobile User Copy

TO: Homeland Security Secretary & Staff
DATE: Thursday, October 3, 2019 6:00 AM ET

Top News

[U.S. Government Plans to Collect DNA From Detained Immigrants \(New York Times\)](#)
[Trump administration advances plan for migrant DNA collection \(Politico\)](#)
[DHS advances plan to get DNA samples from immigrant detainees \(Roll Call\)](#)
[US to collect DNA of all undocumented migrants \(Breitbart\)](#)
[Trump administration seeks to begin DNA testing on detained immigrants \(The Hill\)](#)
[Trump administration plans to dramatically expand DNA collection of migrants \(CBS News\)](#)
[Trump administration to broaden migrant DNA collection at border \(FOX News\)](#)
[Trump administration to implement DNA testing of detained undocumented people \(Washington Examiner\)](#)
[Trump administration to expand DNA collection at border \(San Francisco Chronicle\)](#)
[Trump lets states, cities refuse refugees for 1st time in US \(Houston Chronicle\)](#)

[How Trump's bilateral deals with Central America undermine the US asylum system \(Public Radio International\)](#)

[Trump appointee who downsized counter-terrorism efforts to resign \(Los Angeles Times\)](#)

[Homeland Security official who rolled back some terrorism programs resigns: report \(The Hill\)](#)

[McAleenan Defies Trump: Border Policy 'Went too Far,' 'Illegal Alien' Term Has 'Racial Overtones' \(Breitbart\)](#)

[DHS Chief Says He's 'Uncomfortable' Not Having Control Over Messaging And Tone Of The Department \(Daily Caller\)](#)

[Trump rips report outlining extreme immigration proposals: I'm 'not that tough' \(Politico\)](#)

[Trump disputes report about border demands \(The Hill\)](#)

[Trump asked about shooting migrants crossing border in the legs: Sources \(ABC News\)](#)

[Trump denies report about wanting moat with alligators and snakes at border: 'The press has gone crazy' \(FOX News\)](#)

[USDA relocation has delayed key studies and millions in funding, employees say \(Washington Post\)](#)

[\[CT\] Seven killed when World War II-era bomber crashes at Connecticut airport \(Washington Post\)](#)

[\[CT\] 7 killed in crash of WWII B-17 bomber in Conn. \(San Francisco Chronicle\)](#)

[\[Honduras\] El Chapo Said to Have Given \\$1 Million to Honduran President's Brother \(New York Times\)](#)

[\[Honduras\] US prosecutor says Honduran president took fortune in drug bribes \(Breitbart\)](#)

Immigration and Customs Enforcement

[How ICE Picks Its Targets in the Surveillance Age \(New York Times\)](#)

[\[RI\] Man previously deported pleads guilty to drug charges \(San Francisco Chronicle\)](#)

[\[NY\] 6 arrested in connection to death of HQ Trivia co-founder Colin Kroll \(ABC News\)](#)

[\[VA\] Virginia Officer Suspended for Turning Driver in Crash Over to I.C.E. \(New York Times\)](#)

[\[VA\] Suspended Fairfax County police officer to return to work after ICE incident \(Washington Post\)](#)

[\[VA\] Virginia police officer suspended after turning in driver involved in traffic accident to ICE, police chief says \(ABC News\)](#)

[\[VA\] Fairfax County cancels suspension, restores officer who cooperated with ICE \(Washington Times\)](#)

[\[OR\] US Attorney For Oregon Announces Massive Drug Bust \(Jefferson Public Radio\)](#)

[\[CA\] Cameroon man dies in ICE custody in San Diego \(The Hill\)](#)

[\[CA\] Man dies in ICE custody in San Diego \(San Diego Union Tribune\)](#)

Citizenship and Immigration Services

[Legal challenges aim to derail Trump's 'public charge' rule that could limit path to citizenship for poor immigrants \(Washington Post\)](#)

[Trump's Green Card Wealth Test May Dodge Nationwide Injunction \(Bloomberg\)](#)

[Immigrant groups launch national campaign to back DACA \(The Hill\)](#)

[Apple CEO Tim Cook Wades Into Supreme Court Fight Over DACA \(Bloomberg\)](#)

[Tim Cook urges Supreme Court to protect DACA \(The Hill\)](#)

[Apple employs 443 DACA recipients. Tim Cook is taking a stand \(CNN\)](#)

[\[CA\] Judge looks down on denying legal status to immigrants who take public benefits \(San Francisco Chronicle\)](#)

[\[China\] Other Nations Lure Chinese Students as the U.S. Turns Them Away \(Bloomberg\)](#)

Customs and Border Protection

[US halts import of goods that may have been made with forced labor \(The Hill\)](#)

[Brandon Judd breaks down the biggest misconceptions about the border \(FOX News\)](#)

[\[MD\] Border Patrol Asks Judge To Dismiss Havre Discrimination Case \(Montana Public Radio\)](#)

[\[CA\] Teenage Women Caught With Almost \\$70,000 Worth Of Meth At Border Checkpoint \(Daily Caller\)](#)

[\[CA\] Mother with young son caught smuggling 67 pounds of meth on I-8, Border Patrol says \(San Diego Union Tribune\)](#)

Federal Emergency Management Agency

[Hurricane Recovery in U.S. Virgin Islands Lags Puerto Rico's \(Bloomberg\)](#)

[\[TX\] Hidalgo, follows Abbott, asks for presidential disaster declaration for Imelda \(Houston Chronicle\)](#)

[\[CA\] California adds new rules for planned power shutoffs under laws signed by Newsom \(Los Angeles Times\)](#)

[\[CA\] Newsom signs 22 wildfire-related laws, from disaster prevention to PG&E shutoffs \(San Francisco Chronicle\)](#)

[\[The Bahamas\] Removing Hurricane Debris Is A Top Priority In The Bahamas \(NPR\)](#)

Secret Service

[Fighting Cyber Crime is Critical for National Security, Says Secret Service Chief \(Nextgov\)](#)

[\[NY\] Fake currency making the rounds in Gloversville \(Gloversville Leader-Herald\)](#)

[\[NY\] Troopers say they found \\$37K in fake money during Colonie stop \(Times Union\)](#)

[\[KY\] Huge bust nets fake cash, card skimmers in Bath County \(WKYT\)](#)

[\[KY\] Police: Hopkinsville Woman Arrested After Using Counterfeit Money \(WKDZ 106.5 FM\)](#)

[\[KY\] Police: Owingsville man arrested after counterfeit money discovered \(LEX 18\)](#)

[\[KY\] Woman arrested on charges related to fake money \(WHOP 1230 AM\)](#)

[\[AL\] Tuscaloosa hospitals crippled due to ransomware attack \(WTVY\)](#)

[\[OH\] NP Police Chief shares reports of counterfeit money \(Register-Herald\)](#)

[\[IN\] Nail salon owner searching for suspects who used counterfeit money \(14 WFIE\)](#)

Coast Guard

[\[TX\] I-10 bridge repairs at San Jacinto River will take until early 2020 \(Houston Chronicle\)](#)

CISA/Cybersecurity

[Healthcare tops other industries for cybersecurity breaches \(Breitbart\)](#)

[Ransomware Forces 10 Hospitals to Turn Away Patients \(Breitbart\)](#)

[Software vulnerabilities in some medical devices could leave them susceptible to hackers, FDA warns \(CNN\)](#)

[Google unveils new security tools for Assistant, Maps, YouTube \(Breitbart\)](#)

[\[China\] Defense bill must protect US rail system against Chinese cyber intrusions \(The Hill\)](#)

Terrorism Investigations

[Mass shootings have hit 158 House districts so far this year \(The Hill\)](#)

[\[MD\] Self-proclaimed white nationalist accused of planning mass killing expected to plead guilty \(Washington Post\)](#)

[\[MD\] Coast Guard lieutenant who plotted domestic terrorist attack is expected to plead guilty Thursday \(Breitbart\)](#)

National Security News

[Senators pressure social media giants to crack down on "deepfakes" \(CBS News\)](#)

[U.S. Treasury sanctions chief Mandelker leaving for private sector \(Reuters\)](#)

[Pompeo Confirms He Listened to Trump's Call to Ukraine President \(New York Times\)](#)

[Pompeo acknowledges he was on Trump phone call with Zelensky \(San Diego Union Tribune\)](#)

[\[Italy\] Pompeo says U.S. wants to be partner of Italy but not at cost of security - Sky TV \(Reuters\)](#)

[\[Syria\] In Syrian endgame, U.S. officials see challenge from ISIS, Bashar Assad \(Washington Times\)](#)

[\[Iraq\] At least five dead and 260 injured after violent protests in Iraq \(CNN\)](#)

[\[Pakistan\] U.S., Taliban officials visit Pakistan after stalled peace talks \(Breitbart\)](#)

[\[Pakistan\] Pakistan mediating Taliban-U.S. peace talks while fighting intensifies \(Breitbart\)](#)

[\[Pakistan\] Taliban, U.S. envoy in Pakistan to review broken peace talks \(Reuters\)](#)

[\[Russia\] Russia's Lukoil sells rare Arctic crude oil to China: sources \(Reuters\)](#)

[\[Russia\] FBI using Facebook ads to gather Russian intelligence: report \(The Hill\)](#)

[\[Russia\] The FBI is running Facebook ads targeting Russians in Washington \(CNN\)](#)

[\[Russia\] FBI runs Russian-language Facebook ads asking for help neutralizing 'hostile foreign intelligence' \(Washington Times\)](#)

[\[Russia\] FBI trying to recruit Russian spies via Facebook ads \(Washington Examiner\)](#)

[\[China\] Trump to Keep Thumb on China's Access to Markets, Analysts Say \(Bloomberg\)](#)

[\[China\] California man accused of spying for China denied bail, public defender \(FOX News\)](#)

[\[China\] Judge Denies Bail, Public Defender to Man Accused of Spying \(US News & World Report\)](#)

[\[North Korea\] North Korea Hails Sub-Based Missile That Raises Security Stakes \(Bloomberg\)](#)

[\[North Korea\] North Korea Fires Another Missile, Possibly Launched by Submarine \(Breitbart\)](#)

[\[North Korea\] US officials assess North Korea launched a medium-range missile \(CNN\)](#)

[\[North Korea\] North Korea missile not from submarine, may have been launched underwater platform, officials say \(FOX News\)](#)

[\[North Korea\] Explainer: North Korea's Suspected Submarine Missile 'Pushes the Envelope' \(US News & World Report\)](#)

[\[North Korea\] N. Korea seeks to twist U.S. arm in talks with sub-launched ballistic missile test \(Washington Times\)](#)

[\[South Korea\] South Korea Parades Recently Purchased U.S. F-35 Stealth Fighter Jets \(Breitbart\)](#)

Presidential Tweets

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.

Top News

U.S. Government Plans to Collect DNA From Detained Immigrants (New York Times)

New York Times [10/3/2019 4:40 AM, Caitlin Dickerson, 22840K]

The Trump administration is moving to collect DNA samples from hundreds of thousands of people booked into federal immigration custody each year and to enter the results into a national criminal database, an immense expansion of the use of technology to enforce the nation's immigration laws.

Senior officials at the Department of Homeland Security said Wednesday that the Justice Department was developing a federal regulation that would give immigration officers the authority to collect DNA in detention facilities across the country that are currently holding more than 40,000 people.

The move would funnel thousands of new records to the F.B.I., whose extensive DNA database has been limited mainly to genetic markers collected from people who have been arrested, charged or convicted in connection with serious crimes.

There have long been calls to collect immigrant DNA records to help identify criminals who have previously been in immigration custody but may not otherwise be known to the authorities. Congress passed a law authorizing a broad collection of DNA data in 2005, but at the time an exemption was put in place to protect immigrants.

A homeland security official said in a call with reporters on Wednesday that the exemption was outdated, and that it was time to eliminate it.

Immigrant and privacy advocates said the move raised privacy concerns for an already vulnerable population. The new rules would allow the government to collect DNA from children as well as those who seek asylum at legal ports of entry.

The advocates warned that United States citizens, who are sometimes accidentally booked into immigration custody, could also be forced to provide DNA samples.

"That kind of mass collection alters the purpose of DNA collection from one of criminal investigation basically to population surveillance, which is basically contrary to our basic notions of a free, trusting, autonomous society," said Vera Eidelman, a staff lawyer with the American Civil Liberties Union's Speech, Privacy, and Technology Project.

She said that because genetic material carries family connections, the data collection would have implications not only for those in immigration custody but also their family members who might be United States citizens or legal residents.

Homeland security officials said the new initiative was permitted under the DNA Fingerprint Act of 2005. Until now, immigrant detainees have been exempt from the law, they said, because of an agreement between two Obama administration officials, Attorney General Eric H. Holder Jr. and the homeland security secretary, Janet Napolitano.

A letter in August to the White House from the Office of Special Counsel cited an official whistle-blower complaint alleging that immigration agencies had failed to carry out their full obligations under the law to collect DNA. It suggested that immigration authorities such as Customs and Border Protection already were carrying out limited DNA collections.

"The agency's noncompliance with the law has allowed subjects subsequently accused of violent crimes, including homicides and sexual assault, to elude detection even when detained multiple times by C.B.P. and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)," said the letter, signed by Henry J. Kerner, the special

counsel. “This is an unacceptable dereliction of the agency’s law enforcement mandate.”

The officials said the proposed rule was inspired partly by a pilot program conducted this summer along the southwestern border, in which ICE agents used rapid DNA sampling technology to identify “fraudulent family units” — adults who were using children disguised as their own to exploit special protections for families with immigrant children.

The new program would differ from the pilot in that it would provide a comprehensive DNA profile of individuals who are tested, as opposed to the more narrow test that was used only to determine parentage. And unlike the testing under the pilot program, the results would be shared with other law enforcement agencies.

After the DNA samples are taken, they would be entered into the F.B.I.’s highly regulated national DNA database. Known as CODIS, the Combined DNA Index System is used by state and law enforcement authorities to help identify criminal suspects. It is advertised on the bureau’s website as a “tool for linking violent crimes.”

In supplying the F.B.I. and other law enforcement with the DNA of immigration detainees, federal authorities are jumping into an ethical debate about the use of DNA in criminal investigations. While such sampling has been crucial in securing thousands of prosecutions over the past several decades, it has also generated controversy because of the potential for abuse.

The move comes amid a wider Trump administration push to criminalize unauthorized border crossings, even in some cases when people enter the country lawfully, such as those who present themselves at legal ports of entry to seek asylum.

Regarding that group, which is considered protected under federal asylum law, a senior homeland security official said Wednesday, “There is a criminal aspect to that population.”

Crossing the border without documents and attempting to elude border authorities is a misdemeanor for first offenders.

President Trump has often sought to link all immigrants, regardless of their legal status, to crime despite a significant body of research that has shown that immigrants are less likely to commit crimes than native-born citizens.

“We don’t have a statistical database of how many businesses immigrants create, or the ways they enrich our communities,” said Erin Murphy, a professor at New York University School of Law, who wrote a book documenting the misuse of forensic evidence in criminal investigations. “But if the government has a way to say, ‘This is the number of immigrants we’ve linked to crimes,’ and this is something we already see anecdotally, we might lose sight of all the positive benefits.”

The homeland security officials who discussed the new initiative said immigration agents would be trained to properly collect the data while respecting immigrants’ privacy rights. They said the Department of Homeland Security had the authority to collect DNA.

Though the Supreme Court has found that the constitutional right to privacy applies to everyone within the United States, regardless of their immigration status, a more restrictive interpretation of the Fourth Amendment has been applied within a 100-mile zone of the border, where suspicionless searches are allowed, even of American citizens.

Trump administration officials did not provide a timeline for the rollout of the regulation but said a working group was meeting weekly to introduce it as soon as possible.

Trump administration advances plan for migrant DNA collection (Politico)

Politico [10/2/2019 3:40 PM, Ted Hesson, 2512K]

A proposed rule that recently completed review at the White House budget office will provide a framework for the broad collection of DNA from immigration detainees, a senior Homeland Security Department official told reporters Wednesday.

The proposed rule, developed by the Justice Department, comes after the Office of Special Counsel found that federal border officials failed to collect DNA samples from detained criminal immigrants as required under federal law. The letter, sent by Special Counsel Henry Kerner in August, said that federal law enforcement agencies are required to obtain samples from detainees under the DNA Fingerprint Act of 2005.

Currently, DHS is operating under exemptions put into place in 2010 by former Secretary Janet Napolitano. The special counsel's office said a whistleblower informed the office that the DNA collections were not taking place.

The Trump administration still has not estimated the cost of the collections or a timeline to either partial or full implementation, the DHS official said Wednesday. The cost of collecting DNA from most or all immigrants detained at U.S. borders would include both the expense of testing and the manpower required to gather the samples.

"We're looking at figuring out a way to do this expeditiously while at the same time ensuring that we have a phased in implementation," said the official, who requested anonymity in order to discuss the issue with reporters.

DHS advances plan to get DNA samples from immigrant detainees (Roll Call)

Roll Call [10/2/2019 7:03 PM, Camila DeChalus, 105K]

Immigration advocates sounded alarm over the Department of Homeland Security's new proposed rule to collect DNA samples from migrants in government custody, expressing grave concern over long-term privacy implications.

"The government doesn't have a very good track record of collecting and protecting the genetic material of marginalized populations, including foreign nationals and black and brown people," Andrew Free, a Nashville-based immigration and civil rights lawyer, told CQ Roll Call. "In the absence of a limiting principle, I just really worry about the abuses."

The proposed rule would lay out the framework for a "whole government approach" to collecting genetic samples from migrant detainees, senior DHS officials told reporters Wednesday. The officials did not say whom the DNA collection program, which would be run in concert with the Justice Department, would specifically target or how it would be implemented. Those details and any operational hurdles are being ironed out by the working groups that include policy experts, they said.

All noncitizens already must submit fingerprints upon U.S. entry, but officials said the expanded DNA collection program would "enhance" the ability of DHS and other law enforcement agencies to "further identify" people who have illegally entered the country.

Immigrations and Customs Enforcement and Customs and Border Protection agents would be trained to collect the swabs, and it was not immediately clear that migrants would have the option to opt out.

Under an existing pilot program called Operation Double Helix, DHS officials may request DNA samples from a minor and an adult arriving together at the southern border if the agents suspect the pair are not actually related. The Trump administration rolled out the rapid DNA test program in response to the rising number of monthly border apprehensions in the spring and has asserted that it would deter migrant adults from using children to temporarily stay in the United States.

In June, acting Homeland Security Secretary Kevin McAleenan told lawmakers that of the 109 families tested at the southern border under the DNA pilot program, 17 failed the test or admitted they were not the child's parent — a rate of 15 percent.

On Wednesday, DHS officials distinguished that rapid DNA testing pilot from the new proposed regulation, which would presumably go through a routine 60-day public comment procedure. The new, expanded DNA collection would chart “a completely different path forward,” officials said. It would not be used solely to substantiate claims of family, and it would entail a “full-scope DNA profile” that would be submitted to a nationwide FBI database that contains DNA samples of people charged with crimes.

DHS officials said the authority for the new initiative comes from the DNA Fingerprint Act of 2005, which allows federal agencies to collect DNA samples from individuals in their custody, regardless of citizenship status. However, regulations that came up under previous administrations carved out exceptions for certain immigrants in DHS custody. The new rule would scrap those exceptions.

On a call with reporters Wednesday, DHS officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, did not provide details about how this forthcoming initiative would affect people who crossed the border without authorization to seek asylum, or those who had not been otherwise charged with a crime. When asked about the long-term implications of pooling DNA information about vulnerable people into a criminal database, officials said they would comply with appropriate privacy standards, adding, “There is a criminal aspect to that population.”

Several experts on Wednesday questioned the Trump administration's underlying motive for implementing the DNA collection procedure to more migrants. They worry it may cause more family separations at the border.

“Given their horrific history of separating children and delaying family reunification and their efforts to prolong detention, it's not a surprise that they are trying to use something like this to cause further hardship in family separations,” said Matt Adams, legal director for the Northwest Immigrant Rights Project, an organization that provides legal services to immigrants in Washington State. “You have to assume that any information they are given is going to be used for enforcement purposes.”

Jenn Budd, a former CBP official-turned-immigration activist, told CQ Roll Call that the collection of such information may help the federal government create a map of an entire immigrant network that may be used for future enforcement.

“Who that's going to affect very heavily, of course, are people of color. And who that's going to affect is people here on the border,” Budd said.

Free, the immigration and civil rights lawyer, also cautioned about the potential of this kind of data collection technology to expand beyond its original intent — and be employed for other populations, including U.S. citizens.

“As we know, marginalized populations in border areas are testing grounds for new technologies,” he said. “The question that Americans should be asking is if they're OK with a future in which if they're arrested for a civil offense — like a traffic ticket, not paying child support, or a codes violation — that by the theory that is being advanced, the government can mass collect their genetic information.”

US to collect DNA of all undocumented migrants (Breitbart)

Breitbart [10/2/2019 9:18 AM, AFP, 2034K]

The US government plans to collect the DNA of all migrants detained after entering the country illegally, officials said Wednesday.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is developing a plan to take DNA samples from each of the undocumented immigrants and store it in a national database for criminal DNA profiles, they said.

Speaking to journalists on grounds of anonymity, DHS officials said the new policy would give immigration and border control agents a broader picture of the migrant and detainee situation.

And stored on the FBI's CODIS DNA database, it could also be used by others in law enforcement and beyond.

"It does enhance our ability to further identify someone who has illegally entered the country," said one official.

"It will assist other organizations as well in their identification ability."

Officials said they were in fact required to take the DNA samples by rules about the handling of arrested and convicted people that were issued by the Justice Department in 2006 and 2010, but which had not been implemented.

They said the program for collecting DNA was still being developed, and they did not have a date set for implementation.

Collecting and storing the DNA of people simply detained and not tried or convicted of a crime could draw criticism from civil rights groups.

Earlier this year the US Border Patrol began performing "rapid DNA" tests on migrants who cross the border as family units to determine if the individuals were actually related and were not making fraudulent claims.

The new program will collect much more genetic information than that program, and will store it.

"This is fundamentally different from rapid DNA," said a second official.

"This is a more-full scope DNA profile."

Trump administration seeks to begin DNA testing on detained immigrants (The Hill)

The Hill [10/2/2019 5:56 PM, Tal Axelrod, 2806K]

The Trump administration is planning to begin collecting DNA samples from detained immigrants to be entered into a national criminal database.

Senior officials at the Department of Homeland Security told reporters in a conference call Wednesday that the Justice Department was readying a federal regulation that would grant immigration officers the power to collect DNA samples in federal detention facilities that are holding over 40,000 people, according to The New York Times.

The policy will mark a significant expansion of the use of an existing database maintained by the FBI which has mostly been limited to holding genetic data collected from people who have been arrested, charged or convicted in connection with serious crimes. Officials would be allowed to collect DNA from children as well as migrants at legal points of entry who are seeking asylum.

The change sparked concern among immigration and privacy advocates who say the policy could further endanger immigrants, many of whom already face profiling or discrimination.

"That kind of mass collection alters the purpose of DNA collection from one of criminal investigation basically to population surveillance, which is basically contrary to our basic notions of a free, trusting,

autonomous society,” Vera Eidelman, a staff lawyer with the American Civil Liberties Union’s Speech, Privacy, and Technology Project, told The Times.

Homeland Security officials defended the policy Wednesday, saying the initiative was legal under the DNA Fingerprint Act of 2005. Detained immigrants have so far been exempted under an Obama administration policy. T

The rule was reportedly prompted in part by a pilot program conducted over the summer in which immigration officials used rapid DNA sampling technology to identify “fraudulent family units,” or adults suspected of falsely claiming children they were traveling with were their own so that they could be granted special protections designated to families.

The program would be more expansive than the pilot in that it will provide a comprehensive DNA makeup rather than simply determine lineage.

Officials did not lay out a timeline for the policy’s rollout but said that a working group was meeting weekly to plan its introduction.

The proposal is part of a series of hardline policies from the Trump administration meant to curtail asylum claims and curb both legal and illegal border crossings.

Trump administration plans to dramatically expand DNA collection of migrants (CBS News)

CBS News [10/2/2019 2:43 PM, Camilo Montoya-Galvez, 3332K]

The Trump administration on Wednesday announced it is preparing to dramatically expand its collection of DNA samples from migrants who are apprehended by immigration authorities, a move that is likely to fuel criticism from advocates who believe the government shouldn’t obtain such sensitive information from people not linked to serious crimes.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is preparing to implement an agency-wide program that will allow Border Patrol to collect DNA samples from apprehended migrants, a senior DHS official said on a conference call. The agency had already been running a pilot program, dubbed Operation Double Helix, for Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents to determine family ties between children and parents in their custody.

The new initiative, however, will have “broad applicability” on a “broad population” of migrants in U.S. custody, the senior DHS official said. The DNA will be used not only to determine maternal and paternal connections, but to “identify” apprehended migrants, the official added.

Unlike the ICE pilot program — which utilizes rapid DNA technology — the new, larger initiative will obtain a “more full scope” DNA profile of migrants.

The senior DHS official said the Justice Department will soon roll out a regulation to set the parameters of this DNA collection. The new regulation will effectively scrap limitations placed by the Obama administration in 2010 on those in DHS custody who can be subject to DNA collection.

The senior DHS official said the administration has the authority to carry this out, citing the DNA Fingerprint Act of 2005.

In response to a question from CBS News, the DHS official said the agency is currently working to develop training procedures for the new program, which was crafted in conjunction with the Justice Department.

The official would not say whether DHS has determined that the new program will also apply to unaccompanied migrant children, who are afforded extra legal protections under U.S. law.

[Editorial note: consult source link for video]

Trump administration to broaden migrant DNA collection at border (FOX News)

FOX News [10/2/2019 7:59 PM, Melissa Leon, 10258K]

The Trump administration plans to issue a new regulation that ramps up DNA collection from migrants who cross the U.S. border, compiling the genetic information in an FBI database, a senior Homeland Security (DHS) official said Wednesday.

The new DNA tests will enhance agencies' ability to identify a migrant who has entered the country illegally, as well as assist other agencies, the official said while speaking to reporters on a call under the condition of anonymity.

There is no timeline for when the new testing will be rolled out. The regulation that calls for DNA collection will be issued by the Justice Department, said the official, who noted that the DOJ rule will provide the framework and that DHS will phase in implementation.

The new program differs from the current DNA pilot testing that establishes maternal or paternal connection to determine if a detainee is related to the person bringing him or her into the country, the DHS official said. The new testing will apply to a broader population of migrants.

DHS has established working groups that are addressing privacy concerns, costs, operational impact, timeliness of implementation and exactly how the testing will be done, the official explained. The effort is a collaboration by DHS, Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

In July, a top government watchdog rebuked CBP for reportedly failing to collect DNA from detained migrants so their samples could be checked against the FBI's database for violent crimes.

Whistleblowers filed a complaint in May 2018 alleging that the DNA pilot program was put on hold during the Obama administration but was being sidelined under the Trump administration.

"U.S. citizens, lawful permanent residents and illegal aliens in this country are and have been harmed due to our agency not collecting DNA," Mike Taylor, one of the government whistleblowers, told Fox News at the time.

The Office of Special Counsel (OSC) issued a rare statement following the whistleblowers' complaint and acknowledged "there was a substantial likelihood of wrongdoing by CBP for its failure to collect DNA from undocumented detainees and arrestees."

A top Border Patrol official has said DNA collection will hamper the processing of illegal migrants at the border.

"Even once such policies and procedures were put in place, Border Patrol Agents are not currently trained on DNA collection measures, health and safety precautions, or the appropriate handling of DNA samples for processing," CBP Chief Brian Hastings said when asked by a judge during a deposition if DNA collection is a good way to identify families who arrive at the border.

DNA testing also raised privacy concerns.

"It's not surprising, given this administration's fixation on villainizing folks at the border, but it reaches beyond them," American Civil Liberties Union attorney Vera Eidelman told The Associated Press.

DHS is examining the legal and privacy components of the regulation, such as whether force can be

applied if someone refuses to take a DNA test, the official said.

Currently, a migrant who illegally crosses the border is fingerprinted. The prints are sent to federal databases; local and state law enforcement agencies can gain access to the databases.

As of August, the FBI's national DNA index contained more than 17 million profiles of offenders and arrestees. Law enforcement agencies can submit samples from non-citizens who are detained, as well as suspects arrested or convicted of crimes.

Authorities generally require a conviction or an arrest before a DNA sample can be taken, although some departments collect samples without a warrant from people who have not been arrested or convicted.

DNA samples can be collected from individuals in custody, including non-Americans, per the DNA Fingerprint Act of 2005. However, it's not mandatory to collect someone's DNA.

Trump administration to implement DNA testing of detained undocumented people (Washington Examiner)

Washington Examiner [10/2/2019 7:18 PM, Mike Brest, 855K]

The Trump administration will reportedly begin DNA testing migrants who are detained trying to enter the country illegally, according to the New York Times.

The tests will put hundreds of thousands of detained immigrants into a national criminal database and would be a large expansion of the Department of Homeland Security's use of technology to enforce the immigration laws that are currently in place.

The current FBI DNA database is generally made up of people who have been arrested, charged, or convicted of major crimes, but this move would allow for more than 40,000 new entries, as there are that many people in detention facilities.

Immigration activists have argued that the idea of testing everyone could infringe on American citizens' privacy rights in the event they are accidentally detained.

"That kind of mass collection alters the purpose of DNA collection from one of criminal investigation basically to population surveillance, which is basically contrary to our basic notions of a free, trusting, autonomous society," Vera Eidelman, a staff lawyer with the American Civil Liberties Union's Speech, Privacy, and Technology Project, told the Times.

The idea has already been implemented on a smaller scale at the southwestern border. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents began using rapid DNA testing this summer in order to identify "fraudulent family units," however the testing that will be implemented in the coming weeks will be more comprehensive.

Trump administration to expand DNA collection at border (San Francisco Chronicle)

San Francisco Chronicle [10/2/2019 5:56 PM, Colleen Long, AP, 337K]

The Trump administration is planning to expand the collection of DNA from migrants who cross U.S. borders, and to include the information in a massive criminal database operated by the FBI.

The effort is separate from and much broader than the rapid DNA testing done on families at the U.S.-Mexico border to help detect adults falsely posing as parents. Not much else is known yet about the increased testing, including its purpose and whether it would apply to children crossing alone or to asylum seekers.

Two senior Homeland Security officials, speaking Wednesday to reporters on condition of anonymity to

discuss an ongoing effort, said the Department of Justice was crafting new regulations and details were being discussed in a working group, but it's not known when it would be implemented.

The collection comes after a huge increase in the number of people crossing the border, mostly Central American families. Officials have since said the numbers went down following crackdowns, changes on asylum and agreements with Central American countries, but border officers and agents have voiced concern over the potential for criminals crossing while resources were stretched.

The practice would allow the government to amass a trove of biometric data on migrants, raising major privacy concerns and questions on whether such data should be compelled even when a person is not suspected of a crime other than crossing the border illegally.

"It's not surprising, given this administration's fixation on villainizing folks at the border, but it reaches beyond them," said American Civil Liberties Union attorney Vera Eidelman. DNA also contains identifying information on their families, too.

Eidelman said it changes the purpose of DNA collection from one of criminal investigation to population surveillance.

A top Border Patrol official recently warned that expanding DNA collection at the border could hurt the orderly processing of migrants. During a deposition in a case involving families separated at the border, Brian Hastings, chief of the Border Patrol's law enforcement directorate, was asked by a judge whether DNA would be a good tool for identifying families.

"Even once such policies and procedures were put in place, Border Patrol Agents are not currently trained on DNA collection measures, health and safety precautions, or the appropriate handling of DNA samples for processing," he said.

DNA collection is non-invasive, and done mostly through a cheek swab to collect saliva, or piece of hair, but proper collection and sample storing require training. It's not clear how many officers will be trained in collection.

Right now, migrants who cross the border illegally are fingerprinted, and those fingerprints are sent to federal databases accessible by state and local law enforcement agencies.

DNA can be taken if a person has been arrested on federal charges and crossing the border between ports of entry is considered a federal crime.

Law enforcement agencies can submit samples to the FBI from suspects who are arrested or convicted of state or federal crimes and non-U.S. citizens who are being detained by the government. The FBI's national DNA index contained over 17 million profiles from arrestees and other offenders, as of August.

Some police departments collect samples from people who are never arrested or convicted of crimes, without a warrant, though the person is supposed to voluntarily provide a sample in those cases and not be coerced or threatened. State and federal authorities typically require a conviction or an arrest before a sample is taken.

The DNA fingerprint act of 2005 allows federal agencies to collect DNA from individuals in their custody, including those who are not American. It's not a requirement, and Homeland Security has not vastly collected DNA samples.

In 2010, then-Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano directed that people held on administrative proceedings not detained on criminal charges and those facing deportation proceedings would not have DNA collected.

Broader sampling “would severely strain the resources of the agency to perform its broader mission,” Napolitano wrote in a letter to then-Attorney General Eric Holder.

The new regulations would install new protocols.

Trump lets states, cities refuse refugees for 1st time in US (Houston Chronicle)

Houston Chronicle [10/2/2019 5:54 PM, Julie Watson and David Sharp, AP, 245K]

When President Donald Trump dramatically slashed the number of refugees allowed into the U.S., he also gave state and local governments the authority to refuse to accept them for the first time in history.

Last week’s move could further undermine a program that has seen an 80 percent drop in the number of refugees allowed in under Trump, who has pushed to limit both legal and illegal immigration.

If governors or lawmakers want to close the door, it could hurt towns with aging populations that have come to rely on young refugees to revitalize their economies.

While conservative states like Texas and Tennessee have sued to halt refugee resettlement or demand compensation for the costs, the mayors of more liberal cities like Austin, Dallas, San Antonio and Nashville have publicly welcomed more people fleeing danger in their home countries.

Trump’s executive order again thrusts states and cities into immigration policy, willingly or not, like when they had to decide whether to work closely with federal deportation officers or become “sanctuaries” that limit cooperation.

The change was announced at the same time Trump cut the number of refugees to 18,000 next year, the lowest level since Congress passed the Refugee Act of 1980.

Trump’s order says the federal government and local officials were not coordinating well and the administration was respecting communities that can’t take in refugees. Refugees have the right to move anywhere in the United States once they’re resettled.

But the new authority for state and local governments could lead to disruptions, disputes and delays, further chipping away at the U.S. resettlement program. The program has long enjoyed bipartisan support and was considered a model for protecting the world’s most vulnerable people because of close coordination with communities that welcomed refugees, advocates say.

“This order is in effect a state-by-state, city-by-city refugee ban, and it’s un-American and wrong,” said Mark Hetfield, president of HIAS, a Maryland-based Jewish nonprofit group that helps refugees worldwide find safety and freedom. “Is this the kind of America we want to live in? Where local towns can put up signs that say, ‘No Refugees Allowed’ and the federal government will back that?”

Fargo Mayor Tim Mahoney, a Democrat, said he hopes North Dakota’s Republican governor keeps the door open. He said his city has 500 job vacancies and needs refugees to grow the economy, as does North Dakota, which has 30,000 unfilled positions.

The city was receiving as many as 600 refugees annually until Trump’s restrictions. Last year, Fargo got fewer than 100.

“I think a lot of mayors will tell you that we’re on the front lines, and we need people in our communities,” Mahoney said.

He said employers call “all the time” hoping for more refugee workers, and the town has had good experiences with them. Many work in health care as caretakers, in the service industry cleaning hotel

rooms or in manufacturing at plants that make windows or computer parts.

"They are hard-working and often work two jobs while they put their children through school," Mahoney said. "Ninety percent are fully employed within 90 days."

Trump's order requires state and local officials to provide public written consent to receive refugees.

North Dakota Gov. Doug Burgum, who considered suing the federal government to demand more say over the resettlement program, did not respond to questions by The Associated Press on whether he would give his approval.

It's unclear whether counties and other government entities also can weigh in, but that could result in the United States admitting far fewer than Trump's already historically low cap.

"It has the potential to paralyze the ability to move forward on refugee resettlement in many places across the country," said Mark Greenberg, a senior fellow at the Migration Policy Institute and a former official in the U.S. Health and Human Services Department, which includes refugee resettlement. He left in 2017.

The International Refugee Assistance Project is considering suing over the policy, which director Betsy Fisher said is "empowering local officials who share the anti-refugee and anti-immigrant agenda."

In 2015, more than two dozen states nearly all with Republican governors tried to shut out Syrians, citing terrorism fears. But they didn't have the legal authority.

A federal judge last year permanently blocked Indiana from trying to turn away Syrians under an order that Vice President Mike Pence championed as governor, which barred state agencies from making payments to a nonprofit resettling refugees in the state.

Trump's changes mean resettlement agencies have been receiving less federal funding, which is based on the number of refugees admitted. The money supports language and cultural awareness classes, citizenship assistance, and job training and placement programs that help refugees quickly become self-sufficient.

More than 51 programs have disappeared in the past three years and 41 offices have suspended their services in 23 states, according to the Refugee Council USA, an advocacy group representing non-governmental refugee resettlement agencies.

Betty Kabbashi, who fled violence in South Sudan, said refugees are grateful to be in the United States and want to contribute to their communities. She's a widow with two children, ages 5 and 7, who works as a hospital interpreter in Portland, Maine, where the chamber of commerce found that foreign-born residents have contributed \$1.2 billion to the metro area's gross domestic product.

"I count myself as an American because this is where I found opportunity," said Kabbashi, who hopes to get her dentistry license. "This is my home."

How Trump's bilateral deals with Central America undermine the US asylum system (Public Radio International)

Public Radio International [10/2/2019 3:45 PM, Tania Karas, 145K]

US immigration officials have already effectively barred most migrants from seeking asylum in the United States. Now, a series of bilateral agreements with Guatemala, El Salvador, and, as of last week, Honduras, is further undermining legal pathways to the US, by cutting off access to the asylum system long before asylum-seekers ever reach the southern border.

The three deals would allow the US to return asylum-seekers to countries they traversed en route to the

US. They would shift the burden of stopping asylum-seekers from reaching the US onto the very region from which most of them are fleeing.

Operational details have not yet been released. For now, they're essentially promises to devise concrete plans in the near future. "The Parties shall develop standard operating procedures to assist in the implementation of this Agreement," according to the bare-bones, six-page text of the Guatemala and El Salvador deals, which are nearly identical.

But if the deals take effect, they would slam the door on most asylum-seekers.

Under the deal terms, the three Central American countries, which form a region known as the Northern Triangle, would take in any asylum-seekers the US sent back there — so long as they are not citizens of those countries. For example, Hondurans cannot be sent back to Honduras, as that could violate the international-law principle of non-refoulement, in which nations may not forcibly return refugees or asylum-seekers to countries where they may be subject to persecution. Unaccompanied minors are also exempt from the deals.

The bilateral deals are the latest front in the Trump administration's all-out war on asylum-seekers who have arrived from Central America over the past year. For the US, the deals are like a fortification, shielding the country from taking responsibility for people seeking international protection. They add yet another line of defense to other, drastic measures the US has recently taken — namely, its Migrant Protection Protocols, better known as "remain in Mexico," which came into force in January, along with a new asylum rule that essentially blocks Central Americans from claiming asylum at the southern border. Last month, the Supreme Court allowed that rule, known as the "asylum ban," to go into effect temporarily, until a lawsuit on the matter winds through the courts.

Global trend to stem migration

The bilateral agreements mirror an international trend in which powerful countries in the global north, intent on stemming migration from the global south, are pursuing deals with transit countries in order to limit migrants' right to asylum. The European Union, for example, pursued a similar, controversial deal with Turkey in 2016 to force an end to the European refugee crisis.

At a conference at the United Nations last week, President Donald Trump said the asylum deals, along with Mexico's own crackdown on migrants "will make a tremendous difference at our southern border."

Human rights advocates, meanwhile, have decried the agreements as dangerous violations of asylum-seekers' rights and threats to their safety: People could be back to some of the world's most dangerous countries, where they would face high levels of violence, crime, corruption and poverty.

"For asylum-seekers, these deals would be devastating," said Aaron Reichlin-Melnick, a policy analyst at the American Immigration Council in Washington, DC. "Many people are fleeing from the situations that exist exactly in these countries."

The deals hold Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador responsible for assessing migrants' claims through their own asylum systems. But all three countries are extremely ill-equipped to handle an influx of asylum applications. El Salvador, for its part, employs a single asylum officer, according to Salvadoran newspaper El Faro, and only 49 asylum claims have been approved "in recent years," the paper reported.

"The US is not taking into account burden-sharing based on the countries' capacity to handle asylum applications," said Cristobal Ramón, a senior immigration policy analyst at the Bipartisan Policy Center. "There's no recognition that future migrant flows will make it difficult for these countries to fulfill their end of the deal."

In that sense, asylum-seekers could effectively be cut off from accessing asylum anywhere if they're sent back from the US. In the El Salvador and Guatemalan deals, the US promises to "cooperate to strengthen" their "institutional capacities." (The text of the Honduran deal has not yet been made public.) But it's safe to say all three countries have a long way to go before they could assess the volume of claims the US could be redirecting their way — which could reach into the tens of thousands, judging by the number who have arrived at the US-Mexico border over the past year. Even Mexico, a much larger country, is struggling to care for some 50,000 migrants the US has sent back under its remain in Mexico policy, under which asylum-seekers are sent back to Mexico and ordered back to the US for their court dates.

'Safe third-country' deals

The deals resemble "safe third-country" agreements, or bilateral deals where one country may prevent individuals arriving at its ports of entry from applying for asylum on the basis that they could have applied for and received international protection in another country they traversed. The "safe country" designation is not necessarily about safety, Ramon said, but rather about whether they'd have access to a full and fair asylum system. The US has tried to pursue "safe third-country" deals with Mexico and Guatemala, but more recently it has avoided the phrase with regard to the Northern Triangle — likely because the rarely used designation is usually reserved for countries with fully functioning asylum systems. (The US actually does have one safe third-country agreement, with Canada.)

But whether the US calls it a safe third-country deal is largely irrelevant, Reichlin-Melnick said.

"Whether they call them safe third-country deals or not, the end effect is the same," he said.

Similar bilateral deals include the agreement between the European Union with Turkey in 2016 to force an end to the European refugee crisis. For every refugee being returned from Greece to Turkey, the EU promised to resettle someone inside the bloc. But few have actually been returned to Turkey due to the cases' high appeal rates in Greece and concerns about asylum-seekers' safety in Turkey. And Australia has signed controversial pacts with two Pacific islands, Manus and Nauru, to operate offshore processing centers for asylum-seekers who attempt to reach Australia by boat — an arrangement Nauru's former president has called a "deal with the devil."

"All these deals are all part and parcel of the same thing, which is to push your borders out — in the US case, first to Mexico and all the way to Honduras," said Demetrios Papademetriou, a distinguished trans-Atlantic fellow and co-founder of the Migration Policy Institute. "And to make sure you hold both an incentive and an implied threat, 'If you don't cooperate, we are going to do something.'"

But a major difference between the EU-Turkey deal is what Turkey was offered: 6 billion euros (\$6,575 billion), not an insignificant sum. The US, by contrast, has offered Guatemala \$47 million to build up its asylum system. It's unknown how much the US offered El Salvador and Honduras.

"There were a lot of carrots in the EU-Turkey deal, and even in the EU-Libya deal and EU-Tunisia deal," he said. "And in our deal with the Northern Triangle countries, there are very few carrots."

US leverage

So, why would Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador agree?

It all comes down to asymmetry of power, said Rachel Schmidtke, a program associate with the Mexico Institute of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars.

"The US has a pretty big leverage over a lot of these countries," she said. "It gives them billions in foreign aid. With Honduras, there's major corruption allegations against the president, and I think they are trying

to get in good graces with the US.”

And the US has already shown it will do anything to force Latin American countries to stop migrants from heading north. In Mexico’s case, Trump threatened in June to impose tariffs on all Mexican goods if the country did not cooperate with the policy. He has also threatened to cut hundreds of millions of dollars in aid to Central America unless the countries curtailed migrants.

“The objective of this president is always short term,” Papademetriou said. “And the short term goal here is to make the chaos disappear.”

Trump appointee who downsized counter-terrorism efforts to resign (Los Angeles Times)

Los Angeles Times [10/2/2019 1:27 PM, David Willman, 3575K]

James F. McDonnell, a presidential appointee who over the last two years downsized the Department of Homeland Security’s efforts to prevent terrorism involving weapons of mass destruction, has agreed to resign.

McDonnell’s resignation, department sources said, comes at the request of Acting Homeland Security Secretary Kevin McAleenan and would become effective at noon on Thursday, according to an e-mail McDonnell sent his staff at 12:57 p.m. EDT on Wednesday.

McDonnell’s seven-sentence memo did not provide a reason for his resignation, saying only it was “time for a new leadership team to take things to the next level.” When reached Monday morning by telephone, McDonnell said, “I don’t have any comment. Thanks for calling.”

Press aides at the department did not answer written questions about the matter. A spokesman for McAleenan, Victor Brabble, said Monday afternoon by email that Homeland Security would provide a statement “as quickly as we can.”

President Trump appointed McDonnell to posts in 2017 and 2018 at Homeland Security, where he has led the department’s Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office and its predecessor, the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office.

McDonnell has faced scrutiny from Republicans and Democrats in Congress in response to reports this year by the Los Angeles Times that brought to light his decisions – including his promotion of a scientifically disputed system for detecting airborne anthrax and other infectious agents that could be wielded in a biological attack.

McDonnell announced in November 2018 that he was aiming to install the new detection system nationwide within two years, even though the fluorescent “trigger” technology underlying it had failed repeatedly in testing sponsored by Homeland Security’s scientific staff.

On July 18, The Times also reported that McDonnell had directed the scaling back or elimination of multiple anti-terrorism programs at Homeland Security, which has primary domestic responsibility for helping authorities detect and block WMD-related threats. The article described the gutting of training and drills, including “red team” efforts to instruct federal, state and local officials on how to detect suitcase-sized nuclear devices or radioactive “dirty bombs” hidden on cargo ships.

Among other programs affected was a unit that had helped lead up to 20 WMD-related training exercises each year with state and local authorities. The unit participated in fewer than 10 such exercises last year, and even fewer so far this year, according to internal Homeland Security documents.

The department’s International Cooperation Division also has been disbanded by McDonnell. It had worked closely with foreign counterparts and the United Nations-affiliated International Atomic Energy Agency to track and stop the smuggling of dangerous nuclear materials overseas.

A statement provided to The Times on July 15 by McDonnell's spokeswoman said that the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office was "focused on preventing WMD terrorism by working with federal, state, and local partners across the nation." The statement also said that "some programs were realigned or restructured to better address threats, remove bureaucratic redundancy, and fully align with [Trump's] National Security Strategy."

McDonnell's decision-making has sparked widespread upheaval among Homeland Security staff specialists. As of mid-2019, more than 100 scientists and policy experts specializing in radiological and nuclear threats had been reassigned or left to take jobs unrelated to their expertise, The Times found, undermining the department's ability to protect the nation from devastating attacks.

The rock-bottom morale within the offices that McDonnell has led may also have influenced McAleenan's decision to seek his ouster.

The annual government-wide Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey, or "FEVS," sponsored by the U.S. Office of Personnel Management, found last year that the McDonnell-led Domestic Nuclear Detection Office ranked last – No. 415 – among similar "subcomponent" offices.

The most recent survey results were conveyed privately to senior Homeland Security officials in September and are soon to be made public. According to interviews this month with department officials who have seen those latest results, morale in McDonnell's newly formed Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office has remained dismal.

On Sept. 24, McAleenan appeared to signal that such negative results might have consequences. In a memo to Homeland Security staff, McAleenan wrote:

"As I pledged when the FEVS launched in May [2019], the DHS leadership team will listen closely and follow through on the feedback you have given us. Your voice will be heard."

The findings of low morale were not limited to the consecutive government-wide studies. Early this year, the office of then-Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen launched an in-depth, "workplace climate assessment" to elicit opinions about McDonnell's leadership from present and recent employees.

The results of that special, previously unscheduled assessment were presented in May to Nielsen's successor – McAleenan. The department has yet to release that information publicly.

Homeland Security official who rolled back some terrorism programs resigns: report (The Hill)

The Hill [10/2/2019 2:26 PM, Zack Budryk, 2806K]

A Department of Homeland Security (DHS) official who presided over the scaling back of some of the department's counterterrorism efforts during the past two years will leave his post at the request of acting DHS Secretary Kevin McAleenan, according to The Los Angeles Times.

James F. McDonnell, whom President Trump appointed to lead the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office and its predecessor, the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office, will leave effective Thursday, McDonnell said in an email to staff Wednesday, according to the newspaper.

McDonnell has faced bipartisan scrutiny amid reports earlier this year that he promoted a controversial, scientifically-disputed system for detection of airborne infectious agents.

He announced last November that the department planned to take the system nationwide in the next two years despite repeated failures of the underlying "trigger" technology in testing stages.

In July, the Times reported he had overseen the scaling back or outright elimination of several DHS anti-

terrorism initiatives, including programs that trained state, local and federal officials to detect weapons of mass destruction that could be hidden in suitcases or “dirty bombs” hidden on cargo ships.

McDonnell also disbanded DHS’s International Cooperation Division, which collaborated with the department’s foreign counterparts and the United Nations’s International Atomic Energy Agency in monitoring nuclear material smuggling.

A spokeswoman for McDonnell told the Times in July that the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office was “focused on preventing WMD terrorism by working with federal, state, and local partners across the nation” and that “some programs were realigned or restructured to better address threats, remove bureaucratic redundancy, and fully align with [Trump’s] National Security Strategy.”

During McDonnell’s tenure, more than 100 scientists and experts in nuclear or radiological threats were reassigned or left the department, according to the Times. The Office of Personnel Management’s Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey found the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office ranked in last place among comparable “subcomponent” offices last year, according to the Times.

The Hill has reached out to DHS for comment.

McAleenan Defies Trump: Border Policy ‘Went too Far,’ ‘Illegal Alien’ Term Has ‘Racial Overtones’ (Breitbart)

Breitbart [10/2/2019 9:31 PM, John Binder, 2034K]

Acting Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Kevin McAleenan openly defied President Trump and his “America First” immigration agenda on multiple fronts in an interview with the Washington Post.

McAleenan, who served previously as Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Commissioner, aired his grievances with various issues in the Trump administration to the Post, at one point declaring regret over the “Zero Tolerance” policy used at the United States-Mexico border last year.

Trump’s Zero Tolerance was designed to prosecute all border crossers, even those arriving with children, at the southern border and to ensure adult border crossers were not merely released into the U.S. interior so long as they arrived with a minor.

McAleenan said the policy “went too far,” according to the Post:

“How can we let these smugglers victimize these desperate families?” he said, describing his thinking at the time. ‘How can we let this flow continue to grow, with more people being victims and more kids dying on this journey, and not do everything in our power to try to stop it?’” [Emphasis added]

“When you see the impact in the six-week period on 2,500-or-so families and understand the emotional pain for those children, it’s not worth it,’ he said. ‘It’s the one part of this whole thing that I couldn’t ever be part of again.’” [Emphasis added]

McAleenan even defies Trump and the administration’s agenda down to the language that he refuses to use in regards to border crossers and visa overstayers.

While Trump and his officials use the accurate legal term “illegal alien” to describe an individual who has illegally entered the U.S., McAleenan said he will not use the term, opting for “migrants” and “vulnerable families” instead because he said the term “illegal alien” comes with “political, emotional, and racial” overtones.

“I think the words matter a lot. If you alienate half of your audience by your use of your terminology, it’s going to hamper your ability to ever win an argument,” McAleenan said of not using the term.

McAleenan discussed his effort for what the Post described as the “battle to keep DHS.” Inside DHS, McAleenan acknowledged that he wants to prevent Trump’s closest allies in the agency — such as Acting USCIS Director Ken Cuccinelli and Acting CBP Commissioner Mark Morgan — from taking full control, telling the Post:

“What I don’t have control over is the tone, the message, the public face and approach of the department in an increasingly polarized time,’ he said in an interview with The Washington Post. ‘That’s uncomfortable, as the accountable, senior figure.’” [Emphasis added]

The messaging used by McAleenan is far from the “Law and Order” and “Hire American” message often used by the president. In his interview with the Post, McAleenan described the U.S. as a “nation of immigrants,” saying the country needs “the energy that diverse peoples bring to our economy and our society.”

Compare that to Cuccinelli’s Twitter account, which he has used to call out sanctuary jurisdictions for shielding illegal aliens, raising awareness about the American victims of illegal alien crime, and the need to crack down on asylum fraud.

One of the longest rumors surrounding McAleenan in the Washington, D.C. beltway is that he is a Democrat who did not support Trump. When specifically asked by the Post if he still considers himself a Democrat, McAleenan evaded the question.

“We are apolitical,” McAleenan said of DHS. “What you privately register as or what you’ve donated as have no bearing on how you conduct yourself in professional capacity.”

Multiple reports, though, would suggest McAleenan is not on board with Trump’s agenda. A New York Times report this week described one instance where, in the face of soaring illegal immigration levels in March, Trump told Border Patrol agents to turn all nationals arriving at the border away.

McAleenan, the report alleges, privately instructed agents to ignore Trump and continue admitting and processing nationals at the border:

“They were right. On a trip to California late in the week, Mr. Trump turned to Mr. McAleenan, the Customs and Border Protection chief, with a new idea: He wanted him to stop letting migrants cross the border at all, with no exceptions. If you get into any trouble for it, Mr. Trump told him, I’ll pardon you.” [Emphasis added]

“After the president left the room, Mr. McAleenan told the agents to ignore the president. You absolutely do not have the authority to stop processing migrants altogether, he warned.” [Emphasis added]

In a more recent case, McAleenan is accused of having leaked raids scheduled by the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency in order to sabotage and stop the plan. The ICE raids would have arrested hundreds of illegal aliens who have already been ordered deported.

Former ICE Director and Trump ally Tom Homan told Fox News at the time that McAleenan was “resisting” the raids and accused him of leaking the details to the establishment media. Since then, federal officials confirmed with Breitbart News that an investigation has been opened internally at DHS to find out who ordered the details of the raids to be leaked.

With the establishment media, McAleenan has taken a more pleasant approach than most of Trump’s officials.

In May, McAleenan hosted CNN’s Jake Tapper for a private meeting, as Breitbart News exclusively

reported. In August, when asked about ICE raids conducted in Mississippi, McAleenan conceded to NBC's Chuck Todd that the "timing was unfortunate" because they occurred before a shooting in El Paso, Texas, where a gunman with white supremacist views allegedly targeted and murdered 20 people.

DHS Chief Says He's 'Uncomfortable' Not Having Control Over Messaging And Tone Of The Department (Daily Caller)

Daily Caller [10/2/2019 1:24 PM, Jason Hopkins, 785K]

Acting Secretary of Homeland Security Kevin McAleenan expressed dissatisfaction with his role leading DHS, noting that he does not have control over the department's messaging, and acknowledged that it's becoming more partisan.

McAleenan, who began leading the Department of Homeland Security six months ago, listed several grievances he has with his job in a wide-ranging interview with the Washington Post. Namely, he lamented that he is not the "public face" of DHS, and, unlike other immigration agency leaders, he strongly hedged against the overt politicization of DHS.

"What I don't have control over is the tone, the message, the public face and approach of the department in an increasingly polarized time," McAleenan said during the interview, which was published on Tuesday. "That's uncomfortable, as the accountable, senior figure."

McAleenan, who touts nearly two decades of experience working in immigration enforcement, was named the acting secretary of DHS in April following the ouster of Kirstjen Nielsen. Since that time, he has cemented highly-coveted asylum deals with all three of the Central American nations that make up the bulk of the immigration crisis. He has also overseen a dramatic decrease in the number of illegal aliens reaching the U.S.-Mexico border, fulfilling a goal of the Trump administration.

While McAleenan has made numerous media appearances and regularly testifies before Congress, he makes it a point of personal policy to refrain from politically polarizing language. For example, he tries to avoid phrases like "illegal alien" because they carry "political, emotional and racial" overtones for a large segment of the American population.

"I think the words matter a lot," McAleenan told the Washington Post. "If you alienate half of your audience by your use of your terminology, it's going to hamper your ability to ever win an argument."

The technocratic approach has earned him support from across the political spectrum. When McAleenan was nominated to lead Customs and Border Protection in an official capacity, he was confirmed in March 2018 by an overwhelming 77-19 vote in the Senate. However, his disinclination for political rhetoric puts him at odds with other agency leaders within DHS.

Ken Cuccinelli, who was appointed as acting secretary of United States Citizenship and Immigration Services in June, regularly blasts his adversaries on social media and in media appearances. Mark Morgan, the acting commissioner of Customs and Border Protection, was appointed to his position after conducting numerous television interviews where he applauded President Donald Trump's immigration agenda.

Immigration hardliners within Trump's orbit also point to the fact that McAleenan donated to Obama's presidential campaign. The two men have some history — Obama was his teacher when he attended law school at the University of Chicago.

Despite the likelihood that McAleenan would win a Senate confirmation vote, Trump has yet to nominate him, garnering speculation that he may be looking for someone else to take on the job. McAleenan, in the meantime, has now served in an acting capacity longer than any other DHS chief in the department's history.

It's unclear if McAleenan has a desire to remain in his position. During an interview in early August, he refused to give a direct answer when asked if would like to go back to his old job at Customs and Border Protection.

"U.S. Customs and Border Protection is my home, my agency, my dream job, but I'm honored to serve in this role. I think there's tremendous capability at DHS that we can continue to improve," he said during an Aug. 11 interview on "Meet The Press." The vague response prompted host Chuck Todd to ask if he wanted to lead DHS permanently.

"I'm honored to serve right now and I'm trying to solve problems. That's my goal." McAleenan said.

"You didn't answer, is that fair to say?" Todd asked. McAleenan agreed it was "fair" to say so.

DHS did not immediately respond to the Daily Caller News Foundation's request for comment.

Trump rips report outlining extreme immigration proposals: I'm 'not that tough' (Politico)

Politico [10/2/2019 2:16 PM, Caitlin Oprysko, 2512K]

President Donald Trump asserted that reports he wanted to weaponize his vaunted border wall with Mexico with features such as spikes, an electric current and a moat are moot.

The president took to Twitter on Wednesday morning to shoot down a book excerpt from New York Times reporters Michael Shear and Julie Hirschfeld Davis, declaring details in the pair's reporting — that he called for shooting at immigrants' legs and turning a U.S.-Mexico border wall into a self-contained weapon — are too extreme for even a hard-liner like himself.

"Now the press is trying to sell the fact that I wanted a Moat stuffed with alligators and snakes, with an electrified fence and sharp spikes on top, at our Southern Border," Trump wrote, initially misspelling "Moat" as "Moot."

He continued: "I may be tough on Border Security, but not that tough. The press has gone Crazy. Fake News!"

In the excerpt published Tuesday, Shear and Davis reported Trump "often" suggested surrounding his border wall with a moat-like trench and even asked aides to look into cost estimates for the plan.

It was one of a slew of suggestions the president made in an Oval Office meeting in March aimed at achieving his goal of halting the flow of migrants entering the U.S. at the southern border, the excerpt said, fueled by Trump's desperation from being stymied on his signature campaign promise by the courts and lawmakers.

Among his other ideas were his threat — which he issued publicly — to shut down the U.S.-Mexico border entirely, his private suggestions that border patrol agents begin shooting at migrants' legs to slow them down, and his idea that the steel slats composing the border wall be electrified and have spikes able to pierce flesh.

In the tense March meeting, the president reportedly upbraided a number of aides and Cabinet members, including then-Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, declaring, "You are making me look like an idiot!"

"I ran on this," he explained. "It's my issue."

Later that week, Trump reportedly told his then-Customs and Border Protection chief to half the flow of all migrants entering the country, promising a presidential pardon if any legal issues arose.

Though Trump reportedly backed down from his more extreme ideas, his frustration resulted in a purge of immigration officials at DHS, beginning with Nielsen at the top and working its way down.

Trump's anger also spilled onto his Twitter feed and into his public appearances, during which he often denigrated congressional Democrats for inaction on immigration. The White House has since tapped a number of federal spending accounts meant for disaster recovery and military construction projects, diverting that funding to his wall.

Later Wednesday, Trump again dismissed the report while addressing reporters in the Oval Office, pleading ignorance and falsely claiming the forthcoming book had been written by reporters from The Washington Post.

He claimed that the first he'd heard of the notion was when his communications staff came to ask him about the allegations in the report, including the moat proposal. "Whatever that is, it's not a word I use but they used it," he said.

Reenacting the moment he was asked about it, Trump told reporters he asked his staff why they were asking "that stupid question" about whether he wanted a moat, launching into a tirade about the Post.

"I said, obviously it's fake, because almost everything The Washington Post does is fake," he claimed, adding later: "Never said it, never thought of it."

Trump disputes report about border demands (The Hill)

The Hill [10/2/2019 11:14 AM, Morgan Chalfant, 2806K]

President Trump on Wednesday disputed press reports that he wanted a border wall with spikes and moat filled with alligators or snakes at the U.S. southern border with Mexico.

Trump tweeted that the press had "gone crazy" after The New York Times reported that he privately mused about placing an electrified border fence and moat at the southern border to crack down on illegal immigration.

"Now the press is trying to sell the fact that I wanted a Moat stuffed with alligators and snakes, with an electrified fence and sharp spikes on top, at our Southern Border," Trump tweeted.

"I may be tough on Border Security, but not that tough. The press has gone Crazy. Fake News!"

The Times report published Tuesday also said that Trump suggested to aides that soldiers at the border shoot migrants in the legs in order to slow them, before being told it was not allowed.

Trump has made border security a key prong of his administration's work. He campaigned in 2016 on building a 500-mile wall at the southern border with Mexico during his first term, a promise that often inspires cheers at his rallies.

Administration officials have acknowledged that a little more than 60 miles of border fence has been constructed since Trump took office. Still, the president and his advisers have recently predicted that at least 450 miles of border fence would be completed by the end of next year.

Much of the newly constructed barrier has reportedly been erected in areas where old border fence already existed.

Trump traveled to California in September to visit a portion of the wall being constructed along the southern border, boasting of the barrier's effectiveness while emphasizing that illegal immigration remains a "tremendous national emergency."

Trump tweeted earlier Wednesday that “massive sections” of the wall are being built.

“It is going up rapidly, and built to the highest standards and specifications of the Border Patrol experts. It is actually an amazing structure! Our U.S. Military is doing a GREAT job,” Trump tweeted.

Trump asked about shooting migrants crossing border in the legs: Sources (ABC News)

ABC News [10/2/2019 12:26 PM, Katherine Fauders, Kyra Phillips, and Anne Flaherty, 2702K]

Video: [HERE](#)

Frustrated with a record number of people seeking asylum at the U.S.-Mexico border this spring, President Donald Trump at one point asked in a private meeting with close aides whether the U.S. could shoot migrants below the waist to slow them down.

The account, first reported in a book excerpt released by the The New York Times on Tuesday, was confirmed to ABC News by a senior administration official who was in the room at the time, as well as several other sources who were later briefed on the conversation.

According to two sources familiar with the matter, Trump in private meetings raised the prospect of shooting migrant families seeking asylum at the border as early as November 2018. He also floated a similar idea publicly at one point, suggesting that rocks thrown by migrants will be considered a firearm and potentially warrant lethal force.

Sources interviewed by ABC News say Trump’s aides discouraged the idea of shooting unarmed migrants and it was never acted upon. But Trump remained focused on the idea, bringing it up again in the private Oval Office meeting in March 2019, when the number of undocumented migrants arriving at the border topped 100,000 for that month alone.

The detail of shooting migrants below the waist are included in a new book “Border Wars: Inside Trump’s Assault on Immigration,” by Times reporters Julie Hirschfeld Davis and Michael D. Shear. According to Davis and Shear, the president also talked to aides about building an electrified border wall, as well as a “water-filled trench, stocked with snakes or alligators, prompting aides to seek a cost estimate.”

In a tweet Wednesday, Trump denied the allegations about the trench and the electrified fence, but did not address the idea of shooting migrants.

“I may be tough on Border Security, but not that tough,” he wrote. “The press has gone Crazy. Fake News!” he tweeted, initially misspelling “Moat” as “Moot.” It was later corrected.

Attending the meeting was then-Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen, who resigned in April. It was widely reported at the time that Trump didn’t think Nielsen had done enough to curb the tide of asylum seekers, which is expected to fall shy of 1 million people this year alone.

Trump’s repeated question on allowable use of force underscores the extreme lengths the president has been willing to consider to address a signature issue for the president. Trump frequently describes people coming across the border as part of an “invasion” and people who are criminals.

Nielsen was replaced by acting Homeland Secretary Kevin McAleenan, who has overseen a reduction in border numbers in recent months in part because of a new policy – initiated by Nielsen – that forces asylum seekers to wait in Mexico while their claims are processed. Human rights groups say the policy has created a humanitarian crisis south of the U.S. border, where migrant families face scarce food and clean water and fear for their safety.

In an interview with The Washington Post, McAleenan expressed frustration with “the tone” on immigration in general.

"What I don't have control over is the tone, the message, the public face and approach of the department in an increasingly polarized time," he told the Post. "That's uncomfortable, as the accountable, senior figure."

"I think the words matter a lot," McAleenan said. "If you alienate half of your audience by your use of your terminology, it's going to hamper your ability to ever win an argument."

McAleenan did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Trump denies report about wanting moat with alligators and snakes at border: 'The press has gone crazy' (FOX News)

FOX News [10/2/2019 12:01 PM, Sam Dorman, 10258K]

President Trump declared the press "crazy" on Wednesday, denying a report that he requested deadly and extravagant deterrents -- including a moat with alligators and snakes -- along the southern border.

"Now the press is trying to sell the fact that I wanted a Moat stuffed with alligators and snakes, with an electrified fence and sharp spikes on top, at our Southern Border," he tweeted.

"I may be tough on Border Security, but not that tough. The press has gone Crazy. Fake News!"

The president was disputing a New York Times report that claimed his officials denied requests to install, among other things, flesh-piercing spikes, an electrified wall, and soldiers who would shoot rock-throwing migrants.

The Times report, published on Tuesday, included an excerpt from a book by two of the paper's reporters. It read: "Privately, the president had often talked about fortifying a border wall with a water-filled trench, stocked with snakes or alligators, prompting aides to seek a cost estimate.

"He wanted the wall electrified, with spikes on top that could pierce human flesh. After publicly suggesting that soldiers shoot migrants if they threw rocks, the president backed off when his staff told him that was illegal.

"But later in a meeting, aides recalled, he suggested that they shoot migrants in the legs to slow them down. That's not allowed either, they told him."

A source who was in the room at the time confirmed the conversation about shooting migrants in the legs to Fox News late Tuesday.

The Times journalists said that their report was based on interviews with "more than a dozen White House and administration officials directly involved" in discussions that took place at the time.

"You are making me look like an idiot," Trump reportedly shouted at the meeting. "I ran on this. It's my issue."

The president also reportedly trashed his then-Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen, who left the administration in April.

The report details efforts made by top White House advisor Stephen Miller to "get rid" of administration officials he thought were thwarting Trump's immigration agenda, which included Nielsen, then-United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) chief L. Francis Cissna, DHS general counsel John Mitnick, and former acting director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Ronald D. Vitiello, all who have since left the administration.

USDA relocation has delayed key studies and millions in funding, employees say (Washington Post)

Washington Post [10/2/2019 7:00 AM, Ben Guarino, 9425K]

The relocation of two Agriculture Department agencies out of the District of Columbia has delayed the publication of dozens of research reports, squelched early-stage studies and halted the release of millions of dollars in funding, USDA employees say.

At the direction of Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue, two scientific agencies — the National Institute of Food and Agriculture and the Economic Research Service — moved to Kansas City this summer. Employees at NIFA manage a \$1.7 billion portfolio of science funding. ERS is a federal statistical agency whose experts study agricultural trade, farming and rural America.

Staff numbers at both agencies have plummeted by about 75 percent since the relocation. At NIFA, the employees who approve the grant paperwork and release funds are gone. The publishing staff at ERS did not accept the reassignment to Kansas City. The flow of research and grants from these agencies has slowed, employees said, piled up behind the logjam of empty desks.

An internal ERS memo obtained by The Washington Post and first reported by Politico describes dozens of delayed ERS reports. Two USDA employees, speaking on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the document, confirmed the existence of this list, which was circulated among ERS managers in mid-September.

According to a statement that USDA's press office provided Tuesday, "ERS has taken important action to ensure mission continuity and delivery of mission-critical work throughout the transition, and as a result, the agency is on track to complete its mandated and calendared projects."

The nearly 40 delayed reports include studies into veterans' diets, honeybee health and the opioid epidemic. Other reports address obesity, international markets and organic foods. These studies are completed but unpublished. Other ERS projects, in earlier stages, have been abandoned.

Laura Dodson, an economist and acting vice president of American Federation of Government Employees Local 3403, the union chapter that represents ERS employees, had been working on what was to be a two-year-long report on the herbicide dicamba. Soybean farmers use dicamba where weeds have developed resistance to another herbicide, glyphosate. But dicamba "has serious negative effects to neighboring farms who don't plant dicamba-resistant seeds," Dodson said. "It can essentially wipe out their whole crop."

ERS is "one of the few places, if not the only place right now, that has field-level data on dicamba drift issues," Dodson said. The scientists who would have been her co-authors left ERS. Dodson will be unable to complete the study alone.

At NIFA, program directors and grant reviewers ensured that unspent funds in danger of returning to the Treasury Department at the end of the fiscal year were successfully obligated (meaning the money has been designated for specific projects). But no staff remain at the agency who are able to approve the grant paperwork or authorize the funds' release.

As a result, tens of millions of dollars in approved grants are in limbo, set aside for recipients but unreleased. Funds for projects supported by NIFA's competitive grant program, the \$400 million Agriculture and Food Research Initiative, also have been delayed.

Michael P. O'Neill, an extension scientist at the University of Connecticut, said he was told last week to expect additional 60-day funding delays, bringing wait times up to four months. "They're great people, and they're going to do the best they can," said O'Neill, a former NIFA program director. "But they have a budget of \$1.7 billion — that's a lot of money to move with a really, really reduced staff."

At the University of Connecticut, some NIFA funds pay the salaries of employees who study water quality, operate greenhouses and perform other agricultural jobs, O'Neill said. Large land-grant universities will be able to weather these delays, he predicted, but he was concerned that historically black universities and tribal colleges may be hit harder.

Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-Mich.) sent a letter to Perdue on Friday asking about the status of NIFA grants. According to her letter, as of last week, funding had not been awarded for several NIFA programs as mandated by the farm bill, such as the Specialty Crops Research Initiative, the Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative, and the Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program (which promotes the purchase of fruits and vegetables among people who receive food stamps).

"With over 75 percent of reassigned employees opting not to relocate, on top of already high vacancy rates, the relocation has left these agencies with little ability to do their important work," Stabenow wrote.

About 70 of 224 NIFA employees eligible to relocate accepted the reassignment, according to an internal estimate, said Thomas Bewick, a NIFA employee and AFGE chapter vice president. Every worker who declined the reassignment was to be fired on Friday, but USDA extended some employees' contracts through March. According to the USDA statement, 38 employees at ERS and 22 employees at NIFA have "delayed relocation orders."

A head count of staff at ERS, conducted by the union, determined that 141 of 181 employees declined to move, Dodson said. Twenty-four people had their contracts extended. Sixteen accepted the reassignment.

"USDA is doing a bunch of different things to try to prevent us from going into mission failure," Dodson said. It has asked employees who chose to retire in September to return to work part-time.

"ERS and NIFA are working to bring people back on by the next pay period," per the USDA statement. Short-term contractors and employees from other agencies in the department also are helping to "ensure mission continuity through the transition."

Two new NIFA employees were "onboarding" in Kansas City, USDA Deputy Undersecretary Scott Hutchins wrote in an email to employees on Sept. 6. "There are approximately 150 permanent recruitments in progress right now for ERS and NIFA," he said.

As of Monday, according to the USDA, 15 new ERS employees and 16 relocated employees were working in Kansas City. Forty-five NIFA employees have relocated to Kansas City, where they were joined by four new employees, USDA said. Seventy-four ERS employees and 19 NIFA employees remain as permanent staff in D.C.

As of Monday, according to the USDA, 15 new ERS employees and 16 relocated employees were working in Kansas City. Forty-five NIFA employees have relocated to Kansas City, where they were joined by four new employees, USDA said. Seventy-four ERS employees and 19 NIFA employees remain as permanent staff in D.C.

[CT] Seven killed when World War II-era bomber crashes at Connecticut airport (Washington Post)
Washington Post [10/2/2019 5:37 PM, Lori Aratani and Michael Laris, 9425K]

Seven people were killed and at least seven others were injured when a vintage World War II-era plane carrying 13 people crashed Wednesday at Bradley International Airport in Windsor Locks, Conn., officials said.

A spokesman for Connecticut Gov. Ned Lamont's office confirmed that five people had died. Individuals with knowledge of the investigation later said two others had died.

There were 13 people aboard the aircraft including three crew members. At least one person on the ground was also injured, officials said. A spokesman for the Connecticut National Guard said that a member of the Air National Guard was aboard the flight and suffered minor injuries. The governor's office also confirmed that two firefighters with the Simsbury Fire Department also were aboard, but could not comment on their condition.

"These are all members of our Connecticut family," Lamont (D) said at a mid-morning news conference. "Our hearts are broken for you right now. We're going to get to the bottom of this as soon as we can."

The Federal Aviation Administration said the vintage Boeing B-17 crashed while attempting to land at the airport around 10 a.m. The plane is a civilian registered aircraft and not operated by the military, officials said.

Images on television and social media showed flames and huge plumes of black smoke at the scene of the crash. The plane took off shortly after 9:45 a.m. according to James Rovella, commissioner of the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, and crew members radioed the control tower about five minutes later that they were experiencing difficulties.

Rovella said officials from the National Transportation Safety Board, Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Department of Homeland Security are on scene. They are being aided in the investigation by Connecticut State Police. Because of the plane's age, it is not clear whether was equipped with a so-called "black box," which would offer clues about what may have gone wrong.

Six people were being treated at Hartford Hospital. At least three were in critical condition, according to Kenneth John Robinson, the hospital's chief of emergency medicine. Two patients were scheduled to be transferred to another hospital that specializes in the treatment of burns, he said. Two other area hospitals are also treating victims.

Family members seeking information about crash victims can call 860-685-8190.

The airport was temporarily shut down, leaving several hundred people stranded, but at least one runway reopened shortly before 2 p.m. Kevin Dillon, executive director of the Connecticut Airport Authority, said the runway on which the crash occurred will remain closed.

Bradley International Airport is the second largest airport in New England. It is located about 17 miles north of Hartford.

The plane, known as the "Flying Fortress," was owned by the Massachusetts-based Collings Foundation, which issued a statement Wednesday morning, saying it was one of five vintage aircraft at Bradley as part of a special event.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with those who were on that flight and we will be forever grateful to the heroic efforts of the first responders at Bradley," the statement said.

It added that its "flight team is fully cooperating with officials to determine the cause of the crash of the B-17 Flying Fortress and will comment further when details become known."

According to the foundation's website, the plane was built in 1945. It was purchased by the foundation in 1996, which restored it.

According to the NTSB crash database the plane was involved in at least one previous crash, in 1987, when it was caught in crosswinds after it touched down during an air show in western Pennsylvania.

The foundation organizes the Wings of Freedom Tour of World War II aircraft and a similar tour of Vietnam era planes. The organization takes part in “air shows, barnstorming, historical reunions, and joint museum displays,” according to its website. People can also pay to fly on the aircraft.

“Our hearts go out to the loved ones of the victims. They and the public deserve to know the facts and causes of this tragic crash,” Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.) said.

Blumenthal said the crash may renew scrutiny of the rules regarding operation of vintage aircraft.

The state’s other senator also offered condolences.

[CT] 7 killed in crash of WWII B-17 bomber in Conn. (San Francisco Chronicle)

San Francisco Chronicle [10/2/2019 5:20 PM, Staff, 2613K]

There were six survivors of a fiery plane crash Wednesday morning at Bradley International Airport that left seven others dead, officials said.

The Boeing B-17, a World War II bomber plane, crashed at the end of Runway 6 while trying to land on the tarmac around 10 a.m., according to the Federal Aviation Administration.

The 74-year-old plane, which carried 10 passengers and three crew members, crashed into a de-icing building and burst into flames on impact, sending heavy black smoke high into the air, visible for miles around the airport.

Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection Commissioner James Rovella said during a press conference Wednesday night that seven people were killed and that six survivors from the plane were in “varying medical conditions” from minor to critical.

He said all but three families of those on board the flight had been contacted, adding that the identities of the victims were not being released Wednesday.

He said identities of those involved would not be released Wednesday.

Rovella said two airport employees were in the de-icing building and one was injured. He said a firefighter was also treated for minor injuries.

Following the crash, some local agencies confirmed they had members on board the aircraft.

The United States Air Force -- which responded in the aftermath of the crash -- confirmed a Connecticut Air National Guard member was on board the plane when it crashed. The agency confirmed the member “suffered injury” and was taken to Hartford Hospital.

“We’re closely monitoring the situation as the investigation proceeds,” said Maj. Gen. Francis Evon, the adjutant general of the Connecticut National Guard. “We commend the swift actions of our guardsmen in supporting the mutual aid response and are grateful for the well-being of our member on the flight. Our hearts are with all of those affected by the tragic accident that took place today.”

Two other passengers on the flight were Simsbury firefighters, the Simsbury Volunteer Fire Company and the ambulance association confirmed.

“Fortunately, both (Simsbury firefighters) were able to escape,” said officials at the Simsbury Volunteer Ambulance Association, which responded to the airport after the crash. “We wish them a very speedy recovery along with all the other survivors. Our hearts go out to the families that lost love ones in this horrible event.”

The plane passengers were taken to Hartford Hospital, St. Francis Hospital in Hartford and Bridgeport Hospital, officials said.

Timeline

The plane took off from Bradley Internal Airport at 9:45 a.m., according to Connecticut Airport Authority Executive Director Kevin Dillon.

Minutes later, at 9:50 a.m., the aircraft crew alerted the tower to trouble with the plane. The crew attempted to circle and land back at Bradley.

Instead, four minutes after letting the tower know of problems, it crashed into the de-icing facility.

“Once it touched down, the aircraft lost control,” Dillon said.

First responders from surrounding towns raced to the airport to provide mutual aid.

According to audio transmissions released late Wednesday afternoon, one of the crew members on the aircraft radioed to the tower that it wanted to land on Runway 6. The tower gives the plane the green light to land on that runway and the aircraft acknowledged the message was received.

Then, one minute later, the tower checks with the aircraft on its landing progress. The call goes unanswered.

“Bradley, we have an emergency on the field. B-17 has crashed. Fire is seen, no other information is available,” the transmission continues.

The tower relays a message to all incoming responding emergency vehicles: “No matter where you are, proceed to the crash via the quickest way available.”

At 10:30 a.m., the fire in the building was extinguished. It reignited about 10 minutes later. It took until 11:35 a.m. for all fires in the aircraft and building to be extinguished.

Aftermath

Barbara Goldstein and her husband had just rounded the curve approaching the airport Wednesday morning when they saw black smoke filling the sky.

“I thought to myself, what could they be burning?” Goldstein said.

They also saw firefighters, but figured it must be some type of exercise, she said. When they got to the airport, they were told that their flight to West Palm Beach was rescheduled for Thursday because to the crash.

“You hear plane crash, but you think a jet,” Goldstein said. “You don’t think it’s a B-17.”

An employee of the Sheraton Hotel at Bradley airport said he saw firefighters racing from the west side of the airport past the hotel. When he heard that people could see flames, he ran outside and shot a video of the blaze on his phone. He said he could see flames and heavy smoke, and saw people standing outside the airport terminal watching.

Windsor officials and the Connecticut Department of Public Health alerted “the public to a potential discharge of firefighting foam into the Farmington River in Windsor” tied to the crash around 2:10 p.m.

"The public is advised not to come into contact with foam they may encounter on the Farmington River or the river banks, as well as to not take fish from the river," officials said. "Additionally, the public is advised to not come into contact with any foam which may come from storm drains, manholes or catch basins."

A state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection spokeswoman said the agency's emergency spill response staff was on scene into late Wednesday afternoon to "assess, manage and contain contaminants released into the environment in the wake of today's tragic accident at Bradley Airport."

Contaminants released include aqueous film forming foam, glycol and fuel, DEEP said. The agency is working with other emergency responders to deploy containment system, including vacuum trucks and booms. The main focus in the effort was on Rainbow Brook, immediately adjacent to the airport.

"While our goal is to contain the contamination in the immediate vicinity of the airport, we did, out of an abundance of caution, notify residents that some contamination may reach the Farmington River," DEEP said.

Awaiting answers

Gov. Ned Lamont said he caught a glimpse of the crash scene while getting to the airport after he was alerted to what happened. He said he saw smoke still billowing in the sky.

"My heart goes out to the families. They are husbands and wives and children," Lamont said. "They are members of our Connecticut family. We will get to the bottom of this as soon as (we) can."

The crash remains under investigation by a number of agencies, including Connecticut State Police, Connecticut Airport Authority, National Transportation Safety Board, the FBI, the Federal Aviation Administration and the Department of Homeland Security.

The airport was closed until 1:30 p.m. and caused 39 flight cancellations and 19 flight delays, airport officials said during a Wednesday night press conference.

The NTSB arrived on scene around 4 p.m. and a spokeswoman said during the press conference that investigators expect to be on the ground for between seven and 10 days as they gather all necessary information, videos and documentation.

"Our hearts go out to the loved ones of the victims," said a statement from state Sen. Richard Blumenthal. "They and the public deserve to know the facts and causes of this tragic crash."

The plane is owned by the nonprofit Collings Foundation of Stow, Mass.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with those who were on that flight and we will be forever grateful to the heroic efforts of the first responders at Bradley Airport. The Collings Foundation flight team is fully cooperating with officials to determine the cause of the crash of the B-17 Flying Fortress," said Hunter Chaney, of the Collings Foundation.

The Collings Foundation, which offered rides on the B-17 for \$400, planned to have two World War II fighter planes and three bombers at Bradley through Thursday.

The plane that crashed, named Nine O Nine, had previously visited Oxford-Waterbury Airport and Sikorsky Memorial Airport in Stratford.

[Honduras] El Chapo Said to Have Given \$1 Million to Honduran President's Brother (New York Times)

New York Times [10/2/2019 9:05 PM, Emily Palmer, 22840K]

United States prosecutors on Wednesday told a courtroom in New York that the Mexican drug kingpin known as El Chapo delivered \$1 million to the brother of the Honduran president — money that had been intended to reach the president himself.

The allegation came in the prosecution's opening statement in the drug trafficking trial of Juan Antonio (Tony) Hernández, the younger brother of the Honduran president, Juan Orlando Hernández.

The president — who has not been charged in the case — has been an ally of President Trump's on security and immigration, but has also faced growing suspicion. United States prosecutors alleged in a recent court filing that he was part of the conspiracy in which his brother was charged.

President Hernández, 50, has denied any involvement in drug crimes and said the allegations against him were made by traffickers angered by his tough-on-crime policies and extraditions.

"All Hondurans know that we have led an unprecedented battle to free the country from the control of drug traffickers," President Hernández said on Aug. 3 in response to news reports about the prosecutors' suspicions.

On Wednesday evening, after reports of the prosecutor's statement surfaced publicly, President Hernández, on Twitter, strongly denied the allegations linking him to the drug lord Joaquín Guzmán Loera, known worldwide as El Chapo, calling them "100% false, absurd and ridiculous," and suggesting they were less believable than "Alice in Wonderland."

He also noted that the prosecutor never said that he had received the money claimed to have been given first to his brother.

The allegation against President Hernández by the federal prosecutor in Manhattan comes in stark contrast to the praise lavished on him by other American officials in recent months. On Sept. 25, for example, Kevin K. McAleenan, the acting secretary of Homeland Security, said in a tweet that the Honduran president was "a strong partner" who was working to "combat irregular migration and transnational criminal organizations."

The case, being brought by American prosecutors, has shaken Honduras deeply.

Thousands of Hondurans leave their country every month — many headed to the United States — after despairing of being unable to build better lives for themselves in their own country. The yearslong federal investigation, involving the country's political elite, reinforces the belief that the government is corrupt and not working in their interests.

After the allegations against President Hernández became public in a court filing in New York in August, Hondurans renewed protests and calls for his resignation. Many carried signs with his initials — J.O.H — and the prosecutor's shorthand for the president — CC-4, meaning a co-conspirator.

In the courtroom in Federal District Court in Manhattan on Wednesday, the prosecution and the defense each featured President Hernández as central to the trial — with the prosecution saying that Tony Hernández had helped insulate the president while benefiting from drug money himself.

"That protection and that control made him very confident that he would never be held accountable for his crimes, that he was untouchable — and for a very long time he was," Jason A. Richman, an assistant United States attorney, said.

Tony Hernández has pleaded not guilty to the charges against him, which include conspiracy to import cocaine into the United States. If convicted, he could face life imprisonment.

His lawyer, T. Omar Malone, told the jury, “You’ll not see a picture of this gentleman at any place at any time with any drugs.” Mr. Malone argued that it was President Hernandez’s tough-on-crime policies that had landed his brother in the courtroom.

Recalling a conversation between the president and the accused, who at the time was considering entering politics himself, Mr. Malone said that the president had advised Tony Hernández not to do so, that the president’s enemies would turn on him.

“You will be the target of their ire,” Mr. Malone recounted of the president’s conversation. Then, looking at the jury, he added, “And that’s what happened.”

Jeff Lichtman, Mr. Guzman’s attorney, also denied his client’s role in the accusations.

In the government’s opening statement, the prosecutor, Mr. Richman, did not elaborate on allegations linking El Chapo to Tony Hernández or his brother. Mr. Richman told the jury that Tony Hernández’s cocaine network had thrived because of his political power in Honduras.

“Mayors, congressmen, military generals, police chiefs — they all protected the defendant,” Mr. Richman said. “They all protected his organization.

“They were all bought and paid for with the dirtiest of drug money,” Mr. Richman said. “And most importantly, the defendant was protected by and had access to his brother, the current sitting president of Honduras, a man who himself has received millions of dollars in drug money bribes.”

Mr. Hernández’s trial, which is to continue on Thursday, is expected to last two weeks or more, a prosecutor told Judge P. Kevin Castel.

[Honduras] US prosecutor says Honduran president took fortune in drug bribes (Breitbart)

Breitbart [10/2/2019 1:57 PM, AFP, 2034K]

Honduran President Juan Orlando Hernandez took millions of dollars in bribes from drug lords including jailed Mexican kingpin Joaquin “El Chapo” Guzman, a US prosecutor said Wednesday at the opening of his brother’s trial.

The president’s brother, Juan Antonio Hernandez — a former Honduran congressman also known as Tony — was arrested at a Miami airport in November 2018 for conspiring to import cocaine into the United States, weapons offenses and making false statements.

“The defendant was protected by the current president, who has received millions of dollars in bribes from drug traffickers like ‘El Chapo’ Guzman, who personally delivered one million dollars to the defendant for his brother,” prosecutor Jason Richman said.

President Hernandez dismissed the accusation as “absurd.”

It “is 100% false, absurd and ridiculous... this is less serious than Alice in Wonderland,” he wrote on Twitter.

Richman said that Tony Hernandez belonged to “a state-sponsored organization that distributed cocaine for years” in the US, with the goal of making millions of dollars, adding that corrupt “mayors, congressmen, military generals (and) police chiefs protected his organization.”

The charges run to four counts. If convicted, he faces from five years to life in prison.

The US government alleges that Hernandez, who served as a member of the Honduran Congress from

2014 to 2018, worked from 2004 to 2016 with others in Colombia, Honduras and Mexico to import cocaine into the US via plane, boat and submarine.

The prosecution also says Hernandez was involved in at least two murders of rival drug traffickers in 2011 and 2013.

Some of the cocaine he was transporting was labeled with his initials "TH," according to US Attorney Geoffrey Berman.

Defense attorney Omar Malone said Hernandez was the target of violent criminals because his brother's administration authorized the extradition of drug traffickers to the US.

He also referenced the cordial relationship between Honduras and the US, which saw the country's president shake hands with his US counterpart Donald Trump at the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

The president of Honduras has interacted with the United States like any other president of any other country," Malone said.

Tony Hernandez, 41, wore a blue suit and appeared calm during the selection process of 12 jurors and six alternates. For security reasons the jurors will only be identified with numbers, as is typical for major drug-trafficking trials.

The judge estimates the trial will last between 10 and 12 business days.

Hernandez's trial comes after Guzman, the 62-year-old former co-leader of Mexico's feared Sinaloa drug cartel, was convicted in February of smuggling hundreds of tons of cocaine, heroin, methamphetamines and marijuana into the United States.

He has been jailed for life, a sentence he is appealing.

US prosecutors have aggressively pursued current or former Honduran public officials and their relatives over drug-trafficking allegations.

The prosecution also claims that several candidates from Honduras's ruling National Party accepted campaign funding from Hernandez, including former president Porfirio Lobo and the current president, who was elected first in 2013 and again in contested elections in 2017.

The Manhattan prosecutor's office filed a motion in August alleging that President Hernandez received at least \$1.5 million in drug money from one of the prosecution's cooperating witnesses for his first campaign, and \$40,000 for the second.

President Hernandez and Lobo have both rejected the accusations, and neither has been formally charged by the US judicial system.

After massive demonstrations demanding his resignation, Hernandez told the UN General Assembly last week that there is a smear campaign against him led by former drug lords furious for having been extradited to the US — an idea echoed by his brother's attorney.

The prosecution plans to call as witnesses five former drug lords imprisoned in the US who claim they were Tony Hernandez's accomplices.

One witness is a former cartel leader who claimed during the 2017 trial of Fabio Lobo, Porfirio Lobo's son, to have bribed Hernandez during his congressional tenure.

Fabio Lobo was sentenced to 24 years in a US prison for conspiring to smuggle cocaine.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement

How ICE Picks Its Targets in the Surveillance Age (New York Times)

New York Times [10/2/2019 5:00 AM, McKenzie Funk, 22840K]

The winter after Donald Trump was elected president, strangers began appearing in a parking lot on southern Washington State's Long Beach Peninsula, at the port where the oyster boats come and go. Rather than gaze at the bay or the boats or the building-size piles of bleached shells, two men — one thinner, one thicker — stared at the shellfish workers. The strangers sat in their vehicle and watched the workers arrive in their trucks. They watched the workers grab their gear and walk to the docks. The workers watched them watching, too, and they soon began to realize that the men were from Immigration and Customs Enforcement. When the workers made eye contact, the officers nodded politely, but they said very little. For weeks, they just watched. Then the workers began to vanish.

The officers got someone at a restaurant in the town of Long Beach. They got someone else in a predawn takedown at the port. They arrested a man early one morning in nearby Ocean Park and spent the rest of that day looking for another in the town of Chinook. Then, another day, they went back to the port for another morning arrest.

The men from ICE made courtesy phone calls to the local authorities at the Pacific County Sheriff's Office before making arrests, and local A.C.L.U. volunteers later obtained recordings of the calls, so it is possible to reconstruct the officers' growing familiarity with the peninsula and its residents. "Yes, ma'am," the thinner one said, in a call recorded that January. "My name is Officer Lonnie Miller with Immigration and Customs Enforcement. We're going to be conducting an arrest out in the Nahcotta boat basin area this morning."

The sheriff's dispatcher sounded confused. "In where?" she asked.

"Nik-oda? Nik-otta? Near Ocean Park," Officer Miller said, trying different pronunciations. The site was named after an 1800s Chinook leader who had been friendly with the white settlers. "Nuh-caught-uh," the dispatcher said, gently correcting him.

The officer continued to struggle in February. "The Nikoda ... Nicotta tidelands area," he said in one call. "The Nikoda boat basin ... Nahcotta. I'm probably pronouncing it incorrectly."

But as spring turned to summer, Miller was learning to talk like a local — "I don't have a specific address, but it's the Port of Peninsula, um, up in Nahcotta" — and he and his partner, a deportation officer named M. Curtis Dietz, were turning their attention to the inland neighborhoods of the peninsula, where the workers lived with their families.

Miller and Dietz could drive from the port to Ocean Park, a village of 1,600 people, in about five minutes. Much of the drive took them along Bay Avenue, a broad thoroughfare that cuts across the two-mile-wide peninsula, connecting the shallow, oyster-rich waters of Willapa Bay on the east side to the thundering surf of the Pacific Ocean on the west side. Small businesses flank the avenue: a hardware store, a bank, a taco stand, a grocery store called Okie's, a restaurant catering to the retirees who have settled here in beach cabins and Cape Cod-style homes. Eventually the officers began spending more time around 1925 Bay Avenue, an apartment complex and trailer park known as Tijuana. They lurked in a revolving fleet of unmarked vehicles — a blue Hyundai S.U.V., a gold Ford Taurus X, a muscle car residents remember as a Ford Mustang — outfitted with aftermarket flashing light bars. Twice in April and twice more in June, Miller called the sheriff's dispatcher to say they were parked just outside the trailer park, conducting surveillance.

The officers were looking for people, and seemingly for specific people. For the peninsula's Spanish-speaking families, this fact led to some urgent questions. How were the officers picking their targets? And how did they find them? To arrest someone, ICE had to know who was who, and who was undocumented, and who lived where, and who drove what — but how could its officers know all this?

As families waited for answers, they hid more often in their homes, drawing the blinds, skipping volleyball games and birthday parties. But life went on. In early June from the safety of one of the Tijuana apartments, a woman named Gladys Díaz Tadeo, the mother of three young daughters, posted a photo on Facebook of her family's latest art project, a smiling piñata in the shape of a cupcake, which her proud 4-year-old struggled to hold up for the camera. Comments came pouring in.

"Que bonitas," wrote one neighbor. "Do you make them yourself?"

Díaz's sister Maria answered for her, "Yes, she makes them she made me this," and shared images of other piñatas Díaz made, including a perfect rendition of the Dalmatian puppy from the cartoon "Paw Patrol."

The cupcake was for sale — \$20 — but there was no immediate buyer, and Díaz's post, visible only to the roughly 10,000 other members of Chinookville, a private buy/sell Facebook group for the region, soon moved down the feed.

It is very likely that Díaz was already a target when she posted the piñata, very likely that ICE already knew her full name and address and license-plate number and social-media handles, had mapped out her family members' names, their social-media handles. When not in the field, Miller, Dietz and their colleagues spent long days at their computers at the ICE office in Portland, Ore., two hours from the peninsula, gathering intelligence and building target lists, some for daily operations, some for nationwide raids like those Trump repeatedly advertised last summer. Because Díaz had been caught a decade earlier trying to enter the country with a fake green card — she successfully slipped in the next day — she would have been marked as a priority for deportation.

On June 23, Miller and Dietz woke before dawn, as they frequently did, and began driving north up the peninsula, possibly from the tourist town of Long Beach, where they often overnighted at the Best Western. The air was still that morning, and the spring rains had finally stopped, and by the time the officers pulled off the road near Tijuana, the sun was coming up. They began watching cars go by. One of the first to pass, a white pickup on its way to the port, was driven by Díaz's longtime boyfriend and the American-born girls' father, Baltazar Aburto Gutierrez, who is better known as Rosas. He recognized the officers and waved to them out the window — an act of quiet defiance. They waved back, Rosas says.

For most of the next few hours, according to the sheriff's dispatch records, Miller and Dietz kept sitting there. At 9:57 a.m., Miller called in to say they were clearing out. As apparently happened in April and again earlier in June, they were leaving empty-handed. But then, 18 minutes later, he called back. "Sorry to keep bothering you guys," he said, chuckling apologetically.

"That's O.K.," the dispatcher replied.

"We're headed back up to Ocean Park," he said. "We think our person is going to be heading over to the Bank of the Pacific."

When Rosas returned home, a little after 10 a.m., he found Díaz loading the piñata — and their daughters — into her car. Someone on Facebook had just responded to her ad. It was a person using a Hispanic name who didn't seem to speak much Spanish, someone she'd never met whose profile picture was of a dog. (When she tried to find the page again a few weeks later, it was gone.)

She was meeting the person next to Okie's at Bank of the Pacific.

"Why don't they just come here?" Rosas asked her. "Gladys, wait, don't go," he yelled after her as she drove off, but maybe she didn't hear him.

Miller and Dietz were waiting when Díaz pulled up to the bank. "Are you Gladys Díaz?" one asked. They showed her a printout they had somehow obtained of her Washington State driver's license. Her girls began to cry. "I don't want them to take you!" the oldest screamed. Díaz tried to calm her. "You don't need to get upset," she whispered. "It's nothing. Let's see what happens."

Some peninsula residents arrested by ICE got to pay a bond — \$10,000, \$15,000, maybe \$20,000 — and were released back into the community as they waited months or years for their day in immigration court. But Díaz, with a previous deportation on her record, would not be one of them. The officers handcuffed her, and 24 hours later, Díaz was in a private detention center near Seattle. Three weeks later, she was deported to Mexico, where she began bouncing among relatives' homes in her native Jalisco, separated by 2,600 miles from her daughters.

The business of deportation, like so much else in the modern world, has been transformed by the power of big data. There are 10.5 million undocumented immigrants living in the United States, according to the Pew Research Center, but there are only about 6,100 officers in ICE's Enforcement and Removal Operations (E.R.O.) division. (The roughly equivalent number of special agents in ICE's other main division, Homeland Security Investigations, or H.S.I., have historically focused on transnational crime rather than immigration violations per se, though this is changing.) There are 50 states for ICE to cover, as well as Washington and U.S. territories like Puerto Rico, more than 3.8 million square miles. There are continuing staffing shortages at the agency, where job satisfaction, while on the rise under Trump, remains notably low. And there is relentless pressure from the White House to deport people. So ICE tries to find efficiencies where it can, and it uses technology — some of it built for consumers, some of it built for spies or the police — to do more with less.

A spokeswoman for the agency said it would not comment on its investigative techniques, and the agency has declined to respond to many questions for this article. But public records make clear that ICE, like other federal agencies, sucks up terabytes of information from hundreds of disparate computer systems, from state and local governments, from private data brokers and from social networks. It piggybacks on software and sharing agreements originally meant for criminal and counterterrorism investigators, fusing little bits of stray information together into dossiers. The work is regulated by only a set of outdated privacy laws and the limits of the technology.

[Editorial note: consult source link for extended commentary]

[RI] Man previously deported pleads guilty to drug charges (San Francisco Chronicle)

San Francisco Chronicle [10/2/2019 3:17 PM, Associated Press, 337K]

A Guatemalan man who had been deported from the U.S. in 2004 has pleaded guilty to illegally re-entering the country and then selling a kilogram of heroin while here.

Federal prosecutors say 42-year-old Eduardo Alvarez-Gamez, of Providence, was arrested in February after selling "significant quantities of heroin" twice within a four-hour period.

Both transactions occurred while Alvarez-Gamez was under surveillance by members of law enforcement investigating his drug trafficking activities.

He pleaded guilty Wednesday to entry into the U.S. after removal and distribution of 100 grams or more of heroin.

Alvarez-Gamez is scheduled to be sentenced on Dec. 20. Illegal re-entry is punishable by up to 20 years in prison. Distribution of more than 100 grams of heroin is punishable by up to 40 years in prison.

[NY] 6 arrested in connection to death of HQ Trivia co-founder Colin Kroll (ABC News)

ABC News [10/2/2019 4:44 PM, Aaron Katersky, 2702K] Video: [HERE](#)

Six alleged members of a drug delivery service known as "Mike's Candyshop" were arrested on Wednesday by police and federal agents and charged with distributing heroin and cocaine, including a dose that killed Colin Kroll, the co-founder of the HQ Trivia app.

Kroll, 34, who was found dead last December at his Manhattan home, was a customer of Mike's Candyshop, according to the U.S. Attorney's office for the Southern District of New York, which announced the arrests.

"As alleged, these defendants operated a covert on-demand delivery service for the distribution of highly addictive and dangerous drugs," said U.S. Attorney Geoff Berman.

The defendants were members of a drug trafficking organization that delivered heroin and cocaine on demand to customers in New York City, according to the criminal complaint. Mike's Candyshop generally operated seven days per week, from approximately 6:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m., with the exception of major holidays such as Thanksgiving, New Year's Eve, and Labor Day.

"This illicit enterprise allegedly allowed people to order heroin and cocaine to their doorstep simply by calling the business phone number with the same convenience as if they were ordering a pizza," said Peter Fitzhugh, special agent in charge of Homeland Security Investigations in New York.

Christian Baez, 33, Luis Meson, 31, Gregoris Martinez, 34, Kevin Grullon, 25, and Joiffrey Urena, 27 of New York and Ariel Tavarez, 38, of East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, are each charged with one count of conspiring to distribute heroin and cocaine, which carries a mandatory minimum sentence of 10 years in prison and a maximum sentence of life in prison.

All six of them will appear before a judge in Manhattan federal court later on Wednesday.

"The NYPD's efforts to rid New York City streets of drug traffickers are greatly strengthened by our close partnerships with the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District, Homeland Security Investigations, and the Drug Enforcement Administration," NYPD Commissioner James P. O'Neill said in a statement. "Anyone who deals in illegal narcotics must understand that the nation's best investigators will stop at nothing to fight crime and keep safe all the people we serve."

Kroll, who was a tech industry guru, rose to prominence after founding the app Vine in 2012.

More recently, he was known for being the co-founder and an executive for the HQ Trivia app, which he co-created in 2017.

[VA] Virginia Officer Suspended for Turning Driver in Crash Over to I.C.E. (New York Times)

New York Times [10/2/2019 7:03 PM, Christine Hauser, 22840K]

A police officer in Northern Virginia has been taken off patrol duty after turning over a driver who was involved in a traffic accident to immigration authorities, an official said, stirring questions about the role of local police in immigration enforcement.

In a statement on Tuesday, Chief Edwin C. Roessler Jr. of the Fairfax County Police Department said that he had ordered an investigation into the episode, which occurred last month, and reiterated policy that officers have no authority to enforce federal law. He did not identify the officer, who was "relieved of all enforcement duties," or the driver.

“As a matter of full transparency to our community — our police officer violated our longstanding policy and deprived a person of their freedom, which is unacceptable,” Chief Roessler said.

“Our county is one of the most diverse counties in the nation and no one should have the perception that F.C.P.D. is acting as a civil immigration agent for ICE,” the chief said, referring to Immigration and Customs Enforcement. “This matter damages our reputation and the longstanding policy that I have stated many times, that our officers shall not act as immigration agents.”

The episode took place on Sept. 21 at 2:46 p.m., when a Fairfax County police officer was handling a traffic accident in the Groveton community south of the city of Alexandria, the chief’s statement said.

The officer found that one of the drivers involved in the accident did not have a Virginia driver’s license, and conducted a check to verify the person’s Department of Motor Vehicles record, the statement said. In doing so, the officer received a notification from ICE that the driver was wanted on an administrative violation warrant for failing to appear for a deportation hearing.

The officer then contacted the ICE agent listed on the warrant, gave the driver a summons for not having a license, and after the person signed the summons, the officer detained the person, the police statement said. The officer then turned over custody of the driver to the ICE agent at the location of the accident.

Chief Roessler said the department’s arrest policy since 2007 and its training had been “very clear” that personnel do not enforce administrative warrants or take people into custody for them. He said that the driver was released from ICE custody after three hours and issued an ankle monitor.

The chief did not provide the length of the officer’s service. He said in an interview on Wednesday that he learned of the interaction through an email to his account, and that after the investigation, it was likely the officer would be back on patrol duties by Friday.

He said that the officers in the department do not have the right to enforce civil matters, which can range from administrative warrants to evictions.

“Once the person signs the summons, they are free to leave,” the chief said. “The engagement should have been over.”

Chief Roessler said that the officer’s administrative leave with pay required remedial training.

Asked about the case, ICE said in an email that its partnerships with law enforcement agencies were “essential to maintaining public safety.” But it deferred comment on the Fairfax County case to the police department there.

The episode in Fairfax County was another example of how the lines between the duties of local law enforcement departments have become blurred with those involved in ICE’s federal enforcement activity, even in cases where there is policy laying out the boundaries.

Some states have laws that limit how much the local police can cooperate with immigration authorities, forming so-called sanctuary cities. In 2017, President Trump signed an executive order saying he would halt funding to municipalities that did not cooperate.

Some detainees have been kept in nonfederal facilities under agreements with ICE. Sheriff Joe Baron of Norfolk, Va., said in a column published in The Virginian-Pilot this week that such an agreement with ICE had recently expired, but he denied that it was under political pressure or over community opposition.

He wrote that his department learned from the newspaper’s reporting that ICE was bringing his department detainees with civil cases and was asked to stop.

“Sheriffs across the country are facing conflict between what a local law enforcement agency can legally do, and what ICE’s expanded authority allows,” he wrote.

Some local governments also provide ICE with license plate surveillance. More than 80 local law enforcement agencies from more than a dozen states had agreed to share such information with ICE, according to the American Civil Liberty Union earlier this year.

Naureen Shah, a senior advocacy and policy counsel for the A.C.L.U., said she had heard stories similar to the one in Fairfax County of local law enforcement turning people over to ICE, even when there are policies that limit such cooperation.

“All over the country there are hundreds of cities that have policies like that, that say, ‘We are not going to act as rogue agents or vigilante immigration officers,’” she said.

[VA] Suspended Fairfax County police officer to return to work after ICE incident (Washington Post)

Washington Post [10/2/2019 4:24 PM, Justin Jouvenal, 9425K]

A Fairfax County police officer who was suspended for turning a driver involved in a traffic accident over to Immigrations and Customs Enforcement has completed remedial training and will return to work Friday, officials said.

Fairfax County Police Chief Edwin C. Roessler Jr. made the announcement Wednesday as the National Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) and conservative commentators criticized the suspension in statements and tweets, while some immigration advocates applauded Roessler.

In a tweet, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services acting director Ken Cuccinelli urged police officers to work with ICE despite the policies of individual departments, while National Fraternal Order of Police President Patrick Yoes said the officer was simply protecting his community.

“All police officers at every level take an oath to enforce the law — not just laws that are politically agreeable to elected officials in their jurisdictions,” Yoes said in a statement. “If politicians don’t like the law, they should make an effort to amend the law.”

Roessler apologized for the incident Tuesday, saying the unnamed officer had violated a long-standing department policy against helping ICE enforce civil immigration violations.

“Our county is one of the most diverse counties in the nation and no one should have the perception that FCPD is acting as a civil immigration agent for ICE,” Roessler said in a statement.

The officer encountered the driver in the Groveton area of Fairfax County on Sept. 21 after responding to a traffic accident, police said. The driver did not have a driver’s license, and a search of the person’s Department of Motor Vehicles information turned up an immigration violation for failing to show up for a deportation hearing, police said.

The officer reported the driver to ICE and held the individual until an agent arrived. The driver was also issued a ticket for driving without a license.

[VA] Virginia police officer suspended after turning in driver involved in traffic accident to ICE, police chief says (ABC News)

ABC News [10/2/2019 3:38 PM, Julia Jacobo, 2702K]

A Virginia police department has suspended one of its officers after he turned a driver involved in a traffic accident over to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, according to the local police chief.

The Fairfax County Police officer, who was not named, was handling a traffic accident in Alexandria on Saturday afternoon when he found that one of the drivers involved did not have a Virginia license, Chief Edwin C. Roessler Jr. said in a statement.

After the officer conducted a check to verify the man's DMV record, he received a notification from ICE stating that the man was wanted for an administrative violation for failing to appear for a deportation hearing, Roessler said. The officer then contacted the ICE agent listed on the warrant and advised the agent "that they were close by," Roessler said.

The officer issued a uniform summons to the man for not having an operator's license, and then "decided to detain the driver through a custodial detention" and turn him over to the ICE agent.

The officer's actions violated a general order for the department that was adopted in 2007, which states that officers should not confirm an administrative warrant of removal for individuals who are not in custody or being taken into custody, according to the statement.

"The majority of such administrative warrants represent civil violations of immigration law," the order states.

Also, officers are trained to not enforce administrative warrants, or detain someone based on such a warrant, and that they "have no authority to enforce federal law." The police department has been working closely with community members and advocates to review its orders, Roessler said.

"As a matter of full transparency to our community – our police officer violated our longstanding policy and deprived a person of their freedom, which is unacceptable," Roessler said, adding that he immediately directed that an internal investigation be conducted "to ensure that all are held accountable for this violation."

The police officer has been relieved of all law enforcement duties pending the outcome of the investigation, he said.

"Our county is one of the most diverse counties in the nation and no one should have the perception that FCPD is acting as a civil immigration agent for ICE," Roessler said. "This matter damages our reputation and the longstanding policy that I have stated many times that our officers shall not act as immigration agents."

The driver was released three hours later and issued an ankle monitor, Roessler said.

As local jurisdictions around the country have taken steps to limit the information provided to federal immigration authorities, President Donald Trump has repeatedly threatened to revoke funding from those municipalities.

[VA] Fairfax County cancels suspension, restores officer who cooperated with ICE (Washington Times)

Washington Times [10/2/2019 5:52 PM, Stephen Dinan, 452K]

Stung by a public outcry, Fairfax County Police Chief Edwin C. Roessler Jr. announced Wednesday that he had canceled the suspension and restored to duty an officer who had turned an illegal immigrant over to ICE.

Chief Roessler said an investigation is still ongoing but he ended the officer's suspension after a "procedural policy recommendation" as of Friday.

"We have one of the best police forces in the U.S. and I have confidence that our officer will represent us

well throughout his career," the chief said in a statement.

A day before he had announced the suspension and publicly shamed the officer, accusing him of breaking department policy by checking for warrants on a person he encountered at a traffic stop who lacked a license, then detaining the man when the county's system showed he was wanted by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Chief Roessler said the officer "deprived a person of their freedom, which is unacceptable."

He also said his department's reputation had been harmed, and the punishment was a way to restore credibility with the community.

Immigrant-rights activists had cheered the chief, saying he was showing solidarity with their communities by taking the bold step of suspending an officer for violating a sanctuary policy.

But offers of assistance and support for the officer poured in as well, and Chief Roessler was harshly criticized for attempting to make an example out of the officer.

Chief Roessler said Fairfax County policy is not check to for administrative warrants of people it encounters but is not arresting. ICE generally uses administrative warrants, rather than judicial warrants, for its enforcement of the law against illegal immigrants.

The officer did check for administrative warrants and when one came back in the county system the officer called an ICE deportation officer who arrived to pick up the illegal immigrant, who was a fugitive after having failed to show for a deportation court case.

[OR] US Attorney For Oregon Announces Massive Drug Bust (Jefferson Public Radio)

Jefferson Public Radio [10/3/2019 12:40 AM, Conrad Wilson, 2K]

U.S. Attorney for the District of Oregon Billy Williams announced a 60-count indictment Wednesday against 41 defendants, who he said conspired to distribute methamphetamine, heroin and cocaine manufactured in Mexico throughout the Portland metropolitan area.

The case, unsealed by a judge in federal court on Wednesday, is one of the "largest takedowns of a drug trafficking organization" in Oregon history, Williams said. He said defendants in the case were facing lengthy prison sentences, including in some cases, life behind bars.

Defendants Samuel Diaz and Faustino Monroy began the drug ring in November 2018, according to the indictment.

The two men "organized, led and ran a vast international drug organization that obtained and flooded our community with hundreds of pounds of methamphetamine and heroin," Williams said.

Both Diaz and Monroy are at large in Mexico. They worked with many others around the region to distribute as much as 77 pounds of meth and 55 pounds of heroin, every week in and around Portland, Williams said.

"This amounts to roughly 600,000 individual user doses," he said.

On Wednesday, federal, state and local law enforcement arrested 20 people in connection with alleged drug ring. Ten other defendants in the case are already in custody, Williams said. The same day, law enforcement executed 13 federal search warrants across the Portland area, seizing several guns, \$40,000 in cash, and more than 20 pounds of various drugs, he said.

The money from drug sales was laundered via international wire transfers through a convenience store on

12441 Southeast Powell Blvd. called Tienda Mexicana Gonzalez Inc., or Gonzalez Bros., according to court documents.

"As part of the money laundering conspiracy, defendants manipulated this otherwise lawful process by using the wire transmitting business services at Gonzalez Bros. to take cash generated from the drug trafficking organization and structure low denomination wire transactions to the drug trafficking organization in Mexico, and to other locations in the United States, under the pretense of legal wire transfers," the indictment states.

The low denominations were intended to avoid detection by law enforcement, Williams said. The operation netted more than \$1 million in less than one year, he said.

The Gresham Police Department brought a lead to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Homeland Security Investigation division, the FBI and the U.S. attorney's office.

"Our detectives often get confidential informants and it came as a result of some of that," Gresham Police Chief Robin Sells said. "Obviously, some of that I can't discuss, but that's where it began."

Law enforcement officials declined to disclose how many agents and officers were involved in the investigation. They also declined to say how many participated in Wednesday's arrests.

Future court dates have not been set yet.

[CA] Cameroon man dies in ICE custody in San Diego (The Hill)

The Hill [10/2/2019 8:25 PM, Jessica Campisi, 2806K]

A man from Cameroon died in U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) custody on Tuesday, the agency announced Wednesday.

Nebane Abienwi, a 37-year-old detainee, was rushed to a San Diego hospital on Thursday after he experienced a "hypertensive event" in the middle of the night, ICE wrote in a statement.

He was unresponsive to questions and appeared to be paralyzed on his left side after suffering from a brain bleed.

Abienwi stayed at the hospital and continued undergoing treatment until his death, ICE said. Doctors said the brain hemorrhage and resulting brain death as the causes of his passing.

He initially went to the border at the San Ysidro Port of Entry, where he applied for admission into the U.S. on Sept. 5 but did not have the right documents, ICE said in the statement. He was transferred to ICE custody on Sept. 19.

ICE is reviewing the incident, writing in the statement that it is "committed to the health and welfare of all those in its custody" and that fatalities are "exceedingly rare."

An ICE spokeswoman did not provide any additional comment to The Hill.

The death marks the first in ICE custody since the start of fiscal year 2020 on Tuesday.

Eight detainees died in ICE custody during fiscal year 2019, with the most recent passing away in early September.

[CA] Man dies in ICE custody in San Diego (San Diego Union Tribune)

San Diego Union Tribune [10/2/2019 9:34 PM, Wendy Fry]

A 37-year-old man from Cameroon died Tuesday in U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement custody, after undergoing treatment for a brain hemorrhage since Sept. 26 at Sharp Chula Vista Medical Center.

Nebane Abienwi was being detained at the Otay Mesa Detention Center in San Diego, according to an ICE news release. He was rushed to the emergency room Thursday after experiencing a hypertensive event in the middle of the night, according to the news release.

BuzzFeed News first reported on the man's in-custody death Wednesday.

The man applied for admission into the United States in early September at the San Ysidro Port of Entry.

According to DHS records, he did not have proper entry documents when he crossed on Sept. 5 through the port of entry. He was transferred to ICE custody on Sept. 19, according to ICE.

Physicians at Sharp Chula Vista provided treatment to Abienwi, who was non-responsive to questions. He appeared paralyzed on his left side and remained in the hospital until he passed away Tuesday, according to ICE.

Medical staff at the hospital pronounced Abienwi dead on Oct. 1. His next of kin and the Consulate General of Cameroon were notified of his death.

Physicians identified the cause of Abienwi's death as brain death secondary to basal ganglia hemorrhage, ICE said.

The agency said Abienwi received comprehensive medical care while he was in custody.

"ICE is firmly committed to the health and welfare of all those in its custody and is undertaking a comprehensive agency-wide review of this incident, as it does in all such cases," a statement from ICE said. "Fatalities in ICE custody, statistically, are exceedingly rare and occur at a small fraction of the rate of the U.S. detained population as a whole."

Abienwi's death is the first in ICE custody in the new fiscal year, which began Tuesday, as BuzzFeed News reported Wednesday morning.

Eight inmates died in ICE custody in fiscal year 2019, according to a review of news releases on the agency's website.

The last person to die in ICE custody was a 37-year-old Mexican national who had been in custody at the McHenry County Adult Correctional Facility (MCACF) in Woodstock, Illinois. Roberto Rodriguez-Espinoza died September 10 at a local hospital, after being placed into ICE custody on September 3.

He died from a subdural hematoma, or a brain bleed typically associated with a traumatic brain injury.

According to an ICE press release about Rodriguez-Espinoza's death, facility staff at MCACF noticed Rodriguez-Espinoza acting confused on Sept. 7 and a doctor ordered him to be transported to the hospital.

ICE is required to post a news release about each in-custody death, a spokeswoman said. The news release is typically posted on ICE's website after the deceased's next of kin and other required governmental agencies are notified.

A February 2016 report from the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), Detention Watch Network, and

the National Immigrant Justice Center, asserted that “egregious violations of ICE medical care standards played a prominent role in eight deaths in immigration detention facilities from 2010 to 2012.”

Citizenship and Immigration Services

Legal challenges aim to derail Trump’s ‘public charge’ rule that could limit path to citizenship for poor immigrants (Washington Post)

Washington Post [10/2/2019 5:54 PM, Abigail Hauslohner, 9425K]

A fresh wave of legal challenges aims to derail one of the latest Trump administration attempts to redefine who is eligible to become a U.S. citizen.

A federal judge in Oakland, Calif., on Wednesday began hearing the first of eight lawsuits challenging the administration’s “Inadmissibility on Public Charge Grounds” rule, which establishes new criteria for who can be considered to be dependent on the U.S. government for benefits, a change that could render many immigrants ineligible for green cards and thus a path to U.S. citizenship.

The lawsuit, filed in federal district court in the Northern District of California on behalf of the city and county of San Francisco and others, argues that the change is illegal and asks U.S. District Judge Phyllis J. Hamilton to put the policy on hold while legal challenges are resolved. The policy is set to go into effect on Oct. 15.

The new rule — which critics say makes the definition of “public charge” so vague and all-encompassing that it will effectively favor only rich, white immigrants — drew swift rebuke from dozens of state and local governments, attorneys general, public health organizations and immigrant advocacy groups after U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services formally announced the policy in September.

“We know that disproportionately it will impact people coming from nonwhite nations,” said Max Wolson, a staff attorney for the National Immigration Law Center and one of the attorneys on the first case. “The other insidious portion of this is that we know it will chill people. The rule is so complicated and so confused that it will result in millions of people not accessing benefits to which they’re entitled.”

A USCIS spokesperson said the agency generally does not comment on pending litigation. In its response to the case under consideration in Oakland, the government said that its new criteria are consistent with the plain meaning of “public charge” and that the plaintiffs have failed to demonstrate that severe harm would result from the public-charge rule.

Hamilton asked plaintiffs to provide further documentation of the harm they expect to result from the policy and expressed concern with the increasingly common use of seeking preliminary injunctions to halt the implementation of nationwide policies, Wolson said. Attorneys have routinely requested the help of federal judges to temporarily halt the implementation of Trump administration policies while they are litigated in court, a process that can take months or years.

Hamilton asked the legal challengers and USCIS to consider the possibility of a preliminary injunction that would not be applicable nationwide. She is expected to decide next week on whether to block the rule from taking effect.

A federal judge in Olympia, Wash., on Thursday is set to hold a separate hearing on that question, in response to another lawsuit filed by a coalition of 13 states. Federal judges in New York, Maryland and Illinois also are scheduled to hear cases contesting the public-charge rule.

The policy, which pertains to people who immigrate legally, is part of a policy-level effort to limit who is allowed to come to the United States and who can stay. The Trump administration has sought those limits by expanding bureaucratic hurdles to obtaining visas, tightening the conditions for asylum, cutting refugee

admissions, banning the nationals of certain majority-Muslim countries, expanding immigration enforcement raids and deportations, and forcing asylum seekers who come across the U.S.-Mexico border to wait in Mexico until their court hearings.

Under the new public-charge rule, immigrants who are in the United States legally and use public benefits such as Medicaid, food stamps or housing assistance — or have at one time used public benefits, or are deemed likely to someday use public benefits — could be considered “public charges,” rendering them ineligible for green cards.

The new criteria provide “positive” and “negative” factors for immigration officials to weigh as they decide on green-card applications. Negative factors include whether a person is unemployed, dropped out of high school or is not fluent in English.

Critics say the rule is likely to reduce legal immigration by slashing eligibility for family-based visas, the leading type of legal immigration to the United States, particularly from low-income countries in Africa and Latin America. They say it could also lead to more deportations as huge numbers of immigrants see their applications denied.

For as long as the term has existed in U.S. law, critics say, “public charge” has been defined as someone who relies on government assistance for more than half their cash income.

The lawsuits argue that the new “public charge” definition deviates substantially from more than 100 years of legal interpretation. They say it will cause significant harm to the health and well-being of immigrant families, as well as the institutions that service them, by leading many to abstain from seeking public benefits that they or their children may need.

The lawsuits also contend that acting USCIS director Ken Cuccinelli — who presided over the implementation of the new policy — does not have the legal authority to hold his position. They also argue that the administration failed to follow the required decision-making procedures, in announcing the policy with little consideration of the more than 200,000 public comments it received as feedback. And they allege that the administration is in violation of the Constitution for imposing a policy with the intent to discriminate.

The government argues in court papers that Cuccinelli’s appointment to his position has no bearing on the rule’s validity.

Another case, on behalf of two college students who came to the United States as children, charges that the administration violated the due-process clause of the Fifth Amendment, because the policy is so broad and does not give immigrants “fair notice” of what actions would make them public charges in the eyes of the government.

CASA de Maryland, one of the parties in the case, said the immigrants it serves “have stopped accepting or have refused to apply for public benefits for themselves and their family members, including their children, because of fear that receiving any benefits will harm their ability to stay in the United States.”

Trump’s Green Card Wealth Test May Dodge Nationwide Injunction (Bloomberg)

Bloomberg [10/2/2019 5:55 PM, Robert Burnson, 5350K]

A Trump administration policy aimed at denying legal status to immigrants who receive most kinds of public assistance survived its first court showdown without being immediately derailed.

But the reprieve may be short-lived given that a federal judge indicated Wednesday she’s open to temporarily blocking the new rule from going into effect in at least part of the U.S.

The challenge to so-called public charge rule was filed by four states, two California counties and

immigrant rights' advocacy groups that all contend it conflicts with existing immigration laws and would drive up the cost of providing health care and other services to immigrants. Similar cases are pending in other courts.

At a hearing, U.S. District Judge Phyllis Hamilton signaled some support for the rule's opponents but scolded them for failing to detail how it would cause harm in all 50 states.

"You have not in my view provided a satisfactory argument on why there should be a nationwide injunction," the judge said.

Hamilton encouraged attorneys to try to craft a narrower injunction and said it must be filed with her by Monday morning so that she can rule by next week.

Immigrant groups launch national campaign to back DACA (The Hill)

The Hill [10/2/2019 10:35 AM, Rafael Bernal, 2806K]

An alliance of immigrant rights organizations on Wednesday launched a national campaign to showcase the benefits of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program ahead of a Nov. 12 Supreme Court hearing on its termination.

The Home is Here campaign will include ads highlighting the contributions of DACA beneficiaries. It will also hold rallies leading up to the Supreme Court hearing in cities across the nation.

According to the campaign's organizers, DACA recipients pay \$5.7 billion in federal taxes and \$3.1 billion in state taxes annually, and are parents to more than 250,000 U.S. citizen children.

"Over the past six years, [The Center for American Progress's] research has demonstrated that DACA works, helping to strengthen national, state, and local economies and unlock tremendous human potential," said Tom Jawetz, vice president for immigration policy at the Center for American Progress (CAP).

"Like every lower court that has ruled on the question so far, the U.S. Supreme Court should halt the Trump administration's illegal efforts to end DACA so that we can work together to build a fair, humane, and workable immigration system that advances the nation's interests and values."

The campaign will also serve as an informational asset for DACA recipients, amid reports that many have developed reservations about renewing their status for fear of government retribution.

The campaign will feature renewal clinics to help the 700,000-plus recipients update their status despite the Trump administration's stated goal to end the program.

President Trump first ordered the termination of DACA — an Obama-era program to give deferral from deportation and work permits to immigrants who arrived in the country illegally as minors — in September 2017, setting off a flurry of lawsuits.

The Supreme Court will hear arguments in three cases, *McAleenan v. Batalla Vidal*, *Department of Homeland Security v. Regents of the University of California*, and *Trump v. NAACP*. In all three, lower courts ruled that Trump's termination of DACA was illegal.

The Department of Homeland Security, which administers DACA, has been forced by courts to continue providing renewals for the program, which grants a two-year permit to its beneficiaries.

DACA recipients, also known as Dreamers, need to be of a certain age, be in school or have graduated, pay a fee and pass a background check to apply or renew their status.

The organizations involved in the campaign include everything from national political progressive groups like CAP, to local civil rights organizations like Maryland's CASA, to big tech-funded immigrant and civil rights organization FWD.us.

Community Change/FIRM, the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights, Justice Action Center, Make the Road New York, NAKASEC, National Immigration Law Center and United We Dream are also part of the campaign.

"The Supreme Court's decision will have life-altering consequences for DACA recipients like me, our families, and our communities," said Maria Praeli, government relations manager at FWD.us.

"Millions of people across the country will be impacted by the decision. Dreamers have shown immeasurable bravery as we fight for the right to continue contributing to the only country that most of us have ever known," she said.

Apple CEO Tim Cook Wades Into Supreme Court Fight Over DACA (Bloomberg)

Bloomberg [10/2/2019 4:00 PM, Mark Gurman, 5350K]

Apple Inc. executives Tim Cook and Deirdre O'Brien waded into the battle over Dreamers, filing a brief with the U.S. Supreme Court in favor of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program.

In its brief, Apple profiled five DACA recipients, known as Dreamers, and said it employs 443 of these people from more than 25 countries. "We are distressed at the prospect of ripping our DACA colleagues from the fabric of our company," the executives wrote. "This issue is a moral one: Our country made a deal with a highly vulnerable population interested in a bright future, and we should keep that deal."

Cook, Apple's chief executive officer, has previously called DACA "the biggest issue of our time," and the company has filed Supreme Court briefs in support of the program. But this is the first time Cook and O'Brien, the head of retail and human resources, have filed their own brief about it.

U.S. technology companies compete fiercely for engineers and other talented workers, and immigrants have been a valuable source of recruits for years. However, President Donald Trump's crackdown on immigration has complicated this hiring effort and increased tension between the White House and the industry.

DACA protects young people who were brought to the U.S. illegally as children. Applicants are shielded from deportation and allowed to apply for work permits. Hundreds of thousands of people have these protections, but the Trump Administration is trying to end the program. Courts have blocked the efforts and the White House has challenged those rulings.

In June, the Supreme Court agreed to hear Trump's bid to end DACA, taking up a politically explosive issue that is likely to be resolved in the heat of next year's election campaign.

Tim Cook urges Supreme Court to protect DACA (The Hill)

The Hill [10/2/2019 4:47 PM, Harper Neidig, 2806K]

Apple CEO Tim Cook urged the Supreme Court to protect the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA) program in a filing submitted under his name with the top court on Wednesday.

Cook was joined by Deirdre O'Brien, a senior vice president at Apple, in arguing that the company's employees enrolled in DACA deserve protection from deportation.

"Apple has filed numerous briefs before this Court, but this is the first time we lend our own names as well," they wrote. "We do so here to stress that not only does Apple care as a company, but we care as leaders, colleagues, and human beings. This is an issue we feel to our core."

"Our interest in this case is simple: We are distressed at the prospect of ripping our DACA colleagues from the fabric of our company," Cook and O'Brien wrote. "This issue is a moral one: Our country made a deal with a highly vulnerable population interested in a bright future, and we should keep that deal."

Next month, the Supreme Court will hear arguments from both sides as it decides whether to allow the Trump administration's rollback of the program, which could leave hundreds of thousands of recipients at risk of deportation.

The program was created under the Obama administration to provide legal protection to immigrants, often referred to as "Dreamers," who were brought to the U.S. as children and grew up here.

Cook and O'Brien wrote that Apple employs 443 Dreamers and that the company sought out and hired them after the DACA was created, "relying on the commitment our government made to them." In the brief, they described the lives and careers of five of those employees.

"We collectively owe it to the Dreamers to hold up our end of the bargain. It is not just a legal requirement," they wrote. "It is the moral thing to do."

The Supreme Court will hear oral arguments in the case on Nov. 12.

Apple employs 443 DACA recipients. Tim Cook is taking a stand (CNN)

CNN [10/2/2019 5:51 PM, Clare Duffy, 6094K]

Apple is taking a public stand against the Trump administration's position on one of America's thorniest immigration issues.

In an unusually direct show of support for Dreamers from a major public company, Apple and CEO Tim Cook said undocumented immigrants who came to the United States as children have made an outsize contribution at Apple. The statement came in a "friend of the court" filing in cases pending at the US Supreme Court.

Apple (AAPL) said it employs 443 Dreamers in 36 states, coming from 25 countries. That number is up from the 250 Apple announced in 2017.

"We did not hire them out of kindness or charity," Apple said in the court filing. "We did it because Dreamers embody Apple's innovation strategy. They come from diverse backgrounds and display a wide range of skills and experiences that equip them to tackle problems from different perspectives."

The Obama administration approved the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, program in 2012 after unsuccessful efforts in Congress to pass a measure that would allow children of undocumented immigrants brought into the country illegally to avoid deportation. In an executive action, the Trump administration rescinded DACA in September 2017. That faced several legal challenges and will soon be taken up by the Supreme Court.

In its filing, Apple relayed anecdotes about the lives and work of five Dreamers who work at Apple, all told anonymously because they "fear retribution." One was identified in the document as D.O., who Apple said was brought by his mother to the United States from Mexico as an 8-year-old.

"I think the adversity I faced led me to develop a really strong work ethic that allowed me to succeed," D.O. says in the court document. "I attended a college program where you could graduate with your bachelor's in three years instead of four — but that meant no breaks, no summers off."

Apple said Dreamers' unique backgrounds bring tangible skills to the company that make it more successful. It also made a moral case for preserving DACA, arguing Dreamers came to our country as

children through no fault of their own.

"Our country has enjoyed unparalleled success by welcoming people from around the world who seek to make a better life for themselves and their families, no matter their backgrounds," the company said. "As a group, they tend to display levels of determination and resolve that would be the pride of any business. We could tell you 443 stories to illustrate these attributes."

Immigrants help drive the vitality of the American labor force. And President Donald Trump's attempts to crack down on immigration have drawn strong criticism from many quarters of the business community.

In January 2018, after Trump moved to rescind DACA, executives from more than 100 companies — Apple among them — cosigned a letter calling on Congress to save the program.

In 2017, the first year of Trump's presidency, Trump's ban on travel to the United States targeting primarily mostly Muslim-majority countries alienated many business leaders. At that time, Cook also issued a letter saying Apple did not support the policy and would support employees from those countries.

"Apple would not exist without immigration," he said in the 2017 letter.

[CA] Judge looks down on denying legal status to immigrants who take public benefits (San Francisco Chronicle)

San Francisco Chronicle [10/2/2019 8:07 PM, Bob Egelko, 337K]

The Trump administration's plan to deny legal status and work permits to noncitizens who accept public benefits, like food stamps and Medicaid, got a chilly reception Wednesday from a federal judge in Oakland, who indicated she was likely to stop it from taking effect in California and several other states.

At issue is the meaning of a federal law that bars some immigrants from acquiring legal residency, or from entering the country with visas for students, employees or tourists, if they are likely to become a "public charge." That term, under current law, refers to the relatively small number of migrants who receive a certain percentage of their income from government sources, such as welfare or Social Security, or who are getting long-term care at government expense.

Under the new regulation, announced Sept. 21 and scheduled to take effect Oct. 15, anyone who has received food stamps, Medicaid or a low-income housing voucher for a year would be considered a public charge, and those receiving aid for lesser periods could also be put in that category by immigration officials. Low incomes, large families and old age would also be considered negative factors. And noncitizens seeking to enter on visas would be excluded if federal officials decided they were likely to use public benefits.

The change is consistent with long-standing government policy that "public benefits not constitute an incentive to immigration," Justice Department attorney Ethan Davis said at Wednesday's nearly three-hour hearing.

But U.S. District Judge Phyllis Hamilton said presidential administrations have interpreted the law in the opposite way "for at least 20 years," under federal immigration guidelines that defined a public charge as someone "primarily" dependent on government benefits. She cited the 1996 federal immigration law, in which congressional Republicans tried, unsuccessfully, to include provisions like those the Trump administration is now proposing.

Hamilton also said the administration had failed to respond properly to the many thousands of critical public comments on the proposed regulation, or to justify its claim that the change would strengthen public health and safety. And she said it would be "no hardship on the government ... to continue to do what it has been doing" under current rules while the court case proceeds.

If she issues an injunction next week, Hamilton said, she will probably limit it to California and the states that joined its lawsuit, Maine, Oregon and Pennsylvania, along with the District of Columbia. She said the plaintiffs in the case — which also include San Francisco, Santa Clara County and a number of immigrant-support groups — had not yet shown why they were entitled to a nationwide injunction. Similar suits are pending in at least four other states.

Plaintiffs' lawyers said the proposed rules are already harming public health by making immigrants fearful of the consequences of seeking government-funded medical care.

There is “fear and confusion in the communities” and “declines in enrollment” in programs such as Medi-Cal, said San Francisco’s lawyer, Deputy City Attorney Matthew Goldberg. Under the Trump administration’s estimate that 2.5% of households with noncitizens would drop out of benefit programs, Goldberg said, local and state governments would lose many millions of dollars in federal funds and would have to expand their own health care and nutrition programs to fill the gap.

[China] Other Nations Lure Chinese Students as the U.S. Turns Them Away (Bloomberg)

Bloomberg [10/2/2019 4:00 PM, Bruce Einhorn and Jinshan Hong, 5350K]

In the heart of Sydney’s financial district, sandwiched between the offices of law firms and fund managers, the smartly refurbished classrooms of King’s Own Institute are ready for a major intake of students. There are banks of white desks and tables lined with Dell computers and Lenovo laptops. But there’s barely an Australian anywhere on campus.

With more than 2,400 students—almost all of them from abroad—studying for bachelor’s and master’s degrees in subjects such as business, accounting, and information technology, KOI is at the forefront as schools worldwide pursue Chinese students who increasingly are seeking alternatives to studying in the U.S. China Education Group Holdings Ltd., an operator of nine postsecondary schools across six Chinese provinces, announced the A\$128 million (\$86 million) purchase of KOI on Sept. 23, a deal that should boost KOI’s appeal in China, according to the school’s chief executive officer, Douglas Hinchliffe.

Companies such as China Education are expanding to meet the needs of students and their parents who think overseas degrees provide an edge in China’s competitive job market. The U.S. has long been the most popular destination, with many of the mainland’s top political and business leaders sending their children to Ivy League institutions. But as President Trump’s confrontation with Beijing over trade and security makes pursuing a U.S. education more difficult, Chinese students are increasingly considering schools in other English-speaking countries. China’s for-profit education companies are following suit.

“There is a shift,” says Jerry He, executive vice chairman of Bright Scholar Education Holdings Ltd., based in the southern Chinese city of Foshan. Bright Scholar in the past year has purchased more than a dozen boarding and language schools, with U.K. campuses in Cambridge, Canterbury, and London. “With the tensions between the two countries, things that have happened in the news made some Chinese parents hesitant, and they have had second thoughts about where they will send their kids.”

The number of Chinese undergraduates accepted to British schools increased 10.4% last year, to 10,180, according to the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service, a nonprofit that works with almost 400 schools in the U.K. The number of Chinese students applying jumped 30%, to more than 19,700.

Much is at stake for U.S. institutions, many of which have welcomed the influx of Chinese students, who typically pay full tuition. Chinese students in the U.S. generated \$22 billion in total economic impact last year, according to Rahul Choudaha, executive vice president of global engagement and research at Studyportals, a consulting firm headquartered in the Netherlands.

China is still the largest source of international students in the U.S., accounting for about a third of the total, but America’s appeal is weakening. The country issued 101,000 student visas to Chinese applicants in the fiscal year ended September 2018, according to U.S. State Department data, down from 152,000 in

2016.

The Trump administration has fueled that decline, restricting access to student visas because of worries about Chinese spies posing as students or researchers. The Justice Department on Sept. 16 announced the arrest of a Fort Lee, N.J., resident on charges of helping Chinese fraudulently obtain research scholar visas. In August, the U.S. indicted a professor at the University of Kansas for allegedly hiding work he performed for a Chinese university.

The same month, nine Chinese students attempting to return to Arizona State University were denied entry by immigration officers at Los Angeles International Airport. The students were all in good academic standing but are still in China; the university hasn't received an explanation, ASU President Michael Crow said in a Sept. 19 statement.

The crackdown has hit home for a Cornell undergraduate who asked that his name not be disclosed for fear of retribution from U.S. immigration authorities. In June, U.S. Customs and Border Protection denied his entry and canceled his student visa. He's managed to get a new visa and is back at Cornell, for now. "I more and more feel I don't want to stay in the U.S.," he says.

With China's education ministry in June warning students in the U.S. to be vigilant because of the increased restrictions, more Chinese want to find alternatives to the U.S., says Sun Yiding, CEO of Beijing-based RISE Education Cayman Ltd., which organizes study abroad tours. This year the numbers for RISE's U.K. tours "increased significantly," Sun says.

Other countries are trying to become more welcoming. British Prime Minister Boris Johnson's government in September announced it would soon allow foreign students who study in the U.K. to work there for two years after graduation, reversing a policy from 2012 that had forced those students to leave the country within four months of completing their studies. Canada in February unveiled a policy that would make it easier for foreign graduates of Canadian schools to receive work permits. And in Australia, the government gave work visas to 64,000 foreign graduates for the year ended in June, almost triple the figure for 2014.

"This is a very competitive market, and as U.S.-China relations take on a negative tinge, our friends in Australia and the U.K. are perfectly willing to take on Chinese students," says Ted Mitchell, president of the American Council on Education, which represents 1,700 colleges and universities.

Bright Scholar began its shopping last year with the purchase of Bournemouth Collegiate School in Dorset, England, for an undisclosed sum. The company followed up in June, buying two more British schools for a total £38 million (\$47 million), and a month later announced the acquisition of 18 schools, including seven secondary schools, in the U.K., Canada, and the U.S. for £150 million.

Some Chinese education companies have backed away from their U.S. expansion plans. Beijing Kaiwen Education Technology Co. this summer gave up on an attempt to purchase Westminster Choir College in Princeton, N.J., a branch of Rider University, after encountering strong opposition from alumni and faculty.

Still, Chinese companies aren't giving up on the U.S. market. Among the schools acquired by Bright Scholar is a private high school on more than 20 acres in Braintree, Mass. In nearby Boston, Beijing-based Ambow Education Holding Ltd. owns Bay State College, a for-profit institution it acquired in 2017 as a destination for some of its students from China who want U.S. degrees. Ambow also expects this year to purchase another for-profit college, New School of Architecture and Design in San Diego, according to CEO Jin Huang.

Even with the chill in bilateral relations, Huang says, the appeal of an American degree will remain strong. "After studying in the U.S., they have a better chance to find a better job compared to other countries," she says.

Customs and Border Protection

US halts import of goods that may have been made with forced labor (The Hill)

The Hill [10/2/2019 9:31 AM, Tal Axelrod, 2806K]

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) this week barred the import of goods from five countries in an attempt to curb forced labor abroad.

With five Withhold Release Orders (WRO) announced Tuesday, CBP declared it would halt the import of a series of products, including rough diamonds, gold and disposable rubber gloves, that come from China, Malaysia, Zimbabwe, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Brazil.

"A major part of CBP's mission is facilitating legitimate trade and travel," said acting CBP Commissioner Mark Morgan. "CBP's issuing of these five withhold release orders shows that if we suspect a product is made using forced labor, we'll take that product off U.S. shelves."

"CBP is firmly committed to identifying and preventing products made with the use of forced labor from entering the stream of U.S. Commerce," added Brenda Smith, executive assistant commissioner, CBP Office of Trade. "The effort put into investigating these producers highlights CBP's priority attention on this issue. Our agency works tirelessly behind the scenes to investigate and gather information on forced labor in global supply chains."

U.S. law prohibits the import of goods that are made wholly or in part by forced labor, which CBP classifies as including convict labor, indentured labor and forced or indentured child labor.

According to the agency's data, CBP has issued just one other WRO in 2019, which was against tuna and tuna products.

To start an investigation, CBP says it needs information that reasonably, but not conclusively, suggests that a product was produced by forced labor. The agency said it gathers evidence from news reports and tips from the public or trade community.

Importers accused of using forced labor can choose to either export their products or submit information to CBP to prove that forced labor was not used in order to have the goods released into the U.S.

The U.S. has had a ban on the import of goods that were produced by forced labor since 1930, but enforcement of the law was not consistent until Congress changed the law in 2016, according to the law firm Arnold & Porter.

Brandon Judd breaks down the biggest misconceptions about the border (FOX News)

FOX News [10/2/2019 1:24 PM, Julia Musto, 10258K] Video: [HERE](#)

Border Patrol Union president Brandon Judd said Wednesday on "Fox & Friends: First" that many misconceptions have circulated about border security and President Trump's border wall.

Judd pointed out three separate falsehoods: That the president has exaggerated the issue of illegal immigration in America, that danger in a migrant's home country counts toward asylum, and that Central Americans are the only ones coming through the border.

"That's extremely disappointing when you hear the mainstream media and the liberal left politicians that are talking about an exaggerated crisis, when the crisis was bigger than nearly any crisis I've seen on the border in 22 years as a border patrol agent," Judd told host Heather Childers.

"What President Trump was saying is absolutely the truth," he said, pointing to record numbers of family units, unaccompanied minors and people from countries "we just hadn't dealt with before!"

Judd added: "He put the pressure on Mexico to cut deals that any of his predecessors would have loved to have had. And, because of those deals, those numbers have dropped... in spite of Congress."

Judd said that around 90 percent of asylum-seekers coming to the United States' border are ultimately denied asylum and that danger just "isn't enough" of a reason to be granted entry to the U.S. via asylum.

"That you've been targeted for a specific reason. That's what qualifies for asylum," he clarified.

Lastly, Judd told Childers that people have been detained from all over the world at the border, not just from Central America.

"We deal with people that come across the border from everywhere, and if we don't have those physical barriers, that 65 miles in the Rio Grande Valley, Texas. ... If we don't have that we're not able to be as effective as what we should be," he stated.

"All you have to do is look at where we built physical barriers where we didn't have them before, and the numbers have dropped exponentially."

On Monday, the United States government awarded three contracts worth more than \$812.6 million for the construction of approximately 65 miles of new border wall along the lower Rio Grande in South Texas. Construction on the new wall is expected early next year.

The sector is reportedly the U.S. Customs and Border Protection's busiest, accounting for about 40 percent of immigrant apprehensions, according to the Associated Press.

Meanwhile, a piece in The New York Times claimed that the president had floated the idea of installing a "water-filled trench" with deadly reptiles or shooting migrants in the legs to slow them down. A source who was in the room at the time confirmed the conversation about shooting migrants in the legs to Fox News late Tuesday.

However, on Wednesday morning the president took to Twitter to dispute the claims.

"Now the press is trying to sell the fact that I wanted a Moat stuffed with alligators and snakes, with an electrified fence and sharp spikes on top, at our Southern Border," he tweeted.

"I may be tough on Border Security, but not that tough. The press has gone Crazy. Fake News!"

[MD] Border Patrol Asks Judge To Dismiss Havre Discrimination Case (Montana Public Radio)

Montana Public Radio [10/3/2019 12:15 AM, Corin Cates-Carney, 5K]

Lawyers for United States Customs and Border Protection asked a federal judge in Great Falls on Wednesday to toss out a case involving a federal agent questioning two women for speaking Spanish in Havre.

MTPR's Corin Cates-Carney was at the courthouse and shared his reporting with YPR News' Nicky Ouellet.

Nicky Ouellet: Corin, can you give us a little refresher on what this case is about?

Corin Cates-Carney: Sure. Ana Suda and Martha Hernandez are suing Customs and Border Protection because they say they were illegally detained and singled out because of their race. An agent first questioned them last May because he heard them speaking Spanish in a convenience store, and the women recorded part of that interaction.

On a recording, a woman can be heard asking why they were being asked for their IDs. An agent responds: "Ma'am the reason I asked you for your IDs is because I came in here and I saw that you guys were speaking Spanish, which is very unheard of up here."

Cates-Carney: Clips of that video went viral and sparked coverage from national outlets, and it was shared by the American Civil Liberties Union and the ACLU of Montana, which are representing Suda and Hernandez in the case.

Ouellet: Is there more context for what's going on during this scene?

Cates-Carney: Suda and Hernandez were on their way home from their local gym in Havre and stopped at a convenience store to pick up some milk and eggs. And while they were shopping they were talking. They both grew up speaking Spanish, and that's what they were speaking when a border patrol agent overheard them in the store. Paul O'Neal goes on to ask them where they were born and to see their IDs, which they hand over. And then they go outside and stand by the agent's car. And court documents say they were detained for about 40 minutes.

Ouellet: Are Suda and Hernandez American citizens?

Cates-Carney: Yes, they were both born in the U.S. Suda is from Texas and Hernandez was born in California. And they moved to Montana in 2010 and 2014, respectively.

Ouellet: So they're saying that they were singled out because of race. What was the government's argument Wednesday to have their case tossed out?

Cates-Carney: Today's argument was about a motion from the government to dismiss the case, like you said. The United States lawyers say that the women can't show the likelihood of substantial, immediate and irreparable injury without the court stepping in. Basically, they're saying that the agent questioning them last year about speaking Spanish doesn't show a pattern of something that could harm them into the future. The government's argument is that this is one incident; they were stopped once in the time that they've lived in Havre, and this one incident isn't enough to require the court to step in.

Ouellet: What about Suda and Hernandez? What do they have to say about that?

Cates-Carney: They weren't in court. The ACLU argued on their behalf, and the ACLU says there are enough dots to kind of give us a bigger picture of what's going on. And a court document says that on a separate occasion the two women were out dancing and a border agent at the bar took a photo of them and sent it to other agents saying that "there are two Mexicans at the bar." And the ACLU argues that the only reason the agents didn't detain Suda and Hernandez at that time was because the agents got a message back saying that the women were friends of one of the agents' wife. And the government says that supposes a lot about that incident, and it's not enough to show there is a pattern to connect dots, that it's not enough to ask the court to step in.

Ouellet: Did the judge make a ruling on the dismissal motion on Wednesday?

Cates-Carney: No he didn't, and a timeline for that is not clear. The ACLU says if federal Judge Brian Morris allows the case to continue that's when they'll be able to ask for things that could help boost their argument, like discovering potential official or unofficial policies, possibly policies made in the last few years within the border agency that might have prompted agent O'Neal to approach the women because he heard them speaking Spanish.

It's also worth mentioning that while this case had unfolded the women say they've been shunned and excluded by some people in Havre, and they say they no longer feel comfortable speaking Spanish in public. ACLU attorneys say it's unclear if the women will stay in the area in the future.

Ouellet: Corin, thanks so much for sharing your reporting with us.

Cates-Carney: Sure thing.

[Editorial note: consult audio at source link]

[CA] Teenage Women Caught With Almost \$70,000 Worth Of Meth At Border Checkpoint (Daily Caller)

Daily Caller [10/2/2019 4:27 PM, Matt M. Miller, 785K]

Two teenage women were caught with nearly \$70,000 worth of methamphetamine in their car at a San Diego Border Patrol checkpoint Saturday.

The two women were stopped by San Diego Sector Border Patrol agents at approximately noon at an Interstate 8 checkpoint, according to a Customs and Border Protection (CBP) press release. Officers reportedly ordered their 2008 Saturn Aura to a secondary inspection area after questioning the drivers.

A K-9 at the secondary inspection area alerted officers to the rear tire of the vehicle, prompting a search in which officers noticed “discrepancies” on the undercarriage of the vehicle, according to the press release.

Officers discovered 48 plastic-wrapped bundles of crystal methamphetamine hidden in “an aftermarket compartment” above the gas tank, according to the press release. The total haul weighed 29.28 pounds and had an estimated street value of \$67,344.

Both suspects are reportedly 19-year-old U.S. citizens. Officers placed the two under arrest, and handed the crystal meth over to the Drug Enforcement Administration. The vehicle was seized by CBP.

“Checkpoints deny major routes of egress from the borders to smugglers intent on delivering people, drugs and other contraband to the interior of the United States,” CBP spokesman Ralph DeSio told the Daily Caller News Foundation in a statement.

“This approach, along with additional resources in the form of technology, border fencing and personnel, and stronger partnerships with international, state, local and tribal law enforcement and local communities has resulted in a significant decline in illegal cross border activity,” DeSio continued.

The San Diego Sector Border Patrol has seized approximately 3,889 pounds of methamphetamine in the past year, valued at \$8,944,700, according to the release.

[CA] Mother with young son caught smuggling 67 pounds of meth on I-8, Border Patrol says (San Diego Union Tribune)

San Diego Union Tribune [10/2/2019 7:27 PM, Alex Riggins]

Border Patrol agents arrested a 25-year-old mother Tuesday night at a freeway checkpoint in Pine Valley after allegedly finding nearly 68 pounds of methamphetamine inside the SUV she was driving in with her 6-year-old son.

The woman, a Mexican citizen, pulled up to the Interstate 8 checkpoint around 9 p.m. driving a 1999 Ford Expedition, Border Patrol officials said in a statement. Agents at the checkpoint sent her to a secondary inspection area, where a drug-sniffing dog zeroed in on the rear door of the SUV.

Agents searched the inside panels of the Expedition and a spare tire, turning up 65 bundles of crystal methamphetamine with a total weight of 67.68 pounds, authorities said.

Officials said the estimated street value of the drugs was more than \$179,000.

Agents arrested the mother, placed the boy with Child Protective Services, seized the SUV and turned over the drugs to the San Diego Sheriff's Department, officials said.

Federal Emergency Management Agency

Hurricane Recovery in U.S. Virgin Islands Lags Puerto Rico's (Bloomberg)

Bloomberg [10/2/2019 3:10 PM, Alexandre Tanzi, 5350K]

Puerto Rico's economy has shown considerable signs of improvement after the hit from hurricanes Irma and Maria two years ago, while the U.S. Virgin Islands economy remains "mired in a deep slump."

That's the finding in new report by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, which found that the compositions of those territorial economies helps explain their contrasting economic performances.

"While Puerto Rico's economy is fairly diversified, with some sizable industries engaged in manufacturing, business services, and so forth, the Virgin Islands' economy is much more based on tourism," research officer Jason Bram wrote in a report released Wednesday. Both territories are part of the reserve bank district, plus New York State, southwestern Connecticut, and northern New Jersey.

No Recovery

Recovery in tourism-related industries like leisure and hospitality, which were the most devastated by the storms, has been particularly uneven as the Virgin Islands has been slowest to come back, Bram said. Employment in the industry -- a key driver for the Virgin Islands economy in particular -- is especially depressed there though also below pre-storm levels in Puerto Rico.

"In contrast, Puerto Rico's professional and business services sector has seen substantial job gains since the hurricane," Bram said, noting that employment in that sector has been at record highs.

What's more, hotels in Puerto Rico re-opened much more quickly than their counterparts in the tourism-dependent Virgin Islands after the storms passed through just days apart in September 2017. As of mid-2018, about 90% of Puerto Rico lodging had reopened versus 60% in the Virgin Islands.

Bram said the lack of economic diversity in the Virgin Island coupled with a 45% increase in the minimum wage from early 2016 through June 2018 "may have exacerbated the disruptive employment effects of a natural disaster like the one-two punch of Irma and Maria."

[TX] Hidalgo, follows Abbott, asks for presidential disaster declaration for Imelda (Houston Chronicle)

Houston Chronicle [10/2/2019 4:43 PM, Zach Despart, 245K]

Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo on Wednesday asked the Federal Emergency Management Agency to recommend a presidential disaster declaration for the county after Tropical Storm Imelda.

Hidalgo said federal aid is needed because 80 percent of the 1,872 homeowners who reported water damage from the storm said they lacked flood insurance. She said 973 county residents reported damage to a vehicle.

"This storm devastated numerous communities and families in our region that are still trying to recover from Hurricane Harvey," Hidalgo wrote in a letter to Peter Gaynor, the acting FEMA administrator.

Hidalgo's request comes one day after Gov. Greg Abbott asked President Donald Trump to issue a disaster declaration for six counties: Harris, Chambers, Jefferson, Liberty, Montgomery and Orange. Should the president do so, home and business owners would be able to apply for federal grants and loans to recover.

Hidalgo noted that Harris County and the city of Houston have partnered with local and national aid groups to create the Imelda Assistance Fund, though she said the resources of local governments are insufficient for recovery.

“Many flood victims cannot afford to pay out of pocket for the damage, and nonprofit resources are limited,” the county judge wrote.

The remnants of Imelda dumped more than 40 inches of rain in parts of the Houston area, and stirred traumatic memories of Harvey two years ago. Imelda rainfall total exceeded that of Tropical Storm Allison in 2001, and ranks as the fifth-wettest storm ever recorded in the United States.

Much of the damage Harvey wrought on the county’s flood control infrastructure remains unrepaired. The Harris County Flood Control District has begun work on most of more the 230 planned mitigation projects, to be completed in the next decade.

[CA] California adds new rules for planned power shutoffs under laws signed by Newsom (Los Angeles Times)

Los Angeles Times [10/2/2019 6:07 PM, Taryn Luna, 3575K]

Gov. Gavin Newsom signed legislation on Wednesday to tighten the rules for utility power shutoffs as California grapples with more frequent planned outages when potentially dangerous wildfire conditions exist.

The new requirements call for investor-owned utilities to create plans to lessen the effects of outages on customers with sensitive medical needs and notify all emergency responders, healthcare providers and public safety groups within an outage area. The laws are among roughly two dozen bills related to wildfires that Newsom has signed into law this year.

“Given the realities of climate change and extreme weather events, the work is not done, but these bills represent important steps forward on prevention, community resilience and utility oversight,” Newsom said.

Conceived as a method of last resort, planned outages have become a more common tactic to prevent disaster following some of the deadliest and most destructive wildfires in state history. Electrical utilities rely on weather models to suggest when strong winds, hot temperatures and dry vegetation create prime conditions for power lines to be knocked down or crossed, sparking dangerous wildfires.

But turning off power creates public safety risks and the practice has heightened concern for vulnerable residents, particularly the elderly or disabled who could be subjected to life-threatening hardship without electricity.

State regulators issued several rulings over the last year to require utilities to provide advance notice to customers and emergency responders when possible. But examples of botched notification and poor communication inspired lawmakers to craft bills this year that codify shutoff rules.

Senate Bill 167 from state Sen. Bill Dodd (D-Napa) requires investor-owned utilities to outline protocols in their annual wildfire mitigation plans that would lessen the effects of shutoffs on customers with sensitive medical needs. Those customers qualify for discounted monthly rates if they use electricity to power life-sustaining medical equipment or motorized wheelchairs, or if they suffer from other qualifying medical issues. Utilities use the programs to identify customers who could be at harm if they lose power.

During shutoffs last year, Pacific Gas & Electric Co. provided extra outreach to so-called “medical baseline” customers. But some local public health officials say thousands of vulnerable residents do not participate in those programs, which require customers to apply and qualify, and they could have been at risk without proper warnings.

Newsom also signed SB 560 by state Sen. Mike McGuire (D-Healdsburg), which seeks to improve communication surrounding shutoffs.

McGuire introduced the law earlier this year in response to outrage in his community over limited warnings. He has repeatedly vented his own frustrations, saying he shouldn't have to "legislate common sense." The bill requires utilities to develop protocols to warn first responders, healthcare providers, telecommunications companies and other groups about power shutoffs.

Among other notable wildfires laws signed by Newsom, SB 247 allows a new division within the California Public Utilities Commission to hire an independent third party to audit a utility's vegetation management work and issue a report detailing any failures one year later.

SB 209, another new law authored by Dodd, requires the Office of Emergency Services and the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection to establish and lead a new Wildfire Forecast and Threat Intelligence Integration Center. Multiple state agencies and regulatory bodies will use the new network — which a legislative analysis pegs at a cost of more than \$10 million — to collect data on weather and wildfire threats.

"The approach of fire season underscores the need for immediate action," Dodd said. "We can't sit back and watch our state burn."

[CA] Newsom signs 22 wildfire-related laws, from disaster prevention to PG&E shutoffs (San Francisco Chronicle)

San Francisco Chronicle [10/2/2019 5:20 PM, Dustin Gardiner and J.D. Morris, 337K]

Gov. Gavin Newsom signed 22 wildfire-related bills Wednesday in one of his most significant actions since taking office to address the threat posed by the deadly disasters California has endured in recent years.

Several of the measures increase state oversight of Pacific Gas and Electric Co., whose equipment sparked the devastating 2018 Camp Fire and other major fires in 2017, as well as other utilities. The measures require the companies to properly maintain their equipment and trim trees around power lines to prevent blazes.

"Given the realities of climate change and extreme weather events, the work is not done, but these bills represent important steps forward on prevention, community resilience and utility oversight," Newsom said in a statement.

Newsom signed a major bill in July to create a \$21 billion fund to help protect investor-owned electrical companies from growing wildfire liability costs.

The bills he signed Wednesday include follow-up steps and build on recommendations from a panel of experts who suggested ways in June for the state to prevent fires and hold utilities accountable.

Here are six of the most significant wildfire-related bills Newsom just signed:

Power shutoffs

SB167, by Sen. Bill Dodd, D-Napa, requires utilities to mitigate the negative effects of planned power shutoffs. PG&E has begun turning off power across Northern California to avert the risk that its power lines could spark another fire during hot, dry and windy weather.

Critics of PG&E have said the utility could turn off power too frequently, without sufficient regard for the dire risks that outages could pose for emergency workers and people with disabilities.

“There are a lot of people that can’t fend for themselves,” Dodd said. “We think that PG&E — or any utility for that matter in the state of California — should be taking into account those populations ... during one of their power shutoffs.”

His bill requires utilities to submit to the California Public Utilities Commission, as part of their annual wildfire mitigation plans, protocols for how they will reduce the impact of planned blackouts on first responders and people who rely on life-support equipment.

SB560, by Sen. Mike McGuire, D-Healdsburg, beefs up preparation for planned power shutoffs by requiring telephone companies to notify utilities and public safety agencies how a blackout could snarl their communications grid.

Trees around power lines

AB 247, by Dodd, will give the state more control over efforts by PG&E and its counterparts to trim trees around power lines to prevent wildfires. That bill will allow the state to bring in an independent auditor to review utilities’ tree trimming efforts.

“Having a boots-on-the-ground audit really demonstrates that it has been done,” Dodd said. “And that boots on the ground has to be a third party that has the citizens of the state of California (and) the ratepayers of all these utilities best interests in mind. Because this has not been working very well.”

Dodd pointed to PG&E’s disclosure to a federal judge this week that the company had completed less than a third of the tree trimming work it planned for all of 2019. He called the revelation “ridiculous.”

SB70, by Sen. Jim Nielsen, R-Gerber (Tehama County), states that a utility’s wildfire mitigation plans must include a description of where and how it considered moving electric lines underground, specifically in service territory with high wildfire risk. However, the bill doesn’t require that any utility lines be put underground.

Municipal utilities

SB550, by Sen. Jerry Hill, D-San Mateo, rewrites the way California defines a “change in control” at an electric company that would trigger close regulatory scrutiny of such a deal. Higher oversight will no longer be required if a local government tries to buy part of a utility, as San Francisco wants to do with PG&E.

The city recently offered PG&E \$2.5 billion in a bid to take over the company’s local electric equipment. But San Francisco leaders were concerned that AB1054 — the bill Newsom signed in July to protect utilities from future fire costs — would unduly burden the city’s efforts because of certain regulatory provisions it included.

SB 550 seeks to resolve those concerns. Hill said his legislation makes San Francisco’s potential takeover of PG&E equipment less cumbersome while protecting ratepayers and utility workers.

The bill also ensures that public safety is a “strong player” considered in any merger, acquisition or restructuring at an investor-owned utility, he said.

“That has to be part of the conversation going forward, and it hasn’t been in the past,” Hill said. “It needs to be front and center.”

Home hardening

AB38, by Assemblyman Jim Wood, D-Santa Rosa, increases state assistance to homeowners making structural upgrades and clearing vegetation around their property to reduce the risk of a fire.

The California Office of Emergency Services and the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection will team up to oversee the program and help owners retrofit their homes.

Starting in 2021, Wood's bill will also require anyone selling a home in areas prone to severe wildfire risk to provide buyers with a disclosure stating what parts of the home might be susceptible to flying embers.

PG&E said it didn't take a formal opinion on most of the bills, though it did support McGuire's SB560. In a statement, the company said it was "committed" to working with Newsom, lawmakers and the state's top utility regulator "on shared solutions to California's ever-growing risk of wildfire."

[The Bahamas] Removing Hurricane Debris Is A Top Priority In The Bahamas (NPR)

NPR [10/2/2019 7:23 AM, Jason Beaubien, 5041K] Video HERE

It's been a month since Hurricane Dorian slammed into the Bahamas. The hardest hit area was Marsh Harbour which is still struggling to come back. Most residents have fled, further slowing recovery.

Secret Service

Fighting Cyber Crime is Critical for National Security, Says Secret Service Chief (Nextgov)

Nextgov [10/2/2019 3:01 PM, Jack Corrigan, 39K, Neutral, Secondary]

While election interference, espionage and power grid threats get all the attention, nation-states also lean on cyber criminals to conduct operations on their behalf, according to Director James Murray.

As government leaders work to defend the country's digital infrastructure against foreign adversaries, they shouldn't overlook the role cyber criminals play in those geopolitical clashes, according to the head of the Secret Service.

When it comes to international cyber conflict, people tend to focus their attention on election interference, economic espionage and other threats posed by nation-state actors. And while fighting those malicious campaigns is essential to national security, pursuing digital criminals is an equally important part of the equation, said Secret Service Director James Murray.

"I'm not looking to downplay the threats posed by nation-states," Murray said Wednesday at the Aspen Cyber Summit in New York City. "On the contrary, I'm saying that ... we see the arrest and conviction of transnational organized criminals as an indispensable component of addressing the wider challenge. It is an essential element of the whole-of-government approach to reducing the full range of cybersecurity threats, including those threats posed by nation-states."

While the Secret Service is best known for protecting top government officials and their families, the agency is also responsible for investigating financial fraud and cybercrimes. And in recent years, the latter has skyrocketed, Murray said.

The global costs of ransomware, data breaches and other cyberattacks exceed an estimated \$600 billion per year, but the consequences of cybercrime extend far beyond financial losses, according to Murray.

The criminals are often the ones who pioneer new methods of breaking into networks and stealing information, paving the way for nation-state adversaries to adopt those same tools and techniques into their own digital arsenals, he said. And because these hackers are on the cutting-edge of their craft, he added, foreign governments will sometimes rely on criminal groups to conduct operations on their behalf.

In some cases, governments and cyber criminals work so closely together it's difficult to distinguish one

from the other. Those blurred lines are perhaps most evident in North Korea, where a hacker ring known as the Lazarus Group stole more than \$1 billion to support the country's nuclear weapons program.

This intertwining of criminal organizations and government operations also give foreign adversaries a level of deniability, making it the already difficult process of attributing attacks even harder, Murray added.

In the coming years, he said the Secret Service will significantly ramp up its efforts to fight online criminals. The agency is preparing to embark on a five-year modernization of its electronic crimes task forces that will promote "the arrest and prosecution of the highest-value targets," Murray said. Officials will also stand up seven new task forces in the coming years while bringing more resources and new technologies to existing units.

Additionally, the agency plans to expand its Global Investigations Operations Center to better coordinate the worldwide pursuit of cyber criminals and launch more training programs to boost agents tech-savvy.

"The fight against cybercrime and the effort to defend the country against national security threats are inextricably linked," he said. "Fighting cybercrime is defending national security."

In a report published Wednesday, the cybersecurity firm CrowdStrike said more than 60% of the malicious campaigns they uncovered during the first half of 2019 were conducted by cyber criminals as opposed to state-sponsored actors, up from 25% the year before.

[NY] Fake currency making the rounds in Gloversville (Gloversville Leader-Herald)

Gloversville Leader-Herald [10/2/2019 1:21 PM, Ashley Onyon, 3K, Neutral, Secondary]

The Gloversville Police Department released photos of an imitation \$100 bill encountered through investigation of a complaint. The fake bill has pink markings consistent with Asian written characters that police say are common on the imitation currency that otherwise closely resembles authentic currency, but which has no monetary value. The front and back side of the bill also carries dash marks in one corner.

Lt. Brad Schaffer said today that police are investigating two separate incidents in which individuals successfully passed the imitation currency at two separate locations. In both instances a single imitation \$100 bill was passed to purchase various goods.

"There's no specificity in what they are trying to purchase with them," Schaffer said.

While Schaffer said police have only been alerted to two incidents in the city thus far, he noted that imitation currency has been identified in other local incidents.

"Nearly every local agency has experienced imitation currency like we are or motion picture currency," Schaffer said.

Schaffer explained that imitation currency is just that, printed bills that look like authentic U.S. tender, but with marks that distinguish it from legal tender, in this instance Asian characters and dash marks in one corner. Motion picture currency looks identical to U.S. currency, but has the words "motion picture use only" printed on it to distinguish it from legal tender.

Imitation and motion picture currency differ from counterfeit money that is intended to look identical to legal tender.

Members of the public are encouraged to closely examine any U.S. currency they are handling to ensure its authenticity.

"Certainly if currency has Asian characters similar to those depicted in the press release those bills are imitation currency, they are not genuine," Schaffer said. "Examine the front of bills to ensure that nowhere

does it say 'motion picture use only.'”

“Doing those things will drastically reduce the chance of someone handling anything but genuine U.S. currency.”

If an individual attempts to pass currency at a business that is believed to be inauthentic, Schaffer said the bills should not be accepted and the establishment should contact police.

Anyone with questions regarding currency in their possession can contact police or their local bank to have the bills examined.

Anyone who is passed imitation U.S. currency is encouraged to contact their local police to report the incident. The Gloversville Police Department can be reached at (518) 773-4514.

[NY] Troopers say they found \$37K in fake money during Colonie stop (Times Union)

Times Union [10/2/2019 9:27 AM, Staff, 109K, Negative, Secondary]

A broken headlight prompted troopers to pull over a car Wednesday that was carrying \$37,400 in fake \$100 bills, State Police said.

Ali Sheroze, the 22-year-old driver of the car stopped at 3 a.m. on Scully Avenue in Colonie, was charged with felony possession of a forged instrument. The charge carries a penalty of up to 15 years in prison.

Troopers said they stopped Sheroze's car because one of the headlights were out. They said they smelled marijuana when they interviewed the driver and subsequently searched the vehicle.

State Police said they found 80 \$100s in the vehicle's center console and another 294 \$100 in a backpack. Troopers say all of the bills were fake.

Booked at the State Police barracks in Latham, Sheroze was given an appearance ticket for Town Court. He is due back in court at 6 p.m.

[KY] Huge bust nets fake cash, card skimmers in Bath County (WKYT)

WKYT [10/2/2019 7:07 AM, Staff, Negative, Secondary]

Police in Owingsville have arrested a man they say was running a huge counterfeit money operation.

They say a tip led them, Kentucky State Police and the Bath County Sheriff's Office to Eric Craig's home on Peasticks Road in Bath County.

Police say there was half-printed money and printers with fake money still in them at the home.

Officers also found several credit card skimmers, stolen personal documents and drugs.

Craig is facing a long list of charges including giving police false information and trafficking in a controlled substance.

Police say he has also been operating in the Lexington area.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation and Secret Service are both now assisting in the investigation.

[KY] Police: Hopkinsville Woman Arrested After Using Counterfeit Money (WKDZ 106.5 FM)

WKDZ 106.5 FM [10/2/2019 9:12 AM, John Godsey, Negative, Secondary]

A Hopkinsville woman was arrested on a warrant for theft by deception and criminal possession of a forged instrument on South Jessup Avenue Tuesday night.

Hopkinsville Police say on July 25th 18-year-old Daizjah Davison used a counterfeit \$20 bill to pay for \$6.77 worth of food at Sonic.

Davison left after the Sonic employee did not return with her change.

[KY] Police: Owingsville man arrested after counterfeit money discovered (LEX 18)

LEX 18 [10/2/2019 3:06 PM, Melissa Ratliff, 40K, Negative, Secondary]

A Bath County man has been charged with producing counterfeit money after police received a tip.

According to officials with the Owingsville police, officers searched a resident where Eric Craig had been living.

The search warrant revealed numerous amounts of counterfeit money ready for use, half printed money, printer paper that was being used to make the counterfeit money, and printers that still had the counterfeit money in them. Also during the search of the residence, numerous card readers and suspected card skimmers were found.

Officers also found suspected Methamphetamine and drug paraphernalia inside the residence. Numerous amounts of stolen personal documents, that contain sensitive information was located. Several suspected stolen registration plates and motel room keys were also found. Owingsville police officers have notified the FBI and Secret Service. Eric Craig has also been operating in the Lexington KY area.

[KY] Woman arrested on charges related to fake money (WHOP 1230 AM)

WHOP 1230 AM [10/2/2019 7:41 AM, Staff, 1K, Negative, Secondary]

An arrest warrant for charges related to counterfeit money was served Tuesday evening against a Hopkinsville woman.

It alleges that on July 25, 18-year old Daizjah Davidson of Hopkinsville gave a counterfeit \$20 bill to an employee at Sonic for a food purchase. The employee went inside and determined the bill was fraudulent and Davidson left when he realized he was not going to receive change.

Davidson was lodged in the Christian County Jail on charges of theft by deception and criminal possession of a forged instrument.

[AL] Tuscaloosa hospitals crippled due to ransomware attack (WTVY)

WTVY [10/2/2019 7:16 AM, Staff, 7K, Neutral, Secondary]

Three hospitals in the DCH Health System are not taking patients right now unless they are critical cases.

The three hospitals, DCH Regional Medical Center, Northport Medical Center and Fayette Medical Center are under a ransomware attack.

A post on the DCH website says "A criminal is limiting our ability to use our computer systems in exchange for an as-yet unknown payment."

The hospitals have implemented their emergency procedures because some computer technology is not available.

Again, right now DCH Regional Medical Center, Northport Medical Center and Fayette Medical Center are closed to all but the most critical new patients.

According to a hospital spokesperson, the staff is caring for the patients who are currently in the hospitals, and they do not plan to transfer current patients.

If you are scheduled for an outpatient procedure or test at a DCH hospital, call before you go.

Ambulances have been instructed to take patients to other hospitals if at all possible.

Patients who come to DCH emergency departments may be transferred to another hospital when they are stabilized.

Cyber security expert Robert Hill says these types of attacks are targeted. A recovery from this type of cyberattack could take weeks. Hill says medical facilities can't afford to be down for long, so they'll more than likely be forced to pay the ransom sooner rather than later.

"This will take out their ability to take care of patients and an organization like that is much more willing to pay ransom to get their systems back rapidly," Hill said.

The hospital tells us the FBI and Secret Service are investigating this attack.

[OH] NP Police Chief shares reports of counterfeit money (Register-Herald)

Register-Herald [10/2/2019 5:00 PM, Kelsey Kimbler, Negative, Secondary]

There have been reports of counterfeit money in the New Paris area, according to Police Chief Jeremy Schroeder.

During the NP Village Council meeting on Monday, Sept. 9, Shroeder warned council and asked members to make the community aware of the issue.

When asked by council member Mary Jane Thomas, he explained there were counterfeit \$10s and \$100s. This happened at two different places in New Paris, neither of which caught the perpetrator in the act. The case will be handed over to the FBI.

"Pay attention and look closely at [the bills]," he said.

Shroeder also presented his monthly report: in the month of August, the New Paris Police Department handled 141 calls for service, took 12 reports, made three arrests, issued five citations and issued 35 warnings. All officers completed their fire certifications.

Council approved a request for the police department to purchase gift bags to hand out during Trick-or-Treat.

Susan Laux, with Mote & Associates, attended the meeting to speak with council about potential funding and projects.

She began by talking about the East Cherry Street project, informing council almost everything is completed with the project. Council approved a change order for the project. However, the paving of Main Street and Hawley Mills Road will have to be invoiced separately, costing an additional \$28,239.99.

Council also approved the final pay request for the East Cherry Street project, at a cost of \$202,058.85. According to Laux, all but \$2,500 of that amount is covered by a grant.

"I'm happy with the project and how everything turned out," Laux said.

She also updated council on a Spring Street Bridge project.

"Those plans are in the final stages at our office and they will be submitted to Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) on Monday, Sept. 16. That will get that part started," she said.

She added, she resubmitted the application for the Tornado Siren Grant which was previously denied.

As for the ongoing New Paris Park project, Laux said she spoke with two remediation companies to get bids.

“Based on the Ohio Revised Code — both bids were above \$150,000, which I don’t think anybody is surprised about — if you are going to sign a contract with somebody for more than \$150,000, you have to publicly bid that project. I haven’t been able to find anyway around it, because that rule doesn’t really have to do with streets or this or that. It is pretty much anything. My suggestion is, at this point, that you authorize us to advertise that for bids,” she said.

In other business, American Legion Post 360 asked permission to put flags on both sides of the street for Memorial Day. According to Smallwood, there has been an agreement in the past that the Chamber of Commerce utilizes one side of the street for their banners and the American Legion has the other side for the American Flag. Smallwood promised to look into the situation further.

New Paris Council will hold its next meeting on Monday, Oct. 7, at 7 p.m. in the New Paris Village Building.

[IN] Nail salon owner searching for suspects who used counterfeit money (14 WFIE)

14 WFIE [10/2/2019 5:17 PM, Jared Goffinet and Chellsie Brown, Negative, Secondary]

The owner of a nail salon hopes you can help identify suspects they say paid with counterfeit money.

The owners of California nails have been in this plaza off First Avenue for six years, but in the last few days, they say counterfeit money has been popping up and they want to put a stop to it.

The owners tell us they discovered the bills were fake when they went to the bank where workers there told them they were counterfeit.

The suspects were reportedly paying for services with fake \$100 bills. They say the suspects came in five times in three days.

Now they are asking for the public’s help identifying them.

If you know who they are, contact EPD as they have filed a police report.

[Editorial note: consult video at source link]

Coast Guard

[TX] I-10 bridge repairs at San Jacinto River will take until early 2020 (Houston Chronicle)

Houston Chronicle [10/2/2019 12:37 PM, Staff, 245K]

Repairs to the westbound Interstate 10 bridge spanning the San Jacinto River will take until early 2020, transportation officials said Wednesday.

The announcement means months more of narrow freeway lanes after at least two runaway barges struck the bridge when floodwaters swelled the river as remnants of Tropical Storm Imelda drenched east Texas last month.

A contractor for the bridge repairs will be chosen in mid-October, said Deidrea George, spokeswoman for the Texas Department of Transportation in Houston. Officials estimate it will take until the first quarter of 2020 to complete the work, she said. The cost of the repairs was not immediately known, she said, with

bids on the project still outstanding.

The work, which officials previously said would be significant, is necessary because of the barge hits around midnight on Sept. 20. Nine barges broke loose from their moorings about a quarter-mile north of I-10. Six made their way below the westbound and eastbound I-10 bridges — each direction of the freeway is its own separate span.

Two barges, owned by Canal Barge Co. and maintained at San Jacinto River Fleet, struck the support columns of the westbound bridge and became lodged beneath the span. A third barge grounded at the San Jacinto Waste Pits Superfund Site.

U.S. Coast Guard officials, in coordination with other state and federal agencies, monitored air and water quality and said no adverse health impacts were caused by the incident. Cargo on the barges was not released.

The allision, however, crippled freeway traffic for five days as TxDOT waited for the barges to be removed and the bridges inspected.

CISA/Cybersecurity

Healthcare tops other industries for cybersecurity breaches (Breitbart)

Breitbart [10/2/2019 9:58 AM, UPI, 2034K]

A crippling ransomware attack on multiple Alabama hospitals emphasizes a growing concern about healthcare computer system vulnerabilities that threaten privacy, as well as the general availability of services.

Researchers reported last week in the Annals of American Medicine that more than 70 percent of hospital data breaches include sensitive demographic or financial information that could leave patients vulnerable to identity theft.

Healthcare-related cybersecurity breaches accounted for over a quarter of the more than 750 data breaches reported nationwide in 2018, and healthcare led all industries in breaches last year, according to a report from global law firm BakerHostetler.

“The major story we heard from victims was how compromised, sensitive information caused financial or reputation loss,” John Jiang, a researcher at Michigan State University and lead author of the study, said of the new Annals study in a news release.

“A criminal might file a fraudulent tax return or apply for a credit card using the social security number and birth dates leaked from a hospital data breach,” he said.

Preventing delivery of services

In the Alabama hospital group, authorities said the hackers locked up computer networks at three hospitals in the state's DCH Health System — DCH Regional Medical Center in Tuscaloosa, Northport Medical Center and Fayette Medical Center — forcing ambulances to be rerouted as hospital administrators grappled with the problem.

Hospital staff was also unable to access medical records or admit new patients, which is why it was rerouting ambulances, though officials said they activated emergency procedures and were able to continue caring for patients.

In the case of ransomware attacks, such as the kind afflicting Alabama's DCH, hackers implant malicious

computer code that takes control of the system, agreeing to free the data only when a ransom is paid.

But the DCH attack is merely the latest in a troubling string of hospital data breaches plaguing the healthcare field in recent years.

Healthcare breaches are widespread

The new study in *Annals*, authored by researchers at both Michigan State and Johns Hopkins, analyzed nearly 1,500 health information breaches over the past decade, showing that each breach included at least one piece of demographic information, such as names, email addresses, or other personal identifiers. Two percent of the breaches included sensitive medical info, compromising the private health information of 2.4 million patients.

“Hospitals are a prime target for threat actors as patients’ protected health information can easily be sold on the dark web and used to commit fraud, access medical care in the victims’ name, and used in highly targeted phishing attacks,” Ben Goodman, a senior vice president at the San Francisco-based identity and access management firm ForgeRock Inc., told *Silicon Angle* earlier this year.

“[Patient Health Information] also has a much longer shelf life compared to other types of data, like credit cards which can be easily canceled and rendered useless,” he added.

Industry already distrusted by consumers

The new study in *Annals* is further bad news for the reputation of the healthcare industry, coming in the wake of a recently published survey from the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, which showed that Americans have a distinct distrust of healthcare institutions when it comes to keeping personal data safe.

Fewer than 20 percent of respondents said they had a great deal of trust in health insurers to secure their personal data, while fewer than 25 percent showed a great deal of trust in hospitals to do the same. And just over a third showed a great deal of trust in their doctor’s offices.

The *Annals* study shows that, of the 1,461 health data breaches occurring between October 2009 and July 2019, a total of 944 breaches — or 65 percent — resulted in compromises to patient medical records. Of those, 22 cases involved sensitive information regarding HIV, STDs, mental health or cancer.

“Without understanding what the enemy wants, we cannot win the battle,” said Ge Bai, an associate professor of accounting at Johns Hopkins Carey Business School and Bloomberg School of Public Health and study co-author.

“By knowing the specific information hackers are after, we can ramp up efforts to protect patient information,” he said.

In 2018 alone, a combined total of nearly 300 breaches exposed the records of 11.5 million patients, and a single cybersecurity breach in 2019 compromised the personal data of nearly 20 million patients through laboratory service providers Quest Diagnostics and LabCorp.

The BakerHostetler report named phishing attacks as the leading cause of data breaches in 2018, accounting for 37 percent across all industries. Network intrusions were in second place at 30 percent, with unpatched servers and remote desktop connections providing points of vulnerability.

Among healthcare organizations, an average of 36 days elapsed between the time of the initial access and the time of detection. Another ten days was the average time required to contain a breach.

The Department of Health and Human Services currently requires medical providers to report any data breaches affecting 500 or more people, with hefty fines imposed in the case of HIPAA privacy violations.

In June of 2018, a federal judge upheld a \$4.3 million fine against the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Clinic resulting from data breaches that compromised the health data of more than 33,000 people. In October, health insurer Anthem agreed to pay penalties of \$16 million relating to a series of targeted cyberattacks that exposed the private health info of 79 million members – the largest fine HIPAA fine ever levied.

Improving healthcare without sacrificing security

Though data security is clearly a problem across many sections of the healthcare landscape, the Trump administration continues to push for unfettered information sharing between healthcare entities.

“For far too long, electronic health information has been stuck in silos and inaccessible for healthcare consumers,” CMS Administrator Seema Verna said in February. “Our proposals help break down existing barriers to important data exchange needed to empower patients by giving them access to their health data.”

“We ask that members of the healthcare system join forces to provide patients with safe secure access to, and control over, their healthcare data,” Verma said.

The Annals report emphasized concerns over striking a proper balance between data sharing and patient privacy.

“Considering the fundamental tradeoff between data access and data security, it is critical to limit the risk for protected health information breaches,” they wrote.

Ransomware Forces 10 Hospitals to Turn Away Patients (Breitbart)

Breitbart [10/2/2019 1:06 PM, Lucas Nolan, 2034K]

Ten hospitals across the United States and Australia were victims of ransomware attacks that hijacked computer systems, forcing some of the hospitals to turn away all but the most critical patients.

Ars Technica reports that ten hospitals, three in Alabama and seven in Australia, were victims of ransomware attacks that hijacked computer systems and stopped them from admitting new patients. All three hospitals that comprise the DCH Health System in Alabama were closed to new patients as officials attempted to deal with the paralyzing computer system attack.

The DCH Regional Medical Center in Tuscaloosa, Northport Medical Center, and Fayette Medical Center were all turning away “all but the most critical new patients” this week. Ambulances were instructed to take patients to other nearby hospitals when possible.

DCH representatives wrote in a release: “A criminal is limiting our ability to use our computer systems in exchange for an as-yet unknown payment. Our hospitals have implemented our emergency procedures to ensure safe and efficient operations in the event technology dependent on computers is not available.”

Ransomware attacks are designed to encrypt hard drives and lock individuals out of their computer until they pay a ransom, usually sent via cryptocurrency, to the attacker. Seven hospitals in Australia were also affected by the cyber attack.

Hospitals in Gippsland and southwest Victoria said that they were rescheduling some patient services as they responded to a “cyber health incident.” Hospital officials said in a statement: “The cyber incident, which was uncovered on Monday, has blocked access to several systems by the infiltration of ransomware, including financial management. Hospitals have isolated and disconnected a number of systems... to quarantine the infection.”

Hospital officials stated that they were working with the police and the Australian Cyber Security Center to deal with the incident but computer systems at the seven hospitals remained locked 24 hours after the cyber attack. One official stated that it would take weeks to secure and restore damaged networks.

Software vulnerabilities in some medical devices could leave them susceptible to hackers, FDA warns (CNN)

CNN [10/2/2019 9:49 AM, Doug Criss, 6094K]

Nefarious individuals hacking into your pacemaker? It's not just the plot of some sci-fi movie. It's a real-life threat, according to the Food and Drug Administration.

The FDA is warning patients, medical providers and hospitals that software vulnerabilities in some medical devices might allow a hacker to take control of items that connect to wireless networks -- think pacemakers and infusion pumps -- or find a back door into entire hospital networks.

"These cybersecurity vulnerabilities may allow a remote user to take control of a medical device and change its function, cause denial of service, or cause information leaks or logical flaws, which may prevent a device from functioning properly or at all," according to a statement from the agency.

The FDA identified 11 cybersecurity holes in operating systems that run third-party software called IPnet, which computers use to communicate with each other. IPnet is used in many medical devices.

A possible hack could be difficult to detect

So far there have been no reports of devices or networks being hacked this way, but the agency wants patients to remain wary.

"While we are not aware of patients who may have been harmed by this particular cybersecurity vulnerability, the risk of patient harm if such a vulnerability were left unaddressed could be significant," said Suzanne Schwartz, a deputy director in the FDA's Center for Devices and Radiological Health. "It's important for manufacturers to be aware that the nature of these vulnerabilities allows the attack to occur undetected and without user interaction. Because an attack may be interpreted by the device as a normal network communication, it may remain invisible to security measures."

If you're a patient, the FDA wants you to talk to your health care provider and determine whether your medical device could be affected by the software vulnerabilities. And seek medical attention immediately if you think your device is suddenly operating differently.

Health care providers are urged to work with device manufacturers to figure out whether medical devices in hospitals and other facilities could be affected and develop risk mitigation plans if they are.

Google unveils new security tools for Assistant, Maps, YouTube (Breitbart)

Breitbart [10/2/2019 2:57 AM, Staff, 2034K]

Google has introduced new tools for its Maps and YouTube platforms, which are part of the company's aim for greater security following repeated privacy concerns in the technology industry.

The California-based company on Tuesday introduced a "checkup" feature that warns users if their account passwords are too weak, susceptible to intrusion, used by others too often or have been compromised in a third-party breach.

"One in four Americans use common [passwords] — like Abc123, Password1111, and P@ssw0rd," product and password manager Andreas Tuerk wrote on Google's blog. "Sixty-six percent of Americans admit to using the same weak password across multiple sites, which makes all those accounts

vulnerable.”

Tuerk added that the feature checks the strength of all users’ saved passwords and gives “actionable recommendations,” when needed

Google also announced it will make searches on its Maps service private, and expand the auto-delete feature on YouTube. The tech company also said users will be able to verbally delete any information on Google Assistant.

The new measures follow two years of increased scrutiny for the technology industry over a variety of security vulnerabilities and breaches. DoorDash, Equifax and Dunkin’ Brands have all reported security incidents in recent weeks.

[China] Defense bill must protect US rail system against Chinese cyber intrusions (The Hill)

The Hill [10/2/2019 9:00 AM, David N. Senty and Mark S. Sparkman, 2806K]

A year ago, we wrote about the urgent need to focus the nation’s attention on cybersecurity threats to America’s rail system. An increasingly important element of our critical national infrastructure, rail transportation — passenger and freight — faces the same intense, focused, persistent and malevolent threat from our adversaries as do the nation’s financial institutions, energy sectors and communications network.

As rail moves quickly into a new era of interconnectedness and reliance on more sensor technology to make the system safer and more efficient, important decisions must be made by all actors — suppliers and manufacturers, transit authorities and regulators, and state, local and national legislators — to ensure the system that moves people and goods is secure from cyber intrusions and possible cyber attacks.

Congress is reviewing important language included in the National Defense Authorization Act, which is now in conference, that would restrict federal funding for rail purchases from state-owned or sponsored enterprises. We believe this legislation, which has received bipartisan support in the House and Senate, is important both in terms of cybersecurity and to ensure continued competitiveness in the rail sector, particularly regarding transit or passenger systems.

We are particularly concerned about the nearly unchecked penetration of the U.S. passenger rail systems by China’s CRRC, a state-owned enterprise that is an important element of China’s oft-stated plan to dominate rail manufacturing globally by 2025. While the U.S. and our allies should be alarmed by the anti-competitive nature of CRRC, which seeks to undermine and eliminate competition from Western manufacturers and suppliers, the cybersecurity threat this penetration of our market presents should be of equal concern.

We need to look no further than some clear, recent examples of China’s efforts to collect intelligence, compromise proprietary information, and position itself for future malevolent acts. To wit:

Between 2009 and 2013, Canadian permanent resident and Chinese national Su Bin conspired to hack into the computer systems of large defense contractors to steal data regarding some of our nation’s most advanced military projects.

In December 2018, the Department of Justice (DOJ) indicted two Chinese nationals on charges of conspiracy to breach computer systems, among other charges. These individuals, who were tied to China’s main foreign intelligence organization, targeted aviation, telecommunications, pharmaceutical and satellite companies.

In July of this year, DOJ unsealed a 2017 indictment of Chinese national Xudong Yao for nine counts of theft of trade secrets from a U.S. locomotive company.

To date, CRRC has established a foothold in the U.S. by securing contracts for passenger rail in the important high-volume markets of Los Angeles, Chicago, Philadelphia and Boston. But there has been pushback. Here in Washington, local legislators have requested the Washington Metro Area Transit Authority (WMATA) to include cybersecurity considerations in its requests for proposals. Legislation has been introduced in New York to protect riders from cyber intrusions by Chinese state-owned companies and Massachusetts is considering similar legislation.

At the national level, there is bipartisan language in the National Defense Authorization Act that would prevent the use of federal taxpayer dollars for the purchase of transit rail equipment from companies controlled by the Chinese government.

The cybersecurity threat to people and systems is clear and present. We are pleased to see there is a recognition in many quarters that the U.S. must take action to minimize this threat. Accordingly, we strongly urge members of Congress to keep this vital language intact in the final bill.

Terrorism Investigations

Mass shootings have hit 158 House districts so far this year (The Hill)

The Hill [10/2/2019 6:00 AM, Jordan Lancaster, James Jarvis, Sutton Dunwoodie and Cameron Hill, 2806K]

More than a third of all House lawmakers represent districts where a mass shooting has occurred this year, highlighting the bipartisan pressure on Congress to take action on gun legislation after a wave of killings in Texas and Ohio during August.

An analysis by The Hill found that about two-thirds of those shootings have taken place in districts represented by Democrats, many of whom represent cities hard-hit by the scourge of gun violence, while a third occurred in Republican-held districts, from the suburbs to rural communities.

Through Friday, 158 congressional districts had experienced at least one mass shooting this year. Fifty-two of those districts are held by Republicans, and 106 are represented by Democrats.

The rash of mass shootings has prompted a kind of rote habit among members of Congress who all too often find themselves grieving alongside their constituents. In interviews, lawmakers said they raced to the scenes of mass shootings, then spent the ensuing weeks helping facilitate government assistance to first responders and victims in between memorial services and vigils.

“When schoolchildren are taught how to hide from active shooters before being taught how to write their name, we know that we have a problem in this country with gun violence,” said Rep. Elaine Luria (D-Va.), who represents the Virginia Beach community where a disgruntled city employee killed 12 people at a municipal building in May before being killed by police.

More than 315 mass shootings have taken place this year alone, according to the Gun Violence Archive, which tracks incidents in which four or more people are injured or killed. Those shootings have claimed the lives of at least 346 people, and another 1,200 have been injured.

“We now live in a time in which it appears no place is entirely safe from the threat of violence. Our movie theaters, concert venues, clubs, schools, college campuses, churches and parks have all become backdrops to some of the deadliest shootings in United States history,” said Rep. Maxine Waters (D-Calif.). “There are no words, thoughts or prayers that can quell the unspeakable horror that has befallen so many communities that have experienced mass shootings and gun violence.”

The epidemic of gun violence has received more attention this year than in decades, after Democrats reclaimed control of the House in the 2018 midterm elections.

The House passed a sweeping background check expansion in February. Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-Conn.), chairwoman of the House Appropriations subcommittee that oversees the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Department of Health and Human Services, held her first hearing of the year on gun violence and added \$50 million in funding for the CDC and National Institutes of Health to study gun violence.

In recent weeks, Democrats have advanced legislation that would allow law enforcement to take firearms away from those who are deemed a danger to themselves or others, a so-called red flag provision that many states have adopted.

But the prospects of bipartisan action are remote. Negotiations between Senate Democrats and the White House have faltered in recent weeks. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) has blocked debate on the House-passed bills, and he has said he will not bring up any gun legislation unless he is certain President Trump will sign it into law.

Some Democrats have warned that mismanaging the politics of gun control or gun safety bills would threaten their party's political standing. Rep. Seth Moulton (D-Mass.), a retired Marine who served four tours of duty in Iraq, said Democrats need to be realistic about what can earn bipartisan support in the Senate.

"Too often Democrats have put forward bills without understanding guns or how they are used, and that's part of the issue," Moulton told The Hill. "It's nice to pass gun ban bills in the House, but unless they pass in the Senate and get signed into law they're not going to save any lives."

A handful of Republicans have signaled they would back red flag legislation, including Rep. Michael Turner (R-Ohio), who represents a Dayton-area district where a man killed nine people and wounded 17 more in a popular entertainment district in August. Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine (R) introduced a red flag proposal in response to that shooting.

Most Republicans, though, are not on board with new legislation in Washington.

"Cases of gun violence across the nation are not all the same. And a blanket ban on certain types of guns or gun confiscation altogether isn't going to stop a criminal from committing a crime," said Rep. Buddy Carter (Ga.), one of 52 Republicans in Congress whose district experienced a mass shooting this year. "This type of crime is not going to be solved in Washington, D.C. It needs to [be] solved in Savannah, Ga., in our communities."

There is some debate over what constitutes a mass shooting. Some experts define them as incidents that injure or kill four or more people, while others set a higher threshold.

James Fox, a criminologist at Northeastern University, distinguishes between mass shootings and mass killings, which separates incidents related to gang violence from events like the attack on a Walmart in El Paso, Texas, in August that killed 22.

Lars Dalseide, a spokesman for the National Rifle Association, said the lower threshold for mass shootings is deceptively broad.

"While more can be done to address this issue, such as enforcing existing laws, prosecuting actual criminals, and providing proper mental health treatment for those in need, you can't begin to have an honest debate if the starting point is disingenuous," Dalseide said in an email.

An analysis of the mass shootings that have taken place in just the first nine months of the year show a distinction exists. The 18 mass shootings in Rep. Danny K. Davis's (D-Ill.) Chicago-based district have

killed seven people and wounded 78; most of those incidents were likely gang or drug-related, Davis said.

Fifteen shootings this year have resulted in more than four deaths. Three of the four deadliest incidents — the El Paso attack, the Dayton attack and drive-by shootings in Midland and Odessa, Texas — took place in August. Ten of the 15 incidents happened between June and August.

Active shooter incidents have become more common in recent years, according to a Pew Research Center report.

When those shootings happen, lawmakers and their staffs scramble to get to the scene. Rep. Scott Peters (D-Calif.) sent an aide to the Chabad of Poway synagogue just after a 19-year-old man armed with an assault rifle shot four people, killing a 60-year-old woman on the last day of Passover.

“Throughout the day, we remained in contact with various law enforcement agencies and local organizations who were assisting on the ground. That night, we stood with the community in solidarity at one of the vigils,” Peters said.

Rep. Bill Foster (D-Ill.) learned of a shooting at a manufacturing plant in Aurora, Ill., when he landed at O’Hare International Airport. Foster attended memorials for the five people killed at the plant and met with the six police officers who were wounded as they responded to the shooting.

Others have been touched by gun violence more directly. Rep. Lucy McBath (D-Ga.) decided to run for Congress after her son was murdered in 2012. A young man died in front of Rep. Jesús García’s (D-Ill.) home two years ago. Rep. Steven Horsford’s (D-Nev.) father was shot in a botched robbery, and Davis’s grandson was shot and killed.

“I know the impact that [gun violence] has had on members of my family. It is indeed a public health issue,” Davis told The Hill.

[MD] Self-proclaimed white nationalist accused of planning mass killing expected to plead guilty (Washington Post)

Washington Post [10/2/2019 1:17 PM, Tom Jackman, 9425K]

A U.S. Coast Guard lieutenant who authorities say planned to “murder innocent civilians on a scale rarely seen in this country” is expected to appear in federal court Thursday to plead guilty in his case involving guns and drugs, federal records show.

Christopher P. Hasson, 50, was arrested in February at his home in Silver Spring, Md., where authorities said they found 15 guns, more than 1,000 rounds of ammunition along with silencers, smoke grenades, and other tactical items that could be used in an attack, as well as 30 bottles of human growth hormone and 100 pills of the opioid Tramadol.

The docket for Hasson’s case had a new entry Wednesday: the scheduling of a arraignment hearing on Thursday at noon before U.S. District Judge George J. Hazel. Hasson has already been arraigned and pleaded not guilty to the four counts pending against him. No new counts have been filed since then, which would be one reason for a arraignment.

“In general, arraignment indicates a change of plea,” said Marcia Murphy, the spokeswoman for the U.S. Attorney in Maryland. She declined to comment further on whether Hasson would plead guilty Thursday. No plea is final until it is entered in court and approved by a judge.

Liz Oyer, one of the federal public defenders representing Hasson, did not immediately return messages seeking comment. Hasson is being held without bond.

Investigators said they found extensive evidence that Hasson had studied and admired the writings of

terrorist Anders Breivik, who shot and killed 77 people in Norway in 2011, and who believed that targeted violence was necessary to stop problems caused by immigration. Breivik also advocated for six weeks of steroid use before an attack, prosecutors said.

Breivik called for targeting political and media leaders, and investigators with the FBI and the Coast Guard Investigative Service found a spreadsheet on Hasson's computer that listed House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.), Sens. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) and Tim Kaine (D-Va.), and television personalities such as Joe Scarborough, Don Lemon and Chris Hayes. The investigators found that Hasson had searched for Scarborough's home address and in January had Googled "best place in dc to see congress people" and "civil war if trump impeached."

Hasson, who worked in the Coast Guard headquarters in Washington as an acquisitions officer, also apparently wrote a letter to a known American neo-Nazi, according to a prosecution detention motion, which said: "I am a longtime White Nationalist. ... I fully support the idea of a White Homeland. ... you can make change with a little focused violence."

Hasson was not charged with any terrorist-related counts. Instead, he was indicted on two counts of unlawful possession of silencers, and two counts of possession of a controlled substance. Motions to dismiss those counts, filed by the federal public defender in Maryland, were denied last month by Hazel, and trial was set for later this month.

[MD] Coast Guard lieutenant who plotted domestic terrorist attack is expected to plead guilty Thursday (Breitbart)

Breitbart [10/2/2019 3:58 PM, UPI, 2034K]

A U.S. Coast Guard lieutenant accused of stockpiling weapons and plotting a domestic terrorist attack to set off a race war is expected to enter a plea deal Thursday, according to court filings.

A change to Lt. Christopher Paul Hasson's court docket on Wednesday states that he is scheduled to appear before a federal judge in a Greenbelt, Maryland, court for a re-arraignment on Thursday, suggesting that he is planning to enter a plea deal. He pleaded not guilty to the four counts against him during his first arraignment. The conditions of the plea deal are not known.

"In general, re-arraignment indicates a change of plea," said Marcia Murphy, the spokeswoman for the U.S. Attorney in Maryland, The Washington Post reported.

Hasson was arrested in February on gun and drug charges, but prosecutors said he planned to "murder innocent civilians on a scale rarely seen in this country."

Prosecutors called Hasson, 50, a self-described white nationalist who FBI agents discovered had 15 firearms and more than 1,000 rounds of ammunition and a hit list of some 20 names of prominent activists, political organizers, left-leaning media personalities and Democratic congressional leaders, including House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif.; Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-M.A.; and Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, D-N.Y.

FBI agents also found over 30 bottles labeled as human growth hormone in his Silver Springs, Maryland apartment.

Despite a federal judge ordering Hasson detained prior to trial, prosecutors were unable to bring terrorism charges against Hasson, who was indicted on gun and drug charges.

During their investigation, authorities discovered that Hasson was a follower of Anders Breivik, a Norwegian far-right domestic terrorist who killed 77 people during two attacks in his native country in 2011. Hassan had read Breivik's 1,500-page manifesto and was following the terrorist plot instructions it laid out, such as taking steroids and compiling a cache of weaponry.

In an email addressed to “Dear Friends” FBI agents found on his computer, Hasson said, “I am dreaming of a way to kill almost every last person on the earth” blaming liberals for “destroying traditional peoples esp white.”

The Coast Guard began investigating Hasson in 2018 after a computer program designed to find threats within the service identified Hasson as a person of concern.

National Security News

Senators pressure social media giants to crack down on "deepfakes" (CBS News)

CBS News [10/2/2019 6:00 AM, Olivia Gazis and Stefan Becket, 3332K]

Two members of the Senate Intelligence Committee are calling on major tech companies to develop a plan to deal with the proliferation of "deepfakes" on their platforms, according to a letter to the companies obtained by CBS News.

Democratic Senator Mark Warner of Virginia, the vice chair of the committee, and Republican Senator Marco Rubio of Florida will ask 11 companies — including Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Reddit and LinkedIn — to "develop industry standards for sharing, removing, archiving, and confronting the sharing of synthetic content as soon as possible."

In the letter, the bipartisan pair — who have partnered in the past to raise awareness about other national security challenges, including those related to the advent of 5G wireless technology — say deepfakes "pose an especially grave threat to the public's trust in the information it consumes." "Deepfakes" are video or audio files that have been doctored using sophisticated technology to convincingly depict false or misleading events.

"Given your company's role as an online media platform, it will be on the front lines in detecting deepfakes, and determining how to handle the publicity surrounding them," the senators write in a letter to each company. "We believe it is vital that your organization have plans in place to address the attempted use of these technologies."

The other companies receiving the letter are Pinterest, Snap, Tumblr, Tiktok, Twitch and Imgur.

Warner and Rubio's letter poses seven questions about the companies' current policies on user-posted deepfakes, their technical abilities to detect and track doctored media, and the steps each platform would take to notify users when "problematic content" is removed or replaced. The senators also ask how the companies would verify claims of victims who are depicted in the videos and images.

"The threat of deepfakes is real, and only by dealing with it transparently can we hope to retain the public's trust in the platforms it uses, and limit the widespread damage, disruption, and confusion that even one successful deepfake can have," they write.

The issue of deepfakes — specifically a doctored video of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi that went viral in May — was raised at a dinner Warner organized with Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg in Washington last month. At least some of the other companies have previously engaged with the lawmakers on the topic, according to an aide familiar with the discussions, but this is the first time senators have demanded a concrete response.

Some of the social media giants have recently begun confronting the issue of deepfakes and publicly discussing at least part of their efforts to detect them.

In September, Facebook announced it would contribute \$10 million to establish a "Deepfake Detection

Challenge" along with nine partners. A Facebook spokesman also pointed to other initiatives the company is undertaking to combat deepfakes, including a \$7.5 million effort to research manipulated media and various internal efforts to improve detection.

"Deepfake video development and the potential for use by bad actors requires a whole-of-society approach," Facebook's Andy Stone said. "We are committed to working with others in industry and academia to come up with solutions."

A spokesperson for Twitter said fighting deepfakes fall under the company's efforts to combat misinformation and manipulation generally, and pointed to a letter in July from a Twitter executive to Congressman Adam Schiff detailing the company's policy. A LinkedIn representative said the company removes "confirmed fake content" and "invest[s] in systems and technology that give us the ability to monitor, detect, and remove inappropriate content."

Last week, Google and its "technology incubator" arm Jigsaw released a large dataset of deepfakes that the company created using paid actors and publicly available deepfake generation methods. And last month, Reddit and Twitter banned deepfake pornographic videos from their platforms — though other AI-based content remains.

Wednesday's letter is far from the first time lawmakers have raised alarms about the threat — both Warner and Rubio have spoken publicly for over a year about the implications manipulated video might pose for national security in general and election security in particular. Deepfakes were the exclusive subject of an open hearing held in June by the House Intelligence Committee. And the 2019 Worldwide Threat Assessment, an annual report produced by the U.S. intelligence community, specifically cited deepfakes as a likely component of foreign influence operations, including those expected to be used in the 2020 U.S. elections.

"Adversaries and strategic competitors probably will attempt to use deep fakes or similar machine-learning technologies to create convincing — but false — image, audio, and video files to augment influence campaigns directed against the United States and our allies and partners," the assessment warned. "[T]he threat landscape could look very different in 2020 and future elections."

[Editorial note: consult video at source link]

U.S. Treasury sanctions chief Mandelker leaving for private sector (Reuters)

Reuters [10/2/2019 12:32 PM, Arshad Mohammed, 5436K]

Sigal Mandelker, the U.S. Treasury official who oversaw the Trump administration's aggressive use of sanctions as a foreign policy tool, has resigned to return to the private sector, the U.S. Treasury secretary said on Wednesday.

Secretary Steven Mnuchin said Mandelker allowed Treasury to play "an increasingly central role in national security matters."

"She is a fierce advocate for effectively leveraging our powerful economic tools to make an impact for a safer world," Mnuchin said in a statement.

As undersecretary for terrorism and financial intelligence since June 2017, Mandelker supervised the ramping up of sanctions against Iran, mainly aimed at strangling oil exports after the United States left the 2015 landmark nuclear deal with Iran.

During her time in office, the United States also imposed heavy sanctions on Venezuela and its ally Cuba and on several Russian entities and oligarchs for meddling in U.S. elections in 2016.

Mandelker had approached Mnuchin over the summer about her desire to return to the private sector, the secretary said.

Pompeo Confirms He Listened to Trump's Call to Ukraine President (New York Times)

New York Times [10/2/2019 12:14 PM, Jason Horowitz and Richard Perez-Pena, 22840K]

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo confirmed on Wednesday that he had listened in on President Trump's telephone conversation with the president of Ukraine — a call that has become the subject of a whistleblower's complaint and is at the heart of an impeachment inquiry by House Democrats.

"I was on the phone call," Mr. Pompeo said at a news conference in Rome — the first time he has addressed the topic publicly since reports surfaced that he had heard the exchange.

He did not elaborate on the conversation and did not answer a question about whether anything in it had raised a red flag for him.

In the July 25 call, Mr. Trump pressed President Volodymyr Zelensky of Ukraine to investigate the activities in Ukraine of former Vice President Joseph R. Biden and his son Hunter.

Mr. Zelensky thanked Mr. Trump for United States assistance in defending Ukraine against Russia, and said his country wanted to buy more American weapons. Mr. Trump, who days earlier had frozen an aid package for Ukraine, replied, "I would like you to do us a favor though," and asked for help in investigating the 2016 election.

An anonymous whistle-blower within the government filed a complaint in August, citing the call and other factors as information that "the President of the United States is using the power of his office to solicit interference from a foreign country in the 2020 U.S. election."

The complaint, made public last week, says that White House officials, rather than storing a record of the conversation with Mr. Zelensky in the usual computer system, attempted to "lock down" information on it, placing it in a more secure system, accessible to fewer people, because they "understood the gravity of what had transpired in the call."

Mr. Pompeo's confirmation that he was on the call came as he engages in a fight with Democrats in the House of Representatives who have demanded swift access to State Department officials for interviews as part of the impeachment inquiry.

And it came on a day when Congress may receive new information about the Trump administration's interactions with Ukraine, from the State Department inspector general, Steve A. Linick, who requested to meet committee staff members on Wednesday.

Mr. Pompeo on Wednesday described United States policy toward Ukraine as "remarkably consistent," being focused on addressing "the threat that Russia poses" and attempts at "helping the Ukrainians to get graft out, and corruption outside of their government."

"Even," he added, "while all this noise is going on."

Current and former State Department officials have said it is unusual for a secretary of state to listen in on presidential calls with other world leaders. That is normally a role filled by the White House national security adviser and the National Security Council staff.

Mr. Pompeo supports a get-tough policy on Russia and may have been included on the call to ensure that message was reflected in Mr. Trump's comments to the Ukrainian president.

John R. Bolton, another Russia hawk who then was serving as national security adviser, often disagreed

with Mr. Pompeo, and they competed for Mr. Trump's ear. Since Mr. Bolton was ousted last month, Mr. Pompeo's influence has grown.

In his request to Mr. Zelensky, Mr. Trump pushed a conspiracy theory that his own staff had repeatedly told him was false — that Ukraine, not Russia, had intervened in the 2016 election and that it had done so on behalf of the Democrats.

In another call, to Prime Minister Scott Morrison of Australia, Mr. Trump asked for help discrediting the Mueller investigation into Russia's election interference.

Mr. Trump has repeatedly vented his anger at the impeachment inquiry on Twitter, asking why he was not "entitled to interview" and know the identity of the whistle-blower, whose anonymity is protected by law to prevent retaliation. He has also tweeted that he is the target of an attempted coup and that Representative Adam B. Schiff, Democrat of California and the chairman of the Intelligence Committee, should be arrested.

On Tuesday, Mr. Pompeo released a letter that excoriated House Democrats for demanding quick depositions of State Department officials involved in policy toward Ukraine, calling it an "act of intimidation" that did not allow his officials sufficient time to respond.

"What we objected to was the demands that were put that deeply violate fundamental principles of separation of powers," Mr. Pompeo said on Wednesday. "They contacted State Department employees directly, told them not to contact legal counsel at the State Department — at least that's been reported to us — told them State Department wouldn't be allowed to be present."

He said that the department would cooperate with Congress, but that, "we won't tolerate folks on Capitol Hill bullying and intimidating State Department employees — that's unacceptable."

The House postponed the first of the depositions, which it had scheduled for Wednesday.

Representative Elijah E. Cummings, the chairman of the House Oversight and Reform Committee, accused Mr. Pompeo of obstruction.

"In response, Congress may infer from this obstruction that any withheld documents and testimony would reveal information that corroborates the whistle-blower complaint," Mr. Cummings said in a statement.

In response to Mr. Pompeo's letter, he wrote that House Democrats believed Mr. Pompeo had an "obvious conflict of interest" because of his presence on Mr. Trump's call with Mr. Zelensky and that they would not inform Mr. Pompeo about other witnesses.

"The committee may infer that he is trying to cover up illicit activity and misconduct, including by the president," the statement read.

Pompeo acknowledges he was on Trump phone call with Zelensky (San Diego Union Tribune)

San Diego Union Tribune [10/2/2019 9:27 AM, Chris Megerian]

Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo acknowledged Wednesday that he was listening to the conversation when President Trump asked Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky for help investigating Trump's political rivals.

"I was on the phone call," Pompeo told reporters in Rome, where he is traveling this week.

Asked if the call raised any red flags in his mind, Pompeo did not respond. He said U.S. policy toward the country has consistently been "about helping Ukrainians to get graft and corruption outside of their government and to help now this new government in Ukraine build a successful and thriving economy."

It's common practice for diplomats, intelligence officials and others to listen to a call between heads of state. A whistleblower complaint involving Trump's conversation with Zelensky estimated that a dozen U.S. officials were on the line.

The statement draws Pompeo closer to a political crisis that has threatened Trump's presidency by sparking impeachment proceedings.

The State Department has already been under close scrutiny. House Democrats are seeking depositions from five current and former officials, and the former U.S. special representative to Ukraine is scheduled to appear Thursday. They've also sent a subpoena to Trump's personal lawyer, Rudolph W. Giuliani, who was in contact with U.S. diplomats as he networked with Ukrainian officials.

The State Department's inspector general is also expected to appear Wednesday on Capitol Hill to provide information to several committees.

The impeachment inquiry centers on the July 25 call between Trump and Zelensky. When Zelensky mentions his desire for military aid, Trump asks for a "favor," according to a White House account of the call.

Trump wanted Zelensky to look into CrowdStrike, a cybersecurity firm that worked with Democrats during the 2016 campaign, and former Vice President Joe Biden, a potential Democratic opponent in the 2020 election.

Pompeo had previously suggested he didn't know details of the discussion during an interview with ABC News on Sept. 22.

"What do you know about those conversations?" asked interviewer Martha Raddatz.

Pompeo dodged the question by saying he hadn't seen the whistleblower complaint, which was released four days later, that centered on the phone call.

[Italy] Pompeo says U.S. wants to be partner of Italy but not at cost of security - Sky TV (Reuters)
Reuters [10/2/2019 2:14 PM, Giselda Vagnoni, 5436K]

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said on Wednesday the U.S. wanted to be a partner of Italy but not at the cost of its own national security if there were risks associated with Rome's stance on Chinese 5G network technology.

"We want to be a partner of Italy but not to the detriment of American national security," he told Italy's SkyTg24 TV in answer to a question on Washington's concerns on security issues linked to 5G mobile infrastructure provided by China's Huawei, which has contracts with some Italian companies.

[Syria] In Syrian endgame, U.S. officials see challenge from ISIS, Bashar Assad (Washington Times)

Washington Times [10/2/2019 8:20 PM, Lauren Meier, 452K]

Defeating the Islamic State inside Syria is going to require more pressure from American forces and allies, even as the regime of Syrian President Bashar Assad continues to use chemical weapons on civilians, senior Trump administration officials warned Wednesday.

"In order to [achieve] a political solution to the Syrian conflict, ... the Syrian government's behavior towards people and for the region is going to have to change," said Joel Rayburn, the State Department's special envoy to Syria, at a discussion hosted by the Council on Foreign Relations.

"That's the path out of the conflict," he continued. "That will require serious pressure from the United

States and from the rest of the international community.”

The persistence of the Islamic State — despite the loss of its “caliphate” to U.S. and allied forces last year — and the increasing aggression of the Assad regime pose a dilemma for President Trump, who has made clear his desire to end the U.S. military mission in the country.

Mr. Rayburn said it was crucial to prevent a resurgence of the terrorist group and “rehabilitate” the detainees who were relocated to refugee camps, where Islamic State operatives have been reportedly been actively recruiting both in person and online since at least mid-July.

Michael Mulroy, the Defense Department’s deputy assistant secretary for defense of the Middle East, explained that many of the children in the camps are only learning the ways and beliefs of the Islamic State.

“[They] only have one view and one philosophy the entire time that they’re in that camp,” he said. “If the international community doesn’t come up with a way to rehabilitate them and reintegrate them into society, that is the next generation of ISIS.”

The campaign against Islamic State in Syria has succeeded in recapturing virtually all of the territory the group once held across Iraq and Syria and Mr. Trump has declared the group “100% defeated.”

But defense and intelligence officers warn that the Islamic State remains a serious threat and could make a resurgence as it reverts from a de facto army to its roots as a covert terrorist network.

U.S. and international estimates last year said the group could have as many as 30,000 fighters still in its ranks, with many of them disappearing into local populations and preparing to spring back into action as soon as the U.S. departs.

Mr. Trump has pressed to draw down the U.S. military deployment in Syria, but has agreed to keep a reduced contingent in the country to deal with security threats.

The State and Defense officials’ comments come less than a week after Secretary of State Mike Pompeo charged that the Assad regime had used chemical weapons in a May attack on the Idlib province. The government has reduced rebel forces to that single province as it seeks to consolidate its victory in Syria’s brutal eight-year civil war.

The recent attack is believed to be the first since the U.S. and allied forces conducted retaliatory strikes against the regime in April 2018 for an earlier chemical strike.

“Clearly the use of chemical weapons in May shows that the Assad regime is not deterred from using them,” said Mr. Rayburn. The regime has used chemical weapons in the country’s civil war more than 300 times over just the past five years, according to 2019 data.

Experts warn that while the Trump administration’s retaliatory strike to the chemical weapons attack was forceful, it is unlikely to make the Assad regime change its ways.

“The next time ... the Assad regime uses chemical weapons against civilians, the strike must be much harder than it was,” said Mouaz Moustafa, the executive director of the Syrian Emergency Task Force, a Washington-based anti-Assad advocacy group.

He called former President Barack Obama’s response to prior chemical weapons attacks by Mr. Assad’s forces a “disaster,” but pointed out that Mr. Trump’s second response to an attack was “even weaker” than the first.

"We need to up the price with the Assad regime to ensure that never happens again," he said.

[Iraq] At least five dead and 260 injured after violent protests in Iraq (CNN)

CNN [10/2/2019 2:22 PM, Mohammed Tawfeeq and Aqeel Najim, 6094K]

At least five people have died and 260 were left injured after protesters clashed with security forces in Iraq this week, Iraqi officials told CNN.

Violent protests had erupted in Baghdad, and in several provinces across the country, over unemployment, government corruption and the lack of basic services.

Iraq's prime minister Adil Abd al-Mahd held an emergency meeting with members of the national security council to discuss the "unfortunate events," according to a statement released by his office Wednesday

"The Council stressed that appropriate measures should be taken to protect citizens and public and private properties," the statement said.

It added that the government will make all efforts "to meet the legitimate demands of the demonstrators."

US Embassy monitoring protests 'closely'

Hundreds of angry protesters stormed the governors' offices in the cities of Najaf and Nasiriya on Wednesday, according to an Iraqiya State-run television report, setting fire to parts of the buildings in the two predominantly Shiite cities. Authorities in the city of Nasiriya have imposed an evening curfew on vehicles and pedestrians.

Earlier in the week in Baghdad, Iraqi security forces had fired tear gas, water cannon and live ammunition to disperse thousands of angry protesters, according to a joint statement released by Iraqi Interior and Health Ministries.

Demonstrations there turned violent after hundreds of protesters attempted to cross a bridge leading to Baghdad's fortified Green Zone, two security officials inside Green Zone -- home to government building and foreign embassies -- told CNN.

And the Iraqi Defense Ministry deployed more security troops to Baghdad International Airport after dozens of protesters blocked the main road leading to the airport, security officials told CNN.

Amnesty International has urged Iraqi authorities to carry out an urgent and independent investigation into the "excessive violence" used against demonstrators.

"Under domestic and international law, authorities are obliged to respect right to peaceful assembly. In event of violence, excessive violence should not be used," the statement read.

[Pakistan] U.S., Taliban officials visit Pakistan after stalled peace talks (Breitbart)

Breitbart [10/2/2019 8:58 AM, UPI, 2034K]

Representatives of the Taliban and United States met with Pakistani government officials in Islamabad Wednesday, amid peace talks aimed at ending the 18-year American presence that have dragged on for months.

Taliban founder Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar said the insurgent group was in Pakistan to address "important issues," as was Zalmay Khalilzad, the U.S. special envoy for peace talks. It wasn't clear, however, whether they would meet with each other.

Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan has said he would talk to U.S. President Donald Trump about resuming peace talks after they abruptly ended last month. Before they did, plans called for a gradual withdrawal of U.S. forces in exchange for security guarantees from the Taliban — including a pledge to keep terrorists out of Afghanistan.

Peace negotiations, however, have been tricky. Although U.S. and Taliban officials have met, the group refuses to deal with the Afghan government — and Kabul has insisted it be part of any resolution.

“We have objected to being part of the negotiations and not being a central part of this discussion,” Afghan national security adviser Hambullah Mohib said. “Also if we want to see peace in Afghanistan, the Afghan government must be at the forefront of any negotiations.”

Fighting in Afghanistan, meanwhile, has intensified this week. Officials said Taliban attacks in Taluqan have killed more than 30 people and displaced dozens of families. Takhar government spokesman Mohammad Jawad Hijri said other airstrikes have killed 36 Taliban and security forces are successfully repelling fighters.

[Pakistan] Pakistan mediating Taliban-U.S. peace talks while fighting intensifies (Breitbart)

Breitbart [10/2/2019 3:58 AM, Staff, 2034K]

Representatives from the Taliban and United States met with Pakistani government officials in Islamabad Wednesday but it's not clear if the two sides met with each other.

Taliban founder Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar said his group would discuss “important issues” with Pakistani officials.

Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan has said he would talk to President Donald Trump about resuming peace talks with the Taliban after they abruptly ended last month.

Before the talks ended, there were plans for U.S. troops to gradually withdraw in exchange for the Taliban making security guarantees, which includes not allowing Afghanistan to become a safe place for terrorists.

Afghan National Security Adviser Hambullah Mohib said any peace plan must be negotiated by Afghan's own elected leaders.

“We have objected to being part of the negotiations and not being a central part of this discussion,” Mohib said. “Also if we want to see peace in Afghanistan, the Afghan government must be at the forefront of any negotiations.”

Mohib was in New York City where he addressed the U.N. General Assembly Monday.

Despite peace talks, the fighting in Afghanistan has intensified this week with the Taliban launching attacks in Taluqan that killed more than 30 people and injured 40 others. Dozens of families have been displaced from Taluqan and other districts.

Takhar government spokesman Mohammad Jawad Hijri said the Taliban wants to take control of the region and tried to disrupt elections there.

Hijri said security forces have control of the police headquarters and that additional air strikes killed 36 Taliban. Reinforcements arrived to continue pushing the Taliban back.

[Pakistan] Taliban, U.S. envoy in Pakistan to review broken peace talks (Reuters)

Reuters [10/2/2019 10:54 AM, Asif Shahzad and Charlotte Greenfield, 5436K]

Afghan Taliban officials were due in Islamabad on Wednesday to discuss the possibility of reviving talks

for a political settlement in Afghanistan, Pakistan's foreign ministry and the insurgent group said.

The high-profile Taliban delegation was arriving as the top U.S. diplomat involved in talks with the militants, Zalmay Khalilzad, also met government officials in Islamabad.

It was not clear if the Taliban would meet Khalilzad, though one senior Pakistani government official said that might happen.

The Taliban delegation led by Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, one of the group's founders, was due to discuss "important issues" with Pakistani officials, spokesman Suhail Shaheen said.

The visit, the latest stop on a tour of regional powers including Russia, China and Iran by Taliban officials, comes after efforts by the militants and the United States to reach a deal allowing for the withdrawal of U.S.-led foreign forces broke down last month.

"The visit would provide the opportunity to review the progress made under U.S.-Taliban peace talks so far, and discuss the possibilities of resuming the paused political settlement process in Afghanistan," Pakistan's foreign ministry said in a statement. It said a meeting between the insurgents and Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi was being finalised.

Khalilzad, U.S. President Donald Trump's Special Representative for Afghanistan, has been meeting Pakistani officials in Islamabad following discussions between Trump and Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan in the United States.

"These consultations follow discussions held between the United States and Pakistan during the United Nations General Assembly in New York last week," said a spokesman for the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad via email.

The spokesman did not say if Khalilzad was still in Pakistan on Wednesday or if he planned to meet the Taliban officials. A top Pakistan government official told Reuters that the Taliban would likely meet Khan, and that, "we're trying that we will convince the Taliban that the delegation also meets Zalmay Khalilzad".

The official said the meetings would focus on attempting to convince the Taliban to include the Afghan government in the peace talks. The insurgents have previously refused to negotiate with what they call an illegitimate "puppet" regime in Kabul.

Sediq Sediqqi, a spokesman for Afghan President Ashraf Ghani, said on Twitter that the Afghan government should be involved in any peace process.

"No progress will be imminent if a peace process is not owned and led by the Afghan government," he said.

PROGRESS ON PEACE?

The United States has long considered Pakistani cooperation crucial to efforts to end the war in Afghanistan.

Trump last month halted the talks with the Taliban, aimed at striking a deal allowing U.S. and other foreign troops to withdraw in exchange for Taliban security guarantees, following the death of a U.S. soldier and 11 others in a Taliban bomb attack in Kabul.

The Taliban delegation would inform Pakistan's leadership of the factors that derailed the talks, said a Taliban official who declined to be identified. The Taliban also planned to follow up on Khan's recent comment that he would try to convince Trump to resume the talks, the Taliban official said.

Baradar, the head of the delegation, was making his first known visit to Pakistan since he was released from a Pakistani jail a year ago.

Previously the coordinator of the group's military operations in southern Afghanistan, he was arrested in 2010 by a team from Pakistani and U.S. intelligence agencies.

The U.S. and Taliban said last month, shortly before talks broke off, that they were close to reaching a deal, despite concerns among some U.S. security officials and within the Afghan government that a U.S. withdrawal could plunge the country into even more conflict and open the way for a resurgence of Islamist militant factions.

[Russia] Russia's Lukoil sells rare Arctic crude oil to China: sources (Reuters)

Reuters [10/2/2019 7:22 AM, Shu Zhang, Olga Yagova, 5436K]

Russian oil producer Lukoil has sold a cargo of Varandey Blend crude to a Chinese buyer with the shipment sailing via Arctic waters in an unusual trade flow, according to industry sources and shipping data.

Lukoil's trading arm, Litasco, sold the cargo to Chinaoil, the trading vehicle of state-owned CNPC, said one of the sources.

Russia, the world's second-largest oil producer, has been exploring ways to ship more of its crude from the country's west to Asia, to expand its market share in the east where demand growth exceeds other regions.

Russia is also the second-biggest crude supplier to China, exporting 49.4 million tonnes of oil in the first eight months of 2019 amid closer political and industrial ties between the countries.

In what is the first sale of the Arctic crude grade to Asia via the Northern Sea Route (NSR), the Aframax-sized tanker Korolev Prospect loaded at the northwestern Russian port of Murmansk around Aug. 23 and discharged at eastern China's Dongjiakou port around Sept. 16, Refinitiv data showed.

The 6,437 nautical mile (11,921 km) journey compares to an estimated voyage of just over 12,506 nautical miles via the Suez Canal, according to Refinitiv data.

Warm weather during the summer allowed the ship to sail through the usually frozen waters of the Arctic, past Alaska, to China, while relatively firmer prices for Russian ESPO crude exported from the Far Eastern port of Kozmino made the economics of the arbitrage trade work, said the two sources.

The vessel crossed the NSR using only cleaner-burning LNG fuel, the first time in history a large-capacity oil tanker has done so, shipping company Sovcomflot said on its website.

The Dongjiakou port is located in Shandong, home to most of China's independent refiners, also known as "teapots", which account for a fifth of China's crude imports.

Teapots have long favored Russian ESPO crude since Beijing allowed them to import crude oil directly in 2015.

Varandey Blend is a light sweet grade, similar to ESPO crude. Its sulphur content is around 0.5% and API gravity is around 35-37 degrees, according to Reuters data.

The Varandey Blend arbitrage via NSR has since closed as the weather conditions have changed, the sources said. Shipments may resume next year, according one of the sources, who is familiar with Litasco's plan.

The price of the cargo was not known.

Lukoil declined to comment. Reuters could not immediately reach CNPC for comment.

[Russia] FBI using Facebook ads to gather Russian intelligence: report (The Hill)

The Hill [10/2/2019 2:39 PM, Justine Coleman, 2806K]

The FBI is reportedly using Facebook ads to gather intelligence on Russia, specifically targeting those who may be or know Russian spies.

The FBI is running ads in the Washington, D.C., area, CNN reported on Wednesday, that direct to the FBI field office's website that describes its counterintelligence team and encourages visitors to meet "in person."

Alan Kohler Jr., the special agent in charge of the Washington field office's counterintelligence division, said in a statement that the Bureau cannot comment on the specific ads "except to note that Russia has a large number of intelligence officers based in Russian diplomatic facilities around the world."

A source familiar with the advertising project confirmed to CNN that the ads have run throughout the summer.

"The FBI will use all legal means available to locate individuals with information that can help protect the United States from threats to our national security," Kohler said in a statement. "Russia has long been a counterintelligence threat to the U.S. and election interference is certainly an important concern, but it's not the only one. The FBI will continue to adapt our investigative and outreach techniques to counter the threat."

One of the three ads found by CNN depicts a chess set with Russian text that translates to, "Isn't it time for you to make your move?"

A different one shows a young woman at graduation with her family, with text reading "For your future, for the future of your family."

The third ad has a drawing of a man on a bridge, and the text saying, "Time to draw bridges."

"The thing with Russian spies is 99 percent of them are walk-ins, and these people make the decision on their own completely," said Bob Baer, a former CIA agent who's now a CNN analyst.

"Putting it out there and getting in this milieu and seeding the idea of volunteering for the FBI is a good idea," he added.

Russia's own use of Facebook has been under scrutiny since the 2016 election, when Moscow used the social media platform as part of its disinformation and hacking-and-leaking campaign.

[Russia] The FBI is running Facebook ads targeting Russians in Washington (CNN)

CNN [10/2/2019 3:04 PM, Donie O'Sullivan and David Shortell, 6094K]

The FBI is running ads on Facebook in the Washington DC area seemingly designed to target and recruit Russian spies as well as those who know about their work, CNN has learned.

One ad seen by CNN features a stock photo of a young woman at her graduation with her family. Russian text overlaid on the image reads, "For your future, for the future of your family."

Another shows a picture of a chess set, with Russian text that translates to, "Isn't it time for you to make your move?"

And another includes a drawing of a man walking over a bridge, with a Russian caption that reads, "Time to draw bridges."

Some of the Russian in the ads is awkwardly phrased or contains typos -- an indication they may not have been written by a native Russian speaker.

The ads direct to a page on the FBI Washington DC field office's website that has details in English and in Russian about the counterintelligence team and the address of the FBI field office in the city, "visit us in person," it reads.

The FBI had three ads in Russian running on Facebook when they were discovered by CNN earlier this week, but a source familiar with the ad-buy confirmed they have been running throughout the summer.

The FBI did not confirm any details about the ad campaign, how many people saw the ads or if anyone responded to them. However, the ads, which are run from the FBI's verified Facebook page are publicly viewable through a Facebook tool that tracks active advertising campaigns on the platform.

"We cannot comment except to note that Russia has a large number of intelligence officers based in Russian diplomatic facilities around the world. They are very active and pose a security risk to the US and our allies," Alan E. Kohler Jr., special agent in charge of the Washington field office's counterintelligence division told CNN on Tuesday.

"The FBI uses a variety of means to gather information, including the use of sources," he said. "The FBI will use all legal means available to locate individuals with information that can help protect the United States from threats to our national security."

"Russia has long been a counterintelligence threat to the US." and the FBI will "continue to adapt our investigative and outreach techniques to counter the threat," he added.

Bob Baer, a former CIA agent and current CNN intelligence and security analyst said he thought the ads were a good idea.

"The thing with Russian spies is 99 percent of them are walk-ins, and these people make the decision on their own completely," he said referencing instances where foreign agents show up at a US government location and offer to work for the US.

"Putting it out there and getting in this milieu and seeding the idea of volunteering for the FBI is a good idea," he said.

The FBI's counterintelligence team is tasked with "the detection, identification, and neutralization of hostile foreign intelligence activities," according to the page the FBI Facebook ads direct to.

"The FBI obtains the best intelligence to combat this threat through information provided by the public. If you have information that can help the FBI fulfill this mission, visit us in person," it adds.

Russia infamously used Facebook against the United States in 2016, when the GRU, Russian military intelligence, set up DC Leaks, a page that publicized and distributed hacked emails tied to the Hillary Clinton campaign.

The Russians, through a Kremlin-linked online troll group, also posed as real American activists, running elaborate Facebook pages and buying Facebook ads that were seen by millions of Americans. The goal of the effort was to sow discord and exacerbate existing divisions in the United States, the US Department of Justice said.

Individuals linked to both the GRU and the troll operation were indicted as part of Special Counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 election.

[Editorial note: consult source link for video]

[Russia] FBI runs Russian-language Facebook ads asking for help neutralizing 'hostile foreign intelligence' (Washington Times)

Washington Times [10/2/2019 12:17 PM, Andrew Blake, 452K]

The FBI's official Facebook page quietly started running paid advertisements on the platform soliciting assistance from potential Russian assets, a report revealed Wednesday.

Three digital ads bought recently by the FBI's official Facebook account contain Russian language "seemingly designed to target and recruit Russian spies," CNN first reported.

All three of the ads are for the FBI's counterintelligence program in D.C., and each features a different image that has been overlaid with Russian text, according to versions accessible through Facebook's public Ads Archive. They each began running on Sept. 11, and they each refer to an official FBI website that contains details about the counterintelligence program in both English and Russian.

One of the ads shows a young woman in a graduation gown alongside Russian text that roughly translates to "For your future, for the future of your family." Another shows a chessboard in black-and-white beneath the Russian words for, "Isn't it time for you to make your move?" The third contains an image of a man walking with an umbrella alongside the Russian text for "Time [to] build bridges.

The ads direct to an FBI page that says in English and Russian that the bureau's counterintelligence program is dedicated to protecting Americans "through the detection, identification, and neutralization of hostile foreign intelligence activities," and it includes information about how to contact the D.C. field office from where it is run. They recently began being displayed to Facebook users logged on from around D.C., according to CNN.

"We cannot comment except to note that Russia has a large number of intelligence officers based in Russian diplomatic facilities around the world. They are very active and pose a security risk to the US and our allies," Alan E. Kohler Jr., FBI special agent in charge of the D.C. field office's counterintelligence division, told CNN.

"The FBI uses a variety of means to gather information, including the use of sources," he told CNN, the network reported. "The FBI will use all legal means available to locate individuals with information that can help protect the United States from threats to our national security."

Russia notoriously used Facebook ads during the course of interfering in the 2016 U.S. presidential election, federal officials previously concluded. The Internet Research Agency, a St. Petersburg-based "troll farm" financed by an oligarch close to Russian President Vladimir Putin, bought ads on Facebook and other platforms to amplify disinformation and other content created as part of what the Department of Justice has called a "sweeping and systematic" attempt by Moscow to meddle in the race.

Multiple social networks subsequently revised their advertising policies in response to Russian election meddling, including Facebook's decision in March to make all ads accessible through its public Ads Archive.

[Russia] FBI trying to recruit Russian spies via Facebook ads (Washington Examiner)

Washington Examiner [10/2/2019 3:22 PM, Caitlin Yilek, 855K]

The FBI has ads on Facebook that appear to be an effort to recruit Russian spies in the Washington, D.C., area.

The ads, first reported by CNN, are viewable through a Facebook tool that discloses active advertising campaigns on the social media platform.

One ad features a stock photo of a woman at her graduation with her parents. "For your future, for the future of your family," the ad says in Russian.

A second ad contains an image of a chess set with Russian text that says, "Isn't it time for you to make your move?"

The final sponsored post is a drawing of a man walking over a bridge carrying a briefcase and an umbrella. The Russian text says, "Time to draw bridges."

"The FBI obtains the best intelligence to combat threats through information provided by the public. If you have information that can help the FBI, visit us," all three ads are captioned.

The sponsored posts lead to the website for the FBI's D.C. field office. The page has information in Russian and English about its counterintelligence program.

The posts began appearing on Facebook on Sept. 11, according to the ad tracker.

The FBI did not immediately respond to a request for comment from the Washington Examiner.

"We cannot comment except to note that Russia has a large number of intelligence officers based in Russian diplomatic facilities around the world. They are very active and pose a security risk to the US and our allies," Alan E. Kohler Jr., special agent in charge of the D.C. field office's counterintelligence division, told CNN.

"The FBI uses a variety of means to gather information, including the use of sources," he said. "The FBI will use all legal means available to locate individuals with information that can help protect the United States from threats to our national security."

"Russia has long been a counterintelligence threat to the US," he added, and the FBI will "continue to adapt our investigative and outreach techniques to counter the threat."

It remains unclear how many people the ads reached or whether anyone contacted the FBI in response to the outreach.

Russia weaponized social media against the U.S. during the 2016 election through a Kremlin-linked troll group that ran Facebook pages and bought Facebook ads to sow division, the Justice Department said. Individuals linked to the troll operation and Russia's military intelligence were charged in special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into Russian interference in the election.

[China] Trump to Keep Thumb on China's Access to Markets, Analysts Say (Bloomberg)

Bloomberg [10/2/2019 1:43 PM, Felice Maranz, 5350K]

Trump administration pressure on China's access to U.S. capital markets is likely to intensify, according to several analysts.

"The current political environment means these efforts will likely gather steam," Raymond James analyst Ed Mills wrote in a note after conversations with Washington sources. The U.S.-China capital wars are a "potential new front should we run out of goods to tariff," Cowen analyst Chris Krueger wrote separately.

Cowen's Krueger advises watching for potential moves from three places: Congress, which could take action by making amendments to the annual National Defense Authorization Act; the administration,

which could take unilateral action, but not before talks later this month in Washington, D.C.; and the Securities and Exchange Commission.

One issue the administration may seek to move quickly on, according to Raymond James's Mills, is a 2017 decision by the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board, or FRTIB, to transition to the MSCI "All Country World ex-U.S. index" as a benchmark.

That index lists "many China-linked firms that are viewed as acting counter to the national security interests of the U.S.," Mills said, while several have "violated U.S. sanctions and are under scrutiny by the federal government for human rights abuses." There are also concerns about how China's refusal to allow independent auditors access to company financials on national security grounds may limit "investors' ability to make sound investment decisions," he said.

Mills noted that lawmakers from both parties, primarily Sens. Marco Rubio and Jeanne Shaheen, have argued that the MSCI-AWCX index allows federal workers' retirement funds to support "enterprises Beijing uses to undermine American workers," and that are involved in "military, espionage, human rights abuses, and the 'Made in China 2025' industrial policy."

Restrictions on China are not "fake news," Mills added, referring to a comment last week by White House trade adviser Peter Navarro. Along with actions that may focus on FRTIB-directed funds, and a push for greater financial reporting transparency from Chinese firms, the "threat of more draconian measures should not be discounted," he said.

On Tuesday, hedge fund star Ray Dalio said preliminary discussions on limiting U.S. investments in China make him wonder if the Trump administration is "inching toward bigger moves." Earlier, Kyle Bass, founder of Hayman Capital Management, said Chinese companies raising capital in the U.S. should face greater scrutiny, and he would personally never invest in the country's internet giants.

U.S.-listed shares of China-based companies rallied on Monday, rebounding from a sharp drop on Friday, after Bloomberg said the White House was weighing limits on U.S. portfolio flows into China, a report the Trump administration subsequently played down. Gainers included Alibaba Group Holding.

In a statement emailed to Bloomberg over the weekend, a spokeswoman for U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said there were no current plans to stop Chinese companies from listing on U.S. exchanges.

[China] California man accused of spying for China denied bail, public defender (FOX News)

FOX News [10/2/2019 6:47 PM, Louis Casiano, 10258K] Video: [HERE](#)

A California tour operator accused of delivering classified U.S. national security information to officials in China was denied bail Wednesday after a judge deemed him a flight risk.

Xuehua "Edward" Peng was also ordered to hire his own attorney after U.S. Magistrate Judge Jacqueline Corley ruled he didn't qualify for a free public defender.

Peng, 56, was arrested in his San Francisco-area home Friday as part of an FBI sting operation targeting Chinese intelligence operatives in the U.S. He is charged with acting as an illegal agent of a foreign government.

Prosecutors said Peng, a naturalized American citizen, made at least five cash drops of up to \$20,000 each in hotel rooms in exchange for documents on a digital card provided by a person secretly working with the FBI. Peng would then travel to Beijing to meet with Chinese intelligence officers, they said.

Prosecutors allege Peng had made 15 trips to China since 2015 and many more before that time. The cash drops detailed in the complaint against him took place between October 2015 and June 2018. Two

of the drops took place in hotels in the Bay Area, while three of the drops took place in Columbus, Ga.

Wearing an orange jumpsuit, Peng used an interpreter during his appearance in a San Francisco courtroom Wednesday.

Assistant U.S. public defender Ellen Leonida argued in court for his release, saying Peng “has every motivation to stay here” and that his adult daughter and sister have offered their homes as bail guarantees.

Authorities argued Peng has money, contacts, a mistress and an apartment in China. Judge Corley said she wasn’t satisfied that the presence of Peng’s family in California was enough to keep the defendant in the U.S.

Peng came to the U.S. in 2001 on a temporary business visa and operated U.S. Tour and Travel in San Francisco. He faces up to 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine if convicted. His next court appearance is scheduled Oct. 15.

[China] Judge Denies Bail, Public Defender to Man Accused of Spying (US News & World Report)
US News & World Report [10/2/2019 4:51 PM, Janie Har, AP, 3196K]

A U.S. judge said Wednesday that a California tour operator is a flight risk and denied him bail while he awaits trial on charges of carrying national security documents to officials in China.

U.S. Magistrate Judge Jacqueline Corley also ordered Xuehua Edward Peng to hire his own attorney, saying he had too many financial assets to qualify for a free public defender.

Peng, 56, appeared in U.S. District Court for Northern California after his arrest Friday at his Hayward home. He wore a red-orange jail uniform and used an interpreter to understand the judge and attorneys.

Peng has been charged with being an illegal foreign agent and delivering classified U.S. national security information to officials in China. Prosecutors have not disclosed the nature of the material. Peng has not entered a plea.

Assistant U.S. public defender Ellen Leonida argued in court for his release, saying Peng “has every motivation to stay here” and that his adult daughter and sister have offered their homes as bail guarantees.

The judge said she wasn’t satisfied that the presence of his family in California was enough to keep Peng from fleeing to China, where authorities say he has money, an apartment and a mistress.

Corley also told Peng that he will not be able to go through with the purchase of a new home.

Prosecutors say Peng participated in anonymous drops where he left money in hotel rooms in exchange for documents on a digital card provided by a person secretly working with the FBI.

He would then take the card and travel to Beijing to meet Chinese intelligence officers, prosecutors say.

Peng is a naturalized U.S. citizen who entered the country in 2001 on a temporary business visa. He has a background in mechanical engineering and is licensed in California as an acupuncturist.

Leonida has not returned messages seeking comment.

Public records list Peng as president of U.S. Tour and Travel in San Francisco, but no website for the company was found in an online search.

A neighbor described Peng as a quiet, friendly man who seemed to travel a lot and loved fancy cars.

Peng could face up to 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine if convicted.

[North Korea] North Korea Hails Sub-Based Missile That Raises Security Stakes (Bloomberg)

Bloomberg [10/2/2019 10:19 PM, Jon Herskovitz, 5350K]

North Korea called the first test of its new submarine-launched ballistic missile a major boost for its national security, saying it strengthens its hand to defend itself against adversaries.

The Thursday report from the official Korean Central News Agency also said that leader Kim Jong Un was absent from the test of its Pukguksong-3 missile a day earlier, a possible indicator that wants to distance himself personally from the move, which came just days before his state is set to resume long-delayed nuclear talks with the U.S.

The missile was fired in waters of North Korea's eastern Wonsan Bay, state media said, releasing photos that showed it emerging from the sea.

"It ushered in a new phase in containing the outside forces' threat to the DPRK and further bolstering its military muscle for self-defense," the report said, referring to the country by its formal name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The South Korean military said the missile was fired near Wonsan just after 7 a.m. Wednesday and flew 910 kilometers (565 miles) in a lofted trajectory into space before falling into the sea. It was the longest-range weapon Kim's regime has tested since his last intercontinental ballistic missile test in November 2017 -- a move that may be designed to increase its bargaining leverage ahead of Saturday's working-level negotiations.

The first launch of a submarine-based missile in roughly three years also demonstrates Kim's progress toward a two-pronged nuclear deterrent capable of quick strikes on the U.S. and its allies from mobile launchers on land and hard-to-track submarines. North Korea's antiquated, meager air force isn't regarded as a threat in a region that contains the technologically-advanced warplanes of the U.S., Japan and South Korea.

"It creates new complications, and while allied anti-submarine warfare capabilities are robust, the prospect of nuclear weapons flushed out to sea during a crisis could raise the stakes considerably," said Ankit Panda, a weapons expert at the Federation of American Scientists. Kim's sitting out this test "suggests a degree of concern about his image or perhaps an attempt to calibrate how provocative this looks to the United States," he said.

North Korea has lauded what it says is a special chemistry between Kim and U.S. President Donald Trump, who have met three times since June 2018. Despite their historic meetings that have included smiles and handshakes, there has been almost nothing to show in terms of North Korea's denuclearization.

Kim has typically been on hand as North Korea has fired off at least 20 missiles in 11 different military tests since breaking a testing freeze in May. Up until Wednesday, all of the missiles have been short range -- tests Trump has brushed off as routine and said don't violate the promise Kim made to him to halt tests of intercontinental ballistic missiles and nuclear devices.

But the Pukguksong-3 is estimated to have a range of about 1,900 kilometers, making it an intermediate-range ballistic missile that raises the threat of an attack from a submarine on U.S. military assets in Japan and perhaps even the U.S. territory of Guam, which lies about 3,300 kilometers from Wonsan.

[North Korea] North Korea Fires Another Missile, Possibly Launched by Submarine (Breitbart)

Breitbart [10/2/2019 4:06 PM, John Hayward, 2034K]

North Korea conducted another provocative missile test on Wednesday. South Korean military intelligence believes the weapon was a submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM).

The missile reached a peak altitude of over 550 miles before coming down in the waters of Japan's exclusive economic zone.

Japanese Prime Minister Abe Shinzo swiftly condemned the launch, describing it as a violation of U.N. Security Council resolutions. Trump administration officials said they were monitoring the situation and coordinating with regional allies to analyze data about the launch, which took place only a few hours after North Korean officials announced new talks would be held with the U.S. on Saturday.

As military experts pointed out, a medium-range ballistic missile launched from a submarine is theoretically a threat to the United States, depending on how close the sub could get to North America before opening fire. At a minimum, North Korean SLBMs pose a clear threat to American interests in the Pacific and Hawaii.

The South Koreans naturally interpreted the launch as a message aimed at them, perhaps as a rebuke for Monday's passage of a resolution condemning Pyongyang's previous ten missile tests as a violation of the peace agreement between North and South Korea, or a peevish response to South Korea's observance of Armed Forces Day on Tuesday, which included the public debut of new F-35 fighters obtained from the United States.

"The root cause of the stalemate in the North-South relations lies, in short, in the South Korean authorities' treacherous behavior," North Korea's state-run Rodong Sinmun newspaper said on Wednesday in an editorial denouncing the South's military cooperation with America as "unchangingly aggressive."

South Korea's National Security Council expressed "grave concern" about the test and warned it will raise tensions on the Korean Peninsula. If the missile was launched from a submarine, it would be North Korea's first SLBM test in three years.

Satellite photos of North Korea's submarine base at Sinpo suggest a sub was launched from there at some point after dictator Kim Jong-un paid a highly publicized visit to the base on July 23. North Korea tends to test new weapons quickly after Kim performs such an inspection.

The administration of dovish South Korean President Moon Jae-in notably declined to immediately denounce the launch as Japan did, saying it preferred to let the U.N. Security Council decide if the missile test was an actionable violation of its resolutions.

"Given the timing of the launch, the North appears to have wanted to strengthen its negotiation position ahead of the talks and ramp up pressure on the U.S. to come up with a new calculation method acceptable to Pyongyang," Handong Global University professor Park Won-gon told South Korea's Yonhap News on Wednesday.

Yonhap reported analysis of the missile launch is still underway, including efforts to determine if two missiles were launched, or a single vehicle split into two segments during flight.

[North Korea] US officials assess North Korea launched a medium-range missile (CNN)

CNN [10/2/2019 5:07 PM, Barbara Starr and Ryan Browne, 6094K]

The US has assessed that North Korea tested a medium-range missile on Wednesday local time. It was fired from a launcher placed on a floating barge off the coast of the country, according to two US officials familiar with the latest assessment.

The test came a day after Pyongyang and Washington agreed to resume nuclear talks. This marks a departure from the tests of shorter range missiles Pyongyang has carried out in recent weeks. President Donald Trump has downplayed the significance of those launches calling them very standard because of their limiting range saying "many people have those missiles."

"There have been no nuclear tests. The missile tests have all been short-ranged — no ballistic missile test. No long-range missiles," Trump said in August.

The missile was launched from near Wonsan, a city in Kangwon Province on North Korea's east coast and flew for a distance of 450 kilometers (280 miles) before landing in waters off Japan. It reached an altitude of 910 kilometers (565 miles), South Korea's Joint Chief of Staff said in a statement Wednesday.

Shortly after the launch US and South Korean officials said the missile was assessed to be a Submarine Launch Ballistic type missile (SLBM), though a US official said it was launched from a barge-like platform designed to test underwater launches and not a submarine which North Korea has never demonstrate the ability to fire from.

The latest US assessment says that the missile was not underwater when it was launched from the barge.

While North Korea has launched multiple short-range missiles in recent weeks it has not launched a medium-range missile since 2017, long before the June 2018 meeting between Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un was held in Singapore.

The most recent North Korean launch took place the day after Pyongyang and Washington agreed to resume nuclear talks.

Trump has yet to comment on the latest North Korean launch but a State Department spokesperson called on Pyongyang "to refrain from provocations, abide by their obligations under UN Security Council Resolutions, and remain engaged in substantive and sustained negotiations to do their part to ensure peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula and achieve denuclearization."

Short-range ballistic missiles are considered to be missiles with a range of anything less than 1,000 kilometers, approximately 620 miles. Medium-range ballistic missiles have a range of between 1,000 and 3,000 kilometers or approximately 620-1,860 miles.
Talks set to resume

The launch happened a day after the US State Department said that Washington and Pyongyang plan to resume working-level talks next week.

Negotiations on denuclearization have stalled since February, when Trump cut short his meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in Hanoi. Trump left the meeting with no joint agreement after Kim insisted all US sanctions be lifted on his country.

The last time the two leaders met was in June in the Korean Demilitarized Zone where they agreed to revive staff-level talks.

Earlier this week, former US national security adviser John Bolton said he didn't believe Pyongyang would willingly surrender its nuclear weapons.

In his first public remarks since leaving his former role in the Trump administration three weeks ago, Bolton said Kim will "do whatever he can" to keep a nuclear weapons capability.

After more than a year of refraining from missile tests, Kim's regime has conducted 11 launches since

May including Wednesday's. Most of those are believed to be short-range missiles, and experts say they have shown impressive technological advancements.

[Editorial note: consult source link for video]

[North Korea] North Korea missile not from submarine, may have been launched underwater platform, officials say (FOX News)

FOX News [10/2/2019 10:49 AM, Stephen Sorace and Lucas Tomlinson, 10258K] Video: [HERE](#)

North Korea's recent missile test was not launched from a submarine, as initially reported, but rather from a barge or underwater platform, U.S. officials told Fox News on Wednesday.

Concerns over whether the Hermit Kingdom fired a ballistic missile from a submarine rose after officials announced the test on Tuesday. The missile - launched just days ahead of scheduled resumption of nuclear talks with the United States this weekend - flew about 280 miles and reached a maximum altitude of 565 miles, South Korean Defense Minister Jeong Kyeong-doo told lawmakers.

The launch also comes more than two months after North Korean leader Kim Jong Un was photographed at a shipyard where a submarine is being modified to carry a ballistic missile similar to what other U.S. officials say was test-fired.

North Korea conducted a similar test from the sea three years ago. The nation does not have operational submarines that can carry ballistic missiles in its small fleet.

Some experts have said North Korea is attempting to raise the stakes and ramp up pressure on the United States before their nuclear negotiators meet on Saturday.

"The North is trying to convey a message that time is not on the side of the United States and that it could take a different path if the working-level talks don't go the way it wanted," said Du Hyeogn Cha, a visiting scholar at Seoul's Asan Institute for Policy Studies.

Talks have been stalled since February when President Trump and Kim walked away from their second summit without a deal. Kim wanted sanctions relief in exchange for partial disarmament.

Earlier this week, ousted National Security Adviser John Bolton openly criticized the Trump administration's policy toward North Korea, saying Kim "will never give up the nuclear weapons voluntarily."

While it's unclear how Trump will respond to North Korea's latest test, he has largely downplayed its other short-range missile tests in recent months, saying no agreements were violated.

[North Korea] Explainer: North Korea's Suspected Submarine Missile 'Pushes the Envelope' (US News & World Report)

US News & World Report [10/2/2019 5:44 AM, Jack Kim, 3196K]

North Korea fired what may be a submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM) on Wednesday, which would be the first test in three years of what had been a relatively young but rapidly progressing program to deliver nuclear weapons.

The launch comes hours after the North announced it would resume nuclear talks with the United States this weekend, potentially ending a months-long deadlock that followed a vow by leader Kim Jong Un and President Donald Trump to make progress.

The exact type of the missile and the launch platform remain unclear, but it appears to be a step that "pushes the envelope," said Joshua Pollack, a leading expert on nuclear and missile proliferation and

editor of Nonproliferation Review.

A missile was launched from the sea soon after 7 a.m. on Wednesday (2200 GMT Tuesday) about 17 km northeast of the coastal city of Wonsan, the site of one of North Korea's military bases used for previous missile launches.

Japan initially said two missiles were launched but later clarified it was likely one projectile that went through stage separation. The projectile hit the waters in Japan's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), the Japanese government said.

South Korea's Defense Minister Jeong Kyeong-doo said an Aegis destroyer detected one missile launch, which flew 450 km (280 miles) in a lofted trajectory 910 km (565 miles) high.

It is unclear if the missile was launched from a submarine or a platform at sea.

If the missile had been launched on a standard trajectory, the range would have been up to 1,900 km (1,200 miles), which would put it in the medium-range missile class.

That missile would have all of South Korea and Japan within range. A launch from a submarine deployed in the surrounding waters would pose greater difficulty for their missile defense.

The threat of a submarine-launched ballistic missile grows exponentially with the range of the submarine. The North's existing Romeo-class submarines, which were built in the 1990s, are believed to have a range of about 7,000 km, potentially making a one-way trip to near Hawaii possible.

But they are diesel-electric powered and very noisy, making them highly vulnerable to detection, especially by U.S. forces with their decades of experience tracking Soviet submarines.

North Korea began testing SLBMs in 2015 and conducted four submarine launches by August 2016, when a two-stage solid-fuel Pukguksong missile flew about 500 km (310 miles) on a lofted trajectory. That test was considered a success.

There has been no known tests since then to suggest the North has made further progress in developing an SLBM of intermediate or long ranges.

Those previous launches were conducted near the port city of Sinpo, about 110 km from Wonsan and home to many of the North's fleet of submarines, believed to be one of the world's largest.

Despite the size of the fleet, most of the vessels are believed to be small or vintage Soviet-era models and only one is believed to be an experimental submarine capable of carrying a ballistic missile.

North Korea said in July leader Kim Jong Un inspected a large, newly built submarine and that its operational deployment was near.

Analysts said photos released on the North's state media suggested the vessel could be a modified Romeo class type with an enlarged hull, not the larger submarine that satellite images have suggested was being built at the Sinpo shipyard.

Submarine-launched ballistic missiles are considered key to delivering a second-strike capability that can be used to retaliate against a nuclear attack.

To be assured of the capability, the submarine must not only have the ability to launch a nuclear ballistic missile but also the endurance to sail within range of the enemy.

Military analysts are skeptical the North's submarine program has reached the level of technical sophistication to achieve a second-strike capability.

North Korea has conducted nine launches since leader Kim Jong Un met U.S. President Donald Trump at the demilitarized zone (DMZ) inter-Korean border on June 30 and pledged to resume nuclear talks.

All but the one on Wednesday has been short-range missiles and rockets that would be fast and effective way to attack South Korea and U.S. forces stationed there.

Before Kim entered an unofficial moratorium on missile and nuclear tests to engage in dialogue with Trump, the North test-fired an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) in November 2017.

If launched on a standard trajectory, that missile would have had a range of up to 13,000 km, putting the mainland United States in strike distance.

But experts are doubtful the North has mastered the technology to build a nuclear warhead small enough to be mounted on a missile that can withstand re-entry to the atmosphere and to guide it with precision to hit the target.

[North Korea] N. Korea seeks to twist U.S. arm in talks with sub-launched ballistic missile test (Washington Times)

Washington Times [10/2/2019 5:23 AM, Guy Taylor, October, 452K]

North Korea's test Wednesday of what was believed to be a submarine-launched ballistic missile was a strategic move by Pyongyang to gain an upper hand over the U.S. in nuclear talks slated to restart this weekend after a months-long stall, national security insiders said.

The test, just hours after the North had announced plans to rejoin working-level nuclear talks with Washington, was likely designed to pressure the U.S. side into an "arms control negotiation" rather than the denuclearization discussion sought by the Trump administration, said David Maxwell, a retired U.S. Special Forces officer focused on North Korea.

"If we shift to an arms control process, Kim wins," Mr. Maxwell, a senior fellow with the Foundation for Defense of Democracies in Washington, said in comments circulated to reporters Wednesday morning.

Others were equally wary of Pyongyang's move.

"It seems North Korea wants to make its negotiating position quite clear before talks even begin," said Harry Kazianis, the head of Korean studies at the Center for the National Interest in Washington.

"Pyongyang, through more tests of what are most likely short-range missiles or advances artillery-style weapons, is eager to remind Washington of its military capabilities — especially as South Korea just recently displayed its new F-35 stealth fighter purchase," Mr. Kazianis said.

"North Korea's message is clear: our capacity to cause trouble is increasing by the day. Pyongyang seems set to push Washington to back off from past demands of full denuclearization for what are only promises of sanctions relief," he said, also in comments emailed to reporters.

South Korean military officials said Wednesday that the North had fired what appeared to be a submarine-launched ballistic missile from waters off its east coast.

The missile was believed to be a type of Pukguksong, a North Korean SLBM, according to a report by the South's Yonhap News Agency, which noted that, if confirmed, the launch will mark the Pyongyang's first SLBM test since August 2016.

There was no immediate response from the Trump administration and it was not clear how the development may ultimately impact the restart of working-level nuclear talks between U.S. and North Korean officials.

Sources have told The Washington Times that U.S. negotiators plan to push their North Korean counterparts for concrete steps toward denuclearization in exchange for limited counter steps by Washington when the two sides meet this weekend for their first working-level talks since February's failed Hanoi summit between President Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un.

North Korean officials revealed Tuesday in a brief notice in the state official press that the lower-level discussions will resume after a seven-month break, a meeting confirmed shortly afterward by a State Department spokeswoman.

With the Hanoi talks having collapsed over Mr. Kim's demand that U.S. deliver sweeping sanctions relief in exchange for only a partial dismantling of his nuclear arsenal, analysts say the U.S. side is likely to embrace a "step-by-step" approach to negotiations and see what the North Korean side brings to the table.

[South Korea] South Korea Parades Recently Purchased U.S. F-35 Stealth Fighter Jets (Breitbart)
Breitbart [10/2/2019 7:52 AM, Ben Kew, 2034K]

South Korea on Tuesday showed off some of its new U.S.-made F-35 stealth fighter jets during its Armed Forces Day ceremony on Tuesday, in a move likely to unsettle its communist neighbor North Korea. As part of a deal signed between the two countries last year, South Korea will purchase 40 F-35 fighter jets from Lockheed Martin by 2021. The first set of aircraft were delivered this year and were showcased on Tuesday in front of South Korean President Moon Jae-in.

Moon and other officials inspected the new assets at a ceremony in the city of Daegu, which include an "F-35A, reconnaissance drone, Hyunmoo II ballistic and Hyunmoo III cruise missiles, as well as PAC-III and M-SAM missile defense systems and K-9 self-propelled artillery."

In a televised speech, Moon admitted it was the first time he felt "secure about the might of our military armed with new equipment such as F-35As," adding that South Koreans should feel "very proud" of their country's rising military strength.

As noted by Yonhap News Agency, Daegu was "one of the last defense lines for South Korea" and its "victories in fierce battles there helped turn the tide of the war triggered by the North's surprise attack." As a result, the city has become a "traditional stronghold of the nation's conservative bloc, especially the main opposition Liberty Korea Party," and is often referred to as a "sacred place" for South Korean conservatism.

Despite his low popularity due to his left-wing views and support for appeasement of North Korea, Moon commended Daegu's citizens, pointing out that they had to suffer the inconveniences of holding the country's military facilities. "When the country is in trouble, Daegu citizens have always shown amazing patriotism," he said.

The show of strength is likely to infuriate the communist regime in Pyongyang, which has previously described such activity as a "grave provocation" and a threat to a future long-term peace treaty between the two nations. Moon dismissed concerns to this effect and argued it would make an agreement easier. "Peace is something to make, not to keep," Moon said. "Our military's airtight security (measures) support dialogue and cooperation and enable (us) to take an audacious walk toward permanent peace."

Attempts at achieving a comprehensive peace agreement between the United States and North and South Korea have stalled in recent months, with a planned summit between North Korean dictator Kim Jong-un and U.S. President Donald Trump in Vietnam in February cut short due to disputes over

continued sanctions against the regime. The two men held a brief meeting at the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) in late June where they agreed to resume negotiations.

Presidential Tweets

Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump

Tweet1 [10/2/2019 8:39 AM] Louisiana Republicans must go out and vote REPUBLICAN in your Governor's race. A Republican will win if you can force a runoff! Early voting has started. Your 2nd Amendment, and much else, is at stake.

Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump

Tweet2 [10/2/2019 8:51 AM] I won the right to be a presidential candidate in California, in a major Court decision handed down yesterday. It was filed against me by the Radical Left Governor of that State to tremendous Media hoopla. The VICTORY, however, was barely covered by the Fake News. No surprise!

Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump

Tweet3 [10/2/2019 9:06 AM] Massive sections of The Wall are being built at our Southern Border. It is going up rapidly, and built to the highest standards and specifications of the Border Patrol experts. It is actually an amazing structure! Our U.S. Military is doing a GREAT job.

Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump

Tweet4 [10/2/2019 10:16 AM] Congressman Adam Schiff should resign for the Crime of, after reading a transcript of my conversation with the President of Ukraine (it was perfect), fraudulently fabricating a statement of the President of the United States and reading it to Congress, as though mine! He is sick!

Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump

Tweet5 [10/2/2019 10:26 AM] All the Do Nothing Democrats are focused on is Impeaching the President for having a very good conversation with the Ukrainian President. I knew that many people were listening, even have a transcript. They have been at this "stuff" from the day I got elected. Bad for Country!

Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump

Tweet6 [10/2/2019 10:27 AM] #DONOTHINGDEMS

Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump

Tweet7 [10/2/2019 10:47 AM] "Nancy Pelosi and the Democrats haven't met the standards of impeachment. They have to be very careful here." Jeanne Zaino. @FoxNews

Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump

Tweet8 [10/2/2019 11:02 AM] Now the press is trying to sell the fact that I wanted a Moat stuffed with alligators and snakes, with an electrified fence and sharp spikes on top, at our Southern Border. I may be tough on Border Security, but not that tough. The press has gone Crazy. Fake News!

Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump

Tweet9 [10/2/2019 11:19 AM] All of this impeachment nonsense, which is going nowhere, is driving the Stock Market, and your 401K's, down. But that is exactly what the Democrats want to do. They are willing to hurt the Country, with only the 2020 Election in mind!

Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump

Tweet10 [10/2/2019 11:31 AM] Nancy Pelosi just said that she is interested in lowering prescription drug prices & working on the desperately needed USMCA. She is incapable of working on either. It is just camouflage for trying to win an election through impeachment. The Do Nothing Democrats are stuck in mud!

Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump

Tweet11 [10/2/2019 11:31 AM] Democrats are trying to undo the Election regardless of FACTS! [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump

Tweet12 [10/2/2019 11:39 AM] Adam Schiff should only be so lucky to have the brains, honor and strength of Secretary of State Mike Pompeo. For a lowlife like Schiff, who completely fabricated my words and read them to Congress as though they were said by me, to demean a First in Class at West Point, is SAD!

Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump

Tweet13 [10/2/2019 11:48 AM] The Do Nothing Democrats should be focused on building up our Country, not wasting everyone's time and energy on BULLSHIT, which is what they have been doing ever since I got overwhelmingly elected in 2016, 223-306. Get a better candidate this time, you'll need it!

Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump

Tweet14 [10/2/2019 3:51 PM] "Schiff, House Intel Chairman, Got Early Account of Whistle-Blower's Accusations" SCHIFF IS A FRAUD! [Editorial note: consult article and video at source link]

Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump

Tweet15 [10/2/2019 5:06 PM] LOOK AT THIS PHOTOGRAPH! [Editorial note: consult image at source link]

Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump

Tweet16 [10/2/2019 7:27 PM] Mississippi, there is a VERY important election for Governor on November 5th. I need you to Get Out and Vote for our Great Republican nominee, @TateReeves. Tate is strong on Crime, tough on Illegal Immigration, and will protect your Second Amendment.....He loves our Military and supports our Vets! Democrat Jim Hood will never give us his vote, is anti-Trump and pro-Crooked Hillary. Get Out and Vote for Tate Reeves on November 5th. He has my Complete & Total Endorsement!

Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump

Tweet17 [10/2/2019 7:41 PM] DEMOCRATS WANT TO STEAL THE ELECTION! #KAG2020 [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

{End of Report} RETURN TO TOP

Message

From: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Sent: 2/29/2020 2:47:09 AM
To: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) cbpmediarelations
(b)(7)(E)
CC: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Subject: RE: NY Times on MPP

Thank you (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Will share below statement with NYT and others who have come in with this question.
Adding CBPmediarelations for everyone's awareness and action.

From: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Sent: Friday, February 28, 2020 9:42 PM
To: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Cc: P (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Subject: Re: NY Times on MPP

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

To confirm, we have issued the cessation of processing under MPP per the injunction. However, we are continuing to utilize every tool at CBP's disposal to ensure the integrity of our immigration system and processing programs.

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

(A) Deputy Assistant Commissioner
Office of Public Affairs
Customs and Border Protection
Cell: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 28, 2020, at 5:34 PM, (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) wrote:

Zolan Kanno-Youngs and Caitlin Dickerson – have both called me asking if, at this point, CBP employees have been told to stop processing for MPP? Caitlin wants to know if we can confirm that a directive has gone out from HQ to this effect?

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Southwest Border Branch Chief
Office of Public Affairs
U.S. Customs and Border Protection
Office: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Cell: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
<image001.jpg>

Message

From:

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

Sent:

3/5/2020 1:30:28 PM

To:

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

Subject:

"'Flood the Streets'_ ICE Targets Sanctuary Cities With Increased Surveillance - "

Attachments:

Flood the Streets_ ICE Targets Sanctuary Cities With Increased Surveillance - .pdf; ATT00001.htm

Message

From: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Sent: 2/14/2020 5:06:21 PM
To: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Subject: FW: CBP statement

From: Kanno-Youngs, Zolan (b)(6)
Sent: Friday, February 14, 2020 10:17 AM
To: (b)(6)
Subject: Re: CBP statement

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

Also, is BORTAC actually going in with full tactical gear and all of the equipment to execute arrests? What exactly will they be doing to assist ERO?

On Fri, Feb 14, 2020 at 9:58 AM Kanno-Youngs, Zolan (b)(6) wrote:

Thanks for this yesterday. Also want to give you another chance to respond to criticism. We've got some folks saying the tactical units like BORTAC shouldn't be helping ERO in urban areas. They say it's out of their jurisdiction and those units usually work in the wilderness or rural areas. And the unit is akin to a SWAT team, making it odd they would support administrative arrests.

Let me know.

From: Kanno-Youngs, Zolan (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, February 13, 2020 9:58 PM
To: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Subject: Re: CBP statement

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

anything that addresses BORTAC? I'm also told they're heading to NY, Chicago, San Francisco, LA, ATL, Houston, Boston, New Orleans, Detroit, and Newark.

Let me know if I'm missing something.

On Thu, Feb 13, 2020 at 9:45 PM Kanno-Youngs, Zolan (b)(6) wrote:

Thank you

On Thu, Feb 13, 2020 at 9:18 PM (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) wrote:

Just making sure you got this:

“CBP is deploying 100 officers and agents to supplement ICE Enforcement Removal Operations in order to enhance the integrity of the immigration system, protect public safety, and strengthen our national security.”

--

Zolan Kanno-Youngs

Homeland Security Correspondent

The New York Times

Cell/WhatsApp/Signal: (b)(6)

(b)(6)

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Zolan Kanno-Youngs

Homeland Security Correspondent

The New York Times

Cell/WhatsApp/Signal: (b)(6)

(b)(6)

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Zolan Kanno-Youngs
Homeland Security Correspondent
The New York Times

Cell/WhatsApp/Signal: (b)(6)

(b)(6)

--
Zolan Kanno-Youngs
Homeland Security Correspondent
The New York Times

Cell/WhatsApp/Signal: (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Message

From:

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

Sent:

2/14/2020 7:06:13 PM

To:

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

Subject:

New York Times - Border Patrol Will Deploy Tactical Units to Sanctuary Cities (also mentions taser incident at end)

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/02/14/us/Border-Patrol-ICE-Sanctuary-Cities.html?referringSource=articleShare>

Border Patrol Will Deploy Tactical Units to Sanctuary Cities

Agents from an elite unit, the equivalent of a Border Patrol SWAT team, are being sent to sanctuary cities across the country.



By Caitlin Dickerson and Zolan Kanno-Youngs

Feb. 14, 2020, 1:47 p.m. ET

The Trump administration is deploying law enforcement tactical units from the southern border as part of a supercharged arrest operation in sanctuary cities across the country, an escalation in the president's battle against localities that refuse to participate in immigration enforcement.

The specially trained officers are being sent to cities including Chicago and New York to boost the enforcement power of local ICE officers, according to two officials who are familiar with the secret operation. Additional agents are expected to be sent to San Francisco, Los Angeles, Atlanta, Houston, Boston, New Orleans, Detroit and Newark, N.J.

The move reflects President Trump's persistence in cracking down on sanctuary cities, localities that have refused to cooperate in handing over immigrants targeted for deportation to federal authorities. It comes soon after the Justice Department and Department of Homeland Security announced a series of measures that will affect both American citizens and immigrants living in those places.

Lawrence Payne, a spokesman for Customs and Border Protection, confirmed the agency was deploying 100 officers to work with Immigration and Customs Enforcement, which conducts arrests in the interior of the country, "in order to enhance the integrity of the immigration system, protect public safety, and strengthen our national security."

The deployment of the teams will run from February through May, according to an email sent to Customs and Border Protection personnel, which was read to The New York Times by one official familiar with the planning.

Among the agents being deployed to sanctuary cities are members of the elite tactical unit known as BORTAC, which acts essentially as the SWAT team of the Border Patrol. With additional gear such as stun grenades and enhanced Special Forces-type training, including sniper certification, the officers typically conduct high-risk operations targeting individuals who are known to be violent, many of them with extensive criminal records.

The unit's work often takes place in the most rugged and swelteringly hot areas of the border. It can involve breaking into stash houses maintained by smuggling operations that are known to be filled with drugs and weapons.

In sanctuary cities, the BORTAC agents will be asked to support interior officers in run-of-the-mill immigration arrests, the officials said. Their presence could spark new fear in immigrant communities that have been on high alert under the stepped-up deportation and detention policies adopted after Mr. Trump took office.

In a statement, ICE's acting director, Matthew T. Albence, said the deployment comes in response to policies adopted by sanctuary cities, which have made it harder for immigration agents to do their jobs.

"As we have noted for years, in jurisdictions where we are not allowed to assume custody of aliens from jails, our officers are forced to make at-large arrests of criminal aliens who have been released into communities," he said. "When sanctuary cities release these criminals back to the street, it increases the occurrence of preventable crimes, and more importantly, preventable victims."

But Gil Kerlikowske, the former commissioner of C.B.P., which oversees tactical units along the border, said sending the officers to conduct immigration enforcement within cities, where they are not trained to work, could escalate situations that are already volatile. He called the move a "significant mistake."

"If you were a police chief and you were going to make an apprehension for a relatively minor offense, you don't send the SWAT team. And BORTAC is the

SWAT team,” said Mr. Kerlikowske, who is the former chief of police in Seattle. “They’re trained for much more hazardous missions than this.”

The Border Patrol squads will be charged with backing up ICE agents during deportation operations and standing by as a show of force, the officials said.

ICE agents typically seek out people with criminal convictions or multiple immigration violations as their primary targets for deportation, but family members and friends are often swept up in the enforcement net in what are known as “collateral” arrests, and many such people could now be caught up in any enhanced operations.

ICE leadership requested the help in sanctuary jurisdictions because agents there often struggle to track down undocumented immigrants without the help of the police and other state and local agencies. Law enforcement officers in areas that refuse to cooperate with ICE and the Border Patrol — which include both liberal and conservative parts of the country — often argue that doing so pushes undocumented people further into the shadows, ultimately making cities less safe because that segment of the population becomes less likely to report crimes or cooperate with investigations.

The goal of the new joint operation, one of the officials said, was to increase arrests in the sanctuary jurisdictions by at least 35 percent.

The operation reflects an increasingly hawkish approach to immigration enforcement, following the firings and resignations of leaders who have been viewed in the White House as unwilling to take the harsh steps Mr. Trump and his advisers view as necessary to slow illegal immigration.

Other recent attempts at aggressive enforcement by ICE have faltered, such as a series of raids targeting more than 2,000 migrant families that were planned during the summer of 2019. Mr. Trump’s advance warnings on Twitter led many of those who were targeted to refuse to open their front doors, and ultimately,

only 35 of those who had been targeted were arrested in the operation's first several weeks.

Even with the added show of force from BORTAC, agents will be limited in their abilities compared to the police or sheriff's deputies. Unlike operations on the border, where BORTAC agents may engage in armed confrontations with drug smuggling suspects using armored vehicles, immigration agents in cities are enforcing civil, rather than criminal infractions. They are not allowed to forcibly enter properties in order to make arrests, and the presence of BORTAC agents, while helpful in boosting the number of agents on the ground, may prove most useful for the visual message it sends.

The agents will not be busting down doors or engaging in shootouts, said one official with direct knowledge of the operation, who like the other official would not be identified because he was not authorized to discuss it.

Many ICE agents say their jobs have become increasingly difficult, three years into Mr. Trump's presidency, because of robust campaigns by immigrant advocacy organizations seeking to safeguard undocumented immigrants by educating them on the legal limitations that ICE officers face. As a result, in many communities where undocumented immigrants live, when ICE agents are spotted, people now turn immediately to their phones to alert neighbors that they should stay inside.

Mr. Trump campaigned on a promise to crack down on sanctuary cities. Within a few months of taking office, the Justice Department moved to withhold certain federal funds from the jurisdictions. Last week, the Justice Department filed suit against state and local governments in California, New Jersey and Washington over sanctuary policies there. Also this month, the Department of Homeland Security announced it would ban New Yorkers from enrolling in programs that allow travelers to speed through customs checkpoints in airports and at the border as a result of the state's decision to offer drivers licenses to undocumented

immigrants and bar Homeland Security agencies from accessing the state's motor vehicle database.

The president again highlighted the issue in his State of the Union address, arguing that sanctuary cities "release dangerous criminal aliens to prey upon the public."

In January, a New York City Council member wrote an open letter for his fellow councilors expressing concern about increasing ICE activity in the region, including collateral arrests. Last week, an acquaintance of a man in New York who was being arrested by ICE was shot in an incident that the agency later blamed on sanctuary policies.

The aggressive immigration enforcement tactics being implemented around the country are not limited to any one agency. In a widely circulated video recorded in El Paso, Texas, on Tuesday night, Border Patrol agents are shown subduing and using a Taser to apprehend a man in a Burger King restaurant.

The video shows the man pleading repeatedly with the agents while shouting that he had done nothing wrong. A female bystander asks the agents to leave the restaurant, as she cries while witnessing the episode. While the man was writhing in pain on the floor after being stunned repeatedly, another woman in the video approached the agents and asked, "Why are you still hitting him?"

A Border Patrol spokesman said in a statement that the apprehended man was a "suspected alien smuggler," without offering any evidence to support that assertion. The spokesman did not respond to a request for the man's name and nationality.

"The man refused to cooperate with the verbal instructions and attempted to avoid being handcuffed and a struggle ensued," the Border Patrol spokesman said.

In the same statement, the spokesman said that a “citizen” had notified law enforcement of a suspicious vehicle parked on his property. The Border Patrol said the man apprehended by the agents on Tuesday was the driver of the vehicle and that “record checks indicated that the man was in the country illegally and had a positive criminal history.”

An ICE spokesman declined to comment on the specifics of the latest effort in sanctuary cities, citing the agency’s policy against sharing information about enforcement operations before they have taken place. However, the spokesman added that the agency had “made it abundantly clear for years that, in jurisdictions where we are not allowed to assume custody of aliens from jails, our officers would be redirected to make at-large arrests.”

Simon Romero, Miriam Jordan and Annie Correal contributed reporting.

Caitlin Dickerson is a Peabody Award-winning reporter based in New York who covers immigration. She has broken stories on asylum, detention and deportation policy, as well as the treatment of immigrant children in government custody. [@itscaitlinhd](#)

Zolan Kanno-Youngs is the homeland security correspondent, based in Washington. He covers immigration, border issues, cyber security, transnational crime and other national security threats.

Message

From: MORGAN, MARK A (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
Sent: 3/4/2020 12:42:09 AM
To: SCOTT, RODNEY S (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
CC: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) PEREZ, ROBERT E
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) DURST, CASEY OWEN
Subject: Re: heads up - media attention

Appreciate the heads-up.

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 3, 2020, at 7:27 PM, SCOTT, RODNEY S (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) wrote:

FYSA – I was just advised by the SOG team supporting ERO in Chicago that they will be shadowed by a CNN crew tomorrow. We have one BORTAC SBPA and one BPAI assigned to the ERO unit that will be shadowed. It appears this was coordinated/approved by the ERO CoC. They have been instructed to let ERO handle all the interviews, but I'm sure the NYT article will be a point of discussion.

Rodney Scott

Chief

US Border Patrol

US Customs and Border Protection

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