

Message

**From:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(E)  
**Sent:** 3/4/2020 1:56:21 PM  
**To:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(E)  
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(E)  
**Subject:** Re: NYT Request

10-4. Will call you in 30 mins or so.

(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)@cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 4, 2020 8:37:18 AM  
**To:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@CBP.DHS.GOV>  
**Subject:** Re: NYT Request

The office line.

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

---

**From:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@CBP.DHS.GOV>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 4, 2020 6:03:08 AM  
**To:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: NYT Request

GM, would like to do a quick run through/prep session 30 mins before. What number do we use? (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

---

**From:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 3, 2020 7:28 PM  
**To:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@CBP.DHS.GOV>  
**Subject:** Re: NYT Request

Sounds good.

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

---

**From:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@CBP.DHS.GOV>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 3, 2020 5:26:36 PM  
**To:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: NYT Request

We are GTG for an 0800 MST call to you if that works best. Will forward you a series of docs/TPs.

(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) @CBP.DHS.GOV>

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 3, 2020 7:03:49 PM

**To:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>

**Subject:** Re: NYT Request

10-4, we've said (b)(7)(E) total BTS, BTC, BPAIs and deployed from across the country.

Are you available tomorrow 0800 MST? We can scope this down a bit and call you in advance of the telephone call.

(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) @cbp.dhs.gov>

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 3, 2020 6:53:41 PM

**To:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @CBP.DHS.GOV>

**Subject:** RE: NYT Request

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

I'd be happy to speak to the reporter. I'm assuming it would be a phone call?

As for the below questions, it's highly unlikely that any member of BORTAC would speak to a reporter regarding any operation. Also, I'd prefer not to release any personnel numbers.

(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) @CBP.DHS.GOV>

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 3, 2020 4:29 PM

**To:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>

**Subject:** FW: NYT Request

Greetings Chief,

FYI only below. We are prepping responses but wondering if reporter is interested in speaking to you about the broad mission set and functions BTS, BTC and BPAIs play within USBP would you be willing to do an interview? If nothing else to dispel the misinformation that is out there.

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

**From:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 3, 2020 4:50 PM  
**To:** USBP-HQ-STRATCOM (b)(7)(E) @cbp.dhs.gov>; BPTasking (b)(7)(E) @cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Fwd: NYT Request

Questions on Operation Sub zERO for NYT. Deadline is tomorrow morning.

*1. We've heard from those within BORTAC specifically that there is frustration in the unit about this redeployment on it not being the best use of their skills. Any comment on this?*

*2. I'm also curious 1. Where the BORTAC agents came from (what sector/location) and 2. how many TOTAL BORTAC agents are there? Not just the total number deployment but the total number in CBP.*

*Sent from my iPhone*

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

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** (b)(6) @nytimes.com>  
**Date:** March 3, 2020 at 4:44:01 PM EST  
**To:** cbpmediarelations <cbpmediarelations@cbp.dhs.gov> (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)  
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>, (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** NYT Request

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.

Hello,

We're working on a follow up to CBP redeployment, which includes BORTAC agents, to supplement ERO operations. **Any context you would like to include is appreciated.** We're writing that HSI agents are also being transferred for this operation. Two specific questions I have...

1. We've heard from those within BORTAC specifically that there is frustration in the unit about this redeployment on it not being the best use of their skills. Any comment on this?

2. I'm also curious 1. Where the BORTAC agents came from (what sector/location) and 2. how many TOTAL BORTAC agents are there? Not just the total number deployment but the total number in CBP.

If you can have something back ASAP, I would appreciate it. Deadline would be tomorrow morning.

Thanks,

(b)(6)

Homeland Security Correspondent

The New York Times

Cell/WhatsApp/Signal: (b)(6)

(b)(6)





Message

**From:** (b)(6)@linkedin.com  
**Sent:** 3/4/2020 6:45:08 PM  
**To:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@dhs.gov  
**Subject:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) please add me to your LinkedIn network

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



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



Hi (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) I'd like to join your LinkedIn network.



(b)(6)

Homeland Security Correspondent at The New York Times  
Greater New York City Area

Accept

View profile

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Help](#)

You are receiving invitation emails.

This email was intended for (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) (Chief Patrol Agent, US Border Patrol Special Operations Group). [Learn why we included this.](#)



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Message

From:

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

on behalf of

SOG

(b)(7)(E)

(b)(7)(E)

Sent:

3/4/2020 1:53:36 PM

To:

SOG

(b)(7)(E)

(b)(7)(E)

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

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

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

SOG (b)(7)(E)

(b)(7)(E)

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

CC:

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

Subject: DHS Morning Brief | March 4, 2020

Attachments: DHS Morning Briefing - March 4, 2020.pdf

ALCON,

Good morning.

Attached is the DHS Morning Brief.

Some Articles of interest:

- Any American Can Now Be Tested for the Coronavirus, Pence Says (New York Times)  
..... 5
- US to ban travel from more countries with coronavirus epidemics (Washington Examiner)  
..... 14
- 19 states sue the Trump administration over border wall money shift (Politico)....19

- DHS chief unaware of Trump's claim of Mexican 'redemption' wall money (Washington Times) ..... 26
- Divided Supreme Court rules illegal immigrants can't be shielded from ID theft prosecution (FOX News) ..... 34
- U.S. Supreme Court gives states latitude to prosecute illegal immigrants (Reuters) ..... 35
- DHS Shuts Down Facility In Washington State Over Coronavirus Concerns (Daily Caller) ..... 39
- ICE arrests illegal immigrant after NYPD arrest him for child rape, sexual abuse (FOX News) ..... 48
- Chicago defends releasing illegal immigrant who was later charged with sexually assaulting toddler (Washington Examiner) ..... 55
- Administration asks to keep asylum policy in place while it seeks Supreme Court review (CNN) ..... 64
- Guatemalan Man Wanted for Child Sex Assault Arrested in North Dakota (Breitbart) ..... 64
- Tennessee tornadoes kill at least 24 people, including children, and leave a trail of destruction (Washington Post) ..... 72
- Democrats: Judge extends Tennessee voting in storm-hit area (San Francisco Chronicle) ..... 83
- DHS says 'all systems look green' for Super Tuesday election security (Roll Call) ..... 96
- Man gets 5½ years for lying to FBI in probe of Texas attack (ABC News) ..... 105
- House Republicans sound the alarm on Taliban deal (The Hill). 129

You can find the attached on **HSIN.dhs.gov**.

Please disseminate accordingly.

Respectfully,

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) | Enforcement Analysis Specialist  
 U.S. Border Patrol | Special Operations Group | (b)(7)(E)  
 (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Main | (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Direct | (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) STE | (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Fax  
 (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov | (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @dhs.sgov.gov | (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @dhs.ic.gov

*"The world is full of obvious things which nobody by chance ever observes." ~ Sherlock Holmes*

**WARNING:** This document is **LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE** and is designated **FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY (FOUO)**. It contains information that may be exempt from public release under the Freedom of Information Act (5 USC 552). This document is to be controlled, handled, transmitted, distributed, and disposed of in accordance with Department of Homeland Security policy relating to FOUO information, and is not to be released to the public or personnel who do not have a valid "need to know" without prior approval.



Appointment

From:

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

Sent:

3/4/2020 11:29:05 AM

To:

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

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @CBP.DHS.GOV; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov; (b)(6)

(b)(6) @hq.dhs.gov; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov]

Subject:

CPA (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) w/ (b)(6) (NYT)(SOG participation in Op Sub zERO)

Location:

Teleconference: (b)(7)(E) | Participant: (b)(7)(E) | Moderator: (b)(7)(E)

Start:

3/4/2020 3:00:00 PM

End:

3/4/2020 3:30:00 PM

Show Time As: Tentative

Required

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

@CBP.DHS.GOV;

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

Attendees:

(b)(6)

@hq.dhs.gov);

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

@cbp.dhs.gov)

Appointment

From:

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

Sent:

1/16/2020 3:50:10 PM

To:

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

**Subject:** MITASK Brief for ICE-ERO Operation Sub Zero

**Attachments:** Deployment Order (b)(7)(E) Op SUB zERO-ICE-ERO support.docx; Signed\_ICE-RFA-MOA\_01032020 (1).pdf;  
2020\_01\_16\_OP\_SUB\_ZERO\_SUPPORT\_MITASK.docx

**Location:** SOG CONFERENCE ROOM

**Start:** 1/16/2020 4:30:00 PM

**End:** 1/16/2020 5:00:00 PM

**Show Time As:** Tentative

**Required**

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

**Attendees:**

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

ALCON,

15

The MITASK brief for SOG ICE-ERO OPERATION SUBzERO SUPPORT will be held Today 17JAN2020 after the Weekly meeting. Please provide any coordination needs/requests or concerns for input.

\*\*\*\*\*Please print and review attached MITASK for any follow on questions or concerns for teams composition.\*\*\*\*\*

**ACTION REQUEST FOR LEAD UNIT (BTC/BST/IU) LEADERSHIP/MANAGEMENT TO PROVIDE THE TL's INTENT:**

- **Purpose:** *How SOG efforts will accomplish the operation/mission. It should drive the "In order to...". Commander's intent is the commander's personal expression of the purpose of the operation.*
- **End State:** *End state or conditions, that, when satisfied, accomplish the purpose. Situation at the completion of the operation.*

**Analysis Goals:**

- Determine which unit(s) for mission
- Develop support task from staff as needed
- Develop timelines
- Develop Mission Statement
- Intent and guidance

**Attachments:**

1. MITASKs (WORD DOC.)
2. ICE-ERO SUPPORT REQUEST
3. ICE-RFA MOA

OPSCEN will forward the MITASK to the **Identified TL** in order to assist with completing the OPORD and further planning. Please provide guidance on any specific instruction for (b)(7)(E) to coordinate.

Thanks all

Appointment

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

**Sent:** 1/16/2020 3:50:10 PM

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

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @CBP.DHS.GOV; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)  
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @CBP.DHS.GOV; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov;  
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @CBP.DHS.GOV; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)  
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @CBP.DHS.GOV; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)  
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

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

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @CBP.DHS.GOV; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @CBP.DHS.GOV

**Subject:** MITASK Brief for ICE-ERO Operation Sub Zero

**Attachments:** Deployment Order (b)(7)(E) Op SUB zERO-ICE-ERO support.docx; Signed ICE-RFA-MOA\_01032020 (1).pdf;  
2020\_01\_16\_OP\_SUB\_ZERO\_SUPPORT\_MITASK.docx

**Location:** SOG CONFERENCE ROOM

**Start:** 1/16/2020 4:30:00 PM

**End:** 1/16/2020 5:00:00 PM

**Show Time As:** Tentative

**Required Attendees:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

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

ALCON,

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Thanks all

Appointment

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

**Sent:** 1/16/2020 3:50:10 PM

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

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @CBP.DHS.GOV; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @CBP.DHS.GOV; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @CBP.DHS.GOV; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @CBP.DHS.GOV; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @CBP.DHS.GOV; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(E)

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

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @CBP.DHS.GOV; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @CBP.DHS.GOV; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

(b)(7)(E)

**Subject:** MITASK Brief for ICE-ERO Operation Sub Zero

**Attachments:** Deployment Order (b)(7)(E) Op SUB zERO-ICE-ERO support.docx; Signed ICE-RFA-MOA\_01032020 (1).pdf; 2020\_01\_16\_OP\_SUB\_ZERO\_SUPPORT\_MITASK.docx

**Location:** SOG CONFERENCE ROOM

**Start:** 1/16/2020 4:30:00 PM

**End:** 1/16/2020 5:00:00 PM

**Show Time As:** Tentative

**Required Attendees:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

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

ALCON,

The MITASK brief for SOG ICE-ERO OPERATION SUBzERO SUPPORT will be held Today 17JAN2020 after the Weekly meeting. Please provide any coordination needs/requests or concerns for input.

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**ACTION REQUEST FOR LEAD UNIT (BTC/BST/IU) LEADERSHIP/MANAGEMENT TO PROVIDE THE TL's INTENT:**

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1. MITASKs (WORD Doc.)
2. ICE-ERO SUPPORT REQUEST
3. ICE-RFA MOA

OPSCEN will forward the MITASK to the **Identified TL** in order to assist with completing the OPORD and further planning. Please provide guidance on any specific instruction for (b)(7)(E) to coordinate.

Thanks all

Message

From:

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

Sent:

2/27/2020 8:42:16 PM

To:

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

CC:

Subject:

Re: SITREP-20200227 (b)(7)(E) OP-SOG-NYC-OPERATION SUBZERO (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov

Nice work.

(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) @cbp.dhs.gov>

Sent: Thursday, February 27, 2020 3:10 PM

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

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

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

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

Subject: SITREP-20200227 (b)(7)(E) OP-SOG-NYC-OPERATION SUBZERO (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov

SITREP

Operation: (b)(7)(E)

SITREP ID: SITREP-20200227 (b)(7)(E)

**Date:** 02/27/2020

**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:** Supported NYC Fugitive OPs Teams with enforcement (b)(7)(E)

(b)(7)(E) Four subjects were apprehended and processed accordingly.

**Medical Status:** Good.

**Significant Events:**

Supported Fug Ops with the arrest of (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) in front of the court house after his release. The arrest was without incident. (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) was one of the six subjects arrested during a New York Drug Enforcement Raid on 01/24/2020, but released due to NYC's bail reform. (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) was arrested under an Administrative Warrant for Over Stay and will be served a Notice to Appear. (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) will remain in ICE custody until all court proceedings are complete.

<https://nypost.com/2020/01/29/suspects-accused-of-running-7m-fentanyl-ring-released-without-bail/>

<https://www.lawenforcementtoday.com/six-suspects-busted-running-7-million-fentanyl-ring-new-york-just-released-them-without-bail/>

**Criminal History:**

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

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

**Air Operations:** N/A.

**(b)(7)(E)**

**Next 24 Hours:** Continue to support Operation SUB zERO.

**Associated Event Numbers**

No Event # Logged -

**SITREP Coordinates**

**(b)(7)(E)**

**Total Apprehensions**

UDAs - 4

**Total Manpower**

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

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

Message

**From:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(E)  
**Sent:** 3/4/2020 12:53:57 AM  
**To:** Gmail (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Sub zERO PAG  
**Attachments:** PAG Operation SUB zERO (V.ICE).docx; ATT00001.htm

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

---

**From:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@CBP.DHS.GOV>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 3, 2020 5:32:41 PM  
**To:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Sub zERO PAG

(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)@cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 3, 2020 7:31:36 PM  
**To:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@CBP.DHS.GOV> (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Sub zERO PAG

Appointment

From:

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

Sent:

3/4/2020 1:41:31 PM

To:

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

Subject:

Accepted: CPA (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) w (b)(6) (NYT)(SOG participation in Op Sub zERO)

Location:

Teleconference: (b)(7)(E) | Participant: (b)(7)(E) | Moderator: (b)(7)(E)

Start:

3/4/2020 3:00:00 PM

End:

3/4/2020 3:30:00 PM

Recurrence:

(none)



Message

**From:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(E)  
**Sent:** 10/29/2019 10:15:18 PM  
**To:** MORGAN, MARK A (b)(7)(E)  
**CC:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(E)  
**Subject:**  
**Attachments:** Social Listening 10.29.19.docx; ATT00001.htm

Commissioner, Deputy,

OPA's social media report for today is below.

Insightful look at what media are tweeting in response.

R/S

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

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Date:** October 29, 2019 at 3:53:57 PM MDT  
**To:** "QUINN, TIMOTHY" (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov> (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)  
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @CBP.DHS.GOV> (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) CBP.DHS.GOV> (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)  
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov> (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @hq.dhs.gov> (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)  
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov> (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)  
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov> (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @CBP.DHS.GOV>  
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov> (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)  
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov> (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov> (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)  
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov> (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Cc:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov> (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)  
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Social Media Listening Report: October 29, 2019

Press Conference:

- <!--[if !supportLists]--><![endif]--> (b)(6) (WaPo): Responding to a question from (b)(6) about rising number of Mexican families being taken into custody at the border, Mark Morgan says CBP is "working with the WH to develop new initiatives we can apply to Mexicans as well." (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) working on something new?
- <!--[if !supportLists]--><![endif]--> (b)(6) (NYT): Mark Morgan is standing in front of border wall right in El Paso describing an increase in drug seizures for fiscal year '19. Says it should be concerning to all. But it's a difficult stat: Do seizures show that agents are blocking more drugs? Or are there more drugs coming in?
  - <!--[if !supportLists]--><![endif]-->Worth noting these seizures were mostly at ports of entries. Agents were redirected away from ports of entries this year to grapple with illegal border crossings.

- <!--[if !supportLists]--><![endif]-->Now referencing the thousands of rescues CBP agents made this year. Morgan accuses media of not covering this. We included on the front page! [LINK](#)
- <!--[if !supportLists]--><![endif]-->Morgan says that 76 miles of "new" wall have been built. The wall has been built in locations where there were damaged barriers or vehicle barricades.
- <!--[if !supportLists]--><![endif]-->(b)(6) (WaPo): This morning, @CBPMarkMorgan will have a press conference in El Paso on FY19 border security numbers. He'll be at the same location used by @DHSMcAleenan in March to declare the U.S. immigration enforcement system was at "the breaking point." Expect tone today to be different.
- <!--[if !supportLists]--><![endif]-->(b)(6) (WaPo): Large turnout of uniformed Border Patrol and CBP agents for @CBPMarkMorgan press conference in El Paso.
- <!--[if !supportLists]--><![endif]-->(b)(6) (WSJ): As others have noted, @CBPMarkMorgan wants to nationalize the border: "What happens at the southwest border is impacting every town and city and state in this great country. We need to make sure we're talking about that more," he says in El Paso today
- <!--[if !supportLists]--><![endif]-->(b)(6) (CQ Roll Call): "I'm going to stand here proud about MPP." - Mark Morgan
- <!--[if !supportLists]--><![endif]-->(b)(6) (CQ Roll Call): Mark Morgan responds to a question saying there has never been "integrity" into the system. Again emphasizes getting rid of Flores & TVPRA.
  - <!--[if !supportLists]--><![endif]-->He also adds the need to revise the credible fear process.
- <!--[if !supportLists]--><![endif]-->(b)(6) (El Paso Times): Despite migration decline, @CBP acting chief Mark A. Morgan says nation still faces 'crisis.' [LINK](#) via @elpasotimes
- <!--[if !supportLists]--><![endif]-->(b)(6) (FOX): "Everybody should be worried." CBP Acting Commissioner Mark Morgan says apprehensions are 88% higher in FY 19 compared to the year before. PHOTO
  - <!--[if !supportLists]--><![endif]-->Morgan says it's not just a humanitarian crisis, but a national security crisis. He says 750,000 pounds of drugs were seized in FY 19.
- <!--[if !supportLists]--><![endif]-->(b)(6) (Border Report): "Human smuggling organizations could really teach a class at Harvard," says @CBPMarkMorgan about Mexican drug cartels changing tactics -- US & Mexico stop flow of Central Americans, cartels start encouraging Mexican families to migrate.
- <!--[if !supportLists]--><![endif]-->(b)(6) (Border Report): Responding to criticism of Migrant Protection Protocol (MPP) program, @CBPMarkMorgan says it's sending message to smugglers that "you can't just grab a kid and come to the U.S." MPP makes migrants wait in oft-dangerous Mexican border cities for asylum hearing in US.

#### Outlets:

- <!--[if !supportLists]--><![endif]--><u>CNN</u>: Arrests of migrant families and unaccompanied children at the southern border reached record highs over the past year, driven by a surge in asylum seekers, according to acting Customs and Border Protection Commissioner Mark Morgan [LINK](#)
  - <!--[if !supportLists]--><![endif]-->The US Border Patrol apprehended nearly 475,000 family members last fiscal year, up 342% from fiscal year 2018. More than 76,000 unaccompanied children were taken into custody on the US-Mexico border, which was higher than any year on record.
- <!--[if !supportLists]--><![endif]--><u>AP Politics</u>: Top border official: crisis isn't over yet; More than 859,500 apprehensions at the U.S.-Mexico border. [LINK](#)
- <!--[if !supportLists]--><![endif]--><u>Reuters</u>: Illegal migration at southern border remains a "crisis" despite slowdown, U.S. says [LINK](#)
- <!--[if !supportLists]--><![endif]--><u>ABC News Politics</u>: Tens of thousands of migrants have evaded Border Patrol during a year of record apprehensions [LINK](#)

- <!--[if !supportLists]--><![endif]-->[The Intercept](#): Migrant children trapped in Mexico are leaving their families and crossing the border alone [LINK](#) by [\(b\)\(6\)](#)
- <!--[if !supportLists]--><![endif]-->[AJ Plus](#): A 33-year-old woman from Mexico died in ICE custody. CPB says she was found "in need of medical care" in Arizona and transferred to a hospital, where she died. She is at least the third person to die in ICE custody this month. [LINK](#)
- <!--[if !supportLists]--><![endif]-->[POLITICO](#): [@CBP](#) confirms expedited removal pilot program. [\(b\)\(6\)](#) has the details [LINK](#)
- <!--[if !supportLists]--><![endif]-->[Sourcing Journal](#): CBP said it lacks "adequate advance information...to effectively and efficiently assess the security risk" of de minimis shipments. [LINK](#)
- <!--[if !supportLists]--><![endif]-->[Electronic Frontier Foundation](#): The first "Privacy Impact Assessment" about CBP's use of social media for situational awareness shows a program that poses a clear risk to the free expression rights of social media users. [LINK](#)
- <!--[if !supportLists]--><![endif]-->[AZ Central](#): Border Patrol sees spike in migrants hidden in semitrucks, which can be a dangerous practice [LINK](#)
- <!--[if !supportLists]--><![endif]-->[Fox Illinois](#): CULTURE IS NOT A COSTUME - This comes after a recent Facebook post showed a UIS employee dressed as a US Border Patrol Agent. [LINK](#)

#### Reporters:

- <!--[if !supportLists]--><![endif]-->[\(b\)\(6\)](#) (AP): Some more details on potentially very important experiment in El Paso to speed asylum decisions, following up on [\(b\)\(6\)](#) story last week. [LINK](#)
- <!--[if !supportLists]--><![endif]-->[\(b\)\(6\)](#) (LA Times): The latest: For transgender migrants fleeing death threats, asylum in the U.S. is a crapshoot [LINK](#)
- <!--[if !supportLists]--><![endif]-->[\(b\)\(6\)](#) (WBEZ): Last week, I traveled to Matamoros to examine how the Migrant Protection Protocol or "remain in Mexico" policy Trump implemented is working out. This is what I found. [LINK](#)
- <!--[if !supportLists]--><![endif]-->[\(b\)\(6\)](#) (NYT): Last night, DHS announced that the Remain in Mexico policy has expanded to Eagle Pass, Tex. The program is a main factor in the reduction of crossings at the border. It has also led to this: [LINK](#)
- <!--[if !supportLists]--><![endif]-->[\(b\)\(6\)](#) (BuzzFeed): A toddler waiting w/his family at the border to seek asylum in the US died after he was struck by a hit-and-run driver in Matamoros. Oscar is the 20th child death at the US-Mexico border this year, highest number since [@UNmigration](#) began tracking in 2014 [LINK](#)
- <!--[if !supportLists]--><![endif]-->[\(b\)\(6\)](#) (Reforma): AMLO Govt is tightening controls at Mexican airports by isolating asylum seekers at transit zones & prohibiting them contact w/outside world, per refugee law clinic [@AfClinica](#). A "surreptitious & clandestine" form of detention says [\(b\)\(6\)](#)
- <!--[if !supportLists]--><![endif]-->[\(b\)\(6\)](#) (Border Report): BREAKING NEWS on [#BorderReport](#): 300 National Guard troops have arrived in South TX; replacing [#Army](#) troops, [@CBP](#) tells me. [LINK](#)
- <!--[if !supportLists]--><![endif]-->[\(b\)\(6\)](#) (AZ Daily Star): I wonder if [@CBP](#) would kindly hang layers of concertina wire on the fences of Kokomo, Ind. and Provo, Utah and Huntsville, Ala. to show them how they're border towns now.
  - <!--[if !supportLists]--><![endif]-->[White House](#): [@CBPMarkMorgan](#): "Every town, every city, every state, is a border town, a border city, and a border state. With every mile of wall that's being built, we are all safer because of it."
- <!--[if !supportLists]--><![endif]-->[\(b\)\(6\)](#) (WaPo Opinion): Scoop: New report finds awful problems with Trump's policy of returning migrants to Mexico. 1 in 4 face threats of violence 6 in 10 are denied protections exempting those who credibly fear return "We're sending people potentially to die." New piece: [LINK](#)

#### Congressional/Govt:

- <!--[if !supportLists]--><![endif]-->[TSA \(b\)\(6\)](#). @CBP today announced a partial reopening of the Global Entry Enrollment Center at LAX. It has been closed since mid-June. Travelers enrolled in Global Entry are eligible for TSA PreCheck screening. Make plans to enroll if you are in the LA area. [LINK](#)
- <!--[if !supportLists]--><![endif]-->[Rep. Fleischmann](#): While it might not be making headlines every day, it should be. The crisis at our southern border persists and impacts the entirety of our nation. I remain focused on securing our border as numbers remain astoundingly high.
- <!--[if !supportLists]--><![endif]-->[Rep. Roy](#): NEW @CBP Enforcement Statistics 1,148,024 -- the total number of enforcement actions in FY19 CONTEXT: 683,178 -- the total number of enforcement actions in FY18 526,901 -- the total number of enforcement actions in FY17 [#StateOfOurBorder](#) [#EndBorderCrisisNow](#)
- <!--[if !supportLists]--><![endif]-->[Sen. Peters](#): Protecting our nation's agricultural industry from disease is crucial to the health & safety of all Michiganders. I'm pleased my bipartisan bill passed the Senate allowing @CBP to hire more agricultural inspectors at the border.
- <!--[if !supportLists]--><![endif]-->[Rep. Scott Peters](#): Helped pass a bill to make it easier for Congress to appropriate any funds collected in the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund for authorized harbor maintenance needs. As a former SD Port Chairman, keeping our ports globally competitive to fuel local maritime economies is a priority.
- <!--[if !supportLists]--><![endif]-->[Sen. Schumer](#): Republicans are accusing Democrats of holding up the appropriations process. But the truth is, the only "delay" is because Republicans insist on taking money from our military to spend on a border wall and won't sit down with Democrats to negotiate. That's it. VIDEO
- <!--[if !supportLists]--><![endif]-->[Rep. Kevin Brady](#): There are 19 legislative days left this year. Instead of focusing on [#USMCA](#) lowering drug prices, or securing the border... .. Dems are focused on only one thing. Their sham impeachment process. [#DoNothingDems](#)
- <!--[if !supportLists]--><![endif]-->[Rep. Barbara Lee](#): Sending asylum seekers to Guatemala endangers their lives and flies in the face of international law. Trump's cruel and inhumane immigration policies have no place in our country. [#DontLookAway](#) [LINK](#)

#### Other:

- <!--[if !supportLists]--><![endif]-->[RAICES TX](#): DALLAS: As part of [@dallasculture](#)'s annual Día de los Muertos exhibition, be sure to stop by the LLC (Latino Cultural Center) now through Nov. 9 to see RAICES' altar in memory of the children and people that have died in CBP custody. [#JusticeForOurChildren](#)
- <!--[if !supportLists]--><![endif]-->[\(b\)\(6\)](#) (Human Rights Watch): "Remain in Mexico" forces asylum seekers 2 wait in Mexico while their claims R pending. US policy says "individuals from vulnerable pops may B excluded" from being sent back, but [@hrw](#) has found inconsistent US border patrol IDing of people w/ disabilities. [LINK](#)
- <!--[if !supportLists]--><![endif]-->[Upper Deck](#): It's [#TrickOrTrade](#) day here at Upper Deck! We will donate over 10,000 packs of cards to be used with local law enforcement, fire departments, border patrol and first responders around Halloween. Cards help them build trust in the community with a great alternative to candy! PHOTO
- <!--[if !supportLists]--><![endif]-->[Tableau Employee Ethics Alliance](#): Today we say [#DrawALineTableau](#) and call on our company to publicly cease its policy of complicity towards the systematic human rights abuses being carried out by CBP and ICE! Here is our statement. [LINK](#)
  - <!--[if !supportLists]--><![endif]-->Over 200 Tableau Employees are currently gathered in Seattle to say, [#DrawALineTableau](#) PHOTO

Appointment

From:

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

Sent:

3/4/2020 11:31:13 AM

To:

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

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

@cbp.dhs.gov

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

@CBP.DHS.GOV

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

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

@cbp.dhs.gov

(b)(6)

@hq.dhs.gov

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

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

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

@CBP.DHS.GOV

Subject:

CPA (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) w/ (b)(6) (NYT)(SOG participation in Op Sub zERO)

Location:

Teleconference: (b)(7)(E) | Participant: (b)(7)(E) | Moderator: (b)(7)(E)

Start:

3/4/2020 3:00:00 PM

End:

3/4/2020 3:30:00 PM

Show Time As: Tentative

Required

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

@CBP.DHS.GOV

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

Attendees:

(b)(6)

@hq.dhs.gov

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

@cbp.dhs.gov

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

Message

From:

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

Sent:

11/8/2019 3:52:22 PM

To:

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

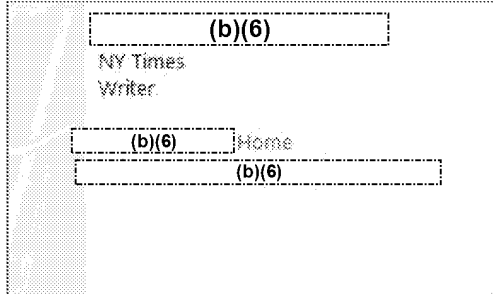
Subject:

(b)(6)

Attachments:

(b)(6)

.vcf



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

Assistant Commissioner (A)

Office of Public Affairs

U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Mobile

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

Message

**From:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) (OCC) (b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(E)  
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(E)

**Sent:** 11/8/2019 8:56:24 PM

**To:**

**CC:**

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

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(E) COUREY, MARC  
BENNETT (OCC) (b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(E)

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

**Subject:** RE: NY Times Request for HARP Briefing Today

**Attachments:** HARP Draft Statement 11.8.19.occ.docx

Here are OCC's edits.

**From:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>

**Sent:** Friday, November 8, 2019 3:50 PM

**To:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>

**Cc:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) (OCC) (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @CBP.DHS.GOV>; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @CBP.DHS.GOV>; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>; COUREY, MARC BENNETT (OCC) (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>

**Subject:** Re: NY Times Request for HARP Briefing Today

**(b)(5)**

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

(A) Deputy Chief of Staff - Policy  
OC/CBP/DHS

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

On Nov 8, 2019, at 2:19 PM, (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov> wrote:

Adjusted.

**Draft Statement:**

**(b)(5)**



(b)(5)

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

From: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>

Sent: Friday, November 8, 2019 3:11 PM

To: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>

Cc: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) (OCC) (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov> (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov> (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @CBP.DHS.GOV> (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov> (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov> (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @CBP.DHS.GOV> (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>;

COUREY, MARC BENNETT (OCC) (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov> (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov> (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>

Subject: Re: NY Times Request for HARP Briefing Today

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

(b)(5)

Would like OCC review of the language before sharing.

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

(A) Deputy Chief of Staff - Policy

OC/CBP/DHS

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

On Nov 8, 2019, at 12:42 PM, (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov> wrote:

All,

Please see the draft statement below. DHS/OPA has requested coordination with this as well.

(b)(5)

Draft Statement:

(b)(5)

**(b)(5)**

(b)(5)

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

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

Sent: Friday, November 8, 2019 12:27 PM

To: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) (OCC) (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>

Cc: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @CBP.DHS.GOV>; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @CBP.DHS.GOV>; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>; COUREY, MARC BENNETT (OCC)

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>

Subject: RE: NY Times Request for HARP Briefing Today

Drafting some verbiage, will pass along soonest.

From: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) (OCC) (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>

Sent: Friday, November 8, 2019 12:16 PM

To: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>

Cc: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @CBP.DHS.GOV>; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @CBP.DHS.GOV>; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>; COUREY, MARC BENNETT (OCC)

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>

Subject: RE: NY Times Request for HARP Briefing Today

We're happy to review any questions/answers.

From: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>

Sent: Friday, November 8, 2019 12:14 PM

To: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>

Cc: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @CBP.DHS.GOV>; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @CBP.DHS.GOV>; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>;

COUREY, MARC BENNETT (OCC) (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>

Subject: Re: NY Times Request for HARP Briefing Today

Got it. Ok is it possible we can provide written responses today and if need be Follow-up with a call next week? Given everyone is out today.

Adding OCC.

Thoughts?

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

(A) Deputy Chief of Staff - Policy  
OC/CBP/DHS

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

On Nov 8, 2019, at 11:08 AM, (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov> wrote:

Jumping in here.

(b)(6) read about the program in other media stories and wants to verify whether this program exists and if so, the 5 Ws.

From: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>

Sent: Friday, November 8, 2019 12:04 PM

To: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>

Cc: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @CBP.DHS.GOV>, (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>, (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>, (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @CBP.DHS.GOV>, (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>, (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>

Subject: Re: NY Times Request for HARP Briefing Today

Do they have specific questions they want answered?

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

(A) Deputy Chief of Staff - Policy  
OC/CBP/DHS

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

On Nov 8, 2019, at 11:01 AM, (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov> wrote:

All,

The goal here is to ensure that NYT has background and understanding of what the HARP pilot is and what it isn't in an effort to rein in the narrative before it takes off.

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/immigration/trump-administration-testing-rapid-asylum-review-deportation-process-in-texas/2019/10/24/caa91a62-f5d8-11e9-a285-882a8e386a96\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/immigration/trump-administration-testing-rapid-asylum-review-deportation-process-in-texas/2019/10/24/caa91a62-f5d8-11e9-a285-882a8e386a96_story.html)  
<https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/hamedaleaziz/asylum-pilot-program-border-mexico-deport-trump>  
<https://www.politico.com/newsletters/morning-shift/2019/11/07/irap-contra-782128>

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

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

Public Affairs Specialist  
Office of Public Affairs-Media Relations Division  
U.S. Customs and Border Protection  
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington D.C. 20229

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

E-Mail: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@cbp.dhs.gov

For more information about CBP, visit: [www.cbp.gov](http://www.cbp.gov)

From: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@CBP.DHS.GOV>

Sent: Friday, November 8, 2019 11:35 AM

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

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@cbp.dhs.gov>

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

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@cbp.dhs.gov>

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

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@cbp.dhs.gov>

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

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@cbp.dhs.gov>

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

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@CBP.DHS.GOV>

Subject: Re: NY Times Request for HARP Briefing Today

I'm out of the office today.

I would also need to clear my participation with OFO  
leadership and OCC.

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

Director, Enforcement Programs Division  
U.S. Customs and Border Protection  
Office of Field Operations  
Washington, D.C.

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

On Nov 8, 2019, at 11:23 AM, (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@cbp.dhs.gov> wrote:

Good Morning, Sir:

(b)(6) the homeland  
security reporter for the *New York  
Times*, contacted OPA this morning to  
request information about  
HARP. Would you or another official  
within APP be available for a 10-15  
minute telephone conversation with  
(b)(6) this afternoon? The  
conversation would be on background  
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prepared to staff the interview and  
coordinate logistics.

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

Office of Public Affairs

U.S. Customs and Border Protection

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

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov

Message

From:

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

Sent:

11/8/2019 8:11:09 PM

To:

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

CC:

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

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

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

COUREY, MARC

BENNETT (OCC)

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

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

Subject:

Re: NY Times Request for HARP Briefing Today

Thanks

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

few things:

(b)(5)

Would like OCC review of the language before sharing.

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

(A) Deputy Chief of Staff - Policy

OC/CBP/DHS

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

On Nov 8, 2019, at 12:42 PM, (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) <[@cbp.dhs.gov](mailto:(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@cbp.dhs.gov)> wrote:

All,

(b)(5)

DHS/OPA has requested coordination with this as well.

Can anyone tell me when this pilot began?

(b)(5)

**(b)(5)**



(b)(5)

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

**From:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)  
**Sent:** Friday, November 8, 2019 12:27 PM  
**To:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov;  
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov  
**Cc:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @CBP.DHS.GOV; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)  
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)  
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(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov  
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**From:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, November 8, 2019 12:16 PM  
**To:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov  
**Cc:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) CBP.DHS.GOV;  
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)  
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(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)  
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @CBP.DHS.GOV; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)  
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Cc: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @CBP.DHS.GOV, (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov, (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov, (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @CBP.DHS.GOV, (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov, (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov

Subject: Re: NY Times Request for HARP Briefing Today

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<https://www.politico.com/newsletters/morning-shift/2019/11/07/irap-contra-782128>

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

Public Affairs Specialist

Office of Public Affairs-Media Relations Division

U.S. Customs and Border Protection

1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

Washington D.C. 20229

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

E-Mail: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov

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**From:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @CBP.DHS.GOV>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 8, 2019 11:35 AM  
**To:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Cc:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>;  
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)  
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)  
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @CBP.DHS.GOV>  
**Subject:** Re: NY Times Request for HARP Briefing Today

I'm out of the office today.

I would also need to clear my participation with OFO leadership and OCC.

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

Director, Enforcement Programs Division  
U.S. Customs and Border Protection  
Office of Field Operations  
Washington, D.C.

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

On Nov 8, 2019, at 11:23 AM, (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)  
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov> wrote:

Good Morning, Sir:

(b)(6) the homeland security reporter for the *New York Times*, contacted OPA this morning to request information about HARP. Would you or another official within APP be available for a 10-15 minute telephone conversation with (b)(6) this afternoon? The conversation would be on background and not be for attribution. OPA is prepared to staff the interview and coordinate logistics.

Many thanks,

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

Office of Public Affairs  
U.S. Customs and Border Protection

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

Message

From:

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

Sent:

11/8/2019 8:56:54 PM

To:

CC:

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

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

COUREY, MARC

BENNETT (OCC)

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

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

Subject:

RE: NY Times Request for HARP Briefing Today

One more comment that OCC might need to weigh in on regarding the following line:

(b)(5)

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

Advisor to the Commissioner  
U.S. Customs and Border Protection

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

From: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@cbp.dhs.gov>

Sent: Friday, November 8, 2019 3:50 PM

To: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@cbp.dhs.gov>

Cc: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@cbp.dhs.gov>; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@cbp.dhs.gov>; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@CBP.DHS.GOV>; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@cbp.dhs.gov>; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

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(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>; COUREY, MARC BENNETT (OCC) (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>;  
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>  
Subject: Re: NY Times Request for HARP Briefing Today

(b)(5)

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

(A) Deputy Chief of Staff - Policy  
OC/CBP/DHS

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

On Nov 8, 2019, at 2:19 PM, (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov> wrote:

Adjusted.

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

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

**From:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>

**Sent:** Friday, November 8, 2019 3:11 PM

**To:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>

**Cc:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov> (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @CBP.DHS.GOV>; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

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COUREY, MARC BENNETT (OCC) (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov> (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) (OCC)

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(b)(5)

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

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

Public Affairs Specialist  
Office of Public Affairs-Media Relations Division  
U.S. Customs and Border Protection  
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington D.C. 20229

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

E-Mail: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov

For more information about CBP, visit: [www.cbp.gov](http://www.cbp.gov)

---

**From:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @CBP.DHS.GOV>

**Sent:** Friday, November 8, 2019 11:35 AM

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

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>

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

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov> (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

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Office of Public Affairs  
U.S. Customs and Border Protection  
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)  
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov

Message

From:

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

Sent:

11/8/2019 5:35:37 PM

To:

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

CC:

Subject:

RE: NY Times Request for HARP Briefing Today

All,

Will definitely need some wordsmithing, there are a few typos and general clunk to it. ☺

From: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>

Sent: Friday, November 8, 2019 12:24 PM

To: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>, (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>

Cc: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>

Subject: RE: NY Times Request for HARP Briefing Today

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

Draft written response for NYT on HARP. I'll forward to the larger group if you can review...

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

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

From: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>

Sent: Friday, November 8, 2019 12:04 PM

To: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>

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(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>, (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @CBP.DHS.GOV>, (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>, (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

Subject: Re: NY Times Request for HARP Briefing Today

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Public Affairs Specialist

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**Sent:** Friday, November 8, 2019 11:35 AM

**To:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@cbp.dhs.gov>

**Cc:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@cbp.dhs.gov>; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@cbp.dhs.gov>; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@cbp.dhs.gov> (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@CBP.DHS.GOV>

**Subject:** Re: NY Times Request for HARP Briefing Today

I'm out of the office today.

I would also need to clear my participation with OFO leadership and OCC.

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

Director, Enforcement Programs Division  
U.S. Customs and Border Protection  
Office of Field Operations  
Washington, D.C.

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

M:

On Nov 8, 2019, at 11:23 AM, (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@cbp.dhs.gov> wrote:

Good Morning, Sir:

(b)(6) the homeland security reporter for the *New York Times*, contacted OPA this morning to request information about HARP. Would you or another official within APP be available for a 10-15 minute telephone conversation with (b)(6) (b)(6) this afternoon? The conversation would be on background and not be for attribution. OPA is prepared to staff the interview and coordinate logistics.

Many thanks,

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

Office of Public Affairs  
U.S. Customs and Border Protection

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

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@cbp.dhs.gov

Message

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

Sent: 11/15/2019 4:38:01 PM

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

Subject: FW: AAR: WRO Press Briefing 10.1.19

Short form...

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

Sent: Tuesday, October 1, 2019 3:43 PM

To: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@cbp.dhs.gov> (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@cbp.dhs.gov>

Cc: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@cbp.dhs.gov> (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@cbp.dhs.gov>;

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@cbp.dhs.gov>

Subject: AAR: WRO Press Briefing 10.1.19

CBP issues five WROs

CBP Executive Assistant Commissioner Brenda Smith, Office of Trade, hosted a press briefing to trade reporters to discuss five Withhold Release Orders issued on Sept. 30 for goods suspected of being produced with forced labor. Reporters present in person included (b)(6) Bloomberg Law; (b)(6) The Washington Post; and (b)(6) ABC News. Numerous reporters tuned in to the live stream from both the DC metro area and elsewhere, including (b)(6) and (b)(6) The New York Times; (b)(6) CNN; and (b)(6) American Shipper.

Following EAC's remarks, reporters asked a few questions about what happens after the WRO is issued as well as clarification on the WRO issued against a company located in China.

Expect balanced and positive coverage. Initial coverage includes the following:

<http://www.startribune.com/us-detains-goods-from-5-countries-for-suspected-forced-labor/561881642/>

<https://www.freightwaves.com/news/cbp-cracks-down-on-forced-labor-in-supply-chains>

<https://www.cnn.com/2019/10/01/politics/cbp-trade-forced-labor/index.html>

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

Public Affairs Specialist  
Office of Public Affairs-Media Relations Division  
U.S. Customs and Border Protection  
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington D.C. 20229

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

E-Mail: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@cbp.dhs.gov

For more information about CBP, visit: [www.cbp.gov](http://www.cbp.gov)

Message

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

Sent: 12/10/2019 12:09:27 PM

To: DailyExecutiveMediaReport (b)(7)(E)

Subject: Daily Executive Media Report: December 10

Tuesday, December 10, 2019

1. **Today:** AC1 with Fox and Friends, NYC
2. **Today:** TCA (b)(6) with Phoenix TV and radio amplifying AC1 messaging.
3. **This Week:** Tentative C2 in NYC w/Media
4. **Working:** B2 with Fox News, CNN was a no for Wed/Thur.
5. **Thursday/Friday:** (b)(6) (NYT) will be in south Texas for a story about the wall and an RGV 101.
6. **Friday:** (b)(6) (NYT) will interview DXD (b)(6) on background re: land acquisition for the wall.
7. **This Week:** (b)(6) (WaPo - Immigration) will be in El Paso, looking for a ride along and interview with a principal.
8. **Working:** (b)(6) (Fox News) would like to follow-up her engagement with Chief Hudak by visiting El Paso and Big Bend Sectors. Seeing how the agents work on the ground and in the air (ATV, Horses, Helos). **Tentatively Jan 6-10**
9. **Working:** St. Louis NBC affiliate will be heading to DRT to do a Middle America story about the border. They have a (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) in sector whose brother is a firefighter in Kansas City and whose father is a retired Missouri State Highway Patrolman. **Date TBD**

AC1 Amplification Media Engagements November-20						
Date	Component	Office	Principal	Engagement Type	Outlet	Reporter
12/11/19	USBP	Big Bend Sector	Chief MaChief Hudak	Teleconference	Various Media Outlets	(b)(6)
12/10/19	OFO	Laredo Field Office	PAL (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)	Media academy	Televisa Reynosa	
12/10/19	USBP	Tucson Sector	Chief Villareal	Interview	Fox10 Phoenix	
12/10/19	USBP	Tucson Sector	Chief Villareal		News 92.3 KTAR	
12/10/19	USBP	RGV Sector			KRGV-TV (ABC-RGV)	
12/10/19	USBP	RGV Sector			KVEO-TV (NBC-RGV)	
12/10/19	USBP	RGV Sector			The Monitor	
12/10/19	USBP	RGV Sector			KGST-TV (CBS-RGV)	
12/10/19	USBP	RGV Sector			KNVO-TV (Univision-RGV)	
12/10/19	USBP	RGV Sector			KTLN-TV (Tele mundo-RGV)	

Daily Media Report  
Media Division



December 10, 2019

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

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

**C1/C2/LEADERSHIP EVENTS:**

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

**SPECIAL PROJECTS:**

**HEADQUARTERS:**

12/4: CNN's (b)(6) queried CBP about CBP's response / acceptance of flu preparation recommendations made in a January 2019 report from the CDC. The questions came following Congressional testimony today from CDC's (b)(6). (b)(6) Reporter also requested a visit to facilities to see improvements first-hand. OPA will work with BP to determine feasibility.

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

11/28: Writing for ProPublica, reporters (b)(6) have asked for information to explain the sequence of events the night (b)(6) 16, died while in CBP custody. The reporters have collected numerous documents, photos and video from the Weslaco Police Department. DHS OIG currently has the lead in the investigation. OPA drafted a response and forwarded to DHS OPA for response. Deadline is Monday, Dec. 2.

UPDATE: DHS provided input // Comment to go out Tuesday morning.

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

**Enforcement:**

12/6: Voice of America reporter (b)(6) inquired about CBP's vaccination policies and the death of (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) for a story she is writing about vaccinations.

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

12/6: The Hill reporter (b)(6) published a story about the Mexican fence climbers in El Centro. Story was updated with El Centro twitter video.

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

12/3: (b)(6) of The Guardian published a story about the Department of the Interior detailing personnel to the southwest border to assist CBP.

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

12/2: Newsweek reporter (b)(6) published a story about a Reforma/Dallas Morning News poll of 1,000 Mexicans in all 32 states. The results displayed 68% believed the border wall would not deter illegal crossings.

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

12/2: Washington Post reporter (b)(6) asked for a copy of a "letter" or communication between CBP and OPM prior to family separations beginning; the communication is mentioned within an OIG report released last week. OPA is researching, but indications is this would not be a publically releasable inter-agency communication.

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

12/2: Nextgov Senior Tech Writer (b)(6) is preparing a story on the DHS OIG report titled "DHS Lacked Technology Needed to Successfully Account for Separated Migrant Families." Reporter requested CBP comment. OPA directed reporter to DHS.

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

11/27: Vox reporter (b)(6) published a story on southwest border ports of entry queue management in regards to Mexican nationals presenting themselves for asylum.

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

11/27: (b)(6) of The Guardian inquired about the number of Department of the Interior personnel detailing to the southwest border to assist CBP.

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

11/18: The WSJ's (b)(6) queried OPA about for comment on a story about court case terminations by judges in San Diego and what happens to migrants after their case is terminated. Expected negative coverage.

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

#### HRM/Workforce/OPR:

11/27: Bloomberg Law reporter, (b)(6) requested information on our OSHA standings among other government organizations as reported here [https://www.osha.gov/dep/fap/statistics/Q4\\_FY2019.xlsx](https://www.osha.gov/dep/fap/statistics/Q4_FY2019.xlsx). OPA provided a statement approved by HRM.

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

11/27: Newsweek reporter (b)(6) requested information on internal or external reporting of sexual assaults within CBP from 2013-2014. Reporter ran story but will print update when additional info is provided.

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

11/26: PBS Frontline reporter (b)(6) requested information on staffing numbers, and attrition and has requested an interview. OPA is working with HRM front office to schedule an interview with AC (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) the week of Dec. 9.

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

11/26: CBS News Producer (b)(6) is looking to do a story on the next Rodeo recruitment event. OPA is working with HRM to inform the reporter of the next rodeo event.

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

11/05: Vice Producer (b)(6) requested staffing and recruiting numbers for FY18 and 19, an update on the 5000 BP agents called for by the 2017 Executive Order and a response to the 2018 Accenture OIG report. OPA provided the reporter with the updated numbers for both years and provided statements on her questions. Video was produced today and should air in the coming days.

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

#### Travel:

12/3: CBS Transportation Correspondent (b)(6) requests to visit and film at a SWB POE at which CBP has implemented biometric facial comparison technology. Visit would occur in January 2020. (b)(6) is expected to cover traveler experience and privacy concerns, but also expressed interest in law enforcement results. OPA is seeking OFO recommendation regarding which location(s) – if any – to visit. Segment will air in January 2020. Tone is expected to be neutral.

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

12/3: CNBC Aviation Reporter (b)(6) requests to interview OFO DEAC John Wagner for a story that she is preparing on the expansion of biometric facial comparison technology at U.S. airports in 2020. DEAC Wagner is prepared to proceed with an on the record interview. Story will publish before the end of the year. Tone is expected to be neutral.

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

12/3: (b)(6) the producer of the BBC programme *Factual*, requests a written CBP statement for a feature on fake ESTA websites that will air between 6-17 January in the UK. The feature is not intended to be critical of the ESTA process, but rather to highlight the problem posed by fake websites and scams. OPA is working with the OFO ESTA PMO to provide a statement by the reporter's deadline of 12/4. Tone is expected to be positive.

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

12/2: NBC Tech Correspondent (b)(6) Washington Post Tech Correspondent (b)(6) and TechCrunch Senior Editor (b)(6) are preparing stories about a proposed final rule concerning CBP's collection of biometric entry-exit data from U.S. citizens. The proposed rule was published in the unified agenda on November 25. Reporters want to know why CBP is proposing the rule and whether U.S. citizens will be able to continue to opt-out from the biometric facial comparison process at ports of entry. OPA is coordinating a response with OFO.

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

12/2: Telemundo DC Bureau Chief (b)(6) is preparing a piece on the implementation of biometric facial comparison technology along the southwest border. OPA coordinated a statement with OFO and provided it to (b)(6).

(b)(6) Piece may broadcast this week. Tone is expected to be neutral.

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

11/26: [Updated 12/2] On 11/27, KUOW, the NPR station in Seattle, broadcast excerpts of an interview with OFO DEAC John Wagner on the implementation of biometric facial comparison at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport. CBP

requested and received several corrections to the text article that KUOW published to its website alongside the audio broadcast. Tone of coverage was neutral.

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

11/26: The *Taiwan Apple Daily News* contacted the American Institute in Taiwan (our *de facto* Embassy) and OPA requesting clarification about use of the People's Republic of China flag on the updated ESTA website. OPA is preparing a response with OPA and INA. Tone is expected to be neutral.

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

11/26: [Updated 12/2]: Consumer advocate and *Washington Post* contributor (b)(6) is preparing a piece on the impact of biometric facial comparison technology on air travelers. OPA and OFO reviewed and commented upon an advance copy of the article, which heavily emphasizes privacy concerns and includes extensive, often speculative quotes from opponents of the technology. Article is expected to publish in early 2020. Tone is negative.

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

11/25: [Updated 12/2] *The Financial Times (UK)*, *The Daily Mail (UK)*, and *Federal Computer Week (US)* published articles during the week of 11/25 on technical challenges arising from the ESTA website modernization that made it impossible for some VWP travelers to apply for ESTA and board their flights. CBP provided a statement coordinated with OFO and the State Department. OPA later requested and received corrections to a factual inaccuracy in the UK outlets that suggested affected travelers could claim compensation from CBP. Tone of articles was negative.

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

11/25: [Updated 12/2] On 11/24, *Seattle Times* investigative reporter (b)(6) published a feature on the implementation of biometric facial comparison at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport. The piece presented both sides of the issue, but omitted key points about the security benefits of the technology and the cost-prohibitive nature of pursuing alternative solutions to the Congressional biometric entry-exit mandate.

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

11/25: (b)(6) of *The West Australian* is publishing a story about a boarding denial involving an elderly Australian couple bound for the United States. The paper alleges that the couple lost \$50,000 due to the incident and asked if CBP would reimburse them. OPA provided a statement reiterating that Visa Waiver Program travelers need valid ESTAs prior to travel, that it is incumbent upon the traveler to ensure that their ESTA remains valid, and that travelers who feel they have been unduly inconvenienced may seek redress via DHS TRIP. Tone is expected to be negative.

11/21: [Update] *New York Times* national immigration correspondent (b)(6) is preparing a story on visa overstays. Her angle is that overstays defy the image of undocumented immigrants, whom Americans believe come exclusively over the SWB. Reporter interviewed DEAC Wagner on 11/21. Wagner emphasized CBP's commitment to implementing the Congressional biometric entry/exit mandate; walked the reporter step-by-step through the process CBP currently uses to identify overstays; and described CBP's vision a nationwide biometric entry/exit system that secures and facilitates lawful travel while respecting the privacy of all travelers. Reporter indicated that she plans to focus on overstays issue in lieu of technological and privacy aspects of CBP's biometric entry/exit efforts. Reporter expects to publish this weekend. Tone is expected to be neutral.

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

11/21: (b)(6) a journalist with *The West Australian* newspaper, is preparing a story on an elderly Australian couple that was denied entry to the United States in August 2019. The reporter asks why the couple was denied entry and what CBP is doing to inform the couple. Reporter insinuates that the entry denial may have been due to a "clerical error" in which CBP incorrectly identified (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) as an overstay. OPA is coordinating a response with OFO and is not likely to meet reporter's deadline of 3 AM on 11/22. Tone is expected to be negative.

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

11/18: *Daily Mail* Assistant Editor (b)(6) asked to confirm whether UK travelers could face penalties upon entry or exit for using marijuana in states where it has been legalized. OPA sent approved statement on marijuana and admissibility. Article ran over the weekend; reporter's request appears to have been a fact-check. Coverage was neutral.

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

11/12: Multiple news outlets requested comment on a Massachusetts District Court order in the case of *Alaasad v. Nielsen*, a lawsuit pertaining to CBP border searches of electronic devices. OPA provided the standard advisory that CBP does not comment on matters in litigation and shared statistics regarding the number of FY19 border searches of electronic devices to the following media outlets: The Associated Press, Bloomberg, Business Insider, Communications Daily, CNN, The Daily Caller, The Hill, IDG Insider Pro, NBC, Nor Publica, NPR (WGBH Boston and KUOW Seattle),

PCMag, Politico, Reuters, TechCrunch, and regional investigative reporting platform VTDigger. Tone is expected to be negative.

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

#### Trade / Ag:

12/2: Natural Products Insider Reporter (b)(6) queried OPR about the guidance given to customs officers regarding trade regulations / HTS codes for Hemp products. Working response with OT.

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

12/2: Washington Post reporter (b)(6) queried OPA about the implementation of possible steel / aluminum tariffs against Brazil. OPA referred reporter to USTR and is researching.

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

11/18: (b)(6) a reporter with WSHU News/NPR Long Island's NPR station asked for comments for story about Sen. Chuck Schumer calling for the ban of Chinese-made over-the-counter meds in Dollar Trees and Family Dollar stores. OPA provided verbiage on how the agency enforces import and trade regulations from over 40 agencies, including the FDA, from previously approved language.

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

11/8: Travel & Leisure magazine will visit JFK Terminal 4 on Thursday, November 14 to do a feature piece on the 'Day in the Life of a Beagle'. They will capture b-roll of the Beagle Brigade conducting inspections, working among the passengers and interviewing/speaking with the handler.

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

Update 11/4: Reuters reporter (b)(6) is doing a long-story on mis-labeling of merchandise for tariff evasion. Reporter has requested a port visit to see firsthand how agents look for products and any examples of recent cases. OPA will work with OT, field offices / ports to gauge feasibility. Background interview held on 9/12 and OT will present options case study and port visit.

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

Update 11/4: Bloomberg's (b)(6) is writing longer piece on AD/CVD and tariff evasion. Preliminary background completed the end of August. Reporter is interested in a specific case which should be adjudicated in November. OPA and OT are working follow-on discussions and possible itinerary for a visit to LA/Long Beach.

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

#### Technology:

11/20: OPA, working closely with representatives from DHS S&T, USFIS, and ONDCP, helped draft a Media Advisory to be released Thursday, that announces the Winner of the Opioid Detection Challenge, scheduled for 12 December at a TSA lab facility outside Atlantic City, NJ. C2 and several Port Directors will be present, alongside several other agency representatives, and members of Congress. OCA has been working with the Innovation Office on invitations to the Hill.

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

11/20: Aviation International News' (b)(6) seeks an update on AMO airframe inventory after the announcement of the C550 late last week. OPA responded with a statement, previously used in a similar RTQ last week.

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

11/18: OPA received a media query from Vice Media's Technology Section: Motherboard's (b)(6) who is seeking details concerning leaked documents from a company called, "Sayari," that specializes in data. OPA's coordinated response: *"CBP uses a broad range of government and commercial data to support and enhance our border security and facilitation missions. Sayari is but one example of commercially available data used by CBP to better understand and assess the flows of people and goods entering and exiting the United States."* Story published 11/19:

[https://www.vice.com/en\\_us/article/ne8pmm/activist-leaks-files-from-data-broker-sayari-for-demoing-ice](https://www.vice.com/en_us/article/ne8pmm/activist-leaks-files-from-data-broker-sayari-for-demoing-ice)

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

#### SOUTHWEST BORDER:

##### New Items

12/10: St. Louis NBC affiliate will be heading to DRT to do a Middle-America story about CBP and the border. They have a (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) in sector whose brother is a firefighter in Kansas City and whose father is a retired Missouri State Highway Patrolman. Dates to be determined, itinerary to be determined.

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

12/9: (b)(6) (Fox Business "Primetime") contacted El Paso and Big Bend Sectors. She is interested in researching and possibly visiting border patrol and detention facilities for an inside look. This would involve a few short interview with agents, and a camera crew taking video of the facilities. (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) told her that we do not take news crews into BP facilities, but can arrange ride-alongs and interviews. Also said El Paso Sector could arrange tours/interviews in early January, due to prior commitments and shortage of personnel between now and 20 December. CBP OPA should let us know if this is high enough priority that we may want to ask BP to shift other engagements; however, Chief/Directors are also planning to be out during this period. Tentative for **January 6-10**.

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

Tone: Expected Positive

12/9: Tucson Sector Chief Roy Villareal is scheduled to appear live on **December 10** during the Fox10 Phoenix morning show, to discuss the recently released November statistics. The Interview (via LiveU) will also touch on other topics such as the recent discovery of a 2<sup>nd</sup> cross-border tunnel in Nogales, Ariz. Tone: Positive Air Date: 12/10 Lead: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

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

12/9: TCA CPA Roy Villareal will take part in a telephonic interview with News923KTAR Arizona's Morning News with: (b)(6)

(b)(6) The interview will focus on the most recent release of

November Apprehension statistics. The live interview may also touch on the issues of Border Wall construction/MPP.

Tone: Positive Air Date: **December 10**

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

12/9: KGNS-TV (NBC-Laredo) reporters: (b)(6) inquired about reports of a possible bridge closure due to reports of a group of African migrants wanting to rush the port. An MFF drill was held this afternoon at Laredo Port of Entry. Provided previously approved RTQ statement:

**Attributable to a CBP official:** *CBP is charged with facilitating the flow of legitimate trade and travel while upholding our national border security mission. Balancing these demands, keeping illicit goods and people out of the country, and managing the influx of those seeking asylum requires a careful balance of our resources and space.*

*The periodic implementation of Mobile Field Force exercises and utilization of queue management points, helps CBP to manage traffic flow while effectively eliminating the ability for a large group of migrants to illegally and forcefully surge through the Ports of Entry. These steps help us to ensure everyone's safety and security, to include travelers, asylum seekers, business stakeholders and our own employees.*

*CBP's mission is to secure our nation's borders and these measures allow us to do just that.*

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

12/10: Hidalgo PAL (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) will host a media academy at Hidalgo/Pharr/Anzalduas Port of Entry, explaining CBP's border security mission in the passenger and cargo environments, PAL (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) will address the November 2019 OFO and Laredo Field Office Inadmissibles data during the academy. Participating outlets include: Televisa Reynosa, KRGV-TV (ABC-RGV), KGBT-TV (CBS-RGV), KVEO-TV (NBC-RGV), The Monitor, KTLN-TV (Telemundo-RGV), KNVO-TV (Univision-RGV).

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

12/9: (b)(6) Del Rio (TX) News-Herald, interviewed Del Rio Sector DCPA: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) and BPA Trainee (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) regarding (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) rendering assistance to injured motorists he encountered en route to Del Rio to enter on duty as a new agent. DCPA: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) also amplified AC1 messaging.

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

12/6: (b)(6) reporter with NBCUniversal, requested an update on his request for a ride along with YUM PAO and an interview with CPA Porvaznik. He was advised we would not be able to accommodate his requests.

Anticipated tone: Negative Lead: BPA (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

12/6: YUM PAO has submitted a video for release, of an incident from earlier this week that resulted in the seizure of \$617K worth of marijuana. Tone: Positive Air Date: TBD Lead: BPA (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

12/6: KUAT TV (Arizona PBS) has requested a visit next week to the Port of Nogales. They are interested in several topics to include MPP & wait times. Lead: PAL (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

### Media Engagements - Outstanding

12/5: (b)(6) KVIA TV El Paso is trying to develop a story on IPR enforcement. OPA working with El Paso POE to set up an opportunity where he can film parcel exams and speak to a SME on the topic.

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

11/25: Epoch Times Reporter: (b)(6) from KYMA to ride along with BORSTAR during (b)(7)(E) in Yuma.

Deadline: 11/27 Broadcast: 11/27 Tone: Neutral

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

11/25: (b)(6) with Zeta newspaper in Tijuana is doing a story on fentanyl and requested a phone interview to get a CBP official's perspective on the challenges, dangers and statistics of what we have seen at San Diego ports. AD (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) would conduct the interview. Reporter also requested to have a photographer take b-roll at a port.

12/2: Interview conducted 11/27. /covering basic smugglers' tactics, dangers in handling, opioid epidemic community impact. Story not yet posted [here](#).

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

11/25: In response to a request from (b)(6) Laredo Morning Times, for an interview regarding what CBP Laredo Field Office is doing to facilitate trade at Port Laredo, ADFO (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Trade Operations, Laredo Field Office, conducted a phone interview and spoke about facilitation measures including a Donations Acceptance Program to develop FAST lanes outside of the import lot at World Trade Bridge, facilitation of agricultural commodities in coordination with SAGARPA officers posted at Colombia Solidarity Bridge, processing arriving shipments in about 38 minutes, plans for arrival of new NII imaging systems in Laredo and Brownsville and plans for placement of NII equipment in pre-primary areas in the coming years. Expected rundate: TBD, expected tone: positive.

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

11/22: Reporter (b)(6) with ABC 10 News wants to do a story surrounding recent report on the use of a remote control drone car to drive packages of meth across the border and past use of air drone and also the use of ultralight aircraft. Looking at 11/25.

11/26: SDC is in standby mode as reporter has not yet confirmed her availability.

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

11/20: (b)(6) a publisher with The Carmel Pine Cone out of Pacific Grove Calif., will be in the San Diego area on **December 3<sup>rd</sup>** and asked to photograph the wall areas which he covered back in the 1980's when he was a reporter. SDC will support and provide him their Then & Now narrative.

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

11/19: (b)(6) (CBS) beginning plans on drug story with San Diego. All three components will be represented. First/second week in December.

12/10: Now scheduled for **January**

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

11/19: CBP OPA, DHS OPA and DoS are working on an engagement for State involving 10-12 Central American Journalists (3-4 crews) to highlight what has changed along the border. They will be producing video content about what has changed along the border. Timeframe is late December, early January. Tentatively they will be on the ground in the RGV and another city, possibly El Paso for a total of 4 days. All interviews with principals and SMEs will be in Spanish. It is anticipated that each crew will interview independently. On the north side they will interview CBP about what has changed (MPP, and other programs), on the south side, they will talk about the human stories of people waiting and exploitation by the smugglers. They also request to film the boarding of an ENV flight.

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

11/6: (b)(6) Telemundo Network, re-upped her request to ride along with Border Patrol agents in a Southern border area and had placed a specific interest in seeing processing facilities and access to immigration hearing facilities. I deferred to PAOs (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) regarding bandwidth and local mgmt. concurrence to support/accommodate a ride along request currently and to advise what such a ride along request would or would not entail. Advised that we are keeping her request to have access to a MPP immigration hearing facility on file, would advise of any future opportunities and provided CBP-approved RTQ statement regarding media access to MPP immigration hearing facilities.

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

10/23: (b)(6) New York Times Magazine, queried Tucson Sector Border Patrol for a media engagement to discuss migrant deaths in the SW deserts (b)(6) is working closely with the Pima County Medical Examiner on his story.

11/6: the report will concentrate on what happens when BP finds remains and the ruggedness of terrain/dangers of illegal immigrants making this journey. The story will be about a deceased migrant and the migrant's life from his/her original home country to how his/her life ended. The reporter has plans of speaking with the family of the

migrant for the story. TCA FCB proposes taking (b)(6) to Sasabe or Lukeville to show him the terrain and distances some illegal aliens traverse. TCA will focus on BSI talking points.

Deadline: **Oct 28** Publication: TBD Tone: Neutral

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

10/21: (b)(6) Aftonbladet newspaper, Stockholm, Sweden and photographer (b)(6) request to join a border patrol to do a story on their work to secure the border. The story will be text/stills and also some TV. The story is highly interesting for a Swedish audience since we have the same issues with migration in Europe. I have followed patrols securing EU borders in Greece and Bulgaria.

They would like to join for two or three nights in **Jan 2020**.

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

### Media Engagements - Completed

11/6: (b)(6) Washington Correspondent for The Economist would like to do a ride-along to include the urban/El Paso area with new bollard wall and areas in NM with new bollard wall and locations where construction is currently underway. OPA will determine if the Sector Chief is available to provide a Sector overview and/or join the ride along. The reporter mentioned speaking to Congressman Hurd who has been a proponent of small border technology instead of physical infrastructure so that may come up. Availability next week is in the afternoon of **Nov 13th or 14th**. May not have time to take him out to new construction area.

11/29: Follow-up call w/XD (b)(6) Monday, December 2 @ 10:30 AM (telephonic)

11/20: Arranging national follow-up with Chief Martin or DXD (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) on Monday. Coordination phone call today.

11/19: Arranging a follow-up engagement with Chief Martin or Dep Exec Dir (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) on wall from a national perspective. Tentatively Nov 25/26.

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

10/10: (b)(6) (FoxNation) has requested a ride along in the RGV for a special in January. Filming for the engagement will occur sometime in First Week of December. OPA is working with USBP, OFO, and AMO to determine locations and topics. Expected to air in January.

11/19: Schedule changed slightly, they will be in RGV for **Dec 4 - 6**.

10/16: Scheduled for December 5 & 6. Routine ground, marine, and aviation ride-longs responding to traffic. No processing. Interview with Chief Karisch or designee.

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

12/4: (b)(6) KABB-TV (Fox – San Antonio), requested a statement regarding a story she is working on about a San Antonio man whose vehicle was reportedly seized after his girlfriend answered a Craigslist ad to drive two illegal aliens, and was ultimately arrested at a Del Rio Sector checkpoint. Unable to verify the case, OPA provided the following statement: attribute to a CBP spokesperson:

**Attributable to a CBP spokesperson:** *Assisting illegal aliens in entering or continuing their journey into the United States, to include transporting and housing, is a felony. U.S. Border Patrol agents are constantly on the look-out for people who are assisting transnational criminal organizations in their smuggling endeavors. These organizations use various means to recruit drivers and caretakers, including social media and word of mouth. They often offer quick cash and downplay the dangers involved. Do not be fooled by these smugglers. If someone is arrested and charged with alien smuggling they face up to 10 years in prison under 8 USC 1324.*

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

11/14: YUM PAO provided a border tour and several stand up interviews to reporter (b)(6) with German Public Radio. We discussed the current situation in YUM and the crisis that we have been experiencing the past year.

Air date: TBD

Tone: Positive/Neutral

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

10/19: Breitbart News six-member crew full meal deal tour tentatively anticipated for week of November 4-8, two days in Laredo (**November 5 & 6**), two days in RGV (**November 7 & 8**). Draft itineraries have been circulated amid OFO, USBP, AMO PALS and respective leadership. Tour dates pending confirmation with AMO, USBP partners.

11/13: Laredo portion cancelled due to weather. Crew will travel to RGV and return to Laredo in two weeks.

11/12: Del Rio Sector portion completed. Plans for a boat tour were cancelled due to weather. Engagement consisted of interview at Eagle Pass Station with Del Rio Sector Division Chief (b)(6), (b)(7)(C); Eagle Pass (b)(6), (b)(7)(C); (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) and Assistant Chief Patrol Agent (b)(6), (b)(7)(C); and a visit to the Eagle Pass checkpoint. In addition to the six-member Breitbart crew, two Sirius XM personnel were along to gather audio for Patriot Radio.

11/5: Due to late development/USBP senior executive travel in the Laredo area, the ride along originally scheduled with U.S. Border Patrol in the Laredo Sector AOR has shifted to Del Rio Sector, Eagle Pass Station AOR for Nov. 12. The rest of the Laredo, RGV itinerary remains intact. PAO (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) organized a conference call where this was discussed with Breitbart and all is good to go. An interview with JTF-West Director Manny Padilla is scheduled in San Antonio for 11/11.

10/21: Engagement now scheduled for the week of **Nov 11-15**.

Laredo Port of Entry mgmt. indicated concurrence with filming date on afternoon of Nov. 6. Laredo Sector Border Patrol advises that there will be a 15-member STAFFDEL on Nov. 5 and is asking to delay to the following week.

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

9/12: (b)(6) is looking to do a 90 minute piece for Fox Nation on "What's behind the headlines" of what is occurring along the border. Correspondent (b)(6) crew will travel to the Rio Grande Valley to highlight the real issues which CBP and the Border Patrol are dealing with. She will cover

- (1) the cartels behind whats happening,
- (2) Mexico's efforts to stem the flow of Central Americans, and
- (3) the role of CBP.

The 22 minute piece will revolve around an engagement with C1 and highlight CBPs efforts to combat human smuggling as well as human and narcotics trafficking. Highlighting the cartels view of the migrants as simply another form of commodity.

10/9: Crew will be out with RGV Horse Patrol today.

10/7: Filming scheduled for **October 9-11 and 16-18**. The commissioner is expected to be on the ground in RGV. October 17-18.

9/19: RGV and Laredo OPA and USBP are coordinating on the ground.

9/19: Engagement will be October 7-20.

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

#### Requests for Information/Statement/Other

12/3: Reporter (b)(6) with the San Diego Union Tribune inquired about access and arrests at an area called Friendship Circle located along the border near the Pacific Ocean. He was provided background information on the area. His story is expected to center around an undocumented immigrant who says he was arrested there last year while visiting his mother. The area is not an "immigration free zone" as some may think.

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

12/3: Responded to inquiries from multiple outlets, including KRGV-TV (ABC-RGV), Texas Public Radio, Buzzfeed and Brownsville Herald on reports of large numbers of Mexican asylum seekers being processed at Brownsville Port of Entry recently, asking whether the Humanitarian Asylum Review Process has been implemented in Brownsville. Consulted with LFO mgmt., HQ OPA, HQ OFO Enforcement programs and responded with the following response language approved by HQ OFO Enforcement Programs:

**Attributable to a CBP official:** What has been seen in Brownsville recently are ebbs and flows in migration patterns; the Humanitarian Asylum Review Process has not been implemented in that location. CBP continually experiences varying trends with migration patterns due to many factors, but in each case CBP officers consider the sum total of all facts and circumstances and everyone is processed in accordance with the law.

As a rule, CBP is precluded from discussing individual cases for privacy reasons, but all claims are handled on a case-by-case basis and there are different levels of granularity, facts and circumstances that are unique to each case. Those migrants not otherwise amenable to MPP are turned over to ICE-ERO or HHS-ORR depending on the specifics of their respective cases.

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

12/3: Forbes Magazine reporter (b)(6) calls Yuma Sector to ask if Deployed Resources built the MPP facilities in Yuma and also maintains them. YUM Confirmed.

Deadline: 12/3 Broadcast: TBD Tone: Neutral Lead: SOS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

12/3: KVOA reporter (b)(6) requested a statement to the recent closure of some lanes at the Port of Nogales. TFO PAL (b)(6) issued the following response;

U.S. Customs and Border Protection is committed to the safety of those crossing the border and our local communities. In recent days, there has been an increase of incursions through vehicle lanes at Arizona ports of entry by asylum seekers attempting to evade established entry processes. These tactics interfere with CBP officers conducting their responsibilities and exacerbates wait times for daily commuters.

CBP encourages the traveling public to be mindful of these unusual happenings and visit the Wait Time site to modify travel itineraries, as needed. CBP officers are well-trained law enforcement professionals who stand ready to defend the border and uphold the laws of the United States of America. CBP will not allow ports to be overrun, or unauthorized entry. Security measures will be increased as needed to ensure priorities are safely met.



10/18: El Paso Times (b)(6) is writing about POE staffing and decisions made on how resources are allocated now that surge has diminished and personnel have returned to the primary duties. OPA provided background to the reporter and working to set up an interview with the port director. No publication date. Tone: neutral.

12/6: UPDATE: Story posted <https://www.elpasotimes.com/story/news/2019/12/06/international-bridges-border-residents-brave-longer-lines-migration-crisis-goes/2587424001/>

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

12/5: (b)(6) AP El Paso is writing about Mexican asylum seekers living in tent camps near international bridges across the border from El Paso. He will report that the camps exists because asylum seekers are jockeying for position to apply for entry at area ports. Some are pointing blame at CBP because there now appear to be competing lists of Mexican and Central American asylum seekers not being honored by CBP. OPA provided a statement which was crafted with local and HQ input.

*The CBP officers performing queue management operations at the international boundary line are not conducting primary inspections but rather making certain those who intend to apply have entry documents. If the individuals do not have documents and there is no space available at the CBP facility they are instructed to wait until capacity becomes available to ensure safe and secure processing. As you know, CBP has no involvement of any lists, nor do we even engage in any attempt to control, facilitate or distinguish amongst competing lists. CBP has a responsibility to ensure lawful legitimate trade and travel occurs, while at the same time, protecting our borders from those that wish it harm. CBP's ability to process asylum applicants is dependent upon capacity issues as well as our other mission sets: Anti-terrorism, Counter-narcotics, Global Economic Trade, and Facilitation of lawful trade and travel.*

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

11/29: (b)(6) The Galveston County Daily News, inquired about an off-duty incident that occurred 11/28 in League City, TX, in which a CBP employee shot and killed his wife. Provided a statement, approved by Houston Field Office: "Attributable to a CBP spokesperson: U.S. Customs and Border Protection Agriculture Specialist (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) was arrested by the League City Police Department on Nov. 28 while he was off duty. Since, August 2008, he has worked CBP agriculture operations in the Houston Seaport environment. CBP is fully cooperating with the League City Police Department who is leading this investigation." Also confirmed that (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) deceased wife was a CBPO at the Houston Seaport, from approved RTQs. Referred further questions, regarding the investigation, to League City Police Department.

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

11/26: (b)(6) reporter, with ASU queried Tucson Sector and CBP Media Relations on a letter to Commissioner Morgan from Congresswoman Anne Kirkpatrick yesterday regarding CBP's environmental stewardship plan and wall construction in Southern Arizona. Response: Pending coordination. Deadline: 11/26 Publication: 11/28 Tone: Neutral

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

11/26: In response to inquiries from Los Angeles Times Reporter (b)(6) BuzzFeed reporter (b)(6) (b)(6) CNN reporter (b)(6) regarding whether we are experiencing a trend of previously MPP'ed family units sending their children across international bridges as UACs in Brownsville and generally and whether we have any stats or statements about this, consulted with LFO mgmt., HQ OPA and provided the following on an RTQ basis:

**Attributable to a CBP official:** Unaccompanied alien children are not amenable to MPP enrollment. CBP continually experiences ebbs and flows with migration patterns due to many factors, but in each case CBP officers consider the sum total of all facts and circumstances and everyone is processed in accordance with the law.

*As a rule, CBP is precluded from discussing individual cases for privacy reasons, but amenability for enrollment in the Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP) program is ultimately determined on a case-by-case basis and there are different levels of granularity, facts and circumstances that are unique to each case.*

*Relevant links to UAC statistics (note: links for inadmissible stats are not broken down further beyond the Field Office level):*

<https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/sw-border-migration>

<https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/sw-border-migration/ofc-sw-border-inadmissibles>

<https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/sw-border-migration/fy-2019>

<https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/sw-border-migration/ofc-sw-border-inadmissibles-fy2019>

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

11/25: (b)(6) PBS/NPR Texas Newsroom, inquired about wall development in Starr County, installation of panels and timetable. Consulted with HQ OPA mgmt. and the following response was provided:

**Attributable to a CBP official:** That is correct. U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), in partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), will begin installing panels this week for the approximately 3 mile

new border wall system project located within Starr County, Texas. Please see the press release [here](#) for more project details.

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

11/25: (b)(6) Los Angeles Times reporter, asked a series of detail-specific questions regarding former CBP officer (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) including:

- Did (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) work for CBP for 18 years in RGV sector?
- Did (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) have a good record, including a national commendation for integrity due to a corruption investigation he assisted?
- Was (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) fired after a USCIS investigation as part of a passport application for his brother revealed (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) first birth certificate (filed before his US birth certificate) was issued in Mexico?
- Did CBP give (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) three years to become a citizen and return to his job?
- Did CBP give (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) the option of retiring early, but with a penalty?
- Did CBP perform background checks of (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) (I believe there were at least three)? Why wasn't (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Mexican birth certificate uncovered during those background checks?
- Is CBP working with USCIS, which has been considering (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) citizenship application via his wife, a USCIS employee and former CBP officer, and if not, why?
- 11/26 update: HQ OPA, OCC, LFO concurrence obtained, responded with RTQ statement: (b)(6)

followed up asking to confirm years of service and integrity award. Stuck by previous response.

PAO (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) developed the following response to query statement: *CBP confirms he was previously employed with CBP; he currently is no longer employed by CBP and recommends utilizing that statement and indicating from the outset that this is CBP's official statement and we have nothing further to add.* Consulting with LFO mgmt., OCC, HQ OPA mgmt. Reporter is looking to publish her story on 11/27.

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

11/22: Reporter (b)(6) with local KPBS is inquiring about a person in SDC custody for supposedly three weeks after his illegal entry case against him was dismissed. Claims family and attorney were not provided any information on his whereabouts.

11/26: Was provided responses to the individual's stay with CBP prior to turn over to ICE. Nothing nefarious happened. Story ran. [Link](#) – reporter never mentioned that fact that detainee had twice refused to contact the Mexican Consulate. Was asked to add that to his story.

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

11/21: (b)(6) Truthout.org reporter is writing about an environmental group that released a [report](#) on what appears to be a 2018 DHS/HHS proposal to build a temporary shelter for migrant families and unaccompanied minors at the Fort Bliss Army base in Texas, where a temporary shelter was established in 2016. He was asking what happened to the 2018 plan. OPA advised reporter to contact HHS regarding UAC's. Reporter was also provided with links to CBP spotlight items on construction of temporary soft-sided facilities at various locations to address the border crisis. Publication date unknown. Tone: negative.

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

11/19: A Staff Reporter –(AZ News Radio Network) inquired about the News Release (200 Illegal aliens arrested near Sasabe). He was given a brief interview on the situation, as was told the groups are a concern since large numbers of migrants in a single group require a lot of resources and they are placed there by unscrupulous smugglers. Additionally large groups cause a strain on resources. Deadline: 11/19 Tone: Neutral

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

11/19: Reporter (b)(6) (Nogales International Newspaper) Inquired about a recent claim by an area rancher (b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(E) who says that an agent he is in contact with has exhibited inappropriate behavior thus causing him to be reassigned to another Border Patrol area. The reporter also inquired about a Border Patrol (b)(7)(E) the aforementioned rancher claimed he found on his property placed there by agents.

TCA-PAO is currently working to gather more information to compose a written response statement. Deadline: 11/21 Tone: Neutral

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

11/19: Reporter (b)(6) (KTAR-Radio-AZ) requested information on the latest Border Patrol arrest figures. He wanted to know the reasons why Adult males from Mexico are the largest demographic arrested by Border Patrol in Tucson Sector.

TCA-PAO is preparing a telephonic interview to quantify the numbers and to reiterate that adult males not wanting to be apprehended account for the largest number of arrests, however large number of FAMU and UAJ still are arriving at concerning numbers. Deadline: 11/21 Tone: Neutral

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

11/19: Reporter (b)(6) (Arizona Daily Star Newspaper) Inquired about a recent gun seizures from persons attempting to smuggle guns and ammunition out of the United States into Mexico. He understand that the OFO officers see the highest amount of seizures of this type but wanted to know what Border Patrol experiences in the same type of smuggling event.

TCA-PAO is constructing a statement that says we do seize guns on their out of the country but not to the extent that OFO officers see. Deadline: 11/21 Tone: Neutral

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

11/19: (b)(6) reporter for the NYC bureau of the Daily Mail (UK) contacted PAO seeking further information regarding a Business Insider story of a Border Patrol Agent that discovered a Mexican birth certificate after serving for 20 years. OPA indicated that matter likely under an internal investigation, covered by privacy act.

Official statement provided: "CBP confirms he was previously employed with CBP; he currently is no longer employed by CBP."

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

11/19: Reporter (b)(6) (AZ News Radio) inquired about the News Release (200 Illegal aliens arrested near Sasabe). He was given a brief interview on the situation, as was told the groups are a concern since large numbers of migrants in a single group require a lot of resources and they are placed there by uncrupulouss smugglers. Additionally large groups cause a strain on resources. Deadline: 11/19 Tone: Neutral

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

11/18: Telemundo and Univision Nacional inquired if CBP had a statement regarding a Brownsville CBP officer that had been terminated after his Mexican birth certificate was discovered and is currently working to correct his citizenship status. Consulted with LFO, OCC and there is concurrence to confirm he was employed with CBP and is currently not employed with CBP. Pending final HQ OPA mgmt. concurrence.

11/19 update: HQ OPA mgmt. concurred. Confirmed to both outlets that he was previously employed with CBP; he currently is no longer employed with CBP.

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

11/18: KRGV-TV reporter (b)(6) inquired regarding a federal judge's order regarding inspections of electronic devices and sought a statement from CBP. Consulted with HQ OPA.

Approved Statement: *U.S. Customs and Border Protection does not as a matter of policy comment on matters in litigation. However, we are able to provide the following information:*

*In Fiscal Year 2019, CBP processed more than 414 million travelers at U.S. ports of entry. During that same period of time, CBP conducted 40,913 border searches of electronic devices, representing **less than .01 percent** of arriving international travelers.*

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

11/14: AJ+ English reporter (b)(6) requested high-resolution pics of recent human smuggling cases involving the use of tractor trailers. Three photos were sent to him.

Tone: Positive

Air Date: TBD

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

11/14: Several national and local media outlets, including CNN, CQ Roll Call, Buzzfeed inquired regarding a case that gained traction from a tweet from the executive director of AILA regarding a previously MPP'ed two-year-old reportedly suffering from sepsis accompanied by her family and AILA attorneys seeking to be paroled into the U.S. who had not been allowed in until late in the evening of Nov. 13. Consulted with LFO mgmt., HQ OPA and with their concurrence the following statement was provided on a response to query basis:

**Attributable to a CBP official:** *Amenability to enrollment in the Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP) program is ultimately determined on a case-by-case basis and there are different levels of granularity, facts and circumstances that are unique to each case. Agents and officers implementing the MPP program are directed to review arriving individuals for known physical or mental health conditions or the potential to face persecution or torture in Mexico. All factors need to be considered, including whether the status of the particular medical condition and the immediate health of the migrant at the time of encounter is something requiring immediate medical attention.*

*With the sum total of all facts and information considered in this case, this particular family unit was paroled into the U.S. for the child to receive medical treatment. The family will remain in the U.S. pending their hearings before an immigration judge.*

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

11/14: (b)(6) a longtime Austin-based NPR reporter, advised he will be relocating to the Brownsville area for the next 30 days to report on border stories and requested permission to attend a hearing within the MPP immigration hearing facility at Brownsville Port of Entry. Consulted with HQ OPA, LFO mgmt. and plan to provide the following response: Regarding access to an immigration hearing facility we have noted your request, will keep that on file and will advise if there may be any forthcoming opportunity. In the meantime, please see the below statement with regard to media access to Migration Protection Protocol immigration hearing facilities:

**Attributable to a CBP official:** "Because the immigration hearing facilities (IHF) in Laredo and Brownsville are within CBP's secure port of entry property, access to these temporary immigration hearing facilities will operate in accordance with practices for other secure CBP areas. Requests for access by the media or by the public to the IHF will be assessed on a case-by-case basis when operationally feasible and in accordance with procedures for access to any CBP secure facility.

The media and the public may still be able to observe hearings by visiting the San Antonio, Harlingen, and Port Isabel EOIR immigration courts where immigration judges are located and will be connected via live-streaming video teleconference to the alien at the temporary IHF. Note that access to hearings at immigration courts are subject to DOJ EOIR rules and policies.

Information regarding EOIR immigration court access, hearing schedules, or specific to the master calendar hearings should be obtained directly from DOJ EOIR."

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

11/6: RGV PAO office received a request from Border Report reporter (b)(6) in regards to a press poll released by the US Immigration Policy Center as follows:

The poll found a "crisis in confidence" with President Trump's immigration policies, according to the poll of 2,700 people in four states: California, Arizona, N.M., and Texas. There are some questions regarding how the public feels about Border Patrol officials protecting their safety.

**Reporter:** I'm wondering if your agency can comment on this. And, for the record, I specifically used my question time to ask the poll director about the questions that highlighted people were upset when asked if they were US citizens at checkpoints in the interior.

That information is listed here: Border Residents and Border Patrol Checkpoints

- Over 3 out of 10, or 31.1%, have been stopped and questioned about their U.S. citizenship at an interior Border Patrol checkpoint
- Lack of Trust in Border Patrol
  - Only 1 out of 3, or 33.1%, trust "a great deal" or "a lot" that Border Patrol officials will protect the rights and civil liberties of all people equally.
  - Just over 4 out of 10, or 40.7%, trust "a great deal" or "a lot" that Border Patrol officials will "keep you and your family safe."
  - Less than 3 out of 10, or 28.6%, trust "a great deal" or "a lot" that Border Patrol officials who abuse their authority will be held accountable for their abuses.

<https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/alliancesandiego/pages/2734/attachments/original/1573060841/usipc-border-poll-final%281%29.pdf?1573060841>

Expected Rundate: TBD Expected Tone: Neutral

11/5: Telemundo 40 (Telemundo-RGV) reporter (b)(6) had made repeated attempted to reach out to several CBP PALs and PAOs seeking an interview regarding the issue of Mexican B1/B2 laser visa holders who donate their blood for pay in the U.S. and whether doing that would jeopardize the terms of their visa for a sweeps story. Utilized previously approved response language used to respond to similar questions in El Paso and Eagle Pass. LFO mgmt. concurred. Response strategy as per PAO (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) was electronic statement only, no on-camera or follow up interviews. Statement:

**Attributable to a CBP official:** B1/B2 card holders who cross the border to sell plasma may be in jeopardy of having their document revoked by a CBP officer. The CBP officer has discretion and may handle these situations on a case-by-case basis taking into account all available information present at the time of entry. For further information on B1/B2 and what is allowable please contact the U.S. State Department.

DOS can be contacted here: (b)(7)(E) @state.gov

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

11/4: El Diario de Juarez and KERA-FM radio are writing about Mexican asylum seekers in the El Paso/Juarez area, why they are waiting in Mexico, impact on local operations, etc. They were provided latest statement addressing the matter. Publication immediate. Tone: negative.

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

11/4: Multiple media inquiries on NM BP shooting referred to CBP statement and NMSP news release. Also directed to sector to maintain a single POE for official CBP information.

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

11/4: KGUN Reporter inquired about weekend reports of gunfire heard in Douglas, AZ that viewers said were coming from Mexico. They were referred to Cochise County Sheriff's for possible comment.

Tone: Neutral Air Date: 11/4

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

10/30: (b)(6) reporter/producer, Arizona 260, AZ Public Media, queried Tucson Field Operations and (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) on how CBP handles corruption cases.

RESPONSE: Pending

Deadline: 10/31 Broadcast: 11/1 Tone: Neutral

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

10/30: (b)(6) reporter, Investigative Reporter Program Berkley College, queried Yuma Sector Border Patrol to confirm an employee by the name (b)(6), (b)(7)(C).

RESPONSE: We don't have a person by that name currently.

Deadline: 10/30 Publication: TBD Tone: Unk

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

10/30: (b)(6) El Diario de El Paso is writing about the search for a Las Cruces man who disappeared with his two pre-school age sons earlier in the month. Authorities believe h may have traveled to Mexico. Reporter was asking about CBP response/lookout. OPA in conjunction with OFO provided a statement on how CBPO's operate and what would happen if we encounter a subject sought by law. Questions regarding the ongoing investigative efforts in the US and Mexico were redirected. Tone: neutral. Publication: Thursday.

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

10/29: Responded to inquiry from Forte Newspaper and Estereo 91 reporter (b)(6) regarding complaints of excessive wait times in the SENTRI lane, extending 20 blocks into Nuevo Laredo. Consulted with local mgmt. and responded that we have three SENTRI lanes open, a 15-minute wait, are not experiencing significant waits on the bridge and deferred to Government of Mexico regarding traffic within the interior of Mexico.

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

10/28: (b)(6) reporter, Tucson Sentinel, queried CBP Arizona on the migrant death over the weekend. Specifically, how was she located, what type of injuries did she sustain, where was the hospital?

Response: *Referred to Tucson Sector for more information.*

Deadline: 28 OCT Publication: 29 OCT Tone: Neutral

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

10/24: Local San Diego ABC 10 reporter (b)(6) is revisiting his story from June about allegations that CBP was improperly having subjects detox at the San Ysidro port of entry. His story now will highlight interviews from a new person held at San Ysidro in March who discussed these allegations during his trial for criminal entry. The news story will include clips from hours of video from inside a San Ysidro holding room (made public as a part of the subject's criminal hearing.) This same topic was also the subject of a different media story following a letter/news release from the ACLU and a physician's group naming three other individuals with similar allegations. After consulting with the local Field Office and OCC, CBP responded with the following:

Attributable to a CBP spokesperson: *CBP does not comment on matters that are currently under litigation.*

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

10/22: (b)(6) reporter, Cronkite News, queried Tucson OFO on the current hiring processes and how they affect wait times at the ports of entry.

RESPONSE: *The query has been referred to HQ personnel with the recruiting and biometrics accounts.*

Deadline: 10/22 Publication: 10/23 Tone: Neutral

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

10/18: (b)(6) AZ PBS, queried CBP Arizona on the name of a recent fugitive from AZ caught in Mexico and extradited back to the US with help of Yuma Sector.

Response: Pending PII approval.

Deadline: 10/18/19 Broadcast: 10/18 Tone: Neutral

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

10/8: Arizona Republic/USA Today Reporter (b)(6) inquired whether Arizona POE's are transferring Asylum seekers to other locations?

**TFO PAL responded** that "Arizona Ports are not transferring arriving migrants claiming fear to MPP facilities for initial process."

Tone: Positive Air Date: 10/9

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

12/9: National Air Security Operations Center Supervisory Air Interdiction Agent (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) did an interview with iHeart radio in San Antonio about their detection of a low profile vessel attempting to smuggle two tons of cocaine. Positive

Tone:

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

12/9: ABC7 Reporter (b)(6) visited the Area Port of Washington DC (Dulles airport) for a story focused Agriculture protection and IPR enforcement. Story serves as a traveler education piece on prohibited and restricted items that travelers frequently bring to the United States during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) interviewed Acting Port Director (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) and observed AQI K9 and secondary inspection teams, and viewed a table of seized IPR consumer goods. Anticipate positive tone on CBP's holiday enforcement efforts.

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

12/9-WGN reporter (b)(6) and Chicago AP reporter (b)(6) contacted CBP inquiring if CBP was involved in a narcotics and gun investigation regarding a private jet carrying the late Chicago rapper Jarad Higgins, BKA "Juice WRLD". Both reporters were told CBP was not involved and referred them to local authorities.

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

12/9 Chicago Sun Times reporter (b)(6) contacted CBP with questions regarding the deferred inspection case continuance of (b)(6), (b)(7)(C). The Chicago Port Director and OPA provided answers to the reporter's questions. (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Deferred Inspection case is slated for Dec 19. Her previous case, Nov 13, garnered protesters and several media request. OPA responded with this statement:

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) a legal permanent resident, traveled into Chicago O'Hare international on August 27, 2019. Her border inspection could not be completed at the time of entry. Her inspection was deferred to allow her an opportunity to obtain necessary documents. She reported to Chicago Deferred Inspection, accompanied by her attorney, on November 14, 2019. Chicago Deferred Inspection was not provided with all the documents necessary to complete her inspection. (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) was provided a return appointment to allow more time to obtain the remaining documents."

Tone: Neutral/Negative

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

12/5: WSVN—FOX (b)(6) interviewed Port Everglades Port Director (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) for a story on CBP officers in South Florida seizing 400 pounds of cocaine onboard a sailboat. News package airing evening of 12/5. Several local news outlets are also posting stories based on the press release. Expected Tone: Neutral to positive.

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

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

Assistant Chief, USBPHQ  
CBP Office of Public Affairs - Media Division  
Southwest Border Branch Chief - (A)

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

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov  
CBP Newsroom



U.S. Customs and  
Border Protection

Message

**From:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(E)  
**Sent:** 12/10/2019 12:23:00 PM  
**To:** DailyExecutiveMediaReport; (b)(7)(E)  
 (b)(7)(E)  
**Subject:** \*REVISED\* Daily Executive Media Report: December 10

Tuesday, December 10, 2019

1. **Today:** AC1 with Fox and Friends, NYC
2. **This Week:** Tentative - C2 in NYC w/Media
3. **Today:** TCA Villareal with Phoenix TV and radio amplifying AC1 messaging.
4. **Today:** Backgrounder with CNN's (b)(6) and (b)(6) about recommendations from the CDC the agency has adopted.
5. **Today:** Backgrounder with OT and Reuter's (b)(6) on EAPA AD/CVD (transshipment) aluminum extrusion case against two importers from last December.
6. **Working:** B2 with Fox News, CNN was a no for Wed/Thur.
7. **Thursday/Friday:** (b)(6) (NYT) will be in south Texas for a story about the wall and an RGV 101.
8. **Friday:** (b)(6) (NYT) will interview DXD: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) on background re: land acquisition for the wall.
9. **This Week:** (b)(6) (WaPo - Immigration) will be in El Paso, looking for a ride along and interview with a principal.
10. **Working:** (b)(6) (Fox News) would like to follow-up her engagement with Chief Hudak by visiting El Paso and Big Bend Sectors. Seeing how the agents work on the ground and in the air (ATV, Horses, Helos). **Tentatively Jan 6-10**
11. **Working:** St. Louis NBC affiliate will be heading to DRT to do a Middle America story about the border. They have a (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) in sector whose brother is a firefighter in Kansas City and whose father is a retired Missouri State Highway Patrolman. **Date TBD**

**AC1 Amplification Media Engagements  
November-20**

Date	Component	Office	Principal	Engagement Type	Outlet	Reporter
12/11/19	USBP	Big Bend Sector	Chief Hudak	Teleconference	Various Media Outlets	



12/10/19	OFO	Laredo Field Office	PAL (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)	Media academy	Televisa Reynosa
12/10/19	USBP	Tucson Sector	Chief Villareal	Interview	Fox10 Phoenix
12/10/19	USBP	Tucson Sector	Chief Villareal	Interview	News 92.3 KTAR
12/10/19	USBP	RGV Sector		Interview	KRGV-TV (ABC-RGV)
12/10/19	USBP	RGV Sector		Interview	KVEO-TV (NBC-RGV)
12/10/19	USBP	RGV Sector		Interview	The Monitor
12/10/19	USBP	RGV Sector		Interview	KGBT-TV (CBS-RGV)
12/10/19	USBP	RGV Sector		Interview	KNVO-TV (Univision-RGV)
12/10/19	USBP	RGV Sector		Interview	KTLM-TV (Telemundo-RGV)
12/13/19	USBP	Holton Sector	Chief Owens	Interview	WVOM Maine

(b)(6)

**Daily Media Report  
Media Division  
December 10, 2019**

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

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

**C1/C2/LEADERSHIP EVENTS:**

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

**SPECIAL PROJECTS:**

**HEADQUARTERS:**

12/4: CNN's (b)(6) queried CBP about CBP's response / acceptance of flu preparation recommendations made in a January 2019 report from the CDC. The questions came following Congressional testimony today from CDC's (b)(6). (b)(6) Reporter also requested a visit to facilities to see improvements first-hand. OPA will work with BP to determine feasibility.

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

11/28: Writing for ProPublica, reporters (b)(6) have asked for information to explain the sequence of events the night (b)(6) 16, died while in CBP custody. The reporters have collected numerous documents, photos and video from the Weslaco Police Department. DHS OIG currently has the lead in the investigation. OPA drafted a response and forwarded to DHS OPA for response. Deadline is Monday, Dec. 2.

UPDATE: DHS provided input // Comment to go out Tuesday morning.

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

**Enforcement:**

12/6: Voice of America reporter (b)(6) inquired about CBP's vaccination policies and the death of (b)(6) for a story she is writing about vaccinations.

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

12/6: The Hill reporter (b)(6) published a story about the Mexican fence climbers in El Centro. Story was updated with El Centro twitter video.

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

12/3: [redacted] (b)(6) of The Guardian published a story about the Department of the Interior detailing personnel to the southwest border to assist CBP.

Lead: [redacted] (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

12/2: Newsweek reporter [redacted] (b)(6) published a story about a Reforma/Dallas Morning News poll of 1,000 Mexicans in all 32 states. The results displayed 68% believed the border wall would not deter illegal crossings.

Lead: [redacted] (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

12/2: Washington Post reporter [redacted] (b)(6) asked for a copy of a "letter" or communication between CBP and OPM prior to family separations beginning; the communication is mentioned within an OIG report released last week. OPA is researching, but indications is this would not be a publically releasable inter-agency communication.

Lead: [redacted] (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

12/2: Nextgov Senior Tech Writer [redacted] (b)(6) is preparing a story on the DHS OIG report titled "DHS Lacked Technology Needed to Successfully Account for Separated Migrant Families." Reporter requested CBP comment. OPA directed reporter to DHS.

Lead: [redacted] (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

11/27: Vox reporter [redacted] (b)(6) published a story on southwest border ports of entry queue management in regards to Mexican nationals presenting themselves for asylum.

Lead: [redacted] (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

11/27: [redacted] (b)(6) of The Guardian inquired about the number of Department of the Interior personnel detailing to the southwest border to assist CBP.

Lead: [redacted] (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

11/18: The WSJ's [redacted] (b)(6) queried OPA about for comment on a story about court case terminations by judges in San Diego and what happens to migrants after their case is terminated. Expected negative coverage.

Lead: [redacted] (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

#### **HRM/Workforce/OPR:**

11/27: Bloomberg Law reporter [redacted] (b)(6) requested information on our OSHA standings among other government organizations as reported here [https://www.osha.gov/dep/fap/statistics/Q4\\_FY2019.xlsx](https://www.osha.gov/dep/fap/statistics/Q4_FY2019.xlsx). OPA provided a statement approved by HRM.

Lead: [redacted] (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

11/27: Newsweek reporter [redacted] (b)(6) requested information on internal or external reporting of sexual assaults within CBP from 2013-2014. Reporter ran story but will print update when additional info is provided.

Lead: [redacted] (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

11/26: PBS Frontline reporter [redacted] (b)(6) requested information on staffing numbers, and attrition and has requested an interview. OPA is working with HRM front office to schedule an interview with AC [redacted] (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) the week of Dec. 9.

Lead: [redacted] (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

11/26: CBS News Producer [redacted] (b)(6) is looking to do a story on the next Rodeo recruitment event. OPA is working with HRM to inform the reporter of the next rodeo event.

Lead: [redacted] (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

11/05: Vice Producer [redacted] (b)(6) requested staffing and recruiting numbers for FY18 and 19, an update on the 5000 BP agents called for by the 2017 Executive Order and a response to the 2018 Accenture OIG report. OPA provided the reporter with the updated numbers for both years and provided statements on her questions. Video was produced today and should air in the coming days.

Lead: [redacted] (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

#### **Travel:**

12/3: CBS Transportation Correspondent [redacted] (b)(6) requests to visit and film at a SWB POE at which CBP has implemented biometric facial comparison technology. Visit would occur in January 2020 [redacted] (b)(6) is expected to cover traveler experience and privacy concerns, but also expressed interest in law enforcement results. OPA is seeking OFO recommendation regarding which location(s) – if any – to visit. Segment will air in January 2020. Tone is expected to be neutral.

Lead: [redacted] (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

12/3: CNBC Aviation Reporter (b)(6) requests to interview OFO DEAC John Wagner for a story that she is preparing on the expansion of biometric facial comparison technology at U.S. airports in 2020. DEAC Wagner is prepared to proceed with an on the record interview. Story will publish before the end of the year. Tone is expected to be neutral.  
Lead: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

12/3: (b)(6) the producer of the BBC programme *Factual*, requests a written CBP statement for a feature on fake ESTA websites that will air between 6-17 January in the UK. The feature is not intended to be critical of the ESTA process, but rather to highlight the problem posed by fake websites and scams. OPA is working with the OFO ESTA PMO to provide a statement by the reporter's deadline of 12/4. Tone is expected to be positive.  
Lead: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

12/2: NBC Tech Correspondent (b)(6) *Washington Post* Tech Correspondent (b)(6) and *TechCrunch* Senior Editor (b)(6) are preparing stories about a proposed final rule concerning CBP's collection of biometric entry-exit data from U.S. citizens. The proposed rule was published in the unified agenda on November 25. Reporters want to know why CBP is proposing the rule and whether U.S. citizens will be able to continue to opt-out from the biometric facial comparison process at ports of entry. OPA is coordinating a response with OFO.  
Lead: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

12/2: Telemundo DC Bureau Chief (b)(6) is preparing a piece on the implementation of biometric facial comparison technology along the southwest border. OPA coordinated a statement with OFO and provided it to (b)(6). Piece may broadcast this week. Tone is expected to be neutral.  
Lead: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

11/26: [Updated 12/2] On 11/27, KUOW, the NPR station in Seattle, broadcast excerpts of an interview with OFO DEAC John Wagner on the implementation of biometric facial comparison at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport. CBP requested and received several corrections to the text article that KUOW published to its website alongside the audio broadcast. Tone of coverage was neutral.  
Lead: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

11/26: The *Taiwan Apple Daily News* contacted the American Institute in Taiwan (our *de facto* Embassy) and OPA requesting clarification about use of the People's Republic of China flag on the updated ESTA website. OPA is preparing a response with OPA and INA. Tone is expected to be neutral.  
Lead: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

11/26: [Updated 12/2]: Consumer advocate and *Washington Post* contributor (b)(6) is preparing a piece on the impact of biometric facial comparison technology on air travelers. OPA and OFO reviewed and commented upon an advance copy of the article, which heavily emphasizes privacy concerns and includes extensive, often speculative quotes from opponents of the technology. Article is expected to publish in early 2020. Tone is negative.  
Lead: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

11/25: [Updated 12/2] *The Financial Times (UK)*, *The Daily Mail (UK)*, and *Federal Computer Week (US)* published articles during the week of 11/25 on technical challenges arising from the ESTA website modernization that made it impossible for some VWP travelers to apply for ESTA and board their flights. CBP provided a statement coordinated with OFO and the State Department. OPA later requested and received corrections to a factual inaccuracy in the UK outlets that suggested affected travelers could claim compensation from CBP. Tone of articles was negative.  
Lead: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

11/25: [Updated 12/2] On 11/24, *Seattle Times* investigative reporter (b)(6) published a feature on the implementation of biometric facial comparison at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport. The piece presented both sides of the issue, but omitted key points about the security benefits of the technology and the cost-prohibitive nature of pursuing alternative solutions to the Congressional biometric entry-exit mandate.  
Lead: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

11/25: (b)(6) of *The West Australian* is publishing a story about a boarding denial involving an elderly Australian couple bound for the United States. The paper alleges that the couple lost \$50,000 due to the incident and asked if CBP would reimburse them. OPA provided a statement reiterating that Visa Waiver Program travelers need valid ESTAs prior to travel, that it is incumbent upon the traveler to ensure that their ESTA remains valid, and that travelers who feel they have been unduly inconvenienced may seek redress via DHS TRIP. Tone is expected to be negative.

11/21: [Update] *New York Times* national immigration correspondent (b)(6) is preparing a story on visa overstays. Her angle is that overstays defy the image of undocumented immigrants, whom Americans believe come exclusively over the SWB. Reporter interviewed DEAC Wagner on 11/21. Wagner emphasized CBP's commitment to

implementing the Congressional biometric entry/exit mandate; walked the reporter step-by-step through the process CBP currently uses to identify overstays; and described CBP's vision a nationwide biometric entry/exit system that secures and facilitates lawful travel while respecting the privacy of all travelers. Reporter indicated that she plans to focus on overstays issue in lieu of technological and privacy aspects of CBP's biometric entry/exit efforts. Reporter expects to publish this weekend. Tone is expected to be neutral.

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

11/21 (b)(6) a journalist with *The West Australian* newspaper, is preparing a story on an elderly Australian couple that was denied entry to the United States in August 2019. The reporter asks why the couple was denied entry and what CBP is doing to inform the couple. Reporter insinuates that the entry denial may have been due to a "clerical error" in which CBP incorrectly identified (b)(6) as an overstay. OPA is coordinating a response with OFO and is not likely to meet reporter's deadline of 3 AM on 11/22. Tone is expected to be negative.

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

11/18: *Daily Mail* Assistant Editor (b)(6) asked to confirm whether UK travelers could face penalties upon entry or exit for using marijuana in states where it has been legalized. OPA sent approved statement on marijuana and admissibility. Article ran over the weekend; reporter's request appears to have been a fact-check. Coverage was neutral.

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

11/12: Multiple news outlets requested comment on a Massachusetts District Court order in the case of *Alaasad v. Nielsen*, a lawsuit pertaining to CBP border searches of electronic devices. OPA provided the standard advisory that CBP does not comment on matters in litigation and shared statistics regarding the number of FY19 border searches of electronic devices to the following media outlets: The Associated Press, Bloomberg, Business Insider, Communications Daily, CNN, The Daily Caller, The Hill, IDG Insider Pro, NBC, Nor Publica, NPR (WGBH Boston and KUOW Seattle), PCMag, Politico, Reuters, TechCrunch, and regional investigative reporting platform VTDigger. Tone is expected to be negative.

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

#### Trade / Ag:

12/2: Natural Products Insider Reporter (b)(6) queried OPR about the guidance given to customs officers regarding trade regulations / HTS codes for Hemp products. Working response with OT.

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

12/2: Washington Post reporter (b)(6) queried OPA about the implementation of possible steel / aluminum tariffs against Brazil. OPA referred reporter to USTR and is researching.

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

11/18: (b)(6) a reporter with WSHU News/NPR Long Island's NPR station asked for comments for story about Sen. Chuck Schumer calling for the ban of Chinese-made over-the-counter meds in Dollar Trees and Family Dollar stores. OPA provided verbiage on how the agency enforces import and trade regulations from over 40 agencies, including the FDA, from previously approved language.

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

11/8: Travel & Leisure magazine will visit JFK Terminal 4 on Thursday, November 14 to do a feature piece on the 'Day in the Life of a Beagle'. They will capture b-roll of the Beagle Brigade conducting inspections, working among the passengers and interviewing/speaking with the handler.

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

Update 11/4: Reuters reporter (b)(6) is doing a long-story on mis-labeling of merchandise for tariff evasion. Reporter has requested a port visit to see firsthand how agents look for products and any examples of recent cases. OPA will work with OT, field offices / ports to gauge feasibility. Background interview held on 9/12 and OT will present options case study and port visit.

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

Update 11/4: Bloomberg's (b)(6) is writing longer piece on AD/CVD and tariff evasion. Preliminary background completed the end of August. Reporter is interested in a specific case which should be adjudicated in November. OPA and OT are working follow-on discussions and possible itinerary for a visit to LA/Long Beach.

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

#### Technology:

11/20: OPA, working closely with representatives from DHS S&T, USPIS, and ONDCP, helped draft a Media Advisory to be released Thursday, that announces the Winner of the Opioid Detection Challenge, scheduled for 12 December at a

TSA lab facility outside Atlantic City, NJ. C2 and several Port Directors will be present, alongside several other agency representatives, and members of Congress. OCA has been working with the Innovation Office on invitations to the Hill.

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

11/20: Aviation International News' (b)(6) seeks an update on AMO airframe inventory after the announcement of the C550 late last week. OPA responded with a statement, previously used in a similar RTQ last week.

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

11/18: OPA received a media query from Vice Media's Technology Section: Motherboard's (b)(6) who is seeking details concerning leaked documents from a company called, "Sayari," that specializes in data. OPA's coordinated response: *"CBP uses a broad range of government and commercial data to support and enhance our border security and facilitation missions. Sayari is but one example of commercially available data used by CBP to better understand and assess the flows of people and goods entering and exiting the United States."* Story published 11/19:

[https://www.vice.com/en\\_us/article/ne8pmm/activist-leaks-files-from-data-broker-sayari-for-demoing-ice](https://www.vice.com/en_us/article/ne8pmm/activist-leaks-files-from-data-broker-sayari-for-demoing-ice)

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

## **SOUTHWEST BORDER:**

### **New Items**

12/10: St. Louis NBC affiliate will be heading to DRT to do a Middle-America story about CBP and the border. They have a (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) in sector whose brother is a firefighter in Kansas City and whose father is a retired Missouri State Highway Patrolman. Dates to be determined, itinerary to be determined.

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

12/9: (b)(6) (Fox Business "Primetime") contacted El Paso and Big Bend Sectors. She is interested in researching and possibly visiting border patrol and detention facilities for an inside look. This would involve a few short interview with agents, and a camera crew taking video of the facilities. (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) told her that we do not take news crews into BP facilities, but can arrange ride-alongs and interviews. Also said El Paso Sector could arrange tours/interviews in early January, due to prior commitments and shortage of personnel between now and 20 December. CBP OPA should let us know if this is high enough priority that we may want to ask BP to shift other engagements; however, Chief/Directors are also planning to be out during this period. Tentative for **January 6-10**.

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

Tone: Expected Positive

12/9: Tucson Sector Chief Roy Villareal is scheduled to appear live on **December 10** during the Fox10 Phoenix morning show, to discuss the recently released November statistics. The Interview (via LiveU) will also touch on other topics such as the recent discovery of a 2<sup>nd</sup> cross-border tunnel in Nogales, Ariz. Tone: Positive Air Date: 12/10 Lead: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

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

12/9: TCA CPA Roy Villareal will take part in a telephonic interview with News923KTAR Arizona's Morning News with (b)(6). The interview will focus on the most recent release of

November Apprehension statistics. The live interview may also touch on the issues of Border Wall construction/MPP.

Tone: Positive Air Date: **December 10**

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

12/9: KGNS-TV (NBC-Laredo) reporters (b)(6) inquired about reports of a possible bridge closure due to reports of a group of African migrants wanting to rush the port. An MFF drill was held this afternoon at Laredo Port of Entry. Provided previously approved RTQ statement:

***Attributable to a CBP official:** CBP is charged with facilitating the flow of legitimate trade and travel while upholding our national border security mission. Balancing these demands, keeping illicit goods and people out of the country, and managing the influx of those seeking asylum requires a careful balance of our resources and space.*

*The periodic implementation of Mobile Field Force exercises and utilization of queue management points, helps CBP to manage traffic flow while effectively eliminating the ability for a large group of migrants to illegally and forcefully surge through the Ports of Entry. These steps help us to ensure everyone's safety and security, to include travelers, asylum seekers, business stakeholders and our own employees.*

*CBP's mission is to secure our nation's borders and these measures allow us to do just that.*

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

12/10: Hidalgo PAL (b)(6) will host a media academy at Hidalgo/Pharr/Anzalduas Port of Entry, explaining CBP's border security mission in the passenger and cargo environments, PAL (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) will address the November 2019 OFO and

Laredo Field Office Inadmissibles data during the academy. Participating outlets include: Televisa Reynosa, KRGV-TV (ABC-RGV), KGBT-TV (CBS-RGV), KVEO-TV (NBC-RGV), The Monitor, KTLM-TV (Telemundo-RGV), KNVO-TV (Univision-RGV).

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

12/9: (b)(6) Del Rio (TX) News-Herald, interviewed Del Rio Sector DCPA (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) and BPA Trainee (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) regarding (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) rendering assistance to injured motorists he encountered en route to Del Rio to enter on duty as a new agent. DCPA (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) also amplified AC1 messaging.

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

12/6: (b)(6) reporter with NBCUniversal, requested an update on his request for a ride along with YUM PAO and an interview with CPA Porvaznik. He was advised we would not be able to accommodate his requests.

Anticipated tone: Negative Lead: BPA (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

12/6: YUM PAO has submitted a video for release, of an incident from earlier this week that resulted in the seizure of \$617K worth of marijuana. Tone: Positive Air Date: TBD Lead: BPA (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

12/6: KUAT TV (Arizona PBS) has requested a visit next week to the Port of Nogales. They are interested in several topics to include MPP & wait times. Lead: PAL (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

### Media Engagements - Outstanding

12/5: (b)(6) KVIA TV El Paso is trying to develop a story on IPR enforcement. OPA working with El Paso POE to set up an opportunity where he can film parcel exams and speak to a SME on the topic.

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

11/25: Epoch Times Reporter (b)(6) from KYMA to ride along with BORSTAR during (b)(7)(E) in Yuma.

Deadline: 11/27 Broadcast: 11/27 Tone: Neutral

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

11/25: (b)(6) with Zeta newspaper in Tijuana is doing a story on fentanyl and requested a phone interview to get a CBP official's perspective on the challenges, dangers and statistics of what we have seen at San Diego ports. AD (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) would conduct the interview. Reporter also requested to have a photographer take b-roll at a port.

12/2: Interview conducted 11/27. /covering basic smugglers' tactics, dangers in handling, opioid epidemic community impact. Story not yet posted [here](#).

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

11/25: In response to a request from (b)(6) Laredo Morning Times, for an interview regarding what CBP Laredo Field Office is doing to facilitate trade at Port Laredo, ADFO Armando Taboada, Trade Operations, Laredo Field Office, conducted a phone interview and spoke about facilitation measures including a Donations Acceptance Program to develop FAST lanes outside of the import lot at World Trade Bridge, facilitation of agricultural commodities in coordination with SAGARPA officers posted at Colombia Solidarity Bridge, processing arriving shipments in about 38 minutes, plans for arrival of new NII imaging systems in Laredo and Brownsville and plans for placement of NII equipment in pre-primary areas in the coming years. Expected rundate: TBD, expected tone: positive.

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

11/22: Reporter (b)(6) with ABC 10 News wants to do a story surrounding recent report on the use of a remote control drone car to drive packages of meth across the border and past use of air drone and also the use of ultralight aircraft. Looking at 11/25.

11/26: SDC is in standby mode as reporter has not yet confirmed her availability.

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

11/20: (b)(6) a publisher with The Carmel Pine Cone out of Pacific Grove Calif., will be in the San Diego area on **December 3<sup>rd</sup>** and asked to photograph the wall areas which he covered back in the 1980's when he was a reporter. SDC will support and provide him their Then & Now narrative.

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

11/19: (b)(6) (CBS) beginning plans on drug story with San Diego. All three components will be represented. First/second week in December.

12/10: Now scheduled for **January**

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

11/19: CBP OPA, DHS OPA and DoS are working on an engagement for State involving 10-12 Central American Journalists (3-4 crews) to highlight what has changed along the border. They will be producing video content about what has changed along the border. Timeframe is late December, early January. Tentatively they will be on the ground in the RGV and another city, possibly El Paso for a total of 4 days. All interviews with principals and SMEs will be in Spanish. It is anticipated that each crew will interview independently. On the north side they will interview CBP about what has changed (MPP, and other programs), on the south side, they will talk about the human stories of people waiting and exploitation by the smugglers. They also request to film the boarding of an ENV flight.

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

11/6: (b)(6) Telemundo Network, re-upped her request to ride along with Border Patrol agents in a Southern border area and had placed a specific interest in seeing processing facilities and access to immigration hearing facilities. I deferred to PAOs (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) regarding bandwidth and local mgmt. concurrence to support/accommodate a ride along request currently and to advise what such a ride along request would or would not entail. Advised that we are keeping her request to have access to a MPP immigration hearing facility on file, would advise of any future opportunities and provided CBP-approved RTQ statement regarding media access to MPP immigration hearing facilities.

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

10/23: (b)(6) New York Times Magazine, queried Tucson Sector Border Patrol for a media engagement to discuss migrant deaths in the SW deserts. (b)(6) is working closely with the Pima County Medical Examiner on his story.

11/6: the report will concentrate on what happens when BP finds remains and the ruggedness of terrain/dangers of illegal immigrants making this journey. The story will be about a deceased migrant and the migrant's life from his/her original home country to how his/her life ended. The reporter has plans of speaking with the family of the migrant for the story. TCA FCB proposes taking (b)(6) to Sasabe or Lukeville to show him the terrain and distances some illegal aliens traverse. TCA will focus on BSI talking points.

Deadline: **Oct 28** Publication: TBD Tone: Neutral

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

10/21: (b)(6) Aftonbladet newspaper, Stockholm, Sweden and photographer (b)(6) request to join a border patrol to do a story on their work to secure the border. The story will be text/stills and also some TV. The story is highly interesting for a Swedish audience since we have the same issues with migration in Europe. I have followed patrols securing EU borders in Greece and Bulgaria.

They would like to join for two or three nights in **Jan 2020**.

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

### Media Engagements - Completed

11/6: (b)(6) Washington Correspondent for The Economist would like to do a ride-along to include the urban/El Paso area with new bollard wall and areas in NM with new bollard wall and locations where construction is currently underway. OPA will determine if the Sector Chief is available to provide a Sector overview and/or join the ride along. The reporter mentioned speaking to Congressman Hurd who has been a proponent of small border technology instead of physical infrastructure so that may come up. Availability next week is in the afternoon of **Nov 13th or 14th**. May not have time to take him out to new construction area.

11/29: Follow-up call w/XD (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Monday, December 2 @ 10:30 AM (telephonic)

11/20: Arranging national follow-up with Chief Martin or DXD (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) on Monday. Coordination phone call today.

11/19: Arranging a follow-up engagement with Chief Martin or Dep Exec Dir (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) on wall from a national perspective. Tentatively Nov 25/26.

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

10/10: (b)(6) (FoxNation) has requested a ride along in the RGV for a special in January. Filming for the engagement will occur sometime in First Week of December. OPA is working with USBP, OFO, and AMO to determine locations and topics. Expected to air in January.

11/19: Schedule changed slightly, they will be in RGV for **Dec 4 - 6**.

10/16: Scheduled for December 5 & 6. Routine ground, marine, and aviation ride-longs responding to traffic. No processing. Interview with Chief Karisch or designee.

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

12/4: (b)(6) KABB-TV (Fox – San Antonio), requested a statement regarding a story she is working on about a San Antonio man whose vehicle was reportedly seized after his girlfriend answered a Craigslist ad to drive two illegal aliens, and was ultimately arrested at a Del Rio Sector checkpoint. Unable to verify the case, OPA provided the following statement: attribute to a CBP spokesperson:

**Attributable to a CBP spokesperson:** *Assisting illegal aliens in entering or continuing their journey into the United States, to include transporting and housing, is a felony. U.S. Border Patrol agents are constantly on the look-out for people who are assisting transnational criminal organizations in their smuggling endeavors. These organizations use various means to recruit drivers and caretakers, including social media and word of mouth. They often offer quick cash and downplay the dangers involved. Do not be fooled by these smugglers. If someone is arrested and charged with alien smuggling they face up to 10 years in prison under 8 USC 1324.*

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

11/14: YUM PAO provided a border tour and several stand up interviews to reporter (b)(6) with German Public Radio. We discussed the current situation in YUM and the crisis that we have been experiencing the past year.

Air date: TBD

Tone: Positive/Neutral

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

10/19: Breitbart News six-member crew full meal deal tour tentatively anticipated for week of November 4-8, two days in Laredo (November 5 & 6), two days in RGV (November 7 & 8). Draft itineraries have been circulated amid OFO, USBP, AMO PALS and respective leadership. Tour dates pending confirmation with AMO, USBP partners.

11/13: Laredo portion cancelled due to weather. Crew will travel to RGV and return to Laredo in two weeks.

11/12: Del Rio Sector portion completed. Plans for a boat tour were cancelled due to weather. Engagement consisted of interview at Eagle Pass Station with Del Rio Sector Division Chief (b)(6), (b)(7)(C), Eagle Pass (b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) and Assistant Chief Patrol Agent (b)(6), (b)(7)(C), and a visit to the Eagle Pass checkpoint. In addition to the six-member Breitbart crew, two Sirius XM personnel were along to gather audio for Patriot Radio.

11/5: Due to late development/USBP senior executive travel in the Laredo area, the ride along originally scheduled with U.S. Border Patrol in the Laredo Sector AOR has shifted to Del Rio Sector, Eagle Pass Station AOR for Nov. 12. The rest of the Laredo, RGV itinerary remains intact. PAO (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) organized a conference call where this was discussed with Breitbart and all is good to go. An interview with JTF-West Director Manny Padilla is scheduled in San Antonio for 11/11.

10/21: Engagement now scheduled for the week of **Nov 11-15**.

Laredo Port of Entry mgmt. indicated concurrence with filming date on afternoon of Nov. 6. Laredo Sector Border Patrol advises that there will be a 15-member STAFFDEL on Nov. 5 and is asking to delay to the following week.

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

9/12: (b)(6) is looking to do a 90 minute piece for Fox Nation on "What's behind the headlines" of what is occurring along the border. Correspondent (b)(6)/crew will travel to the Rio Grande Valley to highlight the real issues which CBP and the Border Patrol are dealing with. She will cover

- (1) the cartels behind whats happening,
- (2) Mexico's efforts to stem the flow of Central Americans, and
- (3) the role of CBP.

The 22 minute piece will revolve around an engagement with C1 and highlight CBPs efforts to combat human smuggling as well as human and narcotics trafficking. Highlighting the cartels view of the migrants as simply another form of commodity.

10/9: Crew will be out with RGV Horse Patrol today.

10/7: Filming scheduled for **October 9-11 and 16-18**. The commissioner is expected to be on the ground in RGV. October 17-18.

9/19: RGV and Laredo OPA and USBP are coordinating on the ground.

9/19: Engagement will be October 7-20.

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

### Requests for Information/Statement/Other

12/3: Reporter (b)(6) with the San Diego Union Tribune inquired about access and arrests at an area called Friendship Circle located along the border near the Pacific Ocean. He was provided background information on the area. His story is expected to center around an undocumented immigrant who says he was arrested there last year while visiting his mother. The area is not an "immigration free zone" as some may think.

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

12/3: Responded to inquiries from multiple outlets, including KRGV-TV (ABC-RGV), Texas Public Radio, Buzzfeed and Brownsville Herald on reports of large numbers of Mexican asylum seekers being processed at Brownsville Port of Entry recently, asking whether the Humanitarian Asylum Review Process has been implemented in Brownsville. Consulted with LFO mgmt., HQ OPA, HQ OFO Enforcement programs and responded with the following response language approved by HQ OFO Enforcement Programs:



**Attributable to a CBP official:** What has been seen in Brownsville recently are ebbs and flows in migration patterns; the Humanitarian Asylum Review Process has not been implemented in that location. CBP continually experiences varying trends with migration patterns due to many factors, but in each case CBP officers consider the sum total of all facts and circumstances and everyone is processed in accordance with the law. As a rule, CBP is precluded from discussing individual cases for privacy reasons, but all claims are handled on a case-by-case basis and there are different levels of granularity, facts and circumstances that are unique to each case. Those migrants not otherwise amenable to MPP are turned over to ICE-ERO or HHS-ORR depending on the specifics of their respective cases.

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

12/3: Forbes Magazine reporter (b)(6) calls Yuma Sector to ask if Deployed Resources built the MPP facilities in Yuma and also maintains them. YUM Confirmed.

Deadline: 12/3 Broadcast: TBD Tone: Neutral Lead: SOS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

12/3: KVOA reporter (b)(6) requested a statement to the recent closure of some lanes at the Port of Nogales. TFO PAL (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) issued the following response;

*U.S. Customs and Border Protection is committed to the safety of those crossing the border and our local communities. In recent days, there has been an increase of incursions through vehicle lanes at Arizona ports of entry by asylum seekers attempting to evade established entry processes. These tactics interfere with CBP officers conducting their responsibilities and exacerbates wait times for daily commuters. CBP encourages the traveling public to be mindful of these unusual happenings and visit the Wait Time site to modify travel itineraries, as needed. CBP officers are well-trained law enforcement professionals who stand ready to defend the border and uphold the laws of the United States of America. CBP will not allow ports to be overrun, or unauthorized entry. Security measures will be increased as needed to ensure priorities are safely met.*

10/18: El Paso Times (b)(6) is writing about POE staffing and decisions made on how resources are allocated now that surge has diminished and personnel have returned to the primary duties. OPA provided background to the reporter and working to set up an interview with the port director. No publication date. Tone: neutral.

12/6: UPDATE: Story posted <https://www.elpasotimes.com/story/news/2019/12/06/international-bridges-border-residents-brave-longer-lines-migration-crisis-goes/2587424001/>

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

12/5: (b)(6) AP El Paso is writing about Mexican asylum seekers living in tent camps near international bridges across the border from El Paso. He will report that the camps exist because asylum seekers are jockeying for position to apply for entry at area ports. Some are pointing blame at CBP because there now appear to be competing lists of Mexican and Central American asylum seekers not being honored by CBP. OPA provided a statement which was crafted with local and HQ input.

*The CBP officers performing queue management operations at the international boundary line are not conducting primary inspections but rather making certain those who intend to apply have entry documents. If the individuals do not have documents and there is no space available at the CBP facility they are instructed to wait until capacity becomes available to ensure safe and secure processing. As you know, CBP has no involvement of any lists, nor do we even engage in any attempt to control, facilitate or distinguish amongst competing lists. CBP has a responsibility to ensure lawful legitimate trade and travel occurs, while at the same time, protecting our borders from those that wish it harm. CBP's ability to process asylum applicants is dependent upon capacity issues as well as our other mission sets: Anti-terrorism, Counter-narcotics, Global Economic Trade, and Facilitation of lawful trade and travel.*

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

11/29: (b)(6) The Galveston County Daily News, inquired about an off-duty incident that occurred 11/28 in League City, TX, in which a CBP employee shot and killed his wife. Provided a statement, approved by Houston Field Office: "Attributable to a CBP spokesperson: U.S. Customs and Border Protection Agriculture Specialist (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) was arrested by the League City Police Department on Nov. 28 while he was off duty. Since, August 2008, he has worked CBP agriculture operations in the Houston Seaport environment. CBP is fully cooperating with the League City Police Department who is leading this investigation." Also confirmed that (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) deceased wife was a CBPO at the Houston Seaport, from approved RTQs. Referred further questions, regarding the investigation, to League City Police Department.

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

11/26: (b)(6) reporter, with ASU queried Tucson Sector and CBP Media Relations on a letter to Commissioner Morgan from Congresswoman Anne Kirkpatrick yesterday regarding CBP's environmental stewardship plan and wall construction in Southern Arizona. Response: Pending coordination. Deadline: 11/26 Publication: 11/28 Tone: Neutral

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

11/26: In response to inquiries from Los Angeles Times Reporter (b)(6) Buzzfeed reporter (b)(6) (b)(6) CNN reporter (b)(6) regarding whether we are experiencing a trend of previously MPP'ed family units sending their children across international bridges as UACs in Brownsville and generally and whether we have any stats or statements about this, consulted with LFO mgmt., HQ OPA and provided the following on an RTQ basis:

**Attributable to a CBP official:** *Unaccompanied alien children are not amenable to MPP enrollment. CBP continually experiences ebbs and flows with migration patterns due to many factors, but in each case CBP officers consider the sum total of all facts and circumstances and everyone is processed in accordance with the law.*

*As a rule, CBP is precluded from discussing individual cases for privacy reasons, but amenability for enrollment in the Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP) program is ultimately determined on a case-by-case basis and there are different levels of granularity, facts and circumstances that are unique to each case.*

*Relevant links to UAC statistics (note: links for inadmissible stats are not broken down further beyond the Field Office level):*

*<https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/sw-border-migration>*

*<https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/sw-border-migration/fo-sw-border-inadmissibles>*

*<https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/sw-border-migration/fy-2019>*

*<https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/sw-border-migration/fo-sw-border-inadmissibles-fy2019>*

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

11/25: (b)(6) PBS/NPR Texas Newsroom, inquired about wall development in Starr County, installation of panels and timetable. Consulted with HQ OPA mgmt. and the following response was provided:

**Attributable to a CBP official:** *That is correct. U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), in partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), will begin installing panels this week for the approximately 3 mile new border wall system project located within Starr County, Texas. Please see the press release [here](#) for more project details.*

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

11/25: (b)(6) Los Angeles Times reporter, asked a series of detail-specific questions regarding former CBP officer (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) including:

- Did (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) work for CBP for 18 years in RGV sector?
- Did (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) have a good record, including a national commendation for integrity due to a corruption investigation he assisted?
- Was (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) fired after a USCIS investigation as part of a passport application for his brother revealed (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) first birth certificate (filed before his US birth certificate) was issued in Mexico?
- Did CBP give (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) three years to become a citizen and return to his job?
- Did CBP give (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) the option of retiring early, but with a penalty?
- Did CBP perform background checks of (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) (I believe there were at least three)? Why wasn't (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Mexican birth certificate uncovered during those background checks?
- Is CBP working with USCIS, which has been considering (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) citizenship application via his wife, a USCIS employee and former CBP officer, and if not, why?
- 11/26 update: HQ OPA, OCC, LFO concurrence obtained, responded with RTQ statement. (b)(6) followed up asking to confirm years of service and integrity award. Stuck by previous response.

PAQ (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) developed the following response to query statement: *CBP confirms he was previously employed with CBP; he currently is no longer employed by CBP and recommends utilizing that statement and indicating from the outset that this is CBP's official statement and we have nothing further to add.* Consulting with LFO mgmt., OCC, HQ OPA mgmt. Reporter is looking to publish her story on 11/27.

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

11/22: Reporter (b)(6) with local KPBS is inquiring about a person in SDC custody for supposedly three weeks after his illegal entry case against him was dismissed. Claims family and attorney were not provided any information on his whereabouts.

11/26: Was provided responses to the individual's stay with CBP prior to turn over to ICE. Nothing nefarious happened. Story ran. [Link](#) – reporter never mentioned that fact that detainee had twice refused to contact the Mexican Consulate. Was asked to add that to his story.

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

11/21: (b)(6) Truthout.org reporter is writing about an environmental group that released a [report](#) on what appears to be a 2018 DHS/HHS proposal to build a temporary shelter for migrant families and unaccompanied minors at the Fort Bliss Army base in Texas, where a temporary shelter was established in 2016. He was asking what happened to the 2018 plan. OPA advised reporter to contact HHS regarding UAC's. Reporter was also provided with links to CBP spotlight items on construction of temporary soft-sided facilities at various locations to address the border crisis. Publication date unknown. Tone: negative.

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

11/19: A Staff Reporter –(AZ News Radio Network) inquired about the News Release (200 Illegal aliens arrested near Sasabe). He was given a brief interview on the situation, as was told the groups are a concern since large numbers of migrants in a single group require a lot of resources and they are placed there by unscrupulous smugglers. Additionally large groups cause a strain on resources. Deadline: 11/19 Tone: Neutral

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

11/19: Reporter (b)(6) (Nogales International Newspaper) Inquired about a recent claim by an area rancher (b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(E) who says that an agent he is in contact with has exhibited inappropriate behavior thus causing him to be reassigned to another Border Patrol area. The reporter also inquired about a Border Patrol (b)(7)(E) the aforementioned rancher claimed he found on his property placed there by agents.

TCA-PAO is currently working to gather more information to compose a written response statement. Deadline: 11/21 Tone: Neutral

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

11/19: Reporter (b)(6) (KTAR-Radio-AZ) requested information on the latest Border Patrol arrest figures. He wanted to know the reasons why Adult males from Mexico are the largest demographic arrested by Border Patrol in Tucson Sector.

TCA-PAO is preparing a telephonic interview to quantify the numbers and to reiterate that adult males not wanting to be apprehended account for the largest number of arrests, however large number of FAMU and UAJ still are arriving at concerning numbers. Deadline: 11/21 Tone: Neutral

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

11/19: Reporter (b)(6) (Arizona Daily Star Newspaper) Inquired about a recent gun seizures from persons attempting to smuggle guns and ammunition out of the United States into Mexico. He understood that the OFO officers see the highest amount of seizures of this type but wanted to know what Border Patrol experiences in the same type of smuggling event.

TCA-PAO is constructing a statement that says we do seize guns on their out of the country but not to the extent that OFO officers see. Deadline: 11/21 Tone: Neutral

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

11/19: (b)(6) reporter for the NYC bureau of the Daily Mail (UK) contacted PAO seeking further information regarding a Business Insider story of a Border Patrol Agent that discovered a Mexican birth certificate after serving for 20 years. OPA indicated that matter likely under an internal investigation, covered by privacy act.

Official statement provided: "CBP confirms he was previously employed with CBP; he currently is no longer employed by CBP."

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

11/19: Reporter (b)(6) –(AZ News Radio) inquired about the News Release (200 Illegal aliens arrested near Sasabe). He was given a brief interview on the situation, as was told the groups are a concern since large numbers of migrants in a single group require a lot of resources and they are placed there by unscrupulous smugglers. Additionally large groups cause a strain on resources. Deadline: 11/19 Tone: Neutral

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

11/18: Telemundo and Univision Nacional inquired if CBP had a statement regarding a Brownsville CBP officer that had been terminated after his Mexican birth certificate was discovered and is currently working to correct his citizenship status. Consulted with LFO, OCC and there is concurrence to confirm he was employed with CBP and is currently not employed with CBP. Pending final HQ OPA mgmt. concurrence.

11/19 update: HQ OPA mgmt. concurred. Confirmed to both outlets that he was previously employed with CBP; he currently is no longer employed with CBP.

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

11/18: KRGV-TV reporter (b)(6) inquired regarding a federal judge's order regarding inspections of electronic devices and sought a statement from CBP. Consulted with HQ OPA.

Approved Statement: U.S. Customs and Border Protection does not as a matter of policy comment on matters in litigation. However, we are able to provide the following information:

In Fiscal Year 2019, CBP processed more than 414 million travelers at U.S. ports of entry. During that same period of time, CBP conducted 40,913 border searches of electronic devices, representing **less than .01 percent** of arriving international travelers.

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

11/14: AJ+ English reporter: (b)(6) requested high-resolution pics of recent human smuggling cases involving the use of tractor trailers. Three photos were sent to him.

Tone: Positive

Air Date: TBD

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

11/14: Several national and local media outlets, including CNN, CQ Roll Call, Buzzfeed inquired regarding a case that gained traction from a tweet from the executive director of AILA regarding a previously MPP'ed two-year-old reportedly suffering from sepsis accompanied by her family and AILA attorneys seeking to be paroled into the U.S. who had not been allowed in until late in the evening of Nov. 13. Consulted with LFO mgmt., HQ OPA and with their concurrence the following statement was provided on a response to query basis:

**Attributable to a CBP official:** *Amenability to enrollment in the Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP) program is ultimately determined on a case-by-case basis and there are different levels of granularity, facts and circumstances that are unique to each case. Agents and officers implementing the MPP program are directed to review arriving individuals for known physical or mental health conditions or the potential to face persecution or torture in Mexico. All factors need to be considered, including whether the status of the particular medical condition and the immediate health of the migrant at the time of encounter is something requiring immediate medical attention.*

*With the sum total of all facts and information considered in this case, this particular family unit was paroled into the U.S. for the child to receive medical treatment. The family will remain in the U.S. pending their hearings before an immigration judge.*

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

11/14: (b)(6) a longtime Austin-based NPR reporter, advised he will be relocating to the Brownsville area for the next 30 days to report on border stories and requested permission to attend a hearing within the MPP immigration hearing facility at Brownsville Port of Entry. Consulted with HQ OPA, LFO mgmt. and plan to provide the following response: Regarding access to an immigration hearing facility we have noted your request, will keep that on file and will advise if there may be any forthcoming opportunity. In the meantime, please see the below statement with regard to media access to Migration Protection Protocol immigration hearing facilities:

**Attributable to a CBP official:** *"Because the immigration hearing facilities (IHF) in Laredo and Brownsville are within CBP's secure port of entry property, access to these temporary immigration hearing facilities will operate in accordance with practices for other secure CBP areas. Requests for access by the media or by the public to the IHF will be assessed on a case-by-case basis when operationally feasible and in accordance with procedures for access to any CBP secure facility.*

*The media and the public may still be able to observe hearings by visiting the San Antonio, Harlingen, and Port Isabel EOIR immigration courts where immigration judges are located and will be connected via live-streaming video teleconference to the alien at the temporary IHF. Note that access to hearings at immigration courts are subject to DOJ EOIR rules and policies.*

*Information regarding EOIR immigration court access, hearing schedules, or specific to the master calendar hearings should be obtained directly from DOJ EOIR."*

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

11/6: RGV PAO office received a request from Border Report reporter: (b)(6) in regards to a press poll released by the US Immigration Policy Center as follows:

*The poll found a "crisis in confidence" with President Trump's immigration policies, according to the poll of 2,700 people in four states: California, Arizona, N.M., and Texas. There are some questions regarding how the public feels about Border Patrol officials protecting their safety.*

**Reporter:** I'm wondering if your agency can comment on this. And, for the record, I specifically used my question time to ask the poll director about the questions that highlighted people were upset when asked if they were US citizens at checkpoints in the interior.

That information is listed here: Border Residents and Border Patrol Checkpoints

- Over 3 out of 10, or 31.1%, have been stopped and questioned about their U.S. citizenship at an interior Border Patrol checkpoint
- Lack of Trust in Border Patrol
  - Only 1 out of 3, or 33.1%, trust "a great deal" or "a lot" that Border Patrol officials will protect the rights and civil liberties of all people equally.
  - Just over 4 out of 10, or 40.7%, trust "a great deal" or "a lot" that Border Patrol officials will "keep you and your family safe."
  - Less than 3 out of 10, or 28.6%, trust "a great deal" or "a lot" that Border Patrol officials who abuse their authority will be held accountable for their abuses.

<https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/alliancesandiego/pages/2734/attachments/original/1573060841/usipc-border-poll-final%281%29.pdf?1573060841>

Expected Rundate: TBD Expected Tone: Neutral

11/5: Telemundo 40 (Telemundo-RGV) reporter (b)(6) had made repeated attempted to reach out to several CBP PALs and PAOs seeking an interview regarding the issue of Mexican B1/B2 laser visa holders who donate their blood for pay in the U.S. and whether doing that would jeopardize the terms of their visa for a sweeps story. Utilized previously approved response language used to respond to similar questions in El Paso and Eagle Pass. LFO mgmt. concurred. Response strategy as per PAO (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) was electronic statement only, no on-camera or follow up interviews. Statement:

**Attributable to a CBP official:** B1/B2 card holders who cross the border to sell plasma may be in jeopardy of having their document revoked by a CBP officer. The CBP officer has discretion and may handle these situations on a case-by-case basis taking into account all available information present at the time of entry. For further information on B1/B2 and what is allowable please contact the U.S. State Department.

DOS can be contacted here (b)(7)(E) @state.gov

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

11/4: El Diario de Juarez and KERA-FM radio are writing about Mexican asylum seekers in the El Paso/Juarez area, why they are waiting in Mexico, impact on local operations, etc. They were provided latest statement addressing the matter. Publication immediate. Tone: negative.

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

11/4: Multiple media inquiries on NM BP shooting referred to CBP statement and NMSP news release. Also directed to sector to maintain a single POE for official CBP information.

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

11/4: KGUN Reporter inquired about weekend reports of gunfire heard in Douglas, AZ that viewers said were coming from Mexico. They were referred to Cochise County Sheriff's for possible comment.

Tone: Neutral Air Date: 11/4

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

10/30: (b)(6) reporter/producer, Arizona 260, AZ Public Media, queried Tucson Field Operations and (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) on how CBP handles corruption cases.

RESPONSE: Pending

Deadline: 10/31 Broadcast: 11/1 Tone: Neutral

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

10/30: (b)(6) reporter, Investigative Reporter Program Berkley College, queried Yuma Sector Border Patrol to confirm an employee by the name (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

RESPONSE: We don't have a person by that name currently.

Deadline: 10/30 Publication: TBD Tone: Unk

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

10/30: (b)(6) /El Diario de El Paso is writing about the search for a Las Cruces man who disappeared with his two pre-school age sons earlier in the month. Authorities believe h may have traveled to Mexico. Reporter was asking about CBP response/lookout. OPA in conjunction with OFO provided a statement on how CBPO's operate and what would happen if we encounter a subject sought by law. Questions regarding the ongoing investigative efforts in the US and Mexico were redirected. Tone: neutral. Publication: Thursday.

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

10/29: Responded to inquiry from Forte Newspaper and Estereo 91 reporter (b)(6) regarding complaints of excessive wait times in the SENTRI lane, extending 20 blocks into Nuevo Laredo. Consulted with local mgmt. and responded that we have three SENTRI lanes open, a 15-minute wait, are not experiencing significant waits on the bridge and deferred to Government of Mexico regarding traffic within the interior of Mexico.

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

10/28: (b)(6) reporter, Tucson Sentinel, queried CBP Arizona on the migrant death over the weekend. Specifically, how was she located, what type of injuries did she sustain, where was the hospital?

Response: Referred to Tucson Sector for more information.

Deadline: 28 OCT Publication: 29 OCT Tone: Neutral

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

10/24: Local San Diego ABC 10 reporter (b)(6) is revisiting his story from June about allegations that CBP was improperly having subjects detox at the San Ysidro port of entry. His story now will highlight interviews from a new person held at San Ysidro in March who discussed these allegations during his trial for criminal entry. The news story will include clips from hours of video from inside a San Ysidro holding room (made public as a part of the subject's criminal hearing.) This same topic was also the subject of a different media story following a letter/news release from the ACLU and a physician's group naming three other individuals with similar allegations. After consulting with the local Field Office and OCC, CBP responded with the following:

Attributable to a CBP spokesperson: *CBP does not comment on matters that are currently under litigation.*

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

10/22: (b)(6) reporter, Cronkite News, queried Tucson OFO on the current hiring processes and how they affect wait times at the ports of entry.

RESPONSE: *The query has been referred to HQ personnel with the recruiting and biometrics accounts.*

Deadline: 10/22 Publication: 10/23 Tone: Neutral

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

10/18: (b)(6) AZ PBS, queried CBP Arizona on the name of a recent fugitive from AZ caught in Mexico and extradited back to the US with help of Yuma Sector.

Response: Pending PII approval.

Deadline: 10/18/19 Broadcast: 10/18 Tone: Neutral

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

10/8: Arizona Republic/USA Today Reporter (b)(6) inquired whether Arizona POE's are transferring Asylum seekers to other locations?

**TFO PAL responded** that "Arizona Ports are not transferring arriving migrants claiming fear to MPP facilities for initial process."

Tone: Positive Air Date: 10/9

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

12/9: National Air Security Operations Center Supervisory Air Interdiction Agent (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) did an interview with iHeart radio in San Antonio about their detection of a low profile vessel attempting to smuggle two tons of cocaine. Positive Tone.

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

12/9: ABC7 Reporter (b)(6) visited the Area Port of Washington DC (Dulles airport) for a story focused Agriculture protection and IPR enforcement. Story serves as a traveler education piece on prohibited and restricted items that travelers frequently bring to the United States during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. (b)(6) interviewed Acting Port Director (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) and observed AQI K9 and secondary inspection teams, and viewed a table of seized IPR consumer goods. Anticipate positive tone on CBP's holiday enforcement efforts.

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

12/9-WGN reporter (b)(6) and Chicago AP reporter (b)(6) contacted CBP inquiring if CBP was involved in a narcotics and gun investigation regarding a private jet carrying the late Chicago rapper Jarad Higgins, BKA "Juice WRLD". Both reporters were told CBP was not involved and referred them to local authorities.

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

12/9 Chicago Sun Times reporter (b)(6) contacted CBP with questions regarding the deferred inspection case continuance of (b)(6), (b)(7)(C). The Chicago Port Director and OPA provided answers to the reporter's questions.

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Deferred Inspection case is slated for Dec 19. Her previous case, Nov 13, garnered protesters and several media request. OPA responded with this statement:

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) *a legal permanent resident, traveled into Chicago O'Hare international on August 27, 2019. Her border inspection could not be completed at the time of entry. Her inspection was deferred to allow her an opportunity to obtain necessary documents. She reported to Chicago Deferred Inspection, accompanied by her attorney, on November 14, 2019. Chicago Deferred Inspection was not provided with all the documents necessary to complete her inspection.* (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) *was provided a return appointment to allow more time to obtain the remaining documents."*

Tone: Neutral/Negative

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

12/5: WSVN—FOX: (b)(6) interviewed Port Everglades Port Director (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) for a story on CBP officers in South Florida seizing 400 pounds of cocaine onboard a sailboat. News package airing evening of 12/5. Several local news outlets are also posting stories based on the press release. Expected Tone: Neutral to positive.

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

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

Assistant Chief, USBPHQ  
CBP Office of Public Affairs - Media Division  
Southwest Border Branch Chief - (A)

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

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov  
CBP Newsroom



U.S. Customs and  
Border Protection

Message

**From:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(E)  
**Sent:** 12/16/2019 10:45:37 PM  
**To:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(E) OC BRIEFING STAFF  
**CC:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(E)  
**Subject:** RE: Roundtable materials  
**Attachments:** C1\_Talking\_Pts\_roundtable.docx

Talking points for opening remarks attached.

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**From:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 16, 2019 4:03 PM  
**To:** OC BRIEFING STAFF (b)(7)(E) @cbp.dhs.gov>; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Cc:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>;  
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Roundtable materials

San Diego AMO meth seizure info attached.

Updated list of confirmed media attendees: (10)

(b)(6)	The Hill (confirmed RSVP)
(b)(6)	CNN (confirmed RSVP)
(b)(6)	Reuters (confirmed RSVP)
(b)(6)	New York Times (confirmed RSVP)
(b)(6)	USA Today (confirmed RSVP)
(b)(6)	Los Angeles Times (confirmed RSVP)
(b)(6)	Washington Post (confirmed RSVP)
(b)(6)	Washington Times (confirmed RSVP)
(b)(6)	Wall Street Journal (confirmed RSVP)
(b)(6)	Daily Caller (confirmed RSVP)

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**From:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)  
**Sent:** Monday, December 16, 2019 3:10 PM  
**To:** OC BRIEFING STAFF (b)(7)(E) @CBP.DHS.GOV>; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Cc:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>;  
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Updated materials for Media Roundtable

Correct. Today's materials are get-backs from this morning's briefing.



**From:** OC BRIEFING STAFF (b)(7)(E) @cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 16, 2019 3:09 PM  
**To:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>; OC BRIEFING STAFF (b)(7)(E) @cbp.dhs.gov>;  
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Cc:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>;  
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Updated materials for Media Roundtable

Thanks. These are in addition to what was submitted over the weekend (attached), correct?

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

Office of the Executive Secretariat  
U.S. Customs and Border Protection

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

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

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov



U.S. Customs and  
Border Protection

**From:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 16, 2019 3:06 PM  
**To:** OC BRIEFING STAFF (b)(7)(E) @cbp.dhs.gov>; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Cc:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>;  
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Updated materials for Media Roundtable

Attached is an OPA Medical Public Affairs guidance and rescue numbers with info on the San Diego jet ski rescue over the weekend.

BP (b)(7)(E) is working on more specific medical info, and family separations and I will send when I get them.

OPA will soon have his opening statement as well.

**From:** OC BRIEFING STAFF (b)(7)(E) @cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 16, 2019 3:00 PM  
**To:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>; OC BRIEFING STAFF (b)(7)(E) @cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Cc:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>;  
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Updated materials for Media Roundtable

Hello, have these materials been received yet? I'm starting to compile the ebook.

Thanks,

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

Office of the Executive Secretariat  
U.S. Customs and Border Protection

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

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

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov



U.S. Customs and  
Border Protection

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**From:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 16, 2019 1:08 PM  
**To:** OC BRIEFING STAFF (b)(7)(E) @cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Cc:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov> (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)  
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov> (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Updated materials for Media Roundtable

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

AC1 asked for OPA to draft additional TPs at the prep meeting this morning.  
They are working it now.

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

Assistant Chief, USBP  
Detailed to the Office of the Commissioner  
U.S. Customs and Border Protection  
Cell: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)  
Office: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)  
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov

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**From:** OC BRIEFING STAFF (b)(7)(E) @cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 16, 2019 11:56 AM  
**To:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>; OC BRIEFING STAFF (b)(7)(E) @cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Cc:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov> (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)  
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov> (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Updated materials for Media Roundtable

Hello,  
Will any more updates be coming on these documents, or is what was submitted over the weekend the finals?  
Thank you,

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

Office of the Executive Secretariat  
U.S. Customs and Border Protection  
Desk: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)  
Cell: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)  
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov



U.S. Customs and  
Border Protection

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**From:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 14, 2019 7:43 PM  
**To:** OC BRIEFING STAFF (b)(7)(E) @cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Cc:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov> (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)  
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov> (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>

**Subject:** FW: Updated materials for Media Roundtable

**Importance:** High

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

Forwarding to OC Briefing Staff.

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

Assistant Chief, USBP

Detailed to the Office of the Commissioner

U.S. Customs and Border Protection

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

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

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov

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**From:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>

**Sent:** Saturday, December 14, 2019 4:36 PM

**To:** (b)(7)(E) @cbp.dhs.gov; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov> (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>; CBPTASKING (b)(7)(E) @cbp.dhs.gov>

**Cc:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>

**Subject:** Updated materials for Media Roundtable

**Importance:** High

Hi all, we've updated the materials for the Monday prep based on current events and updated statistics. Please see attached which we'll use to prepare C1 on Mon. As always, we're continuing to monitor news coverage across the weekend and will of course provide updates to the Q&A as appropriate. Sorry to bother on a weekend, just making sure you have the most relevant docs based on the most current info. Please let me know if you have questions.

Thanks,

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

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

Message

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

Sent: 12/11/2019 5:03:55 PM

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

Subject: FW: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

Attachments: DXD (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) with (b)(6) NYT 121019.MP3

(b)(6) NYT with USBP/SPA DXD (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) (12/10/19)

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

(A)PS: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

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

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

Process of the land acquisition process

- *Identify the landowners, we need one thing to start...possession. Voluntary sale or court action.*
- *As we get possessions, we can start construction. Even if we don't have possession of all the land we have flexibility to start construction.*
- *Discussion of land that is currently under litigation is after we have taken possession and we are doing pre-construction.*
  - *Settling litigation*
  - *Figuring just compensation*
- *Discussion of Declaration of Taking Act.*
- *Back to how many miles of private land do we have under the declaration of taking? Don't have the numbers available.*
- *We have enough in possession and we are building.*
- *Third project to come on in the next few weeks.*

# of landowners who have given us access for survey.

- *Most land owners have voluntarily given us access.*

Explanation of court cases from 2008. With the numbers of challenges in court and only rising, how can you complete the number of miles by 2021?

- *Incorrect of assumption in how he arrived at his thinking. Since 2008, largely those cases are not people who are challenging, but associated with people that we cannot identify to pay. Radio, newspaper, to identify. They are people who don't know they are party to land. We have to know who to pay. Since we had possession, we were still able to build.*

What about the people who are fighting the access questions.

- *On access, fewer people challenged than in 2008.*
- *Acquisition, we have only filed one or two declarations of taking. In 2008 1/3 willing to sell, 1/3 wanted to sell but cloudy title, 1/3 unwilling sellers. Our experience our access was better this time.*

How long will the litigation go on, but does it really matter because you have possession after the Declaration of Taking.

- *Doesn't really matter, we can begin construction as soon as we have possession.*

Compensation: long discussion of the \$100 and Declaration of Taking for Access.

- *\$100 is for access for access for the survey. We are not acquiring anything from the landowner.*
- *Mixing access with acquisition...both called Declaration of Taking*

- *If essentially for the inconvenience to the landowner. It's so we can do the survey to establish the fair market value.*
- *Rights of entry are not for months. We schedule appointments for the convenience of the land owner.*

Fair market value, value of construction, loss of value. How do you value the fact that there is value lost?

- *We take that value into consideration. We pay for the land for the wall and also the diminution of value for what may be south of the barrier.*
- *They retain the land, but we pay them for the lost value.*

How does the private builders factor into wall

- *Does their construction factor into our plans? No it does not, our plans does not change.*

How do you prevent construction by third parties?

- *If it is undertaken by a private entity, there is nothing we can do as it is a private endeavor by private parties.*

Have we started in Starr County, mostly residential, are you required to relocate them?

- *We did do a handful of relocations in 2008 and there is the possibility we may need to do a handful of relocations.*
- *We try to avoid residential.*

Have you shifted to the line to avoid residential.

- *Yes...its part of the process.*

Comes back to the number of miles that we need for construction, what we have, and what do you still need.

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

Assistant Chief, USBPHQ  
CBP Office of Public Affairs - Media Division  
Southwest Border Branch Chief - (A)

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

**(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)** @cbp.dhs.gov  
CBP Newsroom



U.S. Customs and  
Border Protection

Message

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

Sent: 12/17/2019 3:13:03 PM

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

CC:

Subject: FW: Confirmed RSVP list

Morning,

Below is the list of RSVPs for today's media round table with AC1 Morgan.

R/S

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

From: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@cbp.dhs.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, December 17, 2019 8:07 AM

To: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@cbp.dhs.gov>; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(E)@cbp.dhs.gov>

Subject: Confirmed RSVP list

(b)(6) The Hill (confirmed RSVP)

(b)(6) CNN (confirmed RSVP)

(b)(6) Reuters (confirmed RSVP)

(b)(6) New York Times (confirmed RSVP)

(b)(6) USA Today (confirmed RSVP)

(b)(6) Los Angeles Times (confirmed RSVP)

Washington Post (confirmed RSVP)

(b)(6) Washington Times (confirmed RSVP)

(b)(6) Wall Street Journal (confirmed RSVP)

(b)(6) Daily Caller (confirmed RSVP)

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

Director, CBP Media Relations Division (A)

desk

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

Message

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

Sent: 1/9/2020 4:04:30 PM

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

Subject: RE: Media Call at 1130

Press release and stats are published.

<https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/national-media-release/december-enforcement-actions-down-seventh-straight-month>

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

Sent: Thursday, January 9, 2020 10:45 AM

To: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@cbp.dhs.gov>; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@cbp.dhs.gov>;

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@cbp.dhs.gov>; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@cbp.dhs.gov>

Subject: Media Call at 1130

Thanks, everyone. Copied below is the list of invitees. Tested the conference line and it appears to be working.

*ABC*

*AP*

*Axios*

*Bloomberg*

*Breitbart*

*CBS*

*CNN*

*CQ Roll Call*

*Daily Caller*

*Fox News*

*Fox 5 DC*

*LA Times*

*NBC Universal*

*New York Times*

*NPR*

*Reuters*

*VOA*

*VOX*

*Washington Post*

(b)(6)

Best wishes,

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

Office of Public Affairs  
U.S. Customs and Border Protection

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

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov

---

**From:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>

**Sent:** Thursday, January 9, 2020 10:13 AM

**To:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>;

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>

**Subject:** RE: Urgent: Please Review Media Advisory

Looks good to moi.

---

**From:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>

**Sent:** Thursday, January 9, 2020 10:07 AM

**To:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>;

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>

**Subject:** Urgent: Please Review Media Advisory

**Importance:** High

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

May I request your swift review of the attached media advisory that was requested by (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)?

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) would like for us to distribute this to media partners who RSVP'd to yesterday's event along with an embargoed copy of the press release. I'm happy to do so.

Best wishes,

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

Office of Public Affairs  
U.S. Customs and Border Protection

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

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov



Message

From:

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

Sent:

1/9/2020 4:07:08 PM

To:

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

Subject:

RE: Media Call at 1130

Added (b)(6) of WaPo, who was covering for (b)(6) yesterday.

*ABC*

*AP*

*Axios*

*Bloomberg*

*Breitbart*

*CBS*

*CNN*

*CQ Roll Call*

*Daily Caller*

*Fox News*

*Fox 5 DC*

*LA Times*

*NBC Universal*

*New York Times*

*NPR*

*Reuters*

*VOA*

*VOX*

*Washington Post*

(b)(6)

Best wishes,

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

Office of Public Affairs

U.S. Customs and Border Protection

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

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov

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**From:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 9, 2020 10:13 AM  
**To:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>;  
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Urgent: Please Review Media Advisory

Looks good to moi.

---

**From:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 9, 2020 10:07 AM  
**To:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>;  
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Urgent: Please Review Media Advisory  
**Importance:** High

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

May I request your swift review of the attached media advisory that was requested by (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)?

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) would like for us to distribute this to media partners who RSVP'd to yesterday's event along with an embargoed copy of the press release. I'm happy to do so.

Best wishes,

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

Office of Public Affairs  
U.S. Customs and Border Protection

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

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov

Message

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

Sent: 2/6/2020 1:46:42 PM

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

Subject: Fwd: Draft Press Release for NY Global Entry Suspension

Attachments: 2020.02.06 - Draft Press Release - NY Residents No Longer Eligible for TTP.docx; ATT00001.htm

Looping in (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>  
Date: February 6, 2020 at 8:33:00 AM EST  
To: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>, (b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(E)  
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>, (b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(E) @CBP.DHS.GOV>  
Cc: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @CBP.DHS.GOV>  
Subject: FW: Draft Press Release for NY Global Entry Suspension

I'm off to DEAC Wagner's hearing on biometrics. Attached in case it is needed this morning is a draft press release on the NY Global Entry issue. This will need to be reviewed and approved by OFO, the CBP Info Center (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) and OCC before it is issued. We should probably also provide a heads up to OCA and IPL before we issue it (if indeed we are instructed to issue it).

I should return to the RRB around 12:30 depending on how long the hearing runs.

Best wishes,

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

---

From: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)  
Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2020 8:12 AM  
To: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>, (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)  
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>  
Cc: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>, (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>, (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)  
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>, (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @CBP.DHS.GOV>;  
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov> (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov> (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)  
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @CBP.DHS.GOV>  
Subject: RE: Media Wrap Up for NY Global Entry Suspension

Attached is a clean version, approved by OFO/TTP Director: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

Looping in: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

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

Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2020 7:31 AM

To: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>

Cc: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>

Subject: Media Wrap Up for NY Global Entry Suspension

For the 8 a.m. I'd like to forward this on to DEAC Wagner's team in advance of this morning's testimony and to our PAOs in the field, if appropriate.

**BLUF:** Fox News, CNN, the Wall Street Journal, the New York Times and other national news outlets are reporting on a DHS decision yesterday to suspend the ability of New York residents to apply for or re-enroll in CBP's Trusted Traveler Programs (TTP). In a letter to the Commissioner of the New York Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) dated February 5, DHS Secretary Chad Wolf explained that New York's "Green Light Law" prohibits CBP access to Department of Motor Vehicle (DMV) records and thereby "compromises CBP's ability to confirm whether an individual applying for TTP membership meets program eligibility requirements."

#### Background:

Officially called the "Driver's License Access and Privacy Act," New York's Green Light Law allows undocumented immigrants to use foreign-issued documents to prove their age and identity when applying for a driver's license. The law also prohibits state officials from providing DMV records to CBP, ICE and USCIS unless ordered to do so by a judge. Passed on June 17, 2019, the law took effect on December 16, 2019.

Without access to New York DMV information, CBP cannot complete vetting of TTP applications and renewals submitted by New York residents. New York residents will no longer be eligible to apply for or renew membership in CBP Trusted Traveler Programs. CBP will cancel pending TTP applications submitted by New York residents. New York residents who are currently enrolled in TTP will retain their benefits until their membership expires.

#### What People Are Saying:

- <!--[if !supportLists]--><![endif]-->DHS Secretary Chad Wolf announced the decision yesterday evening on Fox News' "Tucker Carlson Tonight," stating that "When we talk about CBP's Trusted Traveler Programs, like Global Entry... they use that DMV data to make sure those individuals are low-risk and meet the eligibility requirements..."
- <!--[if !supportLists]--><![endif]-->(b)(6) an advisor to New York Governor Andrew Cuomo, claimed that the move "is obviously political retaliation by the federal government..."
- <!--[if !supportLists]--><![endif]-->Former Acting ICE Director (b)(6) said "This is just irrational in the sense that sanctuary policies in no way shape or form affect DHS' ability to vet people for Global Entry and other Trusted Traveler Programs... It's ridiculous, and it's politicizing a program that's not about politics."
- <!--[if !supportLists]--><![endif]-->*The New York Times*, CNN and other media outlets have tied the decision to President Trump's remarks against sanctuary cities during his State of the Union address on February 4.

#### Coverage:

- <!--[if !supportLists]--><![endif]-->DHS Suspends Global Entry, Trusted Traveler Programs for New York Residents in Response to Sanctuary Laws [Video]  
Fox News • (b)(6) February 5, 2020
- <!--[if !supportLists]--><![endif]-->DHS Bans New Yorkers from Global Entry and Other Programs Over State Law Allowing Undocumented Immigrants to Get Driver's Licenses  
CNN • (b)(6) February 6, 2020
- <!--[if !supportLists]--><![endif]-->Trump Administration Freezes Global Entry Enrollment in New York Over Immigration Law  
*The New York Times* • (b)(6) and (b)(6) • February 6, 2020
- <!--[if !supportLists]--><![endif]-->Homeland Security Suspends Enrollment of New Yorkers in Global Entry  
*The Wall Street Journal* • (b)(6) • February 6, 2020
- <!--[if !supportLists]--><![endif]-->Trump Suspends Global Entry, Traveler Programs for New York Residents Over 'Sanctuary' Policies  
*The Washington Post* • (b)(6) February 5, 2020
- <!--[if !supportLists]--><![endif]-->New York Residents Can No Longer Sign Up for Global Entry, DHS Chief Says  
NBC 4 New York • February 6, 2020

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

Office of Public Affairs

U.S. Customs and Border Protection

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

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov

Message

**From:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(E)  
**Sent:** 2/14/2020 10:14:32 PM  
**To:** (b)(6) (Reuters) (b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(E)  
**CC:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(E)  
**Subject:** Re: Tactical teams

Attributable to DHS:

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.

Get Outlook for iOS

---

**From:** (b)(6) (Reuters) (b)(6)  
**Sent:** Friday, February 14, 2020 3:53:13 PM  
**To:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Cc:** cbpmediarelations <cbpmediarelations@cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Tactical teams

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.

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)


This e-mail is for the sole use of the intended recipient and contains information that may be privileged and/or confidential. If you are not an intended recipient, please notify the sender by return e-mail and delete this e-mail and any attachments. Certain required legal entity disclosures can be accessed on our website:  
<https://www.thomsonreuters.com/en/resources/disclosures.html>

Message

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Sent:** 2/14/2020 10:23:43 PM  
**To:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(E)  
**Subject:** RE: Telemundo 52 Statement Request 02/14

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.

Received. Thank you for the prompt response. Have a good weekend!

(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)

---

**From:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 14, 2020 2:16 PM  
**To:** (b)(6) (NBCUniversal) (b)(6)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 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:

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.

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

100 Universal City Plaza, Bldg 2120/2, Universal City, CA 91608



(b)(6)

Message

From:

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

Sent:

2/14/2020 10:33:30 PM

To:

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

Subject:

Sub zero

Attachments:

Trump Administration to Deploy Enforcement Personnel to Sanctuary Cities - WSJ.pdf; ATT00001.htm

Little better...

Message

**From:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(E)  
**Sent:** 2/15/2020 4:43:18 PM  
**To:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(E)  
**Subject:** Re: USBP (BTC) Messaging

Looks good (b)(5)  
(b)(5)

*Sent from my iPhone*

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

On Feb 15, 2020, at 11:22 AM, (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)  
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov> wrote:

Tell me what you think of this before I send to (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

(b)(5), (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

(b)(5)

Thanks,

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

On Feb 15, 2020, at 9:53 AM, (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@cbp.dhs.gov> wrote:

Good Morning Team OPA,

I've been scanning the numerous articles and SM posts regarding Op Sub-Zero, especially the ones focused on USBP/BTC...that's most of them lol.

I recognize we are a support component to ICE and they have the lead in Comms for this Op, but I can't sit idle and allow the punches to be thrown without punching back.

Maybe we have a Comms plan that addresses CBPs or USBPs equities and image that you can share to be more at ease?

If not, perhaps we can talk about how we can gather content from the ground in the Op and leverage Social Media accounts? Chief (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) who overseas BTC in SOD can be leveraged as well, he too agrees with the above.

If you all are already doing this then pardon my intrusion, I just know this militarization and boogie man narrative thats spreading doesn't help the CBP and USBP image which compromises public trust.

Thx

(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)

Message

From:

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

Sent:

2/25/2020 5:03:56 AM

To:

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

Subject:

DMR

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

These were the only two items I had for the SW Border DMR tonight – but for some reason I could not get into the DMR itself to put them in.

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) since they were not urgent, I just sent the DMR as you had it in the Daily Executive Media Report.

We could add the below ones in tomorrow.

Thanks,

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

#### SOUTHWEST BORDER:

2/24: UPDATE -Tucson Sector PIO is planning a limited media availability on Wednesday, of a controlled detonation at Monument Hill near Lukeville, Arizona. The event will include a briefing by USACE and USBP personnel.

Tone: Positive Air Date: 2/26 Lead: TCA-PIO/PAS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

2/24: McAllen-based Univision Network reporter (b)(6) inquired if the MPP policy regarding migrants who present with sick children at the ports of entry as depicted in a weekend story in New York Times by (b)(6) on the same issue was accurate or not. Consulted with LFO, HQ OPA mgmt. and provided the HQ OPA-approved response that had been provided to (b)(6)

Attributable to a CBP official:

Generally, those migrants not otherwise amenable to MPP are turned over to ICE-ERO or HHS-ORR depending on the specifics of their respective cases. Those who are amenable to MPP are returned to Mexico pending their next hearing. Unaccompanied alien children and aliens in expedited removal proceedings will not be subject to MPP. CBP determines whether an alien is amenable for the Migrant Protection Protocols on a case-by-case basis. CBP consults with medical professionals where appropriate in making such determinations. If specific medical issues guaranteeing exemptions were to be standardized and made public, they would be exploited by human smugglers.

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

(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)



U.S. Customs and  
Border Protection

Message

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

Sent: 3/4/2020 2:06:26 AM

To:

CC:

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

Subject: RE: CNN Ride Along With BORTAC and ICE

ALCON

Just talked with ICE in Chicago. The plan is a media embed tomorrow morning with a local Univision reporter. The plan is to only interview the ICE Field Office Director and one other ICE employee. They will NOT be interviewing any of our agents. Spoke with SOS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) the team lead in Chicago, and he has instructed his guys on the team to not speak with the reporter and or go on camera at all. ICE PAO (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) will also be checking with the reporter in the am to see if they will be feeding the footage anywhere else outside Univision and will let us know if anything happens we should be aware of.

I will monitor tomorrow and let you know if anything changes but we should be good to go on this one. Let me know if you have any issues and or concerns.

Thanks and have a good night

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

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) CBP Public Affairs Officer I (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov  
U.S. Customs and Border Protection I Ph (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

Follow us on Twitter...@CBPGreatPlains

Follow us on Twitter... @CBPGreatLakes

From: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, March 3, 2020 8:59 PM

To: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(E) @cbp.dhs.gov>

Cc: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(E) @cbp.dhs.gov>;

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(E) @cbp.dhs.gov>

Subject: Re: CNN Ride Along With BORTAC and ICE

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

USBPHQ informed me they don't want their agents interviewed during this engagement.

Thanks

*Sent from my iPhone*

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

On Mar 3, 2020, at 8:31 PM, (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov> wrote:

Just got a call on this 2 minutes before the email came in. Just talked with the team lead SOS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) and reaching out to ICE PAO right now in Chicago for what their plan is. Will give you an update shortly.

Thanks

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

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) I CBP Public Affairs Officer I (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov  
U.S. Customs and Border Protection I Ph (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

Follow us on Twitter...@CBPGreatPlains

Follow us on Twitter... @CBPGreatLakes

---

**From:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 3, 2020 8:23 PM

**To:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov> (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>

**Subject:** Re: CNN Ride Along With BORTAC and ICE

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

How long have we known about this? I haven't heard about this before.

Thanks

*Sent from my iPhone*

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

On Mar 3, 2020, at 8:08 PM, (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>  
wrote:

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) is handling this embed. He is right now trying to figure out which BORTAC individuals are possibly going to be interviewed.

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

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

CBP Public Affairs  
610 S. Canal Street  
Chicago, IL 60607

On Mar 3, 2020, at 7:03 PM, (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>  
wrote:

Looks like Chicago with no interview of USBP agents.

*Sent from my iPhone*

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

Begin forwarded message:

**Subject: Re: CNN Ride Along With BORTAC and ICE**

Trying to confirm the outlet now. Possibly CNN, possibly Univision.

Correction to what you have below, it is the Chicago ICE ERO office. Sounds like they have coordinated through that office, and their PAO. One camera, one reporter, ICE PAO will be there as well. There will be an interview with the AFOD, (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) later in the day. ICE has a target identified and positive confirmation of his location, a recent release for the DOC in Chicago, sex offender, convicted felon, etc. They want to highlight the bad effects of the Sanctuary policies and locations.

USBP agents will be in the area, but WILL NOT speak to any media.

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

Assistant Chief

USBP-HQ

LEOD Ops Cell

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

---

**From:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 3, 2020 7:45:04 PM

**To:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @CBP.DHS.GOV>

**Cc:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @CBP.DHS.GOV> (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @CBP.DHS.GOV>

**Subject:** Re: CNN Ride Along With BORTAC and ICE

You got any additional information? What reporter? What New York office?

*Sent from my iPad*

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

Assistant Chief, USBPHQ

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

On Mar 3, 2020, at 6:48 PM, (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov> wrote:

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

Just received information of a potential CNN ride along that will take place tomorrow in New York with ICE and BP Agents working operation subzero.



Do you know if OPA has visibility.

Respectfully

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

Respectfully

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

Assistant Chief

USBPHQ, Strategic Communications

1300 Pennsylvania Ave. NW (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

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

(Office)

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov

---

**From:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 3, 2020 7:45:04 PM

**To:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @CBP.DHS.GOV>

**Cc:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @CBP.DHS.GOV> (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @CBP.DHS.GOV>

**Subject:** Re: CNN Ride Along With BORTAC and ICE

You got any additional information? What reporter? What New York office?

*Sent from my iPad*

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

Assistant Chief, USBPHQ

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

On Mar 3, 2020, at 6:48 PM, (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov> wrote:

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

Just received information of a potential CNN ride along that will take place tomorrow in New York with ICE and BP Agents working operation subzero.

Do you know if OPA has visibility.

Respectfully

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

Respectfully

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

Assistant Chief

USBPHQ, Strategic Communications

1300 Pennsylvania Ave. NW (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

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

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) (Office)  
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov

Appointment

From:

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

Sent:

3/4/2020 11:31:11 AM

To:

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

Subject:

CPA (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) w/ (b)(6) (NYT)(SOG participation in Op Sub zERO)

Location:

Teleconference: (b)(7)(E) | Participant: (b)(7)(E) | Moderator: (b)(7)(E)

Start:

3/4/2020 3:00:00 PM

End:

3/4/2020 3:30:00 PM

Show Time As: Tentative

Required

Attendees:

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @CBP.DHS.GOV (b)(6)  
(b)(6) @hq.dhs.gov; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov

Message

From:

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

Sent:

3/5/2020 1:19:11 PM

To:

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

Subject:

NYTimes: 'Flood the Streets': ICE Targets Sanctuary Cities With Increased Surveillance

'Flood the Streets': ICE Targets Sanctuary Cities With Increased Surveillance

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/05/us/ICE-BORTAC-sanctuary-cities.html?referringSource=articleShare>

*Sent from my iPhone*

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

Message

**From:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(E)  
**Sent:** 3/6/2020 12:33:42 PM  
**To:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(E)  
**CC:**  
**Subject:** RE: Daily Executive Media Report -- Friday, March 6th, 2020

I'm looking through all 100+ twitter account now.

---

**From:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 6, 2020 7:20 AM  
**To:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Cc:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Daily Executive Media Report -- Friday, March 6th, 2020

I can look through those easy

On Mar 6, 2020, at 7:18 AM, (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov> wrote:

The field part isn't a heavy lift. It's the leadership accounts.

Also, I'm not feeling well, so I will be working from home this morning.

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**From:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 6, 2020 7:13 AM  
**To:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Cc:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Daily Executive Media Report -- Friday, March 6th, 2020

I will get with you this morning. Not looking for any sort of heavy lift or comprehensive report, I just need to be able to tell AC what kind of field social engagement is happening. I can just cherry pick and look at some of the field accounts.

On Mar 6, 2020, at 7:10 AM, (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov> wrote:

When do you need this by? It's not an easy lift for us.

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**From:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 6, 2020 6:13 AM  
**To:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>, (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Daily Executive Media Report -- Friday, March 6th, 2020

Can you guys get me all the field and HQ leadership social media engagement yesterday, including retweets?

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "DURST, CASEY OWEN"  
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @CBP.DHS.GOV>  
**Date:** March 6, 2020 at 6:07:16 AM EST  
**To:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)  
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>, (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)  
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Daily Executive Media Report -- Friday, March 6th, 2020

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

Maybe I missed this but I'm still waiting for the detailed listing of how the field and headquarters executives amplified the messaging from yesterday.

Casey Durst  
Acting Assistant Commissioner  
Office of Public Affairs  
U.S. Customs and Border Protection

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

"This document and any attachment(s) may contain restricted, sensitive, and/or law enforcement-sensitive information belonging to the U.S. Government. It is not for release, review, retransmission, dissemination, or use by anyone other than the intended recipient."

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**From:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 6, 2020 4:51:00 AM  
**To:** DailyExecutiveMediaReport  
(b)(7)(E) @cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Daily Executive Media Report -- Friday, March 6th, 2020

### **Daily Executive Media Report Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

**Today:** 11 am Media teleconference backgrounder to discuss Crisis Response Force on the Southwest Border. OPA is engaging with a proactive posture to shape the narrative of this deployment of military resources and educate the public about the need to maintain integrity in the immigration system. It will also reduce the amount of misinformation and misreporting that is common with ever changing border security issues. Port Director (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

Associate BP Chief (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) LTC (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) will participate.

**Today (tentative):** C1 on the Buck Sexton Show. Conservative talk radio on February Operational Update. IHeart Radio. He is also special correspondent for (b)(6) (b)(6) Fox News show. Topics: Feb. Operational Update, wall, MPP/judicial activism.

**Saturday:** C1 on Fox and Friends. After 7 am hit time. Topics: MPP, Green Light Law. Possible: February operational update, Coronavirus, MPP/Judicial Activism, Temporary Stopping Queue Management. (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) to staff.

**Monday:** B1 and B2 media roundtable with CBP beat reporters. New Border Patrol leadership rollout. Discussion to include amplification of CBP February Operational Update, border security, wall, current enforcement challenges, etc.

**Next week (tentative):** C1/C2/B1 interview with Sinclair Broadcasting. Reporter is (b)(6) – longtime friend of federal law enforcement. Topics: February operational update. Possible Coronavirus, MPP/Judicial Activism, Temporary Stopping Queue Management. Sinclair owns/operates 191 stations in 89 markets nationwide. OPA (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) to staff.

**Next week:** C2 keynote at Border Security Expo – San Antonio. OPA Media Division staffing. BP Chiefs and other principals on hand for media engagements TBD. Wall Street Journal and Washington Examiner among notable media confirmed.

**Next week:** C1 will conduct media teleconference briefing with NT (Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala) region media to follow-up on his trip to the region. Original call was postponed. Objective: Address the security and humanitarian crisis at the U.S. southern border, facilitate dialogue aimed at strengthening U.S. partnerships across Central America to confront irregular and illegal migration at the source, and implement various border enforcement programs in direct support of CBP's commitment to uphold the rule of rule. Also maintain strong deterrence posture. (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) OPA lead.

Daily Media Report  
Media Division  
March 5, 2020

**HEADQUARTERS:**

**Travel:**

3/2: CBP received inquiries from CNN, The Washington Examiner, Conde Nast Traveler, and several local media outlets concerning CBP measures at and between POEs to prevent the spread of COVID-19. OPA will use cleared language from the PAG to respond. The PAG is currently awaiting DHS clearance following updates to account for the February 29 Presidential Proclamation suspending the entry of aliens who have been physically present in Iran in the 14 days immediately prior to their attempted entry. Tone of articles is expected to be neutral.  
Lead: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

3/2: (b)(6) a freelance writer and airlines marketing professional, is preparing an article for Afar.com concerning the expansion of Preclearance to Billy Bishop Airport in Toronto, Canada. (b)(6) whose deadline is noon Wednesday (3/4), emphasized the cost of the project and time delays in his outreach. OPA is exploring options with Preclearance, including a possible DFO interview. Tone is expected to lean negative. Article will publish at the end of the week.  
Lead: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

3/2: Reporter (b)(6) is preparing an article on the benefits of NEXUS and Global Entry for *Whatcom Talk*, a Washington state paper serving Whatcom County. OPA granted 30 minute interview to discuss the security and travel facilitation benefits of the program and the application process. Tone is expected to be positive. Article will publish during the week of 3/9.  
Lead: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

2/28: [UPDATED] (b)(6) Bloomberg Law's senior legal reporter for privacy and technology investigations, is preparing a story about CBP's biometric entry-exit program. (b)(6) requests an on the record interview to discuss the privacy implications of CBP's use of biometric facial comparison technology and steps that CBP is taking to protect travelers' data. He is also interested in the mechanics of the Preclearance program and CBP's authority to use facial comparison technology at Preclearance locations. OPA and OFO are working to schedule the interview during the week of March 9. Story would publish that week. Tone is expected to be neutral to negative based upon reporter's past coverage of facial comparison technology and privacy issues.  
Lead: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

2/28: (b)(6) a reporter with the German weekly newspaper of record Die Zeit, is preparing a story on Lufthansa's use of facial comparison technology and CBP's Traveler Verification Service for baggage check in. Reporter asked to confirm the vendor for the baggage check in process, what CBP does with traveler photos, and where CBP has implemented biometric exit. OPA and OFO replied with a statement that: (1) described CBP's device-agnostic approach to biometric exit and the baggage check-in initiative; (2) explained how CBP uses, stores, and deletes traveler photos; (3) emphasized that airlines are not allowed to keep traveler photos; and (4) provided the number of biometric exit locations. OPA referred reporter to Lufthansa to confirm vendors. Tone is expected to be neutral to negative. Article anticipated to publish during week of 3/1.  
Lead: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

2/28: (b)(6) an investigative reporter with the *Seattle Times*, is preparing a story on biometric exit at Seattle Tacoma airport as part of ongoing coverage of that issue. (b)(6) requested to know if, following the Port of Seattle's temporary ban on facial recognition technology, CBP plans to implement the biometric exit mission without partnering with the airlines. OPA and OFO replied with a statement indicating that CBP has conducted small-scale biometric exit



operations at Sea-Tac since June 2018 (one flight per day) and that in January 2020 CBP switched to using mobile fingerprint readers instead of facial comparison technology. The statement emphasized that CBP only collects fingerprints from in-scope foreign nationals. Tone is expected to be neutral.

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

2/28: (b)(6) a photojournalist with independent Norwegian newspaper *Hallingdolen*, requested information about an unnamed Norwegian national who was denied admission to the United States at an unnamed airport for overstaying her ESTA on two previous occasions. The traveler was subsequently "incarcerated" per (b)(6) OPA, in consultation with OFO and without commenting on the specific case, provided a statement communicating the consequences of overstaying an ESTA and emphasizing that all VWP travelers receive notification ten days in advance of the end date of their term of authorized admission. Tone is expected to be neutral.

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

2/24: (b)(6) of *The New York Times* has been covering Trusted Traveler Programs for New York Residents and contacted OPA to clarify if New Yorkers would qualify for the one-year membership extensions offered to other TTP applicants who apply for renewal before their current membership expires. (b)(6) also requested to know the average length of time that TTP renewals take to complete. OPA confirmed that individuals must have a pending Trusted Traveler Program application to qualify for the one-year benefits extension. OPA also provided language on application/renewal processing time from the official statement on pending GE applications. Information will inform future coverage. Tone is expected to be negative.

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

2/24: (b)(6) of PAX Magazine (Canada) is preparing a story about cannabis use and Canadians' eligibility for NEXUS. (b)(6) wants to know why cannabis use, which is legal in Canada, would disqualify a Canadian from enrolling in NEXUS. CBP is preparing a statement to communicate that the possession, production, distribution and sale of marijuana remain illegal under U.S. federal law (which supersedes state law) and that violating any customs, immigration or agriculture regulations or laws in any country or otherwise violating the terms and conditions of CBP Trusted Traveler Programs renders travelers ineligible for membership in these programs. The statement will further clarify that ineligibility for NEXUS does not necessarily imply inadmissibility to the United States. Article will publish by 2/26. Tone is expected to be neutral leaning negative.

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

2/24: Officials from OPA, OFO, Trade, INA, and the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative responded to media inquiries from a delegation of visiting media representatives from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. The journalists, who were participating in a State Department media program, inquired about the U.S. trade relationship with Central Asia; how CBP works with Canadian and Mexican counterparts to facilitate lawful trade; and how CBP communicates with the media, the public, and industry stakeholders about its trade facilitation and security mission. The delegation will visit the Detroit POE on Wednesday, February 26. Information from the DC and Detroit visits is expected to inform media coverage communicating U.S. trade best practices and contrasts between trade and public communications in the United States and in the journalists' home countries. Coverage is expected to be neutral leaning positive.

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

**Enforcement:**

3/1: Washington Examiner reporter (b)(6) inquired about CBP preparations for Corona Virus.

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

3/1: Reuters reporter (b)(6) inquired on children being sent unaccompanied across POE bridges to request asylum. Also requested information on two specific minors. We are deferring due to privacy issues.

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

2/29: BuzzFeed employee (b)(6) inquired regarding a specific medical exemption for MPP, and violence inflicted on MPP enrollees in Mexico.

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

2/28: NY Times reporter (b)(6) inquired regarding criteria for medical exemptions for MPP.

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

2/28: WaPo reporter (b)(6) published an article regarding criteria for medical exemptions for MPP (b)(7)(E) specifically.

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

2/28: BBC reporter (b)(6) inquired about allegations from Brazilian nationals deported and in MPP, about conditions in CBP and ICE facilities.

No deadline.

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

2/28: NPR reporter (b)(6) will be publishing a story this week about Indian nationals claiming asylum, and how they work with smugglers for the long journey to the southwest border.

2/26: Breitbart reporter (b)(6) inquired about Chinese nationals apprehended for the last three months this FY and FY19. Deadline unknown.

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

**Trade / Ag:**

3/2: (b)(6) of Federal Computer Week is preparing an article on CBP's recent blockchain proof of concept, which is intended to protect American businesses from intellectual property rights violations.

(b)(6) asked about the number of companies that participated in the proof of concept (7), which products were tracked (none – fictitious transactions were used to test proof of concept), and which open standards and specifications were used. OPA replied with information provided by Trade. Tone is expected to be neutral.

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

**Technology:**

2/27: Defense Daily's (b)(6) following up on C1s testimony this morning, seeks clarification concerning the Autonomous Surveillance Towers program. OPA and the Innovation Office provided a same day response.

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

2/25: VICE Media's Tech outlet, Motherboard, via reporter (b)(6) is asking for a statement from CBP based on their data collection of 500 iPhone search warrants for calendar year 2019. The warrants included Federal, State and Local, though the majority of the cases were Federal. He cites the fact that the court system VICE utilized, PACER, leans in that direction as part of its design. His deadline is the end of this week. OPA has contacted the CBP Privacy Office for guidance. The reporter indicates that he is likely to also send queries to other DHS components, so a joint response might be wise.

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

1/30: Voice of America's (b)(6) following up with ONDCP on the 12 December announcement of the winner of the Opioid detection challenge, would like to shoot interviews and footage of canine handlers and dogs going through Fentanyl detection training. OPA is working with the Front Royal Canine Training Facility to target an early March shooting window, to document OFO classroom and active canine/handler training.

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

2/13 – Update: VOA and Front Royal have selected the week of 09 March to record footage at the training facility. Specifics details TBD.

### **SOUTHWEST BORDER:**

2/5: OPA responded to multiple media outlets inquiring about a death in custody at the Brackettville Border Patrol Station. The following approved statement was issued: "U.S. Border Patrol agents assigned to the Brackettville Station arrested a 32-year-old male United States citizen Tuesday at 3:30 p.m., CST, after he was identified as a suspect in an alien smuggling incident. At around 6 p.m., during processing at the Brackettville Station, the man began exhibiting signs of distress and EMT-certified agents immediately administered first aid and then contacted Emergency Medical Services as his health deteriorated. At around 6:40 p.m., EMS arrived and transported the subject by ambulance to a local hospital. He was pronounced deceased by medical personnel at 9:37 p.m."

3/5: UPDATE - (b)(6) CBS News, requested additional information after receiving a report from the local sheriff. The following statement was provided: "*U.S. Border Patrol agents assigned to the Brackettville Station arrested United States citizen (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) 32, at 3:30 p.m., Feb. 4. (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) had been identified as a co-principal of an alien smuggling case. At 6:05 p.m., while detained at the Brackettville station for processing, the man became agitated and an Emergency Medical Technician-certified Border Patrol agent was contacted. At 6:11 p.m. the EMT took the man outside into the sally port for fresh air. EMT certified Border Patrol agents administered medical care, and after determining more advanced care was required, requested emergency medical assistance at 6:26 p.m. Investigation in the incident is ongoing. 'Having Emergency Medical Technicians at our disposal has been a great asset to our daily operations,' said Acting Chief Patrol Agent (b)(6), (b)(7)(C). 'It is devastating that besides all the efforts our EMTs and local medical professionals the life of the individual could not be saved. We will continue to work with local law enforcement to identify the cause of death.'*"

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

3/2: USA Today Austin-based correspondent (b)(6) is writing a story about how the border is preparing for coronavirus and if there was anything specific CBP was doing. Put together language from the existing Coronavirus PAG but HQ OPA advised a SWB-specific FAQ was forthcoming and also the Iran-specific language was forthcoming.

Will hold pending the latest language. Advised reporter I am checking into it.

3/4 update: Following RTQ language provided to reporter:

**Attributable to a CBP official:**

*U.S. Customs and Border Protection continues to facilitate the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) enhanced health screening of travelers entering or attempting to enter the United States with a nexus to mainland China or Iran due to the outbreak of coronavirus (COVID-19).*

*Consistent with CBP's procedures, and in accordance with the January 31 and February 29 Presidential Proclamations, exempted individuals encountered by CBP with a nexus to China or Iran within 14 days of the encounter or with symptoms of illness are referred to CDC or local health officials for additional health screening.*

*All CBP ports of entry are following the same operational guidance as issued by the Presidential Proclamation and the Department of Homeland Security.*

*With exceptions specified in the Proclamations, foreign nationals (other than immediate family of U.S. citizens, permanent residents, and flight crew) who have been physically present in China or Iran within 14 days of their arrival at a U.S. port of entry will be denied entry into the United States.*

*Additionally, any traveler exempted from the Proclamations who has been in anywhere in mainland China or Iran within 14 days of their return will be referred to CDC for additional health screening.*

*CDC has added health screening capabilities at Blaine, Buffalo, and San Ysidro.*

*Preclearance locations are following the same protocols as the land border ports and referring individuals requiring additional screening to CDC or local health officials.*

*Consistent with existing CBP procedures, individuals apprehended by U.S. Border Patrol between the ports of entry with symptoms of illness are referred to CDC or local health officials for additional health screening.*

*Additionally, all persons in U.S. Border Patrol custody who meet the CDC's coronavirus travel history and enhanced screening guidelines are being referred to CDC for additional screening.*

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

3/3 (b)(6) from the Reuters Television in Los Angeles sent a request for an interview. (b)(6) would like Border Patrol to speak on our tunnel discoveries, specifically the most recent one in Nogales, AZ. TCA PIO will utilize the latest tunnel talking points and our latest press release about the unfinished tunnel at the Nogales Border. Our team plans to meet (b)(6) in Nogales and give her access to film inside the Morley tunnel.

PIO/BCL: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

- Deadline: 03/10/2020
- Request Type: stand up interview
- Outlet: Reuters Television
- Market: Los Angeles/National
- Language: Spanish
- Reporter/Producer: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
- Reporter/Producer Contact information: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
- Phone number: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)
- Program: TBD
- Probable air date: TBA
- Story focus: Tunnel discoveries in Nogales

- Probable tone/angle: Neutral

The source of the interview will be the recent Press Release detailing the discovery of the 126<sup>th</sup> Cross-Border Tunnel discovery in the Nogales, Arizona area.

- Tucson Sector agents and Mexico's Guardia Nacional located the tunnel's entrance in the floor of the existing Grand Avenue Drainage System in Mexico.
- The tunnel, located approximately 580 yards west of the DeConcini Port of Entry, is hand-dug with no shoring, ventilation or lighting.
- The tunnel runs approximately 15-20 feet underground at its deepest point and extends approximately 30 feet from beginning to end, where the cartel left it incomplete.
- U.S. authorities will continuously monitor the area until they remediate the tunnel.
- This is the 126th tunnel discovered in the Tucson Sector since 1990 and the second discovered mid-completion this fiscal year.
- Efforts such as tunnel sweeps aim to disrupt smuggling organizations and prevent the smuggling of narcotics and humans across the border.

3/3: (b)(6) CMG Atlanta has requested a media engagement with Tucson Sector regarding drug tunnels. Response: Pending TCA scheduling

Deadline: 4/5 Broadcast: 4/23 Tone: Positive

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

3/3: (b)(6) Type Investigations, queried AZ CBP on how many and what types of plants are being moved and being affected at Organ Pipe National Monument. Response: Pending Wall Task Force input.

Deadline: 3/6 Publication: 3/8 Tone: Negative

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

3/3: Vertical Valor magazine is completing an article and photospread on the San Diego Air and Marine Branch, similar to the project they just completed on the Yuma Air

Branch: [https://assets.verticalmag.com/digital/2020/Valor\\_Winter/index.html](https://assets.verticalmag.com/digital/2020/Valor_Winter/index.html) The project is approved by AMO HQ and will proceed over the month of March.

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

3/2: Reporter (b)(6) with Univision wanted to meet with San Diego Sector Chief (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) and interview him regarding the dangers of crossing in light of recent deaths in the mountain and in the ocean. Reporter asked for 3/3. Checking Chief's availability.

3/3: Held interview. Basic questions on challenges observed in SDC, dangers of crossing, processing of UAC, and countries of interest. Positive coverage expected. Should air this week on Univision.

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

3/2: Reporter (b)(6) with the Voice of America wanted to do a human-interest piece on Division Chief (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) (San Diego Union

Tribune did a piece). He declined but we have Acting Deputy Chief (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) willing to provide her perspective on being an agent, changes she has seen over the years, presently challenges, etc. It would be videotaped and would occur during a drive along the border. Proposed date is 3/11.

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

3/2: Reporter (b)(6) with Univision wanted to meet with San Diego Sector Chief (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) and interview him regarding the dangers of crossing in light of recent deaths in the mountain and in the ocean. Reporter asked for 3/3. Checking Chief's availability.

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

3/2: The Intercept reporter (b)(6) is writing about an asylum seeking MPP family that was caught in limbo Friday between the two MPP decisions. An attorney representing the family was unable to locate them but eventually did after conferring with CBP OFO leadership at the port. The attorney shared email correspondence between her and the port with the reporter. Reporter is asking for confirmation and additional content related to the matter. OPA provided the following locally cleared statement: CBP is precluded from confirming or discussing individual asylum cases for privacy reasons. All cases are handled on a case-by-case basis. Please direct your EOIR questions to EOIR. Negative tone anticipated.

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

3/2: OPA/El Paso handled numerous media inquiries Friday night/Saturday morning regarding temporary closure of the El Paso POE Friday night and into Saturday. OPA shared two tweets about the closure and also the following statement. "CBP officers stopped the flow of northbound traffic at the Paso Del Norte bridge at approximately 7:20 p.m. Friday in an effort to eliminate the ability for a large group of migrants that had formed on the Mexican side of the border to illegally and forcefully surge through the ports of entry. This step helps CBP ensure safety of travelers, facilities and CBP employees. It is anticipated that the facility will remain closed until Saturday morning. Other crossings in El Paso remain open." There was limited speculation that it was coronavirus linked but OPA advised that it was not.

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

3/2: (b)(6), Reuters News Service, inquired about the trend of UACs presenting at the Brownsville Port of Entry, if we have seen this, did we have any stats on UACs and inquired about specific cases involving two UACs. Consulted with HQ OPA, LFO mgmt., drafted the following RTQ, which met with their concurrence:

Attributable to a CBP official:

CBP does not discuss individual cases for privacy reasons. Generally, those migrants not otherwise amenable to MPP are turned over to ICE-ERO or HHS-ORR depending on the specifics of their respective cases. Those who are amenable to MPP are returned to Mexico pending their next hearing. Unaccompanied alien children and aliens in expedited removal proceedings will not be subject to MPP. CBP determines whether an alien is amenable for the Migrant Protection Protocols on a case-by-case basis.

The Fiscal Year to Date 2020 statistics we have available on unaccompanied alien children are found here:

<https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/sw-border-migration/ofo-sw-border-inadmissibles>

Statistics are not broken down below the Field Office level.

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

3/2: USA Today Austin-based correspondent (b)(6) is writing a story about how the border is preparing for coronavirus and if there was anything specific CBP was doing. Put together language from the existing Coronavirus PAG but HQ OPA advised a SWB-specific FAQ was forthcoming and also the Iran-specific language was forthcoming. Will hold pending the latest language. Advised reporter I am checking into it.

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

2/20: (b)(6) The Intercept is working a story on fatal vehicle wreck that occurred in El Paso January 29. The vehicle involved was fleeing from USBP after agents spotted the driver load a group of aliens that had just crossed the border. Moments after fleeing the pickup location the agent came upon the crash site in south El Paso. The reporter claims that she spoke to a BPA who witnessed a portion of the pursuit and heard the rest of it play out on agency radios. The unnamed agent claims BP was operating at a high rate of speed and driver was unfamiliar with El Paso implying that BP caused the wreck. She is also asking about general pursuit policy and if any discipline has been administered. EPPD did issue a news release when the event occurred citing the fatality and that the driver was arrested for multiple charges including drunk driving. Deadline is Friday. Negative tone anticipated.

2/28 UPDATE: Article posted <https://theintercept.com/2020/02/28/border-patrol-el-paso-texas-car-chase/>

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

2/27: San Diego Union Tribune journalist (b)(6) is working on a long-form explainer piece that shows how people move through the immigration court system after arriving at the border. As a part of this story, (b)(6) requested a pen and pad tour of the port of entry for herself and the paper's graphic designer, to include the holding and processing areas of the port of entry (as it is one portion of the process.) The tour will take place Thursday, Feb. 27.

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

2/27: Albuquerque Journal reporter (b)(6) is writing about border wall construction in the state of New Mexico. He is looking for basic factual material to include completed/ongoing projects, funding sources, contractors, etc. OPA working with border wall task force to provide answers.

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

2/27: Newsy reporter/anchor (b)(6) is in El Paso and requesting a Border Patrol ride along. He wants to do a story on the current immigration crisis and what has changed in the last year. He may be trying to tie this to the super Tuesday election which includes Texas. Border Patrol considering.

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

1/22: (b)(6) Wall to Wall Productions, & (b)(6) CBP OPA, contacted CBP AZ to plan a documentary film shoot in Tucson with all three components on approximately March 2, 2020. The production is an educational program for National Geographic on the history of the drug crisis in America. It will be historically focused on the drug wars of 1911, but framed by today's current drug crisis. Planning and coordination to follow. (b)(6) would like to spend time with Tucson Air Branch, the Port of Nogales, and BP in Tucson and/or Nogales, to see drug seizures, smuggling tunnels, air interdictions, and horse patrol if possible.

Deadline: March 2020 Broadcast: TBD Tone: Positive

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

**NORTHERN & COASTAL BORDER:**

3/5: WDMV reporter (b)(6) interviewed Area Port of Washington DC (Dulles) agriculture specialists, including agriculture K9 team, for a story on CBP's agriculture safeguarding mission. The reporter observed AQI K9 operations and secondary baggage examinations. Story is expected to air tonight.

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

3/5 WBNS Columbus, OH, CBS affiliate, reporter (b)(6) requested information on how Japanese and Chinese spectators were allowed through customs to attend the Arnold Sports Classic when there is a ban on people coming from these countries. The reporter was told Japanese travelers are not banned. When questioned for names of the Chinese travelers, the reporter could not provide any. The reporter was told without names we are unable to provide an answer to his question. However, he was told we don't know how long the Chinese attendees were in the country, they may have been in the US before the proclamation went into effect. The reporter was also told we are able to see the traveler's travel history, and every passenger is thoroughly screened before being admitted to the US. Additional information from the PAG concerning foreign travelers entering the U.S. was also sent  
Tone: Neutral-Negative.

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

3/5: CBP along with Terminal 4 management & Port Authority will be hosting an open media event to announce Simplified Arrival on Thursday 12 March terminal 4, JFK. Port Director (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) will be representing CBP.

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

3/3: National NBC reporter (b)(6) spoke with the Chicago Field Office (CFO) concerning past seizures of counterfeit Juul products. It was explained how experienced CBP officers are exceptional at spotting counterfeits, how vital CEE's are and the role they play, and our work with other government agencies. Pictures from recent seizures within CFO were shared. Tone: Positive

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

3/3: (b)(6) reporter for the Miami Herald, queried reports in Puerto Rico about the allegations from a YouTube video placed by a Social media personality, (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) who alleges that a CBP officer sexually assaulted her last week before she was denied entry into the country. The reporter shared the post <https://www.meganoticias.cl/tendencias/293435-geri-hoops-puerto-rico-que-le-paso-instagram.html>. A short statement was provided. Negative tone expected. "CBP does not tolerate inappropriate behavior or misconduct, and any such conduct does not reflect our values of vigilance, integrity and professionalism. We strongly advise travelers to file a formal complaint so alleged misconduct is properly investigated."

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

3/3: (b)(6) reporter for the St. Croix Avis requested more information and WKAQ 580 Radio contacted OPA for a live radio interview regarding a CBP news release on the seizure of 1724 pounds of cocaine and of \$1.3 million dollars in two separate incidents. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/us-border-patrol-fura-seize-1724-pounds-cocaine-and-13-million-two>  
Positive tone.

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



3/2: FOX24 anchor (b)(6) to feature CBP in Charleston, S.C. for an on the job at seaport. Taping with OFO leadership, officers and specialists occurred in late February covering an overview of operations and career opportunity's with CBP. Tone: Positive Airing: March 2  
Lead: PAL (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

3/2: Editor with Noonsite, a marine association website requesting information for private vessels entering into the US and the COVID-19 concern. Per our EOC, redirected to USCG Dist. 7 "private vessels (marine) will fall under U.S. Coast Guard Marine Safety Information Bulletins (MSIB) guidance, in coordination with CDC."  
Lead: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

3/2: (b)(6) NBC News Investigations Producer, reached out to OPA Puerto Rico interested in doing a piece on CBP seizures of counterfeit juuls/vapes. Pending a call on background for some context on the topic. Final production of the piece TBD.  
Lead: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

2/25: Associated Press Correspondent (b)(6) conducted an interview with Swanton Sector CPA (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) and Houlton Sector (a)CPA (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) regarding cross-border activity in the northeast region. The genesis for the interview was a FOIA request the reporter received for data for Present Without Admission from Canada (PWAC) broken down by sector, year and nationality for the last 5 fiscal years. Since the reporter had all the data, OPA felt it was in CBP's best interest to engage the reporter to provide appropriate context to the numbers. The reporter was most interested in the increase in PWAC numbers and the existence of TCOs along the northern border—specifically the Swanton and Houlton Sectors. Tone is expected to be positive. Publish date: TBD  
Lead: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

2/24: WWJ Radio Editor (b)(6) has requested to speak with all three CBP components in regards to a long form PODCAST he is working on in regards to the northern border in Detroit. Reporter is looking to talk about issues that take place on the southern border and how they play out along the northern border, along with everyday operations. Currently in coordination with editor to arrange for interviews.  
3/2 UPDATE: Detroit Sector CPA (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) will complete a telephonic interview with (b)(6) on Tuesday March 3, at 0930. Great Lakes Air and Marine Branch Director (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) will complete a telephonic interview on Wednesday March 4, at 1000hrs, and Detroit Field Office DFO Christopher Perry will complete a telephonic interview with the reporter on Thursday March 5, at 0930hrs.  
Lead: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

Message

**From:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(E)  
**Sent:** 3/6/2020 11:33:24 AM  
**To:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(E)  
**Subject:** Re: Daily Executive Media Report -- Friday, March 6th, 2020

10-4.

(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 Mar 6, 2020, at 6:29 AM, (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)  
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov> wrote:

Favor Help me manage her expectations. She will get an after action next week after the field has had time to amplify. It's not all going to happen same day. The rollout plan outlines the field amplification timeframe into next week.

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "DURST, CASEY OWEN"  
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @CBP.DHS.GOV>  
**Date:** March 6, 2020 at 6:07:16 AM EST  
**To:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>,  
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Daily Executive Media Report -- Friday, March 6th, 2020

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

Maybe I missed this but I'm still waiting for the detailed listing of how the field and headquarters executives amplified the messaging from yesterday.

Casey Durst  
Acting Assistant Commissioner  
Office of Public Affairs  
U.S. Customs and Border Protection  
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) (office)  
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) (cell)

"This document and any attachment(s) may contain restricted, sensitive, and/or law enforcement-sensitive information belonging to the U.S. Government. It is

not for release, review, retransmission, dissemination, or use by anyone other than the intended recipient.”

From: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)  
Sent: Friday, March 6, 2020 4:51:00 AM  
To: DailyExecutiveMediaReport; (b)(7)(E)  
Subject: Daily Executive Media Report -- Friday, March 6th, 2020

**Daily Executive Media Report  
Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

**Today:** 11 am Media teleconference backgrounder to discuss Crisis Response Force on the Southwest Border. OPA is engaging with a proactive posture to shape the narrative of this deployment of military resources and educate the public about the need to maintain integrity in the immigration system. It will also reduce the amount of misinformation and misreporting that is common with ever changing border security issues. Port Director (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Associate BP Chief (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) LTC (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) will participate.

**Today (tentative):** C1 on the Buck Sexton Show. Conservative talk radio on February Operational Update. IHeart Radio. He is also special correspondent for (b)(6) Fox News show. Topics: Feb. Operational Update, wall, MPP/judicial activism.

**Saturday:** C1 on Fox and Friends. After 7 am hit time. Topics: MPP, Green Light Law. Possible: February operational update, Coronavirus, MPP/Judicial Activism, Temporary Stopping Queue Management. (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) to staff.

**Monday:** B1 and B2 media roundtable with CBP beat reporters. New Border Patrol leadership rollout. Discussion to include amplification of CBP February Operational Update, border security, wall, current enforcement challenges, etc.

**Next week (tentative):** C1/C2/B1 interview with Sinclair Broadcasting. Reporter is (b)(6) – longtime friend of federal law enforcement. Topics: February operational update. Possible Coronavirus, MPP/Judicial Activism, Temporary Stopping Queue Management. Sinclair owns/operates 191 stations in 89 markets nationwide. OPA (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) to staff.

**Next week:** C2 keynote at Border Security Expo – San Antonio. OPA Media Division staffing. BP Chiefs and other principals on hand for media engagements TBD. Wall Street Journal and Washington Examiner among notable media confirmed.

**Next week:** C1 will conduct media teleconference briefing with NT (Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala) region media to follow-up on his trip to the region. Original call was postponed. Objective: Address the security and humanitarian crisis at the U.S. southern border, facilitate dialogue aimed at strengthening U.S. partnerships across Central America to

confront irregular and illegal migration at the source, and implement various border enforcement programs in direct support of CBP's commitment to uphold the rule of rule. Also maintain strong deterrence posture. (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) OPA lead.

**Daily Media Report  
Media Division  
March 5, 2020**

**HEADQUARTERS:**

**Travel:**

3/2: CBP received inquiries from CNN, The Washington Examiner, Conde Nast Traveler, and several local media outlets concerning CBP measures at and between POEs to prevent the spread of COVID-19. OPA will use cleared language from the PAG to respond. The PAG is currently awaiting DHS clearance following updates to account for the February 29 Presidential Proclamation suspending the entry of aliens who have been physically present in Iran in the 14 days immediately prior to their attempted entry. Tone of articles is expected to be neutral.

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

3/2: (b)(6) a freelance writer and airlines marketing professional, is preparing an article for Afar.com concerning the expansion of Preclearance to Billy Bishop Airport in Toronto, Canada. (b)(6) whose deadline is noon Wednesday (3/4), emphasized the cost of the project and time delays in his outreach. OPA is exploring options with Preclearance, including a possible DFO interview. Tone is expected to lean negative. Article will publish at the end of the week.

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

3/2: Reporter (b)(6) is preparing an article on the benefits of NEXUS and Global Entry for *Whatcom Talk*, a Washington state paper serving Whatcom County. OPA granted 30 minute interview to discuss the security and travel facilitation benefits of the program and the application process. Tone is expected to be positive. Article will publish during the week of 3/9.

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

2/28: [UPDATED] (b)(6) Bloomberg Law's senior legal reporter for privacy and technology investigations, is preparing a story about CBP's biometric entry-exit program. (b)(6) requests an on the record interview to discuss the privacy implications of CBP's use of biometric facial comparison technology and steps that CBP is taking to protect travelers' data. He is also interested in the mechanics of the Preclearance program and CBP's authority to use facial comparison technology at Preclearance locations. OPA and OFO are working to schedule the interview during the week of March 9. Story would publish that week. Tone is expected to be neutral to negative based upon reporter's past coverage of facial comparison technology and privacy issues.

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

2/28: (b)(6) a reporter with the German weekly newspaper of record Die Zeit, is preparing a story on Lufthansa's use of facial comparison technology and CBP's Traveler Verification Service for baggage check in. Reporter asked to confirm the vendor for the baggage check in process, what CBP does with traveler photos, and where CBP has implemented biometric exit. OPA and OFO replied with a statement that: (1) described CBP's device-agnostic approach to biometric exit and the baggage check-in initiative; (2) explained how CBP uses, stores, and deletes traveler photos; (3) emphasized that airlines are not allowed to keep traveler photos; and (4) provided the number of biometric exit locations. OPA referred reporter to Lufthansa to confirm vendors. Tone is expected to be neutral to negative. Article anticipated to publish during week of 3/1.

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

2/28: (b)(6) an investigative reporter with the *Seattle Times*, is preparing a story on biometric exit at Seattle Tacoma airport as part of ongoing coverage of that issue. (b)(6) requested to know if, following the Port of Seattle's temporary ban on

facial recognition technology, CBP plans to implement the biometric exit mission without partnering with the airlines. OPA and OFO replied with a statement indicating that CBP has conducted small-scale biometric exit operations at Sea-Tac since June 2018 (one flight per day) and that in January 2020 CBP switched to using mobile fingerprint readers instead of facial comparison technology. The statement emphasized that CBP only collects fingerprints from in-scope foreign nationals. Tone is expected to be neutral.

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

2/28: (b)(6) a photojournalist with independent Norwegian newspaper *Hallingdolen*, requested information about an unnamed Norwegian national who was denied admission to the United States at an unnamed airport for overstaying her ESTA on two previous occasions. The traveler was subsequently "incarcerated" per (b)(6). OPA, in consultation with OFO and without commenting on the specific case, provided a statement communicating the consequences of overstaying an ESTA and emphasizing that all VWP travelers receive notification ten days in advance of the end date of their term of authorized admission. Tone is expected to be neutral.

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

2/24: (b)(6) of *The New York Times* has been covering Trusted Traveler Programs for New York Residents and contacted OPA to clarify if New Yorkers would qualify for the one-year membership extensions offered to other TTP applicants who apply for renewal before their current membership expires. (b)(6) also requested to know the average length of time that TTP renewals take to complete. OPA confirmed that individuals must have a pending Trusted Traveler Program application to qualify for the one-year benefits extension. OPA also provided language on application/renewal processing time from the official statement on pending GE applications. Information will inform future coverage. Tone is expected to be negative.

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

2/24: (b)(6) of PAX Magazine (Canada) is preparing a story about cannabis use and Canadians' eligibility for NEXUS. (b)(6) wants to know why cannabis use, which is legal in Canada, would disqualify a Canadian from enrolling in NEXUS. CBP is preparing a statement to communicate that the possession, production, distribution and sale of marijuana remain illegal under U.S. federal law (which supersedes state law) and that violating any customs, immigration or agriculture regulations or laws in any country or otherwise violating the terms and conditions of CBP Trusted Traveler Programs renders travelers ineligible for membership in these programs. The statement will further clarify that ineligibility for NEXUS does not necessarily imply inadmissibility to the United States. Article will publish by 2/26. Tone is expected to be neutral leaning negative.

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

2/24: Officials from OPA, OFO, Trade, INA, and the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative responded to media inquiries from a delegation of visiting media representatives from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. The journalists, who were participating in a State Department media program, inquired about the U.S. trade relationship with Central Asia; how CBP works with Canadian and Mexican counterparts to facilitate lawful trade; and how CBP communicates with the media, the public, and industry stakeholders about its trade facilitation and security mission. The delegation will visit the Detroit POE on Wednesday, February 26. Information from the DC and Detroit visits is expected to inform media coverage communicating U.S. trade best practices and contrasts between trade and public communications in the United States and in the journalists' home countries. Coverage is expected to be neutral leaning positive.

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

#### **Enforcement:**

3/1: Washington Examiner reporter (b)(6) inquired about CBP preparations for Corona Virus.

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

3/1: Reuters reporter (b)(6) inquired on children being sent unaccompanied across POE bridges to request asylum. Also requested information on two specific minors. We are deferring due to privacy issues.

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

2/29: BuzzFeed employee (b)(6) inquired regarding a specific medical exemption for MPP, and violence inflicted on MPP enrollees in Mexico.

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

2/28: NY Times reporter (b)(6) inquired regarding criteria for medical exemptions for MPP.

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

2/28: WaPo reporter (b)(6) published an article regarding criteria for medical exemptions for MPP (b)(7)(E) specifically.

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

2/28: BBC reporter (b)(6) inquired about allegations from Brazilian nationals deported and in MPP, about conditions in CBP and ICE facilities.

No deadline.

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

2/28: NPR reporter (b)(6) will be publishing a story this week about Indian nationals claiming asylum, and how they work with smugglers for the long journey to the southwest border.

2/26: Breitbart reporter (b)(6) inquired about Chinese nationals apprehended for the last three months this FY and FY19. Deadline unknown.

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

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

3/2: (b)(6) of Federal Computer Week is preparing an article on CBP's recent blockchain proof of concept, which is intended to protect American businesses from intellectual property rights violations. (b)(6) asked about the number of companies that participated in the proof of concept (7), which products were tracked (none – fictitious transactions were used to test proof of concept), and which open standards and specifications were used. OPA replied with information provided by Trade. Tone is expected to be neutral.

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

#### **Technology:**

2/27: Defense Daily's (b)(6) following up on C1s testimony this morning, seeks clarification concerning the Autonomous Surveillance Towers program. OPA and the Innovation Office provided a same day response.

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

2/25: VICE Media's Tech outlet, Motherboard, via reporter (b)(6) is asking for a statement from CBP based on their data collection of 500 iPhone search warrants for calendar year 2019. The warrants included Federal, State and Local, though the majority of the cases were Federal. He cites the fact that the court system VICE utilized, PACER, leans in that direction as part of its design. His deadline is the end of this week. OPA has contacted the CBP Privacy Office for guidance. The reporter indicates that he is likely to also send queries to other DHS components, so a joint response might be wise.

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

1/30: Voice of America's (b)(6) following up with ONDCP on the 12 December announcement of the winner of the Opioid detection challenge, would like to shoot interviews and footage of canine handlers and dogs going through Fentanyl detection training. OPA is working with the Front Royal Canine Training Facility to target an early March shooting window, to document OFO classroom and active canine/handler training.

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

2/13 – Update: VOA and Front Royal have selected the week of 09 March to record footage at the training facility. Specifics details TBD.

#### **SOUTHWEST BORDER:**

2/5: OPA responded to multiple media outlets inquiring about a death in custody at the Brackettville Border Patrol Station. The following approved statement was issued: "U.S. Border Patrol agents assigned to the Brackettville Station arrested a 32-year-old male United States citizen Tuesday at 3:30 p.m., CST, after he was identified as a suspect in an alien smuggling incident. At around 6 p.m., during processing at the Brackettville Station, the man began exhibiting signs of distress and EMT-certified agents immediately administered first aid and then contacted Emergency Medical Services as his health deteriorated. At around 6:40 p.m., EMS arrived and transported the subject by ambulance to a local hospital. He was pronounced deceased by medical personnel at 9:37 p.m."

3/5: UPDATE (b)(6) CBS News, requested additional information after receiving a report from the local sheriff. The following statement was provided: "U.S. Border Patrol agents assigned to the Brackettville Station arrested United States citizen (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) 32, at 3:30 p.m., Feb. 4. (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) had been identified as a co-principal of an alien smuggling case. At 6:05 p.m., while detained at the Brackettville station for processing, the man became agitated and an Emergency Medical Technician-certified Border Patrol agent was contacted. At 6:11 p.m. the EMT took the man outside into the sally port for fresh air. EMT certified Border Patrol agents administered medical care, and after determining more advanced care was required, requested emergency medical assistance at 6:26 p.m. Investigation in the incident is ongoing. 'Having Emergency Medical Technicians at our disposal has been a great asset to our daily operations,' said Acting Chief Patrol Agent (b)(6), (b)(7)(C). 'It is devastating that besides all the efforts our EMTs and local medical professionals the life of the individual could not be saved. We will continue to work with local law enforcement to identify the cause of death.'"

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

3/2: USA Today Austin-based correspondent (b)(6) is writing a story about how the border is preparing for coronavirus and if there was anything specific CBP was doing. Put together language from the existing Coronavirus PAG but HQ OPA advised a SWB-specific FAQ was forthcoming and also the Iran-specific language was forthcoming. Will hold pending the latest language. Advised reporter I am checking into it.

3/4 update: Following RTQ language provided to reporter:

#### **Attributable to a CBP official:**

*U.S. Customs and Border Protection continues to facilitate the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) enhanced health screening of travelers entering or attempting to enter the United States with a nexus to mainland China or Iran due to the outbreak of coronavirus (COVID-19).*

*Consistent with CBP's procedures, and in accordance with the January 31 and February 29 Presidential Proclamations, exempted individuals encountered by CBP with a nexus to China or Iran within 14 days of the encounter or with symptoms of illness are referred to CDC or local health officials for additional health screening.*

*All CBP ports of entry are following the same operational guidance as issued by the Presidential Proclamation and the Department of Homeland Security.*

*With exceptions specified in the Proclamations, foreign nationals (other than immediate family of U.S. citizens, permanent residents, and flight crew) who have been physically present in China or Iran within 14 days of their arrival at a U.S. port of entry will be denied entry into the United States.*

*Additionally, any traveler exempted from the Proclamations who has been in anywhere in mainland China or Iran within 14 days of their return will be referred to CDC for additional health screening.*

*CDC has added health screening capabilities at Blaine, Buffalo, and San Ysidro.*

*Preclearance locations are following the same protocols as the land border ports and referring individuals requiring additional screening to CDC or local health officials.*

Consistent with existing CBP procedures, individuals apprehended by U.S. Border Patrol between the ports of entry with symptoms of illness are referred to CDC or local health officials for additional health screening. Additionally, all persons in U.S. Border Patrol custody who meet the CDC's coronavirus travel history and enhanced screening guidelines are being referred to CDC for additional screening.

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

3/3: (b)(6) from the Reuters Television in Los Angeles sent a request for an interview. (b)(6) would like Border Patrol to speak on our tunnel discoveries, specifically the most recent one in Nogales, AZ. TCA PIO will utilize the latest tunnel talking points and our latest press release about the unfinished tunnel at the Nogales Border. Our team plans to meet (b)(6) in Nogales and give her access to film inside the Morley tunnel.

PIO/BCL: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

- Deadline: 03/10/2020
- Request Type: stand up interview
- Outlet: Reuters Television
- Market: Los Angeles/National
- Language: Spanish
- Reporter/Producer: (b)(6)
- Reporter/Producer Contact information: (b)(6)
- Phone number: (b)(6)
- Program: TBD
- Probable air date: TBA
- Story focus: Tunnel discoveries in Nogales
- Probable tone/angle: Neutral

The source of the interview will be the recent Press Release detailing the discovery of the 126<sup>th</sup> Cross-Border Tunnel discovery in the Nogales, Arizona area.

- Tucson Sector agents and Mexico's Guardia Nacional located the tunnel's entrance in the floor of the existing Grand Avenue Drainage System in Mexico.
- The tunnel, located approximately 580 yards west of the DeConcini Port of Entry, is hand-dug with no shoring, ventilation or lighting.
- The tunnel runs approximately 15-20 feet underground at its deepest point and extends approximately 30 feet from beginning to end, where the cartel left it incomplete.
- U.S. authorities will continuously monitor the area until they remediate the tunnel.
- This is the 126th tunnel discovered in the Tucson Sector since 1990 and the second discovered mid-completion this fiscal year.
- Efforts such as tunnel sweeps aim to disrupt smuggling organizations and prevent the smuggling of narcotics and humans across the border.

3/3: (b)(6) CMG Atlanta has requested a media engagement with Tucson Sector regarding drug tunnels. Response: Pending TCA scheduling

Deadline: 4/5 Broadcast: 4/23 Tone: Positive

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

3/3: (b)(6) Type Investigations, queried AZ CBP on how many and what types of plants are being moved and being affected at Organ Pipe National Monument. Response: Pending Wall Task Force input.

Deadline: 3/6 Publication: 3/8 Tone: Negative

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



3/3: Vertical Valor magazine is completing an article and photospread on the San Diego Air and Marine Branch, similar to the project they just completed on the Yuma Air Branch: [https://assets.verticalmag.com/digital/2020/Valor\\_Winter/index.html](https://assets.verticalmag.com/digital/2020/Valor_Winter/index.html) The project is approved by AMO HQ and will proceed over the month of March.

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

3/2: Reporter (b)(6) with Univision wanted to meet with San Diego Sector Chief (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) and interview him regarding the dangers of crossing in light of recent deaths in the mountain and in the ocean. Reporter asked for

3/3. Checking Chief's availability.

3/3: Held interview. Basic questions on challenges observed in SDC, dangers of crossing, processing of UAC, and countries of interest. Positive coverage expected. Should air this week on Univision.

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

3/2: Reporter (b)(6) with the Voice of America wanted to do a human-interest piece on Division Chief (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) (San Diego Union Tribune did a piece). He declined but we have Acting Deputy Chief (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) willing to provide her perspective on being an agent, changes she has seen over the years, presently challenges, etc. It would be videotaped and would occur during a drive along the border. Proposed date is 3/11.

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

3/2: Reporter (b)(6) with Univision wanted to meet with San Diego Sector Chief (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) and interview him regarding the dangers of crossing in light of recent deaths in the mountain and in the ocean. Reporter asked for 3/3. Checking Chief's availability.

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

3/2: The Intercept reporter (b)(6) is writing about an asylum seeking MPP family that was caught in limbo Friday between the two MPP decisions. An attorney representing the family was unable to locate them but eventually did after conferring with CBP OFO leadership at the port. The attorney shared email correspondence between her and the port with the reporter. Reporter is asking for confirmation and additional content related to the matter. OPA provided the following locally cleared statement: CBP is precluded from confirming or discussing individual asylum cases for privacy reasons. All cases are handled on a case-by-case basis. Please direct your EOIR questions to EOIR. Negative tone anticipated.

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

3/2: OPA/El Paso handled numerous media inquiries Friday night/Saturday morning regarding temporary closure of the El Paso POE Friday night and into Saturday. OPA shared two tweets about the closure and also the following statement. "CBP officers stopped the flow of northbound traffic at the Paso Del Norte bridge at approximately 7:20 p.m. Friday in an effort to eliminate the ability for a large group of migrants that had formed on the Mexican side of the border to illegally and forcefully surge through the ports of entry. This step helps CBP ensure safety of travelers, facilities and CBP employees. It is anticipated that the facility will remain closed until Saturday morning. Other crossings in El Paso remain open." There was limited speculation that it was coronavirus linked but OPA advised that it was not.

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

3/2: (b)(6) Reuters News Service, inquired about the trend of UACs presenting at the Brownsville Port of Entry, if we have seen this, did we have any stats on UACs and inquired about specific cases involving two UACs. Consulted with HQ OPA, LFO mgmt., drafted the following RTQ, which met with their concurrence:

Attributable to a CBP official:

CBP does not discuss individual cases for privacy reasons. Generally, those migrants not otherwise amenable to MPP are turned over to ICE-ERO or HHS-ORR depending on the specifics of their respective cases. Those who are amenable to MPP are returned to Mexico pending their next hearing. Unaccompanied alien children and aliens in expedited

removal proceedings will not be subject to MPP. CBP determines whether an alien is amenable for the Migrant Protection Protocols on a case-by-case basis.

The Fiscal Year to Date 2020 statistics we have available on unaccompanied alien children are found here:

<https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/sw-border-migration/ofo-sw-border-inadmissibles>

Statistics are not broken down below the Field Office level.

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

3/2: USA Today Austin-based correspondent (b)(6) is writing a story about how the border is preparing for coronavirus and if there was anything specific CBP was doing. Put together language from the existing Coronavirus PAG but HQ OPA advised a SWB-specific FAQ was forthcoming and also the Iran-specific language was forthcoming. Will hold pending the latest language. Advised reporter I am checking into it.

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

2/20: (b)(6) The Intercept is working a story on fatal vehicle wreck that occurred in El Paso January 29. The vehicle involved was fleeing from USBP after agents spotted the driver load a group of aliens that had just crossed the border. Moments after fleeing the pickup location the agent came upon the crash site in south El Paso. The reporter claims that she spoke to a BPA who witnessed a portion of the pursuit and heard the rest of it play out on agency radios. The unnamed agent claims BP was operating at a high rate of speed and driver was unfamiliar with El Paso implying that BP caused the wreck. She is also asking about general pursuit policy and if any discipline has been administered. EPPD did issue a news release when the event occurred citing the fatality and that the driver was arrested for multiple charges including drunk driving. Deadline is Friday. Negative tone anticipated.

2/28 UPDATE: Article posted <https://theintercept.com/2020/02/28/border-patrol-el-paso-texas-car-chase/>

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

2/27: San Diego Union Tribune journalist (b)(6) is working on a long-form explainer piece that shows how people move through the immigration court system after arriving at the border. As a part of this story (b)(6) requested a pen and pad tour of the port of entry for herself and the paper's graphic designer, to include the holding and processing areas of the port of entry (as it is one portion of the process.) The tour will take place Thursday, Feb. 27.

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

2/27: Albuquerque Journal reporter (b)(6) is writing about border wall construction in the state of New Mexico. He is looking for basic factual material to include completed/ongoing projects, funding sources, contractors, etc. OPA working with border wall task force to provide answers.

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

2/27: Newsy reporter/anchor (b)(6) is in El Paso and requesting a Border Patrol ride along. He wants to do a story on the current immigration crisis and what has changed in the last year. He may be trying to tie this to the super Tuesday election which includes Texas. Border Patrol considering.

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

1/22: (b)(6) Wall to Wall Productions, & (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) CBP OPA, contacted CBP AZ to plan a documentary film shoot in Tucson with all three components on approximately March 2, 2020. The production is an educational program for National Geographic on the history of the drug crisis in America. It will be historically focused on the drug wars of 1911, but framed by today's current drug crisis. Planning and coordination to follow. (b)(6) would like to spend time with Tucson Air Branch, the Port of Nogales, and BP in Tucson and/or Nogales, to see drug seizures, smuggling tunnels, air interdictions, and horse patrol if possible.

Deadline: March 2020 Broadcast: TBD Tone: Positive

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

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

3/5: WDMV reporter (b)(6) interviewed Area Port of Washington DC (Dulles) agriculture specialists, including agriculture K9 team, for a story on CBP's agriculture safeguarding mission. The reporter observed AQI K9 operations and secondary baggage examinations. Story is expected to air tonight.

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

3/5 WBNS Columbus, OH, CBS affiliate, reporter (b)(6) requested information on how Japanese and Chinese spectators were allowed through customs to attend the Arnold Sports Classic when there is a ban on people coming from these countries. The reporter was told Japanese travelers are not banned. When questioned for names of the Chinese travelers, the reporter could not provide any. The reporter was told without names we are unable to provide an answer to his question. However, he was told we don't know how long the Chinese attendees were in the country, they may have been in the US before the proclamation went into effect. The reporter was also told we are able to see the traveler's travel history, and every passenger is thoroughly screened before being admitted to the US. Additional information from the PAG concerning foreign travelers entering the U.S. was also sent Tone: Neutral-Negative.

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

3/5: CBP along with Terminal 4 management & Port Authority will be hosting an open media event to announce Simplified Arrival on Thursday 12 March terminal 4, JFK. Port Director (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) will be representing CBP.

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

3/3: National NBC reporter (b)(6) spoke with the Chicago Field Office (CFO) concerning past seizures of counterfeit Juul products. It was explained how experienced CBP officers are exceptional at spotting counterfeits, how vital CEE's are and the role they play, and our work with other government agencies. Pictures from recent seizures within CFO were shared. Tone: Positive

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

3/3: (b)(6) reporter for the Miami Herald, queried reports in Puerto Rico about the allegations from a YouTube video placed by a Social media personality, (b)(6) who alleges that a CBP officer sexually assaulted her last week before she was denied entry into the country. The reporter shared the post <https://www.meganoticias.cl/tendencias/293435-geri-hoops-puerto-rico-que-le-paso-instagram.html>. A short statement was provided. Negative tone expected. "CBP does not tolerate inappropriate behavior or misconduct, and any such conduct does not reflect our values of vigilance, integrity and professionalism. We strongly advise travelers to file a formal complaint so alleged misconduct is properly investigated."

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

3/3: (b)(6) reporter for the St. Croix Avis requested more information and WKAQ 580 Radio contacted OPA for a live radio interview regarding a CBP news release on the seizure of 1724 pounds of cocaine and of \$1.3 million dollars in two separate incidents. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/us-border-patrol-fura-seize-1724-pounds-cocaine-and-13-million-two> Positive tone.

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

3/2: FOX24 anchor (b)(6) to feature CBP in Charleston, S.C. for an on the job at seaport. Taping with OFO leadership, officers and specialists occurred in late February covering an overview of operations and career opportunity's with CBP. Tone:

Positive Airing: March 2

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

3/2: Editor with Noonsite, a marine association website requesting information for private vessels entering into the US and the COVID-19 concern. Per our EOC, redirected to USCG Dist. 7 "private vessels (marine) will fall under U.S. Coast Guard Marine Safety Information Bulletins (MSIB) guidance, in coordination with CDC."

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

3/2: (b)(6) NBC News Investigations Producer, reached out to OPA Puerto Rico interested in doing a piece on CBP seizures of counterfeit juuls/vapes. Pending a call on background for some context on the topic. Final production of the piece TBD.  
Lead: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

2/25: Associated Press Correspondent (b)(6) conducted an interview with Swanton Sector CPA (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) and Houlton Sector (a)CPA (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) regarding cross-border activity in the northeast region. The genesis for the interview was a FOIA request the reporter received for data for Present Without Admission from Canada (PWAC) broken down by sector, year and nationality for the last 5 fiscal years. Since the reporter had all the data, OPA felt it was in CBP's best interest to engage the reporter to provide appropriate context to the numbers. The reporter was most interested in the increase in PWAC numbers and the existence of TCOs along the northern border—specifically the Swanton and Houlton Sectors. Tone is expected to be positive. Publish date: TBD  
Lead: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

2/24: WWJ Radio Editor (b)(6) has requested to speak with all three CBP components in regards to a long form PODCAST he is working on in regards to the northern border in Detroit. Reporter is looking to talk about issues that take place on the southern border and how they play out along the northern border, along with everyday operations. Currently in coordination with editor to arrange for interviews.

3/2 UPDATE: Detroit Sector CPA (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) will complete a telephonic interview with (b)(6) on Tuesday March 3, at 0930. Great Lakes Air and Marine Branch Director (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) will complete a telephonic interview on Wednesday March 4, at 1000hrs, and Detroit Field Office DFO Christopher Perry will complete a telephonic interview with the reporter on Thursday March 5, at 0930hrs.  
Lead: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

Message

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

**Sent:** 3/10/2020 11:14:06 AM

**To:** cbpmediarelations; (b)(7)(E)  
(b)(7)(E)

**Subject:** Round Table: B1/B2 with NYT, WSJ, CNN, Wash Times, Wash Exam

**Attachments:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) with NYT CNN WSJ WE WT.MP3

03/09/2020

USBP Chief Scott and Deputy (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) with the following reporters:

- (b)(6) New York Times
- (b)(6) Wall Street Journal
- (b)(6) CNN
- (b)(6) Washington Times
- (b)(6) Washington Examiner

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

Assistant Chief, USBPHQ  
CBP Office of Public Affairs - Media Division

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) (iPhone)  
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) (Desk)

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov

Message

**From:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(E)  
**Sent:** 3/31/2020 11:38:36 AM  
**To:** DailyExecutiveMediaReport (b)(7)(E)  
**Subject:** OPA Executive Morning Report: Tuesday March 31, 2020  
**Attachments:** OPAExMornRep 033120.docx

OPA Executive Morning Report  
Tuesday March 31, 2020

**High Profile:**

- Questions regarding the expulsion of three minors with fevers to Guatemala. Additional questions about an adult with a positive COVID-19 test.
- RFA for Mexican border and COA for northern border.

**AC1/C2 Engagements:**

**Today:** Pending: AC1 with "The Story" with (b)(6) (Fox News)

- **Hit Time:** 7:00 pm hour
- **Topic:** Implementation of Title 42 USC 265
- **Location:** TBD

**Wednesday:** Pending: C2 with on (b)(6) Reports" with (b)(6) (Fox News)

- **Hit Time:** 3:00 pm hour
- **Topic:** Implementation of Title 42 USC 265
- **Location:** TBD

**This Week:** Pending: C2 with on "Morning on the Mall" (WMAL)

- **Hit Time:** 7:00 - 9:00 am hour
- **Topic:** Implementation of Title 42 USC 265
- **Location:** TBD

**Media Division:**

- No engagements scheduled at this time.

**CBP statement on Statements and Speeches**

***"A 61-year-old U.S. citizen died after entering U.S. Customs and Border Protection custody at the San Ysidro port of entry on Sunday evening***

*The man was detained by CBP officers and security staff at the San Ysidro port of entry and placed into a cell after he attempted to walk into a restricted area, became non-compliant with instructions, and exhibited abnormal behavior. A few minutes later, CBP officers noticed that the man was nonresponsive, and CBP officers with medical first responder training rendered aid until local emergency medical services personnel arrived and took over medical care shortly thereafter.*

*The San Diego Police Department is investigating the man's death. Per CBP policy, the CBP Office of Professional Responsibility will review the incident. The care of individuals in CBP custody is paramount and we are committed to the health and safety of those in our custody."*

### Communication and Outreach Division:

- “Guidance for CBP Employees in New York City, New York State, New Jersey, Connecticut or Recently Visited the Areas” employee message was adjusted with new CDC guidance and resubmitted for approval to release
- Promoted the myCBP app, now with access via the Apple Store, on internal communication channels – CBPNow, CBP Postmaster and CBPnet

### Visual Communications Division:

- VisComms Producer at Tucson, (b)(6) will interview DFO Guadalupe Ramirez at Mariposa POE in Nogales AZ. Acquired soundbites and content will be used in media b-roll and other products for review and distribution.
- VisComms will record, process and distribute an internal COVID-19 video message from C1, C2 and (b)(6)

### Television and Motion Picture:

- No items to report, all production has been postponed due to COVID-19 pandemic.

### Items from the Daily Media Report:

**Body Armor:** NY Times’ (b)(6) is seeking details before CoB Today, on a recent contract for body armor that utilized the Defense Priority and Evaluation System (DPAS) as a vehicle for fast-tracking the acquisition of protective armor for agents and officers.

- OPA contacted CBP Contracting with a response, shared with the reporter within Deadline.
- Lead: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

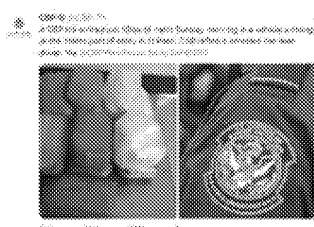
**Incomplete Arrest Records in NCIC:** CQ Roll Call’s (b)(6) is seeking explanation for allegedly disproportionate number of incomplete CBP arrest records shared with the FBI’s Next Generation ID system, with a Deadline of COB Thursday.

- OPA contacted OPR and LESC and indications are that the issue may be centered on OIT’s automated computer system. OIT has been contacted to support OPA with a response.
- Lead: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

### Digital Engagement Division:

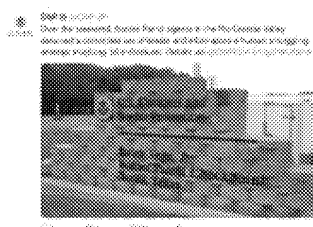
#### Twitter

Impressions: 16,000



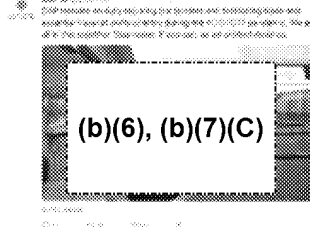
Impressions: 12,800

Impressions: 15,800

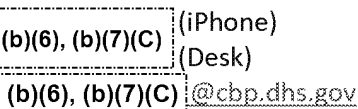
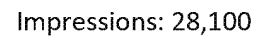
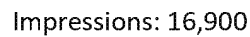
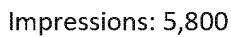
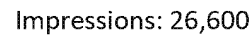
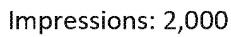


Impressions: 13,400

Impressions: 25,700



Impressions: 20,000





Message

**From:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(E)  
**Sent:** 1/22/2020 8:37:15 PM  
**To:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(E)  
**Subject:** RE: Meet and Greet

Are you flying solo or taking (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

---

**From:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 22, 2020 3:35 PM  
**To:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@cbp.dhs.gov> (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)  
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Cc:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Meet and Greet

Good work.

---

**From:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 22, 2020 3:33 PM  
**To:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@cbp.dhs.gov>; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Cc:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Meet and Greet

Afternoon gents,

I'm planning to have coffee with NYT's (b)(6) and Daily Caller's (b)(6) tomorrow. These will be informal meet and greets to put faces to names.

Thanks,

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

Special Operations Supervisor | U.S. Border Patrol  
USBP Liaison to CBP Public Affairs  
U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP)  
1300 Pennsylvania Ave, Washington D.C., 20004  
O: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) | C: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

Message

**From:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(E)  
**Sent:** 2/14/2020 9:14:07 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) (Reuters) (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](#) with questions or concerns.

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) @cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 14, 2020 4:04 PM  
**To:** (b)(6) (Reuters) (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:

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.

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), (b)(7)(E)  
**Sent:** 2/14/2020 9:13:21 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) (Reuters) (b)(6) wrote:

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And some questions:

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- What happens to their border duties?

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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), (b)(7)(E)  
**Sent:** 3/6/2020 5:25:51 PM  
**To:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(E)  
**Subject:** RE: Daily Executive Media Report -- Friday, March 6th, 2020

Many thanks!

**From:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 6, 2020 12:14 PM  
**To:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Daily Executive Media Report -- Friday, March 6th, 2020

For N/C

Amplification		
Atlanta	(b)(6)	ReTweets, WSB will be visiting SWB for story
Baltimore		ReTweets
Boston		ReTweeted
Buffalo		ReTweeted, distributed to local media
Chicago		ReTweeted
Detroit		ReTweets
Houston		ReTweets
Jacksonville		ReTweets
Los Angeles		
Miami		ReTweets
New Orleans		ON LEAVE
New York		ReTweets
Puerto Rico		ReTweets
Seattle		Retweets

**From:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 6, 2020 5:17 AM  
**To:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(E) @cbp.dhs.gov>; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Daily Executive Media Report -- Friday, March 6th, 2020

Also anything the field is planning over the next week locally

On Mar 6, 2020, at 6:09 AM, (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov> wrote:

Can you guys report back everything you can think of.

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "DURST, CASEY OWEN"

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @CBP.DHS.GOV>

**Date:** March 6, 2020 at 6:07:16 AM EST

**To:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>,  
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>

**Subject:** Re: Daily Executive Media Report -- Friday, March 6th, 2020

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

Maybe I missed this but I'm still waiting for the detailed listing of how the field and headquarters executives amplified the messaging from yesterday.

Casey Durst  
Acting Assistant Commissioner  
Office of Public Affairs  
U.S. Customs and Border Protection

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

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**From:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>

**Sent:** Friday, March 6, 2020 4:51:00 AM

**To:** DailyExecutiveMediaReport (b)(7)(E) @cbp.dhs.gov>

**Subject:** Daily Executive Media Report -- Friday, March 6th, 2020

### **Daily Executive Media Report Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

**Today:** 11 am Media teleconference backgrounder to discuss Crisis Response Force on the Southwest Border. OPA is engaging with a proactive posture to shape the narrative of this deployment of military resources and educate the public about the need to maintain integrity in the immigration system. It will also reduce the amount of misinformation and misreporting that is common with ever changing border security issues. Port Director (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Associate BP Chief (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) LTC (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) will participate.

**Today (tentative):** C1 on the Buck Sexton Show. Conservative talk radio on February Operational Update. IHeart Radio. He is also special correspondent for (b)(6) Fox News show. Topics: Feb. Operational Update, wall, MPP/judicial activism.

**Saturday:** C1 on Fox and Friends. After 7 am hit time. Topics: MPP, Green Light Law. Possible: February operational update, Coronavirus,

MPP/Judicial Activism, Temporary Stopping Queue Management.

(b)(6) to staff.

**Monday:** B1 and B2 media roundtable with CBP beat reporters. New Border Patrol leadership rollout. Discussion to include amplification of CBP February Operational Update, border security, wall, current enforcement challenges, etc.

**Next week (tentative):** C1/C2/B1 interview with Sinclair Broadcasting. Reporter is (b)(6) longtime friend of federal law enforcement. Topics: February operational update. Possible Coronavirus, MPP/Judicial Activism, Temporary Stopping Queue Management. Sinclair owns/operates 191 stations in 89 markets nationwide. OPA (b)(6) to staff.

**Next week:** C2 keynote at Border Security Expo – San Antonio. OPA Media Division staffing. BP Chiefs and other principals on hand for media engagements TBD. Wall Street Journal and Washington Examiner among notable media confirmed.

**Next week:** C1 will conduct media teleconference briefing with NT (Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala) region media to follow-up on his trip to the region. Original call was postponed. Objective: Address the security and humanitarian crisis at the U.S. southern border, facilitate dialogue aimed at strengthening U.S. partnerships across Central America to confront irregular and illegal migration at the source, and implement various border enforcement programs in direct support of CBP's commitment to uphold the rule of rule. Also maintain strong deterrence posture (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) OPA lead.

Daily Media Report  
Media Division  
March 5, 2020

**HEADQUARTERS:**

**Travel:**

3/2: CBP received inquiries from CNN, The Washington Examiner, Conde Nast Traveler, and several local media outlets concerning CBP measures at and between POEs to prevent the spread of COVID-19. OPA will use cleared language from the PAG to respond. The PAG is currently awaiting DHS clearance following updates to account for the February 29 Presidential Proclamation suspending the entry of aliens who have been physically present in Iran in the 14 days immediately prior to their attempted entry. Tone of articles is expected to be neutral.

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

3/2: (b)(6) a freelance writer and airlines marketing professional, is preparing an article for Afar.com concerning the expansion of Preclearance to Billy Bishop Airport in Toronto, Canada. (b)(6) whose deadline is noon Wednesday (3/4), emphasized the cost of the project and time delays in his outreach. OPA is exploring options with Preclearance, including a possible DFO interview. Tone is expected to lean negative. Article will publish at the end of the week.

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

3/2: Reporter (b)(6) is preparing an article on the benefits of NEXUS and Global Entry for *Whatcom Talk*, a Washington state paper serving Whatcom County. OPA granted 30 minute interview to discuss the security and travel facilitation benefits of the program and the application process. Tone is expected to be positive. Article will publish during the week of 3/9.



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

2/28: [UPDATED] (b)(6) Bloomberg Law's senior legal reporter for privacy and technology investigations, is preparing a story about CBP's biometric entry-exit program. (b)(6) requests an on the record interview to discuss the privacy implications of CBP's use of biometric facial comparison technology and steps that CBP is taking to protect travelers' data. He is also interested in the mechanics of the Preclearance program and CBP's authority to use facial comparison technology at Preclearance locations. OPA and OFO are working to schedule the interview during the week of March 9. Story would publish that week. Tone is expected to be neutral to negative based upon reporter's past coverage of facial comparison technology and privacy issues.

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

2/28: (b)(6) a reporter with the German weekly newspaper of record Die Zeit, is preparing a story on Lufthansa's use of facial comparison technology and CBP's Traveler Verification Service for baggage check in. Reporter asked to confirm the vendor for the baggage check in process, what CBP does with traveler photos, and where CBP has implemented biometric exit. OPA and OFO replied with a statement that: (1) described CBP's device-agnostic approach to biometric exit and the baggage check-in initiative; (2) explained how CBP uses, stores, and deletes traveler photos; (3) emphasized that airlines are not allowed to keep traveler photos; and (4) provided the number of biometric exit locations. OPA referred reporter to Lufthansa to confirm vendors. Tone is expected to be neutral to negative. Article anticipated to publish during week of 3/1.

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

2/28: (b)(6) an investigative reporter with the *Seattle Times*, is preparing a story on biometric exit at Seattle Tacoma airport as part of ongoing coverage of that issue. (b)(6) requested to know if, following the Port of Seattle's temporary ban on facial recognition technology, CBP plans to implement the biometric exit mission without partnering with the airlines. OPA and OFO replied with a statement indicating that CBP has conducted small-scale biometric exit operations at Sea-Tac since June 2018 (one flight per day) and that in January 2020 CBP switched to using mobile fingerprint readers instead of facial comparison technology. The statement emphasized that CBP only collects fingerprints from in-scope foreign nationals. Tone is expected to be neutral.

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

2/28: (b)(6) a photojournalist with independent Norwegian newspaper *Hallingdølen*, requested information about an unnamed Norwegian national who was denied admission to the United States at an unnamed airport for overstaying her ESTA on two previous occasions. The traveler was subsequently "incarcerated" per (b)(6). OPA, in consultation with OFO and without commenting on the specific case, provided a statement communicating the consequences of overstaying an ESTA and emphasizing that all VWP travelers receive notification ten days in advance of the end date of their term of authorized admission. Tone is expected to be neutral.

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

2/24: (b)(6) of *The New York Times* has been covering Trusted Traveler Programs for New York Residents and contacted OPA to clarify if New Yorkers would qualify for the one-year membership extensions offered to other TTP applicants who apply for renewal before their current membership expires. (b)(6) also requested to know the average length of time that TTP renewals take to complete. OPA confirmed that individuals must have a pending Trusted Traveler Program application to qualify for the one-year benefits extension. OPA also provided language on application/renewal processing time from the official statement on pending GE applications. Information will inform future coverage. Tone is expected to be negative.

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

2/24: (b)(6) of PAX Magazine (Canada) is preparing a story about cannabis use and Canadians' eligibility for NEXUS. (b)(6) wants to know why cannabis use, which is legal in Canada, would disqualify a Canadian from enrolling in NEXUS. CBP is preparing a statement to communicate that the possession, production, distribution and sale of

marijuana remain illegal under U.S. federal law (which supersedes state law) and that violating any customs, immigration or agriculture regulations or laws in any country or otherwise violating the terms and conditions of CBP Trusted Traveler Programs renders travelers ineligible for membership in these programs. The statement will further clarify that ineligibility for NEXUS does not necessarily imply inadmissibility to the United States. Article will publish by 2/26. Tone is expected to be neutral leaning negative.

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

2/24: Officials from OPA, OFO, Trade, INA, and the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative responded to media inquiries from a delegation of visiting media representatives from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. The journalists, who were participating in a State Department media program, inquired about the U.S. trade relationship with Central Asia; how CBP works with Canadian and Mexican counterparts to facilitate lawful trade; and how CBP communicates with the media, the public, and industry stakeholders about its trade facilitation and security mission. The delegation will visit the Detroit POE on Wednesday, February 26. Information from the DC and Detroit visits is expected to inform media coverage communicating U.S. trade best practices and contrasts between trade and public communications in the United States and in the journalists' home countries. Coverage is expected to be neutral leaning positive.

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

#### **Enforcement:**

3/1: Washington Examiner reporter (b)(6) inquired about CBP preparations for Corona Virus.

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

3/1: Reuters reporter (b)(6) inquired on children being sent unaccompanied across POE bridges to request asylum. Also requested information on two specific minors. We are deferring due to privacy issues.

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

2/29: Buzzfeed employee (b)(6) inquired regarding a specific medical exemption for MPP, and violence inflicted on MPP enrollees in Mexico.

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

2/28: NY Times reporter (b)(6) inquired regarding criteria for medical exemptions for MPP.

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

2/28: WaPo reporter (b)(6) published an article regarding criteria for medical exemptions for MPP (b)(7)(E) specifically.

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

2/28: BBC reporter (b)(6) inquired about allegations from Brazilian nationals deported and in MPP, about conditions in CBP and ICE facilities.

No deadline.

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

2/28: NPR reporter (b)(6) will be publishing a story this week about Indian nationals claiming asylum, and how they work with smugglers for the long journey to the southwest border.

2/26: Breitbart reporter (b)(6) inquired about Chinese nationals apprehended for the last three months this FY and FY19. Deadline unknown.

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

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

3/2: (b)(6) of Federal Computer Week is preparing an article on CBP's recent blockchain proof of concept, which is intended to protect American businesses from intellectual property rights violations. (b)(6) asked about the number of companies that participated in the proof of concept (7), which products were tracked (none – fictitious transactions were used to test proof of concept), and which open standards and specifications were used. OPA replied with information provided by Trade. Tone is expected to be neutral.

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

#### **Technology:**

2/27: Defense Daily's (b)(6) following up on C1s testimony this morning, seeks clarification concerning the Autonomous Surveillance Towers program. OPA and the Innovation Office provided a same day response.

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

2/25: VICE Media's Tech outlet, Motherboard, via reporter (b)(6) is asking for a statement from CBP based on their data collection of 500 iPhone search warrants for calendar year 2019. The warrants included Federal, State and Local, though the majority of the cases were Federal. He cites the fact that the court system VICE utilized, PACER, leans in that direction as part of its design. His deadline is the end of this week. OPA has contacted the CBP Privacy Office for guidance. The reporter indicates that he is likely to also send queries to other DHS components, so a joint response might be wise.

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

1/30: Voice of America's (b)(6) following up with ONDCP on the 12 December announcement of the winner of the Opioid detection challenge, would like to shoot interviews and footage of canine handlers and dogs going through Fentanyl detection training. OPA is working with the Front Royal Canine Training Facility to target an early March shooting window, to document OFO classroom and active canine/handler training.

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

2/13 – Update: VOA and Front Royal have selected the week of 09 March to record footage at the training facility. Specifics details TBD.

#### **SOUTHWEST BORDER:**

2/5: OPA responded to multiple media outlets inquiring about a death in custody at the Brackettville Border Patrol Station. The following approved statement was issued: "U.S. Border Patrol agents assigned to the Brackettville Station arrested a 32-year-old male United States citizen Tuesday at 3:30 p.m., CST, after he was identified as a suspect in an alien smuggling incident. At around 6 p.m., during processing at the Brackettville Station, the man began exhibiting signs of distress and EMT-certified agents immediately administered first aid and then contacted Emergency Medical Services as his health deteriorated. At around 6:40 p.m., EMS arrived and transported the subject by ambulance to a local hospital. He was pronounced deceased by medical personnel at 9:37 p.m."

3/5: UPDATE - (b)(6) CBS News, requested additional information after receiving a report from the local sheriff. The following statement was provided: "U.S. Border Patrol agents assigned to the Brackettville Station arrested United States citizen (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) 32, at 3:30 p.m., Feb. 4. (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) had been identified as a co-principal of an alien smuggling case. At 6:05 p.m., while detained at the Brackettville station for processing, the man became agitated and an Emergency Medical Technician-certified Border Patrol agent was contacted. At 6:11 p.m. the EMT took the man outside into the sally port for fresh air. EMT certified Border Patrol agents administered medical care, and after determining more advanced care was required, requested emergency medical assistance at 6:26 p.m. Investigation in the incident is ongoing. 'Having Emergency Medical Technicians at our disposal has been a great asset to our daily operations,' said Acting Chief Patrol Agent (b)(6), (b)(7)(C). 'It is devastating that besides all the efforts our EMTs and local medical professionals the life of the individual could not be saved. We will continue to work with local law enforcement to identify the cause of death.'"

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

3/2: USA Today Austin-based correspondent (b)(6) is writing a story about how the border is preparing for coronavirus and if there was anything specific CBP was doing. Put together language from the existing Coronavirus PAG but HQ OPA advised a SWB-specific FAQ was forthcoming and also the Iran-specific language was forthcoming. Will hold pending the latest language. Advised reporter I am checking into it.

3/4 update: Following RTQ language provided to reporter:

**Attributable to a CBP official:**

*U.S. Customs and Border Protection continues to facilitate the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) enhanced health screening of travelers entering or attempting to enter the United States with a nexus to mainland China or Iran due to the outbreak of coronavirus (COVID-19).*

*Consistent with CBP's procedures, and in accordance with the January 31 and February 29 Presidential Proclamations, exempted individuals encountered by CBP with a nexus to China or Iran within 14 days of the encounter or with symptoms of illness are referred to CDC or local health officials for additional health screening.*

*All CBP ports of entry are following the same operational guidance as issued by the Presidential Proclamation and the Department of Homeland Security.*

*With exceptions specified in the Proclamations, foreign nationals (other than immediate family of U.S. citizens, permanent residents, and flight crew) who have been physically present in China or Iran within 14 days of their arrival at a U.S. port of entry will be denied entry into the United States.*

*Additionally, any traveler exempted from the Proclamations who has been in anywhere in mainland China or Iran within 14 days of their return will be referred to CDC for additional health screening.*

*CDC has added health screening capabilities at Blaine, Buffalo, and San Ysidro.*

*Preclearance locations are following the same protocols as the land border ports and referring individuals requiring additional screening to CDC or local health officials.*

*Consistent with existing CBP procedures, individuals apprehended by U.S. Border Patrol between the ports of entry with symptoms of illness are referred to CDC or local health officials for additional health screening.*

*Additionally, all persons in U.S. Border Patrol custody who meet the CDC's coronavirus travel history and enhanced screening guidelines are being referred to CDC for additional screening.*

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

3/3: (b)(6) from the Reuters Television in Los Angeles sent a request for an interview. (b)(6) would like Border Patrol to speak on our tunnel discoveries, specifically the most recent one in Nogales, AZ. TCA PIO will utilize the latest tunnel talking points and our latest press release about the unfinished tunnel at the Nogales Border. Our team plans to meet (b)(6) in Nogales and give her access to film inside the Morley tunnel.

PIO/BCL (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

- Deadline: 03/10/2020
- Request Type: stand up interview
- Outlet: Reuters Television
- Market: Los Angeles/National
- Language: Spanish
- Reporter/Producer: (b)(6)
- Reporter/Producer Contact information: (b)(6)
- Phone number: (b)(6)
- Program: TBD
- Probable air date: TBA
- Story focus: Tunnel discoveries in Nogales
- Probable tone/angle: Neutral

The source of the interview will be the recent Press Release detailing the discovery of the 126<sup>th</sup> Cross-Border Tunnel discovery in the Nogales, Arizona area.

- Tucson Sector agents and Mexico's Guardia Nacional located the tunnel's entrance in the floor of the existing Grand Avenue Drainage System in Mexico.
- The tunnel, located approximately 580 yards west of the DeConcini Port of Entry, is hand-dug with no shoring, ventilation or lighting.
- The tunnel runs approximately 15-20 feet underground at its deepest point and extends approximately 30 feet from beginning to end, where the cartel left it incomplete.
- U.S. authorities will continuously monitor the area until they remediate the tunnel.
- This is the 126th tunnel discovered in the Tucson Sector since 1990 and the second discovered mid-completion this fiscal year.
- Efforts such as tunnel sweeps aim to disrupt smuggling organizations and prevent the smuggling of narcotics and humans across the border.

3/3: (b)(6) CMG Atlanta has requested a media engagement with Tucson Sector regarding drug tunnels. Response: Pending TCA scheduling  
 Deadline: 4/5 Broadcast: 4/23 Tone: Positive  
 Lead: PAS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

3/3: (b)(6) Type Investigations, queried AZ CBP on how many and what types of plants are being moved and being affected at Organ Pipe National Monument. Response: Pending Wall Task Force input.  
 Deadline: 3/6 Publication: 3/8 Tone: Negative  
 Lead: PAS (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

3/3: Vertical Valor magazine is completing an article and photospread on the San Diego Air and Marine Branch, similar to the project they just completed on the Yuma Air Branch: [https://assets.verticalmag.com/digital/2020/Valor\\_Winter/index.html](https://assets.verticalmag.com/digital/2020/Valor_Winter/index.html) The project is approved by AMO HQ and will proceed over the month of March.  
 Lead: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

3/2: Reporter (b)(6) with Univision wanted to meet with San Diego Sector Chief (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) and interview him regarding the dangers of crossing in light of recent deaths in the mountain and in the ocean. Reporter asked for 3/3. Checking Chief's availability.

3/3: Held interview. Basic questions on challenges observed in SDC, dangers of crossing, processing of UAC, and countries of interest. Positive coverage expected. Should air this week on Univision.  
 Lead: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

3/2: Reporter (b)(6) with the Voice of America wanted to do a human-interest piece on Division Chief (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) (San Diego Union Tribune did a piece). He declined but we have Acting Deputy Chief (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) willing to provide her perspective on being an agent, changes she has seen over the years, presently challenges, etc. It would be videotaped and would occur during a drive along the border. Proposed date is 3/11.  
 Lead: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

3/2: Reporter (b)(6) with Univision wanted to meet with San Diego Sector Chief (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) and interview him regarding the dangers of crossing in light of recent deaths in the mountain and in the ocean. Reporter asked for 3/3. Checking Chief's availability.  
 Lead: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

3/2: The Intercept reporter (b)(6) is writing about an asylum seeking MPP family that was caught in limbo Friday between the two MPP decisions. An attorney representing the family was unable to locate them but eventually did after conferring with CBP OFO leadership at the port. The attorney shared email correspondence between her

and the port with the reporter. Reporter is asking for confirmation and additional content related to the matter. OPA provided the following locally cleared statement: CBP is precluded from confirming or discussing individual asylum cases for privacy reasons. All cases are handled on a case-by-case basis. Please direct your EOIR questions to EOIR. Negative tone anticipated.

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

3/2: OPA/El Paso handled numerous media inquiries Friday night/Saturday morning regarding temporary closure of the El Paso POE Friday night and into Saturday. OPA shared two tweets about the closure and also the following statement. "CBP officers stopped the flow of northbound traffic at the Paso Del Norte bridge at approximately 7:20 p.m. Friday in an effort to eliminate the ability for a large group of migrants that had formed on the Mexican side of the border to illegally and forcefully surge through the ports of entry. This step helps CBP ensure safety of travelers, facilities and CBP employees. It is anticipated that the facility will remain closed until Saturday morning. Other crossings in El Paso remain open." There was limited speculation that it was coronavirus linked but OPA advised that it was not.

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

3/2: (b)(6) Reuters News Service, inquired about the trend of UACs presenting at the Brownsville Port of Entry, if we have seen this, did we have any stats on UACs and inquired about specific cases involving two UACs. Consulted with HQ OPA, LFO mgmt., drafted the following RTQ, which met with their concurrence:

Attributable to a CBP official:

CBP does not discuss individual cases for privacy reasons. Generally, those migrants not otherwise amenable to MPP are turned over to ICE-ERO or HHS-ORR depending on the specifics of their respective cases. Those who are amenable to MPP are returned to Mexico pending their next hearing. Unaccompanied alien children and aliens in expedited removal proceedings will not be subject to MPP. CBP determines whether an alien is amenable for the Migrant Protection Protocols on a case-by-case basis.

The Fiscal Year to Date 2020 statistics we have available on unaccompanied alien children are found here:

<https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/sw-border-migration/fo-sw-border-inadmissibles>

Statistics are not broken down below the Field Office level.

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

3/2: USA Today Austin-based correspondent (b)(6) is writing a story about how the border is preparing for coronavirus and if there was anything specific CBP was doing. Put together language from the existing Coronavirus PAG but HQ OPA advised a SWB-specific FAQ was forthcoming and also the Iran-specific language was forthcoming. Will hold pending the latest language. Advised reporter I am checking into it.

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

2/20: (b)(6) The Intercept is working a story on fatal vehicle wreck that occurred in El Paso January 29. The vehicle involved was fleeing from USBP after agents spotted the driver load a group of aliens that had just crossed the border. Moments after fleeing the pickup location the agent came upon the crash site in south El Paso. The reporter claims that she spoke to a BPA who witnessed a portion of the pursuit and heard the rest of it play out on agency radios. The unnamed agent claims BP was operating at a high rate of speed and driver was unfamiliar with El Paso implying that BP caused the wreck. She is also asking about general pursuit policy and if any discipline has been administered. EPPD did issue a news release when the event occurred citing the fatality and that the driver was arrested for multiple charges including drunk driving. Deadline is Friday. Negative tone anticipated.

2/28 UPDATE: Article posted <https://theintercept.com/2020/02/28/border-patrol-el-paso-texas-car-chase/>

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

2/27: San Diego Union Tribune journalist (b)(6) is working on a long-form explainer piece that shows how people move through the immigration court system after arriving at the border. As a part of this story (b)(6) requested a pen and pad tour of the port of entry for herself and the paper's graphic designer, to include the holding and

processing areas of the port of entry (as it is one portion of the process.) The tour will take place Thursday, Feb. 27.

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

2/27: Albuquerque Journal reporter (b)(6) is writing about border wall construction in the state of New Mexico. He is looking for basic factual material to include completed/ongoing projects, funding sources, contractors, etc. OPA working with border wall task force to provide answers.

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

2/27: Newsy reporter/anchor (b)(6) is in El Paso and requesting a Border Patrol ride along. He wants to do a story on the current immigration crisis and what has changed in the last year. He may be trying to tie this to the super Tuesday election which includes Texas. Border Patrol considering.

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

1/22: (b)(6) Wall to Wall Productions, & (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) CBP OPA, contacted CBP AZ to plan a documentary film shoot in Tucson with all three components on approximately March 2, 2020. The production is an educational program for National Geographic on the history of the drug crisis in America. It will be historically focused on the drug wars of 1911, but framed by today's current drug crisis. Planning and coordination to follow (b)(6) would like to spend time with Tucson Air Branch, the Port of Nogales, and BP in Tucson and/or Nogales, to see drug seizures, smuggling tunnels, air interdictions, and horse patrol if possible.

Deadline: March 2020 Broadcast: TBD Tone: Positive

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

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

3/5: WDMV reporter (b)(6) interviewed Area Port of Washington DC (Dulles) agriculture specialists, including agriculture K9 team, for a story on CBP's agriculture safeguarding mission. The reporter observed AQI K9 operations and secondary baggage examinations. Story is expected to air tonight.

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

3/5 WBNS Columbus, OH, CBS affiliate, reporter (b)(6) requested information on how Japanese and Chinese spectators were allowed through customs to attend the Arnold Sports Classic when there is a ban on people coming from these countries. The reporter was told Japanese travelers are not banned. When questioned for names of the Chinese travelers, the reporter could not provide any. The reporter was told without names we are unable to provide an answer to his question. However, he was told we don't know how long the Chinese attendees were in the country, they may have been in the US before the proclamation went into effect. The reporter was also told we are able to see the traveler's travel history, and every passenger is thoroughly screened before being admitted to the US. Additional information from the PAG concerning foreign travelers entering the U.S. was also sent Tone: Neutral-Negative.

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

3/5: CBP along with Terminal 4 management & Port Authority will be hosting an open media event to announce Simplified Arrival on Thursday 12 March terminal 4, JFK. Port Director (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) will be representing CBP.

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

3/3: National NBC reporter (b)(6) spoke with the Chicago Field Office (CFO) concerning past seizures of counterfeit Juul products. It was explained how experienced CBP officers are exceptional at spotting counterfeits, how vital CEE's are and the role they play, and our work with other government agencies. Pictures from recent seizures within CFO were shared. Tone: Positive

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

3/3: (b)(6), reporter for the Miami Herald, queried reports in Puerto Rico about the allegations from a YouTube video placed by a Social media personality (b)(6)

(b)(6) who alleges that a CBP officer sexually assaulted her last week before she was denied entry into the country. The reporter shared the post <https://www.meganoticias.cl/tendencias/293435-geri-hoops-puerto-rico-que-le-paso-instagram.html>. A short statement was provided. Negative tone expected. "CBP does not tolerate inappropriate behavior or misconduct, and any such conduct does not reflect our values of vigilance, integrity and professionalism. We strongly advise travelers to file a formal complaint so alleged misconduct is properly investigated."

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

3/3: (b)(6) reporter for the St. Croix Avis requested more information and WKAQ 580 Radio contacted OPA for a live radio interview regarding a CBP news release on the seizure of 1724 pounds of cocaine and of \$1.3 million dollars in two separate incidents. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/us-border-patrol-fura-seize-1724-pounds-cocaine-and-13-million-two> Positive tone.

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

3/2: FOX24 anchor (b)(6) to feature CBP in Charleston, S.C. for an on the job at seaport. Taping with OFO leadership, officers and specialists occurred in late February covering an overview of operations and career opportunity's with CBP. Tone:

Positive Airing: March 2

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

3/2: Editor with Noonsite, a marine association website requesting information for private vessels entering into the US and the COVID-19 concern. Per our EOC, redirected to USCG Dist. 7 "private vessels (marine) will fall under U.S. Coast Guard Marine Safety Information Bulletins (MSIB) guidance, in coordination with CDC."

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

3/2: (b)(6) NBC News Investigations Producer, reached out to OPA Puerto Rico interested in doing a piece on CBP seizures of counterfeit juuls/vapes. Pending a call on background for some context on the topic. Final production of the piece TBD.

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

2/25: Associated Press Correspondent (b)(6) conducted an interview with Swanton Sector CPA (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) and Houlton Sector (a)CPA (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) regarding cross-border activity in the northeast region. The genesis for the interview was a FOIA request the reporter received for data for Present Without Admission from Canada (PWAC) broken down by sector, year and nationality for the last 5 fiscal years. Since the reporter had all the data, OPA felt it was in CBP's best interest to engage the reporter to provide appropriate context to the numbers. The reporter was most interested in the increase in PWAC numbers and the existence of TCOs along the northern border—specifically the Swanton and Houlton Sectors. Tone is expected to be positive. Publish date: TBD

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

2/24: WWJ Radio Editor (b)(6) has requested to speak with all three CBP components in regards to a long form PODCAST he is working on in regards to the northern border in Detroit. Reporter is looking to talk about issues that take place on the southern border and how they play out along the northern border, along with everyday operations. Currently in coordination with editor to arrange for interviews.

3/2 UPDATE: Detroit Sector CPA (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) will complete a telephonic interview with (b)(6) on Tuesday March 3, at 0930. Great Lakes Air and Marine Branch Director (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) will complete a telephonic interview on Wednesday March 4, at 1000hrs, and Detroit Field Office DFO Christopher Perry will complete a telephonic interview with the reporter on Thursday March 5, at 0930hrs.

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





Message

**From:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(E)  
**Sent:** 3/6/2020 1:53:16 PM  
**To:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(E)  
**Subject:** RE: Daily Executive Media Report -- Friday, March 6th, 2020

What I meant was that I will get with the branch chiefs so they can push their 1035s to engage with field leadership to encourage amplification via re tweets and other engagement.

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**From:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 6, 2020 8:49 AM  
**To:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Daily Executive Media Report -- Friday, March 6th, 2020

Who is we?

While our PAOs have access to the field accounts, they do not have access to the leadership accounts. I have the POCs for those accounts.

Also, I've compiled a list of tweets from yesterday that I could send that might make it easier for them to RT.

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**From:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 6, 2020 8:48 AM  
**To:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Cc:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Daily Executive Media Report -- Friday, March 6th, 2020

We will work this. Thank you

On Mar 6, 2020, at 7:57 AM, (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov> wrote:

We need to encourage more engagement today. I will send an email to the field and to the leadership accounts:

Retweets from Field Accounts:

@CBPARizona, @CBPChicago, @CBPFlorida, @CBPLosAngeles, @CBPSoutheast,  
@CBPSouthTexas, @CBPWestTexas,

Retweets from Leadership Accounts:

@DFOElPaso, @CBPPortDirJFK, @USBPChiefSDC, @USBPChiefBLW,  
@USBPDepChiefYUM

Original Content from Leadership Accounts:

@USBPChief, @USBPChiefTCA, @USBPDepChiefGFN,

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)  
Director -- Digital Engagement  
Office of Public Affairs

U.S. Customs and Border Protection

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



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**From:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 6, 2020 7:13 AM  
**To:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Cc:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Daily Executive Media Report -- Friday, March 6th, 2020

I will get with you this morning. Not looking for any sort of heavy lift or comprehensive report, I just need to be able to tell AC what kind of field social engagement is happening. I can just cherry pick and look at some of the field accounts.

On Mar 6, 2020, at 7:10 AM, (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov> wrote:

When do you need this by? It's not an easy lift for us.

---

**From:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 6, 2020 6:13 AM  
**To:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>, (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)  
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Daily Executive Media Report -- Friday, March 6th, 2020

Can you guys get me all the field and HQ leadership social media engagement yesterday, including retweets?

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "DURST, CASEY OWEN"  
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @CBP.DHS.GOV>  
**Date:** March 6, 2020 at 6:07:16 AM EST  
**To:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)  
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>, (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)  
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Daily Executive Media Report -- Friday, March 6th, 2020

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

Maybe I missed this but I'm still waiting for the detailed listing of how the field and headquarters executives amplified the messaging from yesterday.

Casey Durst  
Acting Assistant Commissioner  
Office of Public Affairs

U.S. Customs and Border Protection

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

“This document and any attachment(s) may contain restricted, sensitive, and/or law enforcement-sensitive information belonging to the U.S. Government. It is not for release, review, retransmission, dissemination, or use by anyone other than the intended recipient.”

From: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>

Sent: Friday, March 6, 2020 4:51:00 AM

To: DailyExecutiveMediaReport

(b)(7)(E) @cbp.dhs.gov>

Subject: Daily Executive Media Report -- Friday, March 6th, 2020

### Daily Executive Media Report Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020

**Today:** 11 am Media teleconference backgrounder to discuss Crisis Response Force on the Southwest Border. OPA is engaging with a proactive posture to shape the narrative of this deployment of military resources and educate the public about the need to maintain integrity in the immigration system. It will also reduce the amount of misinformation and misreporting that is common with ever changing border security issues. Port Director (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) Associate BP Chief (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) LTC (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) will participate.

**Today (tentative):** C1 on the Buck Sexton Show. Conservative talk radio on February Operational Update. IHeart Radio. He is also special correspondent for (b)(6) (b)(6) Fox News show. Topics: Feb. Operational Update, wall, MPP/judicial activism.

**Saturday:** C1 on Fox and Friends. After 7 am hit time. Topics: MPP, Green Light Law. Possible: February operational update, Coronavirus, MPP/Judicial Activism, Temporary Stopping Queue Management. (b)(6) to staff.

**Monday:** B1 and B2 media roundtable with CBP beat reporters. New Border Patrol leadership rollout. Discussion to include amplification of CBP February Operational Update, border security, wall, current enforcement challenges, etc.

**Next week (tentative):** C1/C2/B1 interview with Sinclair Broadcasting. Reporter is (b)(6) – longtime friend of federal law enforcement. Topics: February operational update. Possible Coronavirus, MPP/Judicial Activism,

Temporary Stopping Queue Management. Sinclair owns/operates 191 stations in 89 markets nationwide. OPA/(b)(6) to staff.

**Next week:** C2 keynote at Border Security Expo – San Antonio. OPA Media Division staffing. BP Chiefs and other principals on hand for media engagements TBD. Wall Street Journal and Washington Examiner among notable media confirmed.

**Next week:** C1 will conduct media teleconference briefing with NT (Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala) region media to follow-up on his trip to the region. Original call was postponed. Objective: Address the security and humanitarian crisis at the U.S. southern border, facilitate dialogue aimed at strengthening U.S. partnerships across Central America to confront irregular and illegal migration at the source, and implement various border enforcement programs in direct support of CBP's commitment to uphold the rule of rule. Also maintain strong deterrence posture. (b)(6) (b)(6) OPA lead.

**Daily Media Report  
Media Division  
March 5, 2020**

**HEADQUARTERS:**

**Travel:**

3/2: CBP received inquiries from CNN, The Washington Examiner, Conde Nast Traveler, and several local media outlets concerning CBP measures at and between POEs to prevent the spread of COVID-19. OPA will use cleared language from the PAG to respond. The PAG is currently awaiting DHS clearance following updates to account for the February 29 Presidential Proclamation suspending the entry of aliens who have been physically present in Iran in the 14 days immediately prior to their attempted entry. Tone of articles is expected to be neutral. Lead: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

3/2: (b)(6) a freelance writer and airlines marketing professional, is preparing an article for Afar.com concerning the expansion of Preclearance to Billy Bishop Airport in Toronto, Canada. (b)(6) whose deadline is noon Wednesday (3/4), emphasized the cost of the project and time delays in his outreach. OPA is exploring options with Preclearance, including a possible DFO interview. Tone is expected to lean negative. Article will publish at the end of the week. Lead: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

3/2: Reporter (b)(6) is preparing an article on the benefits of NEXUS and Global Entry for *Whatcom Talk*, a Washington state paper serving Whatcom County. OPA granted 30 minute interview to discuss the security and travel facilitation benefits of the program and the application process. Tone is expected to be positive. Article will publish during the week of 3/9. Lead: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

2/28: [UPDATED] (b)(6) Bloomberg Law's senior legal reporter for privacy and technology investigations, is preparing a story about CBP's biometric entry-exit program. (b)(6) requests an on the record interview to discuss the privacy implications of CBP's use of biometric facial

comparison technology and steps that CBP is taking to protect travelers' data. He is also interested in the mechanics of the Preclearance program and CBP's authority to use facial comparison technology at Preclearance locations. OPA and OFO are working to schedule the interview during the week of March 9. Story would publish that week. Tone is expected to be neutral to negative based upon reporter's past coverage of facial comparison technology and privacy issues.

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

2/28: (b)(6) a reporter with the German weekly newspaper of record *Die Zeit*, is preparing a story on Lufthansa's use of facial comparison technology and CBP's Traveler Verification Service for baggage check in. Reporter asked to confirm the vendor for the baggage check in process, what CBP does with traveler photos, and where CBP has implemented biometric exit. OPA and OFO replied with a statement that: (1) described CBP's device-agnostic approach to biometric exit and the baggage check-in initiative; (2) explained how CBP uses, stores, and deletes traveler photos; (3) emphasized that airlines are not allowed to keep traveler photos; and (4) provided the number of biometric exit locations. OPA referred reporter to Lufthansa to confirm vendors. Tone is expected to be neutral to negative. Article anticipated to publish during week of 3/1.

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

2/28: (b)(6) an investigative reporter with the *Seattle Times*, is preparing a story on biometric exit at Seattle Tacoma airport as part of ongoing coverage of that issue. (b)(6) requested to know if, following the Port of Seattle's temporary ban on facial recognition technology, CBP plans to implement the biometric exit mission without partnering with the airlines. OPA and OFO replied with a statement indicating that CBP has conducted small-scale biometric exit operations at Sea-Tac since June 2018 (one flight per day) and that in January 2020 CBP switched to using mobile fingerprint readers instead of facial comparison technology. The statement emphasized that CBP only collects fingerprints from in-scope foreign nationals. Tone is expected to be neutral.

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

2/28: (b)(6) a photojournalist with independent Norwegian newspaper *Hallingdolen*, requested information about an unnamed Norwegian national who was denied admission to the United States at an unnamed airport for overstaying her ESTA on two previous occasions. The traveler was subsequently "incarcerated" per (b)(6). OPA, in consultation with OFO and without commenting on the specific case, provided a statement communicating the consequences of overstaying an ESTA and emphasizing that all VWP travelers receive notification ten days in advance of the end date of their term of authorized admission. Tone is expected to be neutral.

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

2/24: (b)(6) of *The New York Times* has been covering Trusted Traveler Programs for New York Residents and contacted OPA to clarify if New Yorkers would qualify for the one-year membership extensions offered to other TTP applicants who apply for renewal before their current membership expires. (b)(6) also requested to know the average length of time that TTP renewals take to complete. OPA confirmed that individuals must have a pending Trusted Traveler Program application to qualify for the one-year benefits extension. OPA also provided language on application/renewal processing time from the official statement on pending GE applications. Information will inform future coverage. Tone is expected to be negative.

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

2/24: (b)(6) of PAX Magazine (Canada) is preparing a story about cannabis use and Canadians' eligibility for NEXUS. (b)(6) wants to know why cannabis use, which is legal in Canada, would disqualify a Canadian from enrolling in NEXUS. CBP is preparing a statement to communicate that the possession, production, distribution and sale of marijuana remain illegal under U.S. federal law (which supersedes state law) and that violating any customs, immigration or agriculture regulations or laws in any country or otherwise violating the terms and conditions of CBP Trusted Traveler Programs renders travelers ineligible for membership in these programs. The statement will further clarify that ineligibility for NEXUS does not necessarily imply inadmissibility to the United States. Article will publish by 2/26. Tone is expected to be neutral leaning negative.

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

2/24: Officials from OPA, OFO, Trade, INA, and the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative responded to media inquiries from a delegation of visiting media representatives from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. The journalists, who were participating in a State Department media program, inquired about the U.S. trade relationship with Central Asia; how CBP works with Canadian and Mexican counterparts to facilitate lawful trade; and how CBP communicates with the media, the public, and industry stakeholders about its trade facilitation and security mission. The delegation will visit the Detroit POE on Wednesday, February 26. Information from the DC and Detroit visits is expected to inform media coverage communicating U.S. trade best practices and contrasts between trade and public communications in the United States and in the journalists' home countries. Coverage is expected to be neutral leaning positive.

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

#### **Enforcement:**

3/1: Washington Examiner reporter (b)(6) inquired about CBP preparations for Corona Virus.

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

3/1: Reuters reporter (b)(6) inquired on children being sent unaccompanied across POE bridges to request asylum. Also requested information on two specific minors. We are deferring due to privacy issues.

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

2/29: BuzzFeed employee (b)(6) inquired regarding a specific medical exemption for MPP, and violence inflicted on MPP enrollees in Mexico.

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

2/28: NY Times reporter (b)(6) inquired regarding criteria for medical exemptions for MPP.

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

2/28: WaPo reporter (b)(6) published an article regarding criteria for medical exemptions for MPP (b)(7)(E) specifically.

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

2/28: BBC reporter (b)(6) inquired about allegations from Brazilian nationals deported and in MPP, about conditions in CBP and ICE facilities.

No deadline.

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

2/28: NPR reporter (b)(6) will be publishing a story this week about Indian nationals claiming asylum, and how they work with smugglers for the long journey to the southwest border.

2/26: Breitbart reporter (b)(6) inquired about Chinese nationals apprehended for the last three months this FY and FY19. Deadline unknown.

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

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

3/2: (b)(6) of Federal Computer Week is preparing an article on CBP's recent blockchain proof of concept, which is intended to protect American businesses from intellectual property rights violations.

(b)(6) asked about the number of companies that participated in the proof of concept (7), which products were tracked (none – fictitious transactions were used to test proof of concept), and which open standards and specifications were used. OPA replied with information provided by Trade. Tone is expected to be neutral.

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

#### **Technology:**

2/27: Defense Daily's (b)(6) following up on C1s testimony this morning, seeks clarification concerning the Autonomous Surveillance Towers program. OPA and the Innovation Office provided a same day response.

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

2/25: VICE Media's Tech outlet, Motherboard, via reporter (b)(6) is asking for a statement from CBP based on their data collection of 500 iPhone search warrants for calendar year 2019. The warrants included Federal, State and Local, though the majority of the cases were Federal. He cites the fact that the court system VICE utilized, PACER, leans in that direction as part of its design. His deadline is the end of this week. OPA has contacted the CBP Privacy Office for guidance. The reporter indicates that he is likely to also send queries to other DHS components, so a joint response might be wise.

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

1/30: Voice of America's (b)(6) following up with ONDCP on the 12 December announcement of the winner of the Opioid detection challenge, would like to shoot interviews and footage of canine handlers and dogs going through Fentanyl detection training. OPA is working with the Front Royal Canine Training Facility to target an early March shooting window, to document OFO classroom and active canine/handler training.

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

2/13 – Update: VOA and Front Royal have selected the week of 09 March to record footage at the training facility. Specifics details TBD.

#### **SOUTHWEST BORDER:**

2/5: OPA responded to multiple media outlets inquiring about a death in custody at the Brackettville Border Patrol Station. The following approved statement was issued: "U.S. Border Patrol agents assigned to the Brackettville Station arrested a 32-year-old male United States citizen Tuesday at 3:30 p.m., CST, after he was identified as a suspect in an alien smuggling incident. At around 6 p.m., during processing at the Brackettville Station, the man began exhibiting signs of distress and EMT-certified agents immediately administered first aid and then



contacted Emergency Medical Services as his health deteriorated. At around 6:40 p.m., EMS arrived and transported the subject by ambulance to a local hospital. He was pronounced deceased by medical personnel at 9:37 p.m.”

3/5: UPDATE - (b)(6) CBS News, requested additional information after receiving a report from the local sheriff. The following statement was provided: “U.S. Border Patrol agents assigned to the Brackettville Station arrested United States citizen (b)(6) (b)(6) 32, at 3:30 p.m., Feb. 4. (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) had been identified as a co-principal of an alien smuggling case. At 6:05 p.m., while detained at the Brackettville station for processing, the man became agitated and an Emergency Medical Technician-certified Border Patrol agent was contacted. At 6:11 p.m. the EMT took the man outside into the sally port for fresh air. EMT certified Border Patrol agents administered medical care, and after determining more advanced care was required, requested emergency medical assistance at 6:26 p.m. Investigation in the incident is ongoing. ‘Having Emergency Medical Technicians at our disposal has been a great asset to our daily operations,’ said Acting Chief Patrol Agent (b)(6), (b)(7)(C). ‘It is devastating that besides all the efforts our EMTs and local medical professionals the life of the individual could not be saved. We will continue to work with local law enforcement to identify the cause of death.’”

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

3/2: USA Today Austin-based correspondent (b)(6) is writing a story about how the border is preparing for coronavirus and if there was anything specific CBP was doing. Put together language from the existing Coronavirus PAG but HQ OPA advised a SWB-specific FAQ was forthcoming and also the Iran-specific language was forthcoming. Will hold pending the latest language. Advised reporter I am checking into it.

3/4 update: Following RTQ language provided to reporter:

**Attributable to a CBP official:**

*U.S. Customs and Border Protection continues to facilitate the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) enhanced health screening of travelers entering or attempting to enter the United States with a nexus to mainland China or Iran due to the outbreak of coronavirus (COVID-19).*

*Consistent with CBP’s procedures, and in accordance with the January 31 and February 29 Presidential Proclamations, exempted individuals encountered by CBP with a nexus to China or Iran within 14 days of the encounter or with symptoms of illness are referred to CDC or local health officials for additional health screening.*

*All CBP ports of entry are following the same operational guidance as issued by the Presidential Proclamation and the Department of Homeland Security.*

*With exceptions specified in the Proclamations, foreign nationals (other than immediate family of U.S. citizens, permanent residents, and flight crew) who have been physically present in China or Iran within 14 days of their arrival at a U.S. port of entry will be denied entry into the United States.*

*Additionally, any traveler exempted from the Proclamations who has been in anywhere in mainland China or Iran within 14 days of their return will be referred to CDC for additional health screening.*

*CDC has added health screening capabilities at Blaine, Buffalo, and San Ysidro.*

*Preclearance locations are following the same protocols as the land border ports and referring individuals requiring additional screening to CDC or local health officials.*

*Consistent with existing CBP procedures, individuals apprehended by U.S. Border Patrol between the ports of entry with symptoms of illness*

are referred to CDC or local health officials for additional health screening.

Additionally, all persons in U.S. Border Patrol custody who meet the CDC's coronavirus travel history and enhanced screening guidelines are being referred to CDC for additional screening.

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

3/3 (b)(6) from the Reuters Television in Los Angeles sent a request for an interview. (b)(6) would like Border Patrol to speak on our tunnel discoveries, specifically the most recent one in Nogales, AZ. TCA PIO will utilize the latest tunnel talking points and our latest press release about the unfinished tunnel at the Nogales Border. Our team plans to meet (b)(6) in Nogales and give her access to film inside the Morley tunnel.

PIO/BCL (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

- Deadline: 03/10/2020
- Request Type: stand up interview
- Outlet: Reuters Television
- Market: Los Angeles/National
- Language: Spanish
- Reporter/Producer: (b)(6)
- Reporter/Producer Contact information: (b)(6)
- Phone number: (b)(6)
- Program: TBD
- Probable air date: TBA
- Story focus: Tunnel discoveries in Nogales
- Probable tone/angle: Neutral

The source of the interview will be the recent Press Release detailing the discovery of the 126<sup>th</sup> Cross-Border Tunnel discovery in the Nogales, Arizona area.

- Tucson Sector agents and Mexico's Guardia Nacional located the tunnel's entrance in the floor of the existing Grand Avenue Drainage System in Mexico.
- The tunnel, located approximately 580 yards west of the DeConcini Port of Entry, is hand-dug with no shoring, ventilation or lighting.
- The tunnel runs approximately 15-20 feet underground at its deepest point and extends approximately 30 feet from beginning to end, where the cartel left it incomplete.
- U.S. authorities will continuously monitor the area until they remediate the tunnel.
- This is the 126th tunnel discovered in the Tucson Sector since 1990 and the second discovered mid-completion this fiscal year.
- Efforts such as tunnel sweeps aim to disrupt smuggling organizations and prevent the smuggling of narcotics and humans across the border.

3/3: (b)(6) CMG Atlanta has requested a media engagement with Tucson Sector regarding drug tunnels. Response: Pending TCA scheduling

Deadline: 4/5 Broadcast: 4/23 Tone: Positive

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

3/3: (b)(6) Type Investigations, queried AZ CBP on how many and what types of plants are being moved and being affected at Organ Pipe National Monument. Response: Pending Wall Task Force input.

Deadline: 3/6 Publication: 3/8 Tone: Negative

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

3/3: Vertical Valor magazine is completing an article and photospread on the San Diego Air and Marine Branch, similar to the project they just completed on the Yuma Air

Branch: [https://assets.verticalmag.com/digital/2020/Valor\\_Winter/index.html](https://assets.verticalmag.com/digital/2020/Valor_Winter/index.html) The project is approved by AMO HQ and will proceed over the month of March.

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

3/2: Reporter (b)(6) with Univision wanted to meet with San Diego Sector Chief (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) and interview him regarding the dangers of crossing in light of recent deaths in the mountain and in the ocean. Reporter asked for 3/3. Checking Chief's availability.

3/3: Held interview. Basic questions on challenges observed in SDC, dangers of crossing, processing of UAC, and countries of interest. Positive coverage expected. Should air this week on Univision.

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

3/2: Reporter (b)(6) with the Voice of America wanted to do a human-interest piece on Division Chief (b)(6) (San Diego Union Tribune did a piece). He declined but we have Acting Deputy Chief (b)(6) willing to provide her perspective on being an agent, changes she has seen over the years, presently challenges, etc. It would be videotaped and would occur during a drive along the border. Proposed date is 3/11.

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

3/2: Reporter (b)(6) with Univision wanted to meet with San Diego Sector Chief (b)(6) and interview him regarding the dangers of crossing in light of recent deaths in the mountain and in the ocean. Reporter asked for 3/3. Checking Chief's availability.

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

3/2: The Intercept reporter (b)(6) is writing about an asylum seeking MPP family that was caught in limbo Friday between the two MPP decisions. An attorney representing the family was unable to locate them but eventually did after conferring with CBP OFO leadership at the port. The attorney shared email correspondence between her and the port with the reporter. Reporter is asking for confirmation and additional content related to the matter. OPA provided the following locally cleared statement: CBP is precluded from confirming or discussing individual asylum cases for privacy reasons. All cases are handled on a case-by-case basis. Please direct your EOIR questions to EOIR. Negative tone anticipated.

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

3/2: OPA/EI Paso handled numerous media inquiries Friday night/Saturday morning regarding temporary closure of the El Paso POE Friday night and into Saturday. OPA shared two tweets about the closure and also the following statement. "CBP officers stopped the flow of northbound traffic at the Paso Del Norte bridge at approximately 7:20 p.m. Friday in an effort to eliminate the ability for a large group of migrants that had formed on the Mexican side of the border to illegally

and forcefully surge through the ports of entry. This step helps CBP ensure safety of travelers, facilities and CBP employees. It is anticipated that the facility will remain closed until Saturday morning. Other crossings in El Paso remain open." There was limited speculation that it was coronavirus linked but OPA advised that it was not.

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

3/2: (b)(6) Reuters News Service, inquired about the trend of UACs presenting at the Brownsville Port of Entry, if we have seen this, did we have any stats on UACs and inquired about specific cases involving two UACs. Consulted with HQ OPA, LFO mgmt., drafted the following RTQ, which met with their concurrence:

Attributable to a CBP official:

CBP does not discuss individual cases for privacy reasons. Generally, those migrants not otherwise amenable to MPP are turned over to ICE-ERO or HHS-ORR depending on the specifics of their respective cases. Those who are amenable to MPP are returned to Mexico pending their next hearing. Unaccompanied alien children and aliens in expedited removal proceedings will not be subject to MPP. CBP determines whether an alien is amenable for the Migrant Protection Protocols on a case-by-case basis.

The Fiscal Year to Date 2020 statistics we have available on unaccompanied alien children are found here:

<https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/sw-border-migration/oyo-sw-border-inadmissibles>

Statistics are not broken down below the Field Office level.

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

3/2: USA Today Austin-based correspondent (b)(6) is writing a story about how the border is preparing for coronavirus and if there was anything specific CBP was doing. Put together language from the existing Coronavirus PAG but HQ OPA advised a SWB-specific FAQ was forthcoming and also the Iran-specific language was forthcoming. Will hold pending the latest language. Advised reporter I am checking into it.

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

2/20: (b)(6) The Intercept is working a story on fatal vehicle wreck that occurred in El Paso January 29. The vehicle involved was fleeing from USBP after agents spotted the driver load a group of aliens that had just crossed the border. Moments after fleeing the pickup location the agent came upon the crash site in south El Paso. The reporter claims that she spoke to a BPA who witnessed a portion of the pursuit and heard the rest of it play out on agency radios. The unnamed agent claims BP was operating at a high rate of speed and driver was unfamiliar with El Paso implying that BP caused the wreck. She is also asking about general pursuit policy and if any discipline has been administered. EPPD did issue a news release when the event occurred citing the fatality and that the driver was arrested for multiple charges including drunk driving. Deadline is Friday. Negative tone anticipated.

2/28 UPDATE: Article posted <https://theintercept.com/2020/02/28/border-patrol-el-paso-texas-car-chase/>

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

2/27: San Diego Union Tribune journalist (b)(6) is working on a long-form explainer piece that shows how people move through the immigration court system after arriving at the border. As a part of this story, (b)(6) requested a pen and pad tour of the port of entry for herself and the paper's graphic designer, to include the holding and processing areas of the port of entry (as it is one portion of the process.) The tour will take place Thursday, Feb. 27.

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

2/27: Albuquerque Journal reporter (b)(6) is writing about border wall construction in the state of New Mexico. He is looking for basic factual material to include completed/ongoing projects, funding sources, contractors, etc. OPA working with border wall task force to provide answers.

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

2/27: Newsy reporter/anchor (b)(6) is in El Paso and requesting a Border Patrol ride along. He wants to do a story on the current immigration crisis and what has changed in the last year. He may be trying to tie this to the super Tuesday election which includes Texas. Border Patrol considering.

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

1/22: (b)(6) Wall to Wall Productions, & (b)(6) CBP OPA, contacted CBP AZ to plan a documentary film shoot in Tucson with all three components on approximately March 2, 2020. The production is an educational program for National Geographic on the history of the drug crisis in America. It will be historically focused on the drug wars of 1911, but framed by today's current drug crisis. Planning and coordination to follow. (b)(6) would like to spend time with Tucson Air Branch, the Port of Nogales, and BP in Tucson and/or Nogales, to see drug seizures, smuggling tunnels, air interdictions, and horse patrol if possible.

Deadline: March 2020 Broadcast: TBD Tone: Positive

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

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

3/5: WDMV reporter (b)(6) interviewed Area Port of Washington DC (Dulles) agriculture specialists, including agriculture K9 team, for a story on CBP's agriculture safeguarding mission. The reporter observed AQI K9 operations and secondary baggage examinations. Story is expected to air tonight.

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

3/5 WBNS Columbus, OH, CBS affiliate, reporter (b)(6) requested information on how Japanese and Chinese spectators were allowed through customs to attend the Arnold Sports Classic when there is a ban on people coming from these countries. The reporter was told Japanese travelers are not banned. When questioned for names of the Chinese travelers, the reporter could not provide any. The reporter was told without names we are unable to provide an answer to his question. However, he was told we don't know how long the Chinese attendees were in the country, they may have been in the US before the proclamation went into effect. The reporter was also told we are able to see the traveler's travel history, and every passenger is thoroughly screened before being admitted to the US. Additional information from the PAG concerning foreign travelers entering the U.S. was also sent  
Tone: Neutral-Negative.

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

3/5: CBP along with Terminal 4 management & Port Authority will be hosting an open media event to announce Simplified Arrival on Thursday 12 March terminal 4, JFK. Port Director (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) will be representing CBP.

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

3/3: National NBC reporter (b)(6) spoke with the Chicago Field Office (CFO) concerning past seizures of counterfeit Juul products. It was explained how experienced CBP officers are exceptional at

spotting counterfeits, how vital CEE's are and the role they play, and our work with other government agencies. Pictures from recent seizures within CFO were shared. Tone: Positive

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

3/3: (b)(6) reporter for the Miami Herald, queried reports in Puerto Rico about the allegations from a YouTube video placed by a Social media personality, (b)(6) who alleges that a CBP officer sexually assaulted her last week before she was denied entry into the country. The reporter shared the post

<https://www.meganoticias.cl/tendencias/293435-geri-hoops-puerto-rico-que-le-paso-instagram.html>. A short statement was provided. Negative tone expected. "CBP does not tolerate inappropriate behavior or misconduct, and any such conduct does not reflect our values of vigilance, integrity and professionalism. We strongly advise travelers to file a formal complaint so alleged misconduct is properly investigated."

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

3/3: (b)(6) reporter for the St. Croix Avis requested more information and WKAQ 580 Radio contacted OPA for a live radio interview regarding a CBP news release on the seizure of 1724 pounds of cocaine and of \$1.3 million dollars in two separate

incidents. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/us-border-patrol-fura-seize-1724-pounds-cocaine-and-13-million-two>

Positive tone.

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

3/2: FOX24 anchor (b)(6) to feature CBP in Charleston, S.C. for an on the job at seaport. Taping with OFO leadership, officers and specialists occurred in late February covering an overview of operations and career opportunity's with CBP. Tone: Positive Airing: March 2

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

3/2: Editor with Noonsite, a marine association website requesting information for private vessels entering into the US and the COVID-19 concern. Per our EOC, redirected to USCG Dist. 7 "private vessels (marine) will fall under U.S. Coast Guard Marine Safety Information Bulletins (MSIB) guidance, in coordination with CDC."

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

3/2: (b)(6) NBC News Investigations Producer, reached out to OPA Puerto Rico interested in doing a piece on CBP seizures of counterfeit juuls/vapes. Pending a call on background for some context on the topic. Final production of the piece TBD.

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

2/25: Associated Press Correspondent (b)(6) conducted an interview with Swanton Sector CPA (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) and Houlton Sector (a)CPA (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) regarding cross-border activity in the northeast region. The genesis for the interview was a FOIA request the reporter received for data for Present Without Admission from Canada (PWAC) broken down by sector, year and nationality for the last 5 fiscal years. Since the reporter had all the data, OPA felt it was in CBP's best interest to engage the reporter to provide appropriate context to the numbers. The reporter was most interested in the increase in PWAC numbers and the existence of TCOs along the northern border—specifically the Swanton and Houlton Sectors. Tone is expected to be positive. Publish date: TBD

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

2/24: WWJ Radio Editor (b)(6) has requested to speak with all three CBP components in regards to a long form PODCAST he is working on in regards to the northern border in Detroit. Reporter is

looking to talk about issues that take place on the southern border and how they play out along the northern border, along with everyday operations. Currently in coordination with editor to arrange for interviews.

3/2 UPDATE: Detroit Sector CPA (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) will complete a telephonic interview with (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) on Tuesday March 3, at 0930. Great Lakes Air and Marine Branch Director (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) will complete a telephonic interview on Wednesday March 4, at 1000hrs, and Detroit Field Office DFO Christopher Perry will complete a telephonic interview with the reporter on Thursday March 5, at 0930hrs.

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

Message

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

Sent: 1/22/2020 8:42:45 PM

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

Subject: RE: Meet and Greet

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

From: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@cbp.dhs.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, January 22, 2020 3:33 PM

To: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@cbp.dhs.gov>; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@cbp.dhs.gov>

Cc: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@cbp.dhs.gov>

Subject: Meet and Greet

Afternoon gents,

I'm planning to have coffee with NYT's (b)(6) and Daily Caller's (b)(6) tomorrow. These will be informal meet and greets to put faces to names.

Thanks,

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

Special Operations Supervisor | U.S. Border Patrol

USBP Liaison to CBP Public Affairs

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP)

1300 Pennsylvania Ave, Washington D.C., 20004

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



Message

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

Sent: 2/7/2020 6:33:22 PM

To:

CC:

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

Subject: RE: TPs for Travel Show

Thank you (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) I got several papers covering coronavirus and the GE announcement. I think they are good for this show.

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

From: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@cbp.dhs.gov>

Sent: Friday, February 7, 2020 1:04 PM

To: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@CBP.DHS.GOV>

Cc: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@cbp.dhs.gov>; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@cbp.dhs.gov>;

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@cbp.dhs.gov>

Subject: TPs for Travel Show

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

Apologies for the slow response. We've been fully focused on DHS's Global Entry announcement.

I've attached to this message some talking points adapted from XD (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) (ultimately undelivered) remarks for the Trade and Travel Report rollout. Also some Q&A about Global Entry, biometric entry-exit, and a topline Q&A on coronavirus from (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) FAQ.

Looping in (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) for their feedback.

Best wishes,

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

Office of Public Affairs

U.S. Customs and Border Protection

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

From: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@CBP.DHS.GOV>

Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2020 10:07 AM

To: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@cbp.dhs.gov>

Cc: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@cbp.dhs.gov>

Subject: RE: Media Wrap Up for NY Global Entry Suspension

Thanks (b)(6), (b)(7)(C). The attached are talking points for this weekend Travel and Adventure Show. Can you take a look to see if we need to change anything. I am not too concern about any negative questions but I want OFO and the booth staff to be prepared.

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

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**From:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 6, 2020 8:12 AM  
**To:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Cc:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @CBP.DHS.GOV>; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @CBP.DHS.GOV>  
**Subject:** RE: Media Wrap Up for NY Global Entry Suspension

Attached is a clean version, approved by OFO/TTP Director (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

Looping in (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

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**From:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 6, 2020 7:31 AM  
**To:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Cc:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Media Wrap Up for NY Global Entry Suspension

For the 8 a.m. I'd like to forward this on to DEAC (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) team in advance of this morning's testimony and to our PAOs in the field, if appropriate.

**BLUF:** Fox News, CNN, the Wall Street Journal, the New York Times and other national news outlets are reporting on a DHS decision yesterday to suspend the ability of New York residents to apply for or re-enroll in CBP's Trusted Traveler Programs (TTP). In a letter to the Commissioner of the New York Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) dated February 5, DHS Secretary Chad Wolf explained that New York's "Green Light Law" prohibits CBP access to Department of Motor Vehicle (DMV) records and thereby "compromises CBP's ability to confirm whether an individual applying for TTP membership meets program eligibility requirements."

**Background:**

Officially called the "Driver's License Access and Privacy Act," New York's Green Light Law allows undocumented immigrants to use foreign-issued documents to prove their age and identity when applying for a driver's license. The law also prohibits state officials from providing DMV records to CBP, ICE and USCIS unless ordered to do so by a judge. Passed on June 17, 2019, the law took effect on December 16, 2019.

Without access to New York DMV information, CBP cannot complete vetting of TTP applications and renewals submitted by New York residents. New York residents will no longer be eligible to apply for or renew membership in CBP Trusted Traveler Programs. CBP will cancel pending TTP applications submitted by New York residents. New York residents who are currently enrolled in TTP will retain their benefits until their membership expires.

**What People Are Saying:**

- DHS Secretary Chad Wolf announced the decision yesterday evening on Fox News' (b)(6) stating that "When we talk about CBP's Trusted Traveler Programs, like Global Entry... they use that DMV data to make sure those individuals are low-risk and meet the eligibility requirements..."

- (b)(6) an advisor to New York Governor Andrew Cuomo, claimed that the move “is obviously political retaliation by the federal government...”
- Former Acting ICE Director (b)(6) said “This is just irrational in the sense that sanctuary policies in no way shape or form affect DHS’ ability to vet people for Global Entry and other Trusted Traveler Programs... It’s ridiculous, and it’s politicizing a program that’s not about politics.”
- *The New York Times*, CNN and other media outlets have tied the decision to President Trump’s remarks against sanctuary cities during his State of the Union address on February 4.

**Coverage:**

- DHS Suspends Global Entry, Trusted Traveler Programs for New York Residents in Response to Sanctuary Laws  
[Video]  
Fox News • (b)(6) • February 5, 2020
- DHS Bans New Yorkers from Global Entry and Other Programs Over State Law Allowing Undocumented Immigrants to Get Driver’s Licenses  
CNN • (b)(6) • February 6, 2020
- Trump Administration Freezes Global Entry Enrollment in New York Over Immigration Law  
*The New York Times* • (b)(6) • February 6, 2020
- Homeland Security Suspends Enrollment of New Yorkers in Global Entry  
*The Wall Street Journal* • (b)(6) • February 6, 2020
- Trump Suspends Global Entry, Traveler Programs for New York Residents Over ‘Sanctuary’ Policies  
*The Washington Post* • (b)(6) • February 5, 2020
- New York Residents Can No Longer Sign Up for Global Entry, DHS Chief Says  
NBC 4 New York • February 6, 2020

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

Office of Public Affairs

U.S. Customs and Border Protection

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

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov

Message

**From:** (b)(6)@americasvoicenews.com]

**Sent:** 2/17/2020 7:24:47 PM

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

**CC:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@cbp.dhs.gov

**Subject:** Media Question

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.

Hello,

My name is (b)(6) with America's Voice News...Would you be able to confirm that the Elite Tactical Agents who are assisting ICE in Sanctuary cities, have been deployed?

If you can confirm cities (I'm seeing reports that Boston has been confirmed) but if that is information you do not want out, I completely understand.

Also I am seeing that 10 cities are being targeted for the specialized assistance, can you confirm?

Thank you very much for your help.

(b)(6)

Contact

---

Full Name:

(b)(6)

E-mail:

(b)(6)

Message

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

Sent: 2/4/2020 12:50:25 PM

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

Subject: RE: NYT inquiry

I'm checking with OFO

From: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, February 4, 2020 6:56 AM

To: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>;

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @CBP.DHS.GOV>

Subject: FW: NYT inquiry

I am seeing a bunch of "Do Not Boards" on the MX-JSP report, but can't find anything about a Canadian.

Anybody have anything I can confirm with (b)(6)?

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

Assistant Chief, USBPHQ  
CBP Office of Public Affairs - Media Division

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) (iPhone)  
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) (Desk)

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov

From: (b)(6)

Sent: Monday, February 3, 2020 11:37 PM

To: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>

Subject: Fwd: NYT inquiry

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.

If you can help with this in the AM, I would appreciate it

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

From: (b)(6)

Date: Mon, Feb 3, 2020 at 11:29 PM

Subject: NYT inquiry

To: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>, cbpmediarelations

<CBPMediaRelations@cbp.dhs.gov>

Hello. Would someone please confirm that a Canadian was deemed inadmissible at the border due to coronavirus concerns? How many people total have been deemed inadmissible due to the coronavirus since Friday?

Please get back to me by the AM. Ken Cuccinelli apparently already gave this information to CNN so it should be something that can be confirmed.

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/02/03/politics/border-coronavirus-travel-restrictions/index.html>

Thanks,

(b)(6)

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(b)(6)

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)

(b)(6)

Message

**From:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(E)  
**Sent:** 2/13/2020 11:01:00 PM  
**To:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(E)  
**Subject:** Fwd: NYT Inquiry

This is operation sub zero. I sent you a partial PAG a few weeks ago.

*Sent from my iPhone*

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

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Date:** February 13, 2020 at 5:51:04 PM EST  
**To:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov> (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)  
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>, cbpmediarelations <cbpmediarelations@cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** NYT Inquiry

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.

Hello all,

My colleagues and I are preparing to publish a story that says CBP has approved an ICE request to send agents, including the special operations group BORTAC, to cities across the US, including so-called "sanctuary cities" to help ERO with immigration enforcement. Please let me know if you have comment or added context for this.

I will need something ASAP as this could publish later tonight online.

Thanks,

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Homeland Security Correspondent

The New York Times

Cell/WhatsApp/Signal: (b)(6)

(b)(6)



Message

**From:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(E)  
**Sent:** 2/29/2020 12:00:27 AM  
**To:** cbpmediarelations; (b)(7)(E)  
(b)(7)(E)  
**Subject:** FW: NY Times on MPP

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**From:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)  
**Sent:** Friday, February 28, 2020 5:35 PM  
**To:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@cbp.dhs.gov; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@cbp.dhs.gov;  
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@cbp.dhs.gov  
**Subject:** NY Times on MPP

(b)(6) and (b)(6) – have both called me asking if, at this point, CBP employees have been told to stop processing for MPP? (b)(6) 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)



U.S. Customs and  
Border Protection

Message

**From:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(E)  
**Sent:** 3/4/2020 12:44:07 AM  
**To:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(E)  
**Subject:** Fwd: NYT Request

Story on Operation Sub zERO.

USBP offered Commander (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) to do this from USBP Special Ops to give clarity for this story.

(b)(6) is hearing from BORTAC members that they think this deployment is a waste of their skill set.

Interview is via phone at 1000 eastern/0800 mountain.

*Sent from my iPad*

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)  
Assistant Chief, USBPHQ  
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** (b)(6)  
**Date:** March 3, 2020 at 4:44:01 PM EST  
**To:** cbpmediarelations <cbpmediarelations@cbp.dhs.gov>, (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)  
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>, (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)  
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** NYT Request

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.

Hello,

We're working on a follow up to CBP redeployment, which includes BORTAC agents, to supplement ERO operations. **Any context you would like to include is appreciated.** We're writing that HSI agents are also being transferred for this operation. Two specific questions I have...

1. We've heard from those within BORTAC specifically that there is frustration in the unit about this redeployment on it not being the best use of their skills. Any comment on this?
2. I'm also curious 1. Where the BORTAC agents came from (what sector/location) and 2. how many TOTAL BORTAC agents are there? Not just the total number deployment but the total number in CBP.

If you can have something back ASAP, I would appreciate it. Deadline would be tomorrow morning.

Thanks,

(b)(6)

Homeland Security Correspondent

The New York Times

Cell/WhatsApp/Signal: (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Message

**From:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(E)  
**Sent:** 3/26/2020 9:40:15 PM  
**To:**  
**CC:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(E)  
**Subject:** RE: UACs

Are we using that phrase externally?

---

**From:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 26, 2020 5:39 PM  
**To:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Cc:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@cbp.dhs.gov>; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@cbp.dhs.gov>;  
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: UACs

(b)(5)

*Sent from my iPhone*

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

On Mar 26, 2020, at 5:23 PM, (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@cbp.dhs.gov>  
wrote:

Good evening friends ☺

Any guidance from OPA mgmt. on how we are handling these new UAC requests? (b)(5)  
(b)(5) See highlight in the email below from BuzzFeed.

The last time we answered this it was to (b)(6), as of 3/20.

“UACs are still being turned over to HHS/ORR.”

(b)(5), (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

With language from this. (Waiting to see if he replied to her or not, he may not have).

**Q. Will Unaccompanied Alien Children be subject to the CDC Order?**

(b)(5)

Either way, (b)(6) is referencing (b)(6) as being the first to report this, but (b)(6) doesn't have an article, and hasn't reached out to CBP since March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**From:** (b)(6) @buzzfeed.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 26, 2020 5:10 PM  
**To:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: UACs

As part of the recent closure of the borders to all but essential traffic, a Customs and Border Protection spokesman initially said that young migrants traveling without an adult guardian would be exempted from the new policy, and admitted to shelters run by the Department of Health and Human Services.

But on Thursday, (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) a different spokesman for the agency, said that migrant children were being quickly returned to their home countries on a "case by case basis," rather than being admitted and considered for asylum in the United States.

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) said that under the new policy, the legal designation of "unaccompanied alien child" no longer applied to young migrants who crossed the border alone — nor did the longstanding legal protections attached to the term.

On Thu, Mar 26, 2020 at 2:08 PM (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov> wrote:

What's the statement?

**From:** (b)(6) @buzzfeed.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 26, 2020 4:57 PM  
**To:** cbpmediarelations <cbpmediarelations@cbp.dhs.gov>; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** UACs

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.

Can I get the same statement given to the NYT on UACs? (b)(6)

-----

--

(b)(6) Immigration Reporter, BuzzFeed News

(b)(6)

--

(b)(6) Immigration Reporter, BuzzFeed News

Message

**From:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(E)  
**Sent:** 3/27/2020 12:05:49 AM  
**To:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(E)  
**Subject:** RE: UACs

Let's use the statement that I just sent back to (b)(6), (b)(7)(C). Otherwise, we need to explain to the 1035s how this works. (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) should be on the phone with them so that he can explain and they can ask questions is need be.

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

(A) Deputy Assistant Commissioner  
Office of Public Affairs  
Customs and Border Protection  
Cell: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

---

**From:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 26, 2020 5:27 PM  
**To:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Fwd: UACs

Guidance for my people on this?

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Date:** March 26, 2020 at 5:23:20 PM EDT  
**To:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@cbp.dhs.gov>, (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)  
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Cc:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@cbp.dhs.gov>, (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)  
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: UACs

Good evening friends ☺

Any guidance from OPA mgmt. on how we are handling these new UAC requests? (b)(5)  
(b)(5) See highlight in the email below  
from Buzzfeed.

The last time we answered this it was to (b)(6)  
(b)(6) as of 3/20.

"UACs are still being turned over to HHS/ORR."

(b)(5), (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

With language from this. (Waiting to see if he replied to her or not, he may not have).

**Q. Will Unaccompanied Alien Children be subject to the CDC Order?**

(b)(5)

Either way, (b)(6) is referencing (b)(6) as being the first to report this, but (b)(6) doesn't have an article, and hasn't reached out to CBP since March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

---

**From:** (b)(6)@buzzfeed.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 26, 2020 5:10 PM  
**To:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: UACs

As part of the recent closure of the borders to all but essential traffic, a Customs and Border Protection spokesman initially said that young migrants traveling without an adult guardian would be exempted from the new policy, and admitted to shelters run by the Department of Health and Human Services.

But on Thursday (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) a different spokesman for the agency, said that migrant children were being quickly returned to their home countries on a "case by case basis," rather than being admitted and considered for asylum in the United States.

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) said that under the new policy, the legal designation of "unaccompanied alien child" no longer applied to young migrants who crossed the border alone — nor did the longstanding legal protections attached to the term.

On Thu, Mar 26, 2020 at 2:08 PM (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)  
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@cbp.dhs.gov> wrote:

What's the statement?

---

**From:** (b)(6)@buzzfeed.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 26, 2020 4:57 PM  
**To:** cbpmediarelations <cbpmediarelations@cbp.dhs.gov>; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)  
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** UACs

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.



Can I get the same statement given to the NYT on  
UACs?

(b)(6)

--

(b)(6)

Immigration Reporter, BuzzFeed News

(b)(6)

Immigration Reporter, BuzzFeed News

Message

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

Sent: 3/30/2020 7:58:29 PM

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

CC:

Subject: RE: NYT Question

Roger.

Sending...

Thanks,

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

From: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>

Sent: Monday, March 30, 2020 3:58 PM

To: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>

Cc: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>

Subject: Re: NYT Question

No issue from me

On Mar 30, 2020, at 3:57 PM, (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov> wrote:

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

I have a response to NY Times request concerning the fast tracking of a body armor purchase for CBP.

His Deadline is 1630 HRs today, so I am ready to send off this below response.

Unless you have an issue with this one??

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

The following may be attributed to a CBP Spokesperson:

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) received a DPAS rating for the body armor purchased under the DHS Body Armor contracts. A DPAS rating is defined as follows: The Defense Priorities and Allocations System (DPAS) is used to prioritize national defense-related contracts/orders throughout the U.S. supply chain in order to support military, energy, homeland security, emergency preparedness, and critical infrastructure requirements.

This rating was obtained because the Department of Defense (DoD) has obtained a DPAS rating on their body armor packages. This means that any body armor ordered by DOD automatically moves to the front of the production line ahead of any body armor ordered that does not have a DPAS rating. Homeland Security's mission is determined to be vital for national security, so we obtained a DPAS rating for DHS body armor as well. CBP body armor orders receive manufacturing priority with the body armor manufacturers we contract with much the same as body armor ordered by DOD.

From: (b)(6) @nytimes.com>

Sent: Monday, March 30, 2020 3:16 PM

To: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>

Subject: Re: NYT Question

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.

Okay. This is the name on all of the contracting websites:

**U.S. Customs and Border Protection**  
**Attn:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) **Contract Specialist**  
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov

On Mon, Mar 30, 2020 at 3:10 PM (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov> wrote:

(b)(6)

FYSA and Off the Record, I just now received two names with whom I can request a response. Navigating a bureaucracy can be fun.

As I expected, the response time on some topics is not as speedy as it is for other requests, where lives are at stake. I have asked for help from my affirmed POCs. Let's see what I can get you by your deadline.

If I fail, I'll let you know.

Thanks,'

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

---

**From:** (b)(6) @nytimes.com>

**Sent:** Monday, March 30, 2020 1:02 PM

**To:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov>

**Subject:** Re: NYT Question

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.

Okay, thank you. I'm hoping I can get a response today. Appreciate your efforts.

On Mon, Mar 30, 2020 at 1:01 PM (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov> wrote:

Off the record, and I understand, but personnel are primarily teleworking and response times on some queries can be affected. I dislike leaving a reporter hanging, so I wanted to give you the heads-up.

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

**From:** (b)(6)@nytimes.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 30, 2020 12:59 PM  
**To:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: NYT Question

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.

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

I'm not sure I see why this would take more than a day. DPA language is often inserted into priority contracts and I would think the Office of Acquisition with CBP would be able to pull this rather easily. I'm also aware that DHS turns over its DPA orders to Congress so this should be something that the agency can relay.

Thanks,

(b)(6)

On Mon, Mar 30, 2020 at 12:53 PM: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)  
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@cbp.dhs.gov> wrote:

Roger. Thought as much, but wanted to be sure.

Off the record, I'll do what I can for you, but same day might be tough. It's an oddball question.

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

**From:** (b)(6)@nytimes.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 30, 2020 12:51 PM  
**To:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: NYT Question

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.

Hi, (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) I appreciate you flagging the clarification! I'm referring to the Defense Production Act.

Thank you.

On Mon, Mar 30, 2020 at 12:46 PM: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)  
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov> wrote:

(b)(6)

Thanks for your inquiry.

You'll have to be patient with me, Sir. DPA traditionally stands for Delegation of Procurement Authority... though it could also stand for the Defense Production Act. Before I engage with any of our contract folks to learn more, I'd like to make certain we are on the same sheet of music.

What is your deadline?

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

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

Public Affairs Specialist – Media Division

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP)

Office of Public Affairs (OPA)

1300 Pennsylvania Ave, NW

Washington, DC 20229

Office: Ronald Reagan BLDG (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)

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

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

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov

**From:** (b)(6)@nytimes.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 30, 2020 12:36 PM  
**To:** cbpmediarelations <cbpmediarelations@cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: NYT Question

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.

Hi. Just circling this request to the top of the inbox. Thank you.

On Sun, Mar 29, 2020 at 6:37 PM (b)(6)  
(b)(6)@nytimes.com> wrote:

Hello there,

I'm working on a story that examines previous times the administration prioritized a contract with DPA authority. I'm told by an official with the Office of Policy and Planning with FEMA that the contract detailed below with prioritized with DPA authority. Is this true? And if so, under Title I or III of the law?

<https://www.hesco.com/explore/news/us-customs-and-border-protection/>

<https://www.armorexpress.com/category/department-of-homeland-security/>

[https://www.armorexpress.com/ae\\_uscbp/](https://www.armorexpress.com/ae_uscbp/)

Thanks so much.

(b)(6)

Homeland Security Correspondent

The New York Times

Cell/WhatsApp/Signal: (b)(6)

(b)(6)

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(b)(6)

Homeland Security Correspondent

The New York Times

Cell/WhatsApp/Signal: (b)(6)

(b)(6)

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(b)(6)

Homeland Security Correspondent

The New York Times

Cell/WhatsApp/Signal: (b)(6)

(b)(6)

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(b)(6)

Homeland Security Correspondent

The New York Times

Cell/WhatsApp/Signal: (b)(6)

(b)(6)

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(b)(6)

Homeland Security Correspondent

The New York Times

Cell/WhatsApp/Signal: (b)(6)

(b)(6)

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(b)(6)

Homeland Security Correspondent

The New York Times

Cell/WhatsApp/Signal: (b)(6)



(b)(6)

Message

**From:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(E)  
**Sent:** 11/8/2019 7:03:47 PM  
**To:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(E)  
**Subject:** RE: Looking to find out more about this...

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C) and her folks are on this.

**From:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 8, 2019 2:02 PM  
**To:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@cbp.dhs.gov>; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Looking to find out more about this...

He's out of town for two weeks overseas starting tomorrow FYI...

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** (b)(6)@nytimes.com>  
**Date:** November 8, 2019 at 1:44:06 PM EST  
**To:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Cc:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@cbp.dhs.gov>; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Looking to find out more about this...

Thanks. As we discussed on call, I'm standing by for more information THIS AFTERNOON.

On Fri, Nov 8, 2019 at 10:53 AM (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@cbp.dhs.gov> wrote:

Got it.

Adding (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) who is following up on this. (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) is our new acting director of media relations, holding the fort down while (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) focuses on the Commissioner.

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

**From:** (b)(6)@nytimes.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 8, 2019 10:42 AM  
**To:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Looking to find out more about this...

The pilot program, titled Humanitarian Asylum Review Process (HARP), targets Mexicans seeking asylum in the US who present themselves at the border in the El Paso, Texas, area by placing them in Border Patrol custody and processing their asylum screenings within 10 days.

<https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/hamedaleaziz/asylum-pilot-program-border-mexico-deport-trump>

--

(b)(6)

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)

(b)(6)

Message

**From:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(E)  
**Sent:** 11/8/2019 7:01:12 PM  
**To:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(E)  
**Subject:** FW: Looking to find out more about this...

FYI

**From:** (b)(6)@nytimes.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 8, 2019 1:44 PM  
**To:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Cc:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@cbp.dhs.gov>; (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Looking to find out more about this...

Thanks. As we discussed on call, I'm standing by for more information THIS AFTERNOON.

On Fri, Nov 8, 2019 at 10:53 AM (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@cbp.dhs.gov> wrote:

Got it.

Adding (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) who is following up on this. (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) is our new acting director of media relations, holding the fort down while (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) focuses on the Commissioner.

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

**From:** (b)(6)@nytimes.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 8, 2019 10:42 AM  
**To:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Looking to find out more about this...

The pilot program, titled Humanitarian Asylum Review Process (HARP), targets Mexicans seeking asylum in the US who present themselves at the border in the El Paso, Texas, area by placing them in Border Patrol custody and processing their asylum screenings within 10 days.

<https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/hamedaleaziz/asylum-pilot-program-border-mexico-deport-trump>

(b)(6)

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)

(b)(6)

Message

**From:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(E)  
**Sent:** 12/12/2019 5:54:45 PM  
**To:** (b)(6)@nytimes.com]  
**Subject:** RE: Re:

All good. See you next week. 11 am Wednesday 12/18 at CBP HQ

**From:** (b)(6)@nytimes.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 12, 2019 12:52 PM  
**To:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Re:

That's great. I'll be there. Did you just try to call me? I'm on a ride along at the border, apologies.

On Thu, Dec 12, 2019 at 11:41 AM (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@cbp.dhs.gov> wrote:  
Small group of reporters next Wednesday at 11 am for pad and pen with Mr. Morgan and I wanted to invite you

On Dec 12, 2019, at 12:35 PM, (b)(6)@nytimes.com> wrote:

I'll be in DC. What's going on?

On Thu, Dec 12, 2019 at 11:33 AM (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@cbp.dhs.gov> wrote:

(b)(6) Are you in DC next Wednesday, 12/18 or still on travel?

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

Director, CBP Media Relations Division (A)

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

--

(b)(6)  
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)

(b)(6)

Message

**From:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(E)  
**Sent:** 2/14/2020 1:53:04 PM  
**To:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(E)  
**Subject:** Fwd: NYT Inquiry

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** (b)(6)@nytimes.com>  
**Date:** February 13, 2020 at 5:51:13 PM EST  
**To:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@cbp.dhs.gov> (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)  
(b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@cbp.dhs.gov>, cbpmediarelations <cbpmediarelations@cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** NYT Inquiry

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.

Hello all,

My colleagues and I are preparing to publish a story that says CBP has approved an ICE request to send agents, including the special operations group BORTAC, to cities across the US, including so-called "sanctuary cities" to help ERO with immigration enforcement. Please let me know if you have comment or added context for this.

I will need something ASAP as this could publish later tonight online.

Thanks,

(b)(6)

--

(b)(6)

Homeland Security Correspondent

The New York Times

Cell/WhatsApp/Signal: (b)(6)

(b)(6)



Message

**From:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(E)  
**Sent:** 12/23/2019 7:37:04 PM  
**To:** cbpmediarelations; (b)(7)(E)  
(b)(7)(E)  
**Subject:** RE: NYTimes Inquiry

Anybody working this??

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

Communications Specialist  
Office of Public Affairs-Media Relations Division  
U.S. Customs and Border Protection  
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20229

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

E-mail: (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov

For urgent after hours media matters, e-mail: cbpmediarelations@cbp.dhs.gov

For more info about CBP visit: [www.cbp.gov](http://www.cbp.gov)

*"America is best described by one word, freedom." -President Dwight D.Eisenhower.*

**From:** (b)(6)@nytimes.com>

**Sent:** Monday, December 23, 2019 12:43 PM

**To:** cbpmediarelations <cbpmediarelations@cbp.dhs.gov>

**Subject:** NYTimes Inquiry

Hello,

Hope you're all well. I'm reaching out to see if you have comment on the House Oversight and Reform Committee requesting documents for an investigation into a "troubling pattern of abuse and poor treatment" of migrants in federal custody.

The House Oversight and Reform Committee sent the letter to acting secretary Wolf, questioning the care provided to (b)(6) why CBP said he was discovered during a welfare check when he was really discovered by a cellmate and how did Carlos go undiscovered after he collapsed for four hours?

Thanks,

(b)(6)

Homeland Security Correspondent  
The New York Times

Cell/WhatsApp/Signal: (b)(6)

(b)(6)

Message

**From:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(E)  
**Sent:** 2/14/2020 7:42:43 PM  
**To:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(E)  
**CC:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(E)  
**Subject:** RE: Timely CNN query on NYT report about CBP deploying tactical units to sanctuary cities

(the point was to make the reporters do it. If They are going to have a paywall, the least they could do is send the article to us)

But thank you!

---

**From:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 14, 2020 2:37 PM  
**To:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Cc:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Timely CNN query on NYT report about CBP deploying tactical units to sanctuary cities

Here is the article: <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/02/14/us/Border-Patrol-ICE-Sanctuary-Cities.html?referringSource=articleShare>

📄

## ***Border Patrol Will Deploy Elite SWAT 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 2:08 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.

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**From:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 14, 2020 1:36 PM  
**To:** (b)(6)@cnn.com>; cbpmediarelations <cbpmediarelations@cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Timely CNN query on NYT report about CBP deploying tactical units to sanctuary cities

Can you copy and paste the article here?

---

**From:** (b)(6)@cnn.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 14, 2020 2:30 PM  
**To:** cbpmediarelations <cbpmediarelations@cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** Timely CNN query on NYT report about CBP deploying tactical units to sanctuary cities

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.

Hello,

I'm reaching out regarding a New York times report about CBP deploying 100 officers to work with Immigration and Customs Enforcement in sanctuary cities, including Chicago and New York.

I see a statement from (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) in the report. Can you share the statement and confirm the number of officers who will be deployed?

Also, will the officers be deployed to Chicago, New York, San Francisco, Atlanta, Houston, Boston, New Orleans, Detroit, and Newark, New Jersey—cities cited in the report—this upcoming weekend?

Thanks in advance for your help,

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Immigration Reporter, CNN Politics

Cell, Signal, WhatsApp: (b)(6)

(b)(6)@cnn.com

Message

**From:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(E)  
**Sent:** 2/14/2020 7:37:25 PM  
**To:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(E)  
(b)(6) cbpmediarelations (b)(7)(E)  
(b)(7)(E)  
**Subject:** RE: Timely CNN query on NYT report about CBP deploying tactical units to sanctuary cities

## ***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 2:20 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.

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**From:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 14, 2020 2:36 PM  
**To:** (b)(6)@cnn.com>; cbpmediarelations <cbpmediarelations@cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Timely CNN query on NYT report about CBP deploying tactical units to sanctuary cities

Can you copy and paste the article here?

**From:** (b)(6)@cnn.com>

**Sent:** Friday, February 14, 2020 2:30 PM

**To:** cbpmediarelations <cbpmediarelations@cbp.dhs.gov>

**Subject:** Timely CNN query on NYT report about CBP deploying tactical units to sanctuary cities

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.

Hello,

I'm reaching out regarding a New York times report about CBP deploying 100 officers to work with Immigration and Customs Enforcement in sanctuary cities, including Chicago and New York.

I see a statement from (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) in the report. Can you share the statement and confirm the number of officers who will be deployed?

Also, will the officers be deployed to Chicago, New York, San Francisco, Atlanta, Houston, Boston, New Orleans, Detroit, and Newark, New Jersey—cities cited in the report—this upcoming weekend?

Thanks in advance for your help,

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

Immigration Reporter, CNN Politics

Cell, Signal, WhatsApp: (b)(6)

(b)(6)@cnn.com

Message

**From:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) [redacted]@cbp.dhs.gov]  
**Sent:** 12/17/2019 6:37:11 PM  
**To:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(E) [redacted]  
**Subject:** Fwd: Latest Border Wall Status Paper

Can you send her MPP numbers if we have them

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** (b)(6) [redacted]@washpost.com>  
**Date:** December 17, 2019 at 1:35:55 PM EST  
**To:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) [redacted]@cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Latest Border Wall Status Paper

Thanks so much, (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) [redacted] Thank you again for organizing that.

Please send us any follow-up data on how many are in MPP and how many people have been sent to Guatemala, Honduras or anywhere else under the ACA?

Thanks so much,

(b)(6) [redacted]

Immigration reporter

The Washington Post

Desk (b)(6) [redacted]

Signal/WhatsApp/Mobile (b)(6) [redacted]

(b)(6) [redacted]@washpost.com

(b)(6) [redacted]

**From:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) [redacted]@cbp.dhs.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 17, 2019 1:15 PM  
**To:** (b)(6) [redacted]@nytimes.com>;  
(b)(6) [redacted]@latimes.com>; (b)(6) [redacted]  
(b)(6) [redacted]@washingtontimes.com>; (b)(6) [redacted]@wsj.com>; (b)(6) [redacted]  
(b)(6) [redacted]@dailyallernewsfoundation.org>; (b)(6) [redacted]@usatoday.com>; (b)(6) [redacted]  
(b)(6) [redacted]@turner.com>; (b)(6) [redacted]@washpost.com>;  
(b)(6) [redacted]@thehill.com>; (b)(6) [redacted]@ap.org  
**Subject:** Latest Border Wall Status Paper  
**Importance:** High

CAUTION: EXTERNAL SENDER

Message

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

**Sent:** 3/4/2020 12:54:19 AM

**To:** SCOTT, RODNEY S (b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(E)

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

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

(b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(E) MORGAN, MARK A

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

**Subject:** Re: heads up - media attention

Commissioner et al.

I reached out to the local CBP OPA representative covering Chicago and they are engaging to ensure the CBP equities are covered and the agents are supported.

Additionally, will reach out to ICE OPA tomorrow to ensure a more integrated approach moving forward.

Sorry Chief for not knowing but we are on it now.

(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 Mar 3, 2020, at 7:27 PM, SCOTT, RODNEY S (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) @cbp.dhs.gov> 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)

Message

**From:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(E)  
**Sent:** 8/20/2019 10:30:44 AM  
**To:** MORGAN, MARK A (b)(7)(E)  
**CC:** (b)(6), (b)(7)(C), (b)(7)(E)  
**Subject:** Re: DHS Morning Briefing (8-20-19)

On it Commissioner.

On Aug 20, 2019, at 5:45 AM, MORGAN, MARK A (b)(6), (b)(7)(C)@cbp.dhs.gov wrote:

Please coord with ICE for talking points. Thx!

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** DHS Daily (b)(7)(E)  
**Date:** August 20, 2019 at 5:38:54 AM EDT  
**To:** (b)(7)(E)  
**Subject:** DHS Morning Briefing (8-20-19)

<image002.jpg>

## DHS MORNING BRIEFING

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

Mobile User Copy

<!--[if !supportLineBreakNewLine]-->  
<![endif]-->

**TO:** Homeland Security Secretary & Staff  
**DATE:** Tuesday, August 20, 2019 6:00 AM ET

### Top News

Asylum Seekers Pursue National Order Barring New Constraints  
(Bloomberg)

Immigrant advocates ask judge for nationwide policy for asylum-seekers  
(San Francisco Chronicle)

[ICE provides 'deplorable' healthcare to detained immigrants, advocates allege in massive lawsuit \(Los Angeles Times\)](#)

[Trump administration sued over poor medical care in immigration centers \(Politico\)](#)

[Lawsuit: ICE fails to give 'basic' care to migrants detained at border \(Breitbart\)](#)

[Civil rights groups sue ICE over medical care in detention centers \(The Hill\)](#)

[Lawsuit alleges poor medical and mental health care in ICE detention facilities \(CNN\)](#)

[Medical help ignored, wheelchair requests denied: Detained immigrants file lawsuit \(USA Today\)](#)

[Trump administration says "Remain in Mexico" program is one "we're building to last" \(CBS News\)](#)

[Boston to New Hampshire march calls for immigration changes \(San Francisco Chronicle\)](#)

[A \\$25B US counter-drug smuggling operation quietly thrives far south of the border \(Washington Examiner\)](#)

[Trump again appears to back away from gun background checks \(Washington Post\)](#)

[Pelosi, Schumer press for gun screenings as Trump inches away \(The Hill\)](#)

[Mental health advocates say reopening institutions won't stop mass shootings \(CNN\)](#)

[\[MD\] ICE Requested A Detainer On Illegal Alien Accused Of Rape – Authorities In Democratic County Released Him Anyway \(Daily Caller\)](#)

[\[VA\] Virginia Crime Commission digs into data on mass shootings \(Washington Post\)](#)

[\[TX\] US sued over Honduran man's suicide after family separation \(San Francisco Chronicle\)](#)

[\[TX\] Churches train congregants in wake of mass shooting attacks \(San Francisco Chronicle\)](#)

[\[Mexico\] Mexican Man Extradited to U.S. for Alleged Child Sex Trafficking \(Breitbart\)](#)

## **Immigration and Customs Enforcement**

[ICE defends detaining breastfeeding mom \(The Hill\)](#)

[A breastfeeding mom is still being held in an ICE facility 12 days after being detained, attorneys say \(CNN\)](#)

[\[NY\] Lawyer says ICE detained undocumented worker during deposition against former employer \(The Hill\)](#)

[\[NY\] Sanctuary In The Big Apple: Every ICE Detainer Request Ignored By NYPD \(Daily Caller\)](#)

[\[MS\] Mississippi ICE Raids: No Employers Charged Yet for Hiring Illegal Aliens \(Breitbart\)](#)

[\[TX\] ICE places hold on Texas man accused of letting daughter, 12, drive in crash that killed man, dog \(FOX News\)](#)



## **Citizenship and Immigration Services**

[Trump administration tightens rules for immigrant work permits \(FOX News\)](#)

[President Trump decision to end DACA was lawful, Justice Department says \(FOX News\)](#)

[DACA's dark side: Illegal immigrants use Obama reprieve for criminal activities \(Washington Times\)](#)

[\[Guatemala\] U.S. Envoy Offers Farm Visas to Boost Asylum Deal With Guatemala \(US News & World Report\)](#)

[\[North Korea\] North Korea disparages new U.S. visa policy \(Breitbart\)](#)

## **Customs and Border Protection**

[\[NM\] Border Patrol nabs nearly 200 Central American migrants near New Mexico port of entry \(FOX News\)](#)

[\[AZ\] Migrants Rescued After Being Abandoned for 10 Days in AZ Desert \(Breitbart\)](#)

[\[CA\] What's spicier than a truckload of jalapeños? A truckload of jalapeños concealing nearly 4 tons of marijuana. \(Washington Post\)](#)

[\[CA\] Spicy With A Twist: Nearly 4 Tons Of Pot Found In Jalapeno Shipment \(NPR\)](#)

[\[CA\] Border Patrol Finds Four Tons Of Marijuana Hidden In A Shipment Of Jalapenos \(Daily Caller\)](#)

[\[CA\] Chula Vista high schooler who recruited teen drug mules sent to prison \(San Diego Union Tribune\)](#)

## **Transportation Security Administration**

[\[MN\] Long lines at Minneapolis airport due to security changes \(San Francisco Chronicle\)](#)

## **Federal Emergency Management Agency**

[\[VT\] How Vermont's Preparing To Weather The Next Big Flood \(Vermont Public Radio\)](#)

[\[MS\] 45 Mississippi Counties Primary Ag Disaster Areas \(US News & World Report\)](#)

[\[WI\] Evers seeks federal disaster declaration for 18 counties \(San Francisco Chronicle\)](#)

[\[WY\] Residents allowed to return to homes near Wyoming wildfire \(San Francisco Chronicle\)](#)

[\[MT\] Two New Wildfires Detected Near Missoula \(Montana Public Radio\)](#)

[\[CA\] Wildfire acreage way down in California this year — so far \(Washington Post\)](#)

[\[CA\] California Residents Say They Need More Information On Previous Wildfires To Prepare \(NPR\)](#)

[\[AK\] Late-Season Fires Flare Up in Drought-Stricken Parts of Alaska \(New York Times\)](#)

[\[AK\] Alaska wildfires sparked by high winds force mandatory evacuations \(USA Today\)](#)

[AK] Alaska wildfire season continues with new fires, hot weather (San Francisco Chronicle)

### **Secret Service**

[NC] Warrant: Man bought cellphone with counterfeit \$100 bills (WRAL-TV 5 Raleigh)

[TN] Murfreesboro PD: 10 arrests made in 5 counterfeit bill cases; 'know your money' (WZTV FOX 17)

[MO] Ellisville police warning business owners about fake \$100s (KMOV CBS 4 St. Louis)

[MO] Counterfeit \$100 bill passed in Ellisville (West Newsmagazine)

[OH] Akron counterfeiters sentenced (WTAM-AM 1100.0 Cleveland)

[OH] Two Akron men sentenced for using \$38,000 in counterfeit bills at area stores (fox8)

[OH] Using fake money to buy iPads, Apple watches and more lands Akron men in prison (Akron Beacon Journal)

[IL] Photos Show Mock Shooting of Trump at Illinois State Senator's Fundraiser (NBC Chicago)

[WA] Burglar steals counterfeit money from Moses Lake gas station (Columbia Basin Herald)

[CA] South L.A. Man Pleads Guilty to Role in Armed Robberies of Postal Trucks, Stealing Nearly \$240K (KTLA)

### **Coast Guard**

House committee heads demand Coast Guard Academy explain handling of harassment allegations (The Hill)

[FL] By air and sea, a desperate search to find a local firefighter, friend missing off Florida coast (Washington Post)

[FL] Wife of Florida firefighter who went missing on fishing trip opens up about search operation (ABC News)

[FL] Recovered tackle box gives loved ones hope of finding missing firefighters (FOX News)

[FL] Search for missing firefighters continues as groups ask anyone with boat to help (USA Today)

[LA] 1 person dead, 2 rescued from Louisiana seaplane crash (San Francisco Chronicle)

### **CISA/Cybersecurity**

Billions of records exposed: 2019 on track to be worst year ever for data breaches (USA Today)

Instagram wants hackers to go after its new shopping feature (CNN)

FEC chair Ellen Weintraub on Trump claims: 'No evidence of rampant voter fraud in 2016' (USA Today)

[China] China's Fake Social Media Accounts Could Be Devastating for U.S., Brett Bruen Says (Bloomberg)

### **Terrorism Investigations**

'Red flag' laws may play role in preventing mass shootings, study finds (Washington Post)

'Red flag' laws can play a role in preventing mass shootings, study says (CNN)

3 mass shooting plots stopped around the country in separate incidents, police say (USA Today)

How 3 separate mass shooting plots have been thwarted (USA Today)

Police Stopped What Could Have Been 3 Mass Shootings In A Single Weekend Across The Country (Daily Caller)

[OH] Man suspected in Jewish center shooting threat pleads 'not guilty' (ABC News)

[OH] Ohio man, one of three alleged thwarted mass shooters, denies charges in court (Reuters)

[IL] DOJ arrests Chicago man who allegedly threatened attack on women's reproductive clinic (ABC News)

[IL] Chicago man arrested after allegedly threatening to kill people at women's reproductive health clinic (CNN)

[TX] Governor brings big tech to the table after El Paso attack (San Francisco Chronicle)

## **National Security News**

U.S. Tests Cruise Missile After Quitting INF Treaty With Russia (Bloomberg)

'America's military primacy in the Indo-Pacific is over,' Australian analysts worry (Washington Examiner)

ISIS Is Regaining Strength in Iraq and Syria (New York Times)

[Iran] Seized Iranian Tanker Leaves Gibraltar Despite U.S. Pressure (New York Times)

[Iran] Iran Warns U.S. Against Seizing Oil Tanker Headed to Greece (Bloomberg)

[Iran] Iran Warns of 'Heavy Consequences' if U.S. Seizes Oil Tanker Released by Gibraltar (Breitbart)

[Iran] Iran warns U.S. not to seize newly-freed supertanker (CBS News)

[Iran] Iran tanker heads to Greece after release, Iran warns U.S against seizure attempt (Reuters)

[Afghanistan] U.S. And The Taliban May Be Near A Deal. What Does That Mean For Afghanistan? (NPR)

[Afghanistan] Trump's Afghanistan withdrawal plan: Cutting a deal or cutting and running? (Washington Examiner)

[China] Intelligence officials tackle Huawei's power as Trump's decision is unclear (Politico)

[China] U.S. Gives Companies More Time to Cease Doing Business With Huawei (New York Times)

[China] Commerce Department will extend Huawei reprieve, Ross says (Washington Post)

[\[China\] U.S. to Ease Huawei Sanctions for Another 90 Days, Wilbur Ross Says \(Bloomberg\)](#)

[\[China\] Trump administration extends grace period for Huawei again \(Breitbart\)](#)

[\[China\] Huawei dismisses new suspension of 'unjust' US ban \(Breitbart\)](#)

[\[China\] Trump administration delays penalty on Huawei for another 90 days \(The Hill\)](#)

[\[China\] US expands blacklist but gives Huawei another 90-day reprieve \(CNN\)](#)

[\[China\] U.S. Grants Huawei Another 90 Days to Buy From American Suppliers \(US News & World Report\)](#)

[\[China\] U.S. grants Huawei another 90 days to buy from American suppliers \(Reuters\)](#)

[\[China\] Huawei business ban leaves rural wireless companies with few alternatives \(Washington Post\)](#)

[\[China\] China plans to use information to 'dominate in the future,' says defense intelligence chief \(Washington Examiner\)](#)

[\[China\] Report: Chinese Missiles Could Wipe Out U.S. and Allied Pacific Bases in 'Opening Hours of Conflict' \(Breitbart\)](#)

[\[China\] China exploiting holes in US bankruptcy system to acquire national security technology \(Washington Examiner\)](#)

[\[Hong Kong\] British Consular Worker From Hong Kong Feared Detained in China \(New York Times\)](#)

[\[Hong Kong\] U.K. consular official in Hong Kong disappears while returning from mainland China \(Washington Post\)](#)

### **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**

### **Asylum Seekers Pursue National Order Barring New Constraints (Bloomberg)**

[Bloomberg](#) [8/19/2019 6:14 PM, Patricia Hurtado, 5350K]

Lawyers representing migrants asked a federal judge in California to reinstate a nationwide order that blocked the Trump administration from preventing some Central Americans from applying for asylum in the U.S.

The administration last month imposed new restrictions on the asylum seekers, barring them from requesting protection if they traveled through another country on their way to the U.S. unless they already tried and failed to receive asylum there. The judge then issued the order blocking the new rules across the country.

A three-judge appeals-court panel in San Francisco upheld that order for California and Arizona, the border states in its jurisdiction, but said it couldn't be applied nationally, including in the border states of New Mexico and Texas.

On Monday, lawyers for the American Civil Liberties Union, the Center for Constitutional Rights and the Southern Poverty Law Center asked the lower-court judge to consider evidence that the nationwide injunction should be reinstated, arguing asylum seekers face "grave harm" because they frequently don't enter the country and complete their proceedings in one state.

"An asylum seeker may enter the U.S. through Texas, have a credible-fear interview in New Jersey and ultimately apply for asylum in California," the groups said.

**Immigrant advocates ask judge for nationwide policy for asylum-seekers (San Francisco Chronicle)**

San Francisco Chronicle [8/19/2019 9:18 PM, Bob Egelko, 337K]

Immigrant advocates implored a federal judge in San Francisco Monday to restore his nationwide order allowing migrants fleeing Central America to seek asylum in the United States, days after an appeals court let the Trump administration enforce a ban on virtually all such applicants in much of the United States.

The administration's policy, which took effect July 16, barred asylum for anyone who had passed through another country on the way to the United States without first seeking asylum there. Exempting only victims of human trafficking, the new rules effectively excluded applicants from El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala, nations with some of the world's highest homicide rates.

U.S. District Judge Jon Tigar, blocked the policy on July 24, saying U.S. immigration law allows immigrants to apply for asylum regardless of the route they traveled, unless they first entered a country that is shown to be a safe haven for refugees.

On Friday, the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco refused to immediately reinstate the policy while the case proceeds, saying the administration had not shown it was likely to win its case. But in a 2-1 ruling, the court said Tigar had not shown the need for a nationwide injunction, and narrowed the scope of his ruling to the states within the Ninth Circuit.

The circuit's nine states include the border states of California and Arizona, but not Texas or New Mexico, entry sites for large numbers of undocumented Central Americans. But the ruling's impact may be even broader because, as lawyers for immigrant-support groups noted Monday, asylum cases are often transferred from one state to another, at the request of either the immigrant or the government.

In 2017, the lawyers said, immigration judges transferred more than 115,000 cases between courts before hearings on whether an immigrant should be deported. And because only 19 of the government's 132 detention centers for migrants are within the Ninth Circuit, it's quite possible that someone who

applied for asylum in California will have the case heard in another part of the country.

That raises the question of which law to apply — the law of the Ninth Circuit, which allows the cases to be considered, or the law where the migrant was transferred, which in most cases would require deportation.

When that issue arises in other asylum cases, “typically the law that governs is the law of the place where the ‘credible fear’ interview happens,” said Stanford Law Professor JayashriSrikantiah. She was referring to the first-stage hearing where an immigration judge decides whether a migrant has a “credible fear” of being targeted for persecution if deported, a hearing that might take place far from the site of entry.

“The whole thing is set up for confusion,” said another immigration law professor, Bill Hing of the University of San Francisco. He said he assumes someone who crosses from Mexico to California would be covered by the law in the Ninth Circuit regardless of where the case is heard, “but I don’t know if I’m right.”

Clearing up any such confusion was one reason immigrant advocates offered Monday in urging Tigar to consider additional evidence and reinstate a nationwide injunction against the Trump administration rules — an option the appeals court had expressly allowed in Friday’s ruling.

“It is not possible to predict asylum-seekers’ movements in advance,” said attorneys from the American Civil Liberties Union and the Southern Poverty Law Center. Saying the current patchwork system will drive up costs and increase hardships for the immigrant-support groups they represent, they asked the judge to hear additional evidence and swiftly restore a uniform ban on the policy while the case continues.

The plaintiffs’ lawyers called for a lightning-fast schedule, with written arguments this week and a hearing on Friday. After Justice Department lawyers responded that such issues can take months to consider properly, Tigar ordered filings over the next two weeks and scheduled a hearing Sept. 5.

### **ICE provides ‘deplorable’ healthcare to detained immigrants, advocates allege in massive lawsuit (Los Angeles Times)**

Los Angeles Times [8/19/2019 10:46 PM, Andrea Castillo, 3575K]

Immigrant rights advocates filed a sweeping class-action lawsuit in federal court against the Trump administration Monday, alleging that lax oversight by Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Department of Homeland Security has caused severe deficiencies in medical and mental healthcare, as well as discrimination against detainees with disabilities, in nearly 160 facilities across the country.

The lawsuit was filed in U.S. District Court in Los Angeles by the Southern Poverty Law Center, Civil Rights Education and Enforcement Center, Disability Rights Advocates, and the law firm Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP. The groups aren’t seeking monetary damages, but rather asking the court to ensure that ICE closely monitor its facilities and improve healthcare for the approximately 55,000 immigrants detained on any given day.

Advocates have long said that detainees, especially those in rural facilities, experience delays and denials of healthcare. Many previous lawsuits have been filed on behalf of specific people detained by ICE. But Monday's suit argues that the agency is systematically denying care to those in its custody.

Plaintiffs, including 15 current detainees and two nonprofits, say that ICE and its parent agency, the DHS, have failed to take action against what they characterize as dangerously inadequate medical and mental healthcare, improper use of solitary confinement, and deficient accommodations for people with disabilities.

The lawsuit cites cases of detainees confined to their cells without access to wheelchairs or canes, diabetics denied insulin and those suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder kept in isolation for months.

Private companies run most of the nation's detention facilities. It costs the federal government \$134 a day on average to maintain one adult detention bed, according to ICE's fiscal year 2018 budget. The National Immigration Forum calculates a higher cost of \$208 a day. Each family residential center bed, which keeps mothers or fathers with their children, costs about \$319 a day, according to the ICE budget.

Lawyers say that problems such as short staffing, unqualified medical care providers, and delays or denials of treatment, are not limited to a few facilities but are rampant and systemic. They say that immigrants with viable legal claims are forced to choose between continuing to suffer in detention or giving up on their cases.

"ICE cannot simply contract with third parties to operate its detention centers and then wash its hands of the deplorable, unlawful conditions in those detention centers," said Tim Fox, co-executive director of CREEC.

ICE spends more than \$250 million annually on healthcare services. According to the agency, detainees receive a comprehensive physical exam within two weeks of arrival to identify medical, mental health and dental conditions requiring monitoring or treatment. Nine of 396,000 detainees died in ICE custody during fiscal year 2018.

Spokesman Shawn Neudauer said the agency doesn't comment on pending litigation but that the "absence of comment should in no way be construed to suggest that ICE thinks any particular suit has merit."

Seven of the plaintiffs are detained in California facilities.

Abdullah Fraihat, a 57-year-old man detained at the Adelanto ICE Processing Center near Victorville since December 2016, was denied a vision surgery recommended by an off-site doctor in April. Last month, a doctor told him that his vision had deteriorated too severely to be restored.

Marco Montoya Amaya, a 41-year-old detainee at Mesa Verde ICE Processing Center near Bakersfield, was tentatively diagnosed with end-stage neurocysticercosis — an invasive but treatable brain parasite that causes epilepsy — more than a year ago but has received no treatment,

according to the lawsuit.

Luis Manuel Rodriguez Delgadillo, a 29-year-old Adelanto detainee diagnosed with bipolar disorder and schizophrenia, had stabilized his mental health through medication, family support and the help of a psychiatrist before he was detained. But since his detention in May, medication changes, lack of therapy and increased stressors caused him to miss two court dates after he was placed in medical observation for expressing suicidal thoughts.

More than 55,000 people were being detained by ICE as of early August. That's up from some 34,000 people a day on average in 2016, and significantly higher than the target of less than 41,000 set by Congress.

A review by DHS's own Office of Inspector General found 14,000 health and safety "deficiencies" identified by various inspections at contracted facilities between October 2015 and June 2018. "These deficiencies include those that jeopardize the safety and rights of detainees, such as failing to notify ICE about sexual assaults," the inspector general found. "Despite these identified deficiencies, ICE only imposed financial penalties twice."

Karlyn Kurichety, an attorney at the nonprofit Al Otro Lado, said that the organization is prevented from taking on new cases because it must spend so much time advocating for what she described as clients' basic survival while in custody.

Kurichety said that several clients experienced miscarriages while in custody, HIV-positive clients were detained without access to their medication and clients who contracted contagious diseases like chicken pox or measles spent several months in quarantine without access to attorneys.

"Clients struggling with serious untreated health issues that are often caused by or exacerbated by their detention cannot be expected to simultaneously defend themselves from deportation while fighting for their lives due to illness," she said.

### **Trump administration sued over poor medical care in immigration centers (Politico)**

Politico [8/19/2019 12:05 PM, Renuka Rayasam, 2512K]

Immigration advocates filed a sweeping, first-of-its kind class action lawsuit in federal court against the Trump administration on Monday, claiming official policies and lack of oversight related to the border and immigration crisis have led to major lapses in medical and mental health care in nearly 160 detention facilities across the country.

Detainees with medical and mental health conditions and those with disabilities face settings so brutal, including delays and denials of medical care, overuse of solitary confinement and lack of disability accommodations, they have led to permanent harm and 24 deaths in the last two years, according to a portion of the 200-page complaint shared with POLITICO.

One plaintiff with a brain parasite has received no treatment for over a year. Another has not received surgery for a torn rotator cuff during three years in detention. One lost vision in his left eye due to lack of timely care in custody,



the suit said.

Other suits have been filed on behalf of individuals in immigration detention and against conditions at specific facilities. But Monday's lawsuit, filed in U.S. District Court for the Central District of California, is one of the first arguing that Immigration and Customs Enforcement is deliberately and systematically denying care to about 55,000 migrants in custody at county jails and at both privately and publicly run detention centers.

"We're hoping that this lawsuit will shine attention on the severity of the problem across the country," said Elissa Johnson, senior supervising attorney at the Southern Poverty Law Center, one of the lawyers filing the suit. "The issues are so pervasive."

ICE would not comment on pending litigation and said it couldn't provide a timely response to a list of questions about detainee health care sent Friday morning.

"However, lack of comment should not be construed as agreement with or stipulation to any of the allegations," said Shawn Neudauer, public affairs officer at ICE. "Our trained law enforcement professionals adhere to the Department's mission and values, and uphold our laws while continuing to provide the nation with safety and security."

Attorneys, advocates and current and former immigration officials say that detainees have long faced treatment delays and lack of care, especially in rural facilities.

But they say the problems have been exacerbated by the Trump administration's focus on boosting the number of migrants in detention. That population has grown more than 60 percent over the past two years, without additional staff or resources for health care.

Infectious diseases, like outbreaks of mumps and chickenpox, that were previously rare have also spiked in overcrowded facilities.

"What we have seen in terms of access to health care is appalling," said Laura Redman, director of the health justice program at New York Lawyers for the Public Interest. "It's something that has been getting worse and worse and worse."

The Trump administration has stepped up apprehensions at the border and within the country, such as raids at Mississippi poultry factories this month. It also reversed Obama-era guidance that encouraged releasing pregnant migrants and those with serious medical and mental conditions while they awaited deportation hearings.

Immigration officials have increased the use of county jails and private contractors to rapidly expand the number of beds for newly detained migrants. It's also been relying on contractors to provide health care, rather than expanding ICE's Health Services Corps, which cares for about 13,500 people in custody, according to the complaint.

County jails and privately contracted facilities have far worse medical care than ICE run facilities and are subject to less oversight, Kevin Landy, director

of the ICE Office of Detention Policy and Planning until it was closed in January 2017 after Trump took office, wrote in an email.

The agency's "ability to provide some level of oversight at those facilities is certainly strained beyond its capacity," he said.

ICE failed to maintain records and persistently ignored internal oversight and Government Accountability Office reports calling out deficiencies in medical and mental health care that led to deaths, according to the lawsuit.

The agency continues to work with private medical providers that have faced numerous lawsuits and accusations of serious medical neglect, according to the complaint.

More migrants are also being sent to remote facilities in the rural South, which already suffers from provider shortages. Detention facilities in Louisiana and Mississippi could house as many as 20,000 migrants by the end of the year, according to Johnson from the Southern Poverty Law Center.

Detention facilities, especially those not directly run by ICE, are overly reliant on health workers with relatively little training like a licensed practical nurse; it's not uncommon at some facilities for doctors to be on site for just about four hours a week. A registered nurse may be the most senior medical staff at some sites.

The Stewart Detention Center in rural Georgia, for example, lacked a staff physician for about three years until 2012, said Azadeh Shahshahani, legal and advocacy director at Project South, which wants the facility to be shut down.

The population at Stewart swelled nearly 18 percent from September 2017 to about 2,000 people in December 2018, overwhelming medical staff. Four people have died there in the past two years, including one who died of cardiac arrest last month after being transferred to a hospital. At least two detainees died by suicide after being held in solitary confinement for about three weeks. Project South has documented many cases of inadequate or untimely care, including not giving a man with diabetes the proper doses of his medication.

Several former Obama administration immigration officials told POLITICO that previous efforts to improve detainee medical and mental health care stalled because of lack of funding and internal resistance. But they said that officials would attempt to release vulnerable detainees while they awaited hearings and informally track which facilities were better equipped to handle detainees with health conditions.

"It was never easy in the Obama administration to get things done, but at least I know I could go to higher ups to be heard," said Andrew Lorenzen-Strait, who left ICE in May and is now director of children and family services at the Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service. "Now there is a total deafness to humanity at all levels."

Shahshahsani said that under the Obama administration her organization

could petition for the release of detainees with severe conditions, but that Trump administration officials aren't responsive to such requests.

**Lawsuit: ICE fails to give 'basic' care to migrants detained at border (Breitbart)**

Breitbart [8/19/2019 7:57 AM, UPI, 2034K]

"Abject failure" by federal immigration officials to provide basic medical care has led to the deaths of some migrants detained by the Trump administration, a class-action lawsuit said Monday.

The 210-page lawsuit — filed in California on behalf of 15 people detained at eight facilities, and representing a class of about 55,000 migrants detained on any given day — accuses U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement of failing to ensure appropriate medical and mental healthcare to its charges. Such care is mandated by the Fifth Amendment of the Constitution.

The Civil Rights Education and Enforcement Center and the Southern Poverty Law Center, two of the organizations representing the plaintiffs, said ICE is delaying or outright denying medical care, punitively using solitary confinement, failing to provide mental healthcare, and discriminating against people who require disability accommodations.

"This administration's horrific mistreatment of immigrants is not limited to individuals at the border," said Lisa Graybill, deputy legal director for the SPLC. "The fact that immigrant detention is supposed to be civil, and not punitive, is a distinction without a difference when it comes to how detained immigrants are treated.

"At least 26 people have died since Trump took office, and tens of thousands have suffered as a result of the federal government's abject failure to provide basic medical care at the facilities where taxpayers are spending billions to detain immigrants. More will suffer, and more will die, without court intervention."

Specifically, the suit names ICE, the Department of Homeland Security, DHS chief Kevin McAleenan and seven other officials.

The mother of plaintiff Luis Manual Rodriguez Delgadillo, 29, said ICE denied her son his routine mental health medication upon his detention in March, which led to hallucinations and other symptoms.

U.S. Marine Corps veteran Jose Segovia Benitez, who was diagnosed with depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, hearing loss, traumatic brain injury and a heart condition after a blast in Iraq, has received "insufficient cardiac care" while detained in solitary confinement, the lawsuit says.

"Immigrants with disabilities are at heightened risk of discrimination in detention," said Stuart Seaborn, managing director of litigation for Disability Rights Advocates. "Detained individuals who are deaf or have mobility disabilities are regularly denied access to assistive devices, without which they may not be able to communicate, meet their needs, or participate in programming."

Conditions at migrant shelters and detention facilities have come under

scrutiny in recent months. A federal appeals court in California ruled last week that children at shelters must have access to basic hygiene products and adequate sleep.

A lower district court found that minors held in these detention centers lacked a sufficient number of hot, edible meals, adequate access to drinking water, and experienced unsanitary conditions in cells and bathrooms.

### **Civil rights groups sue ICE over medical care in detention centers (The Hill)**

The Hill [8/19/2019 1:09 PM, Chris Mills Rodrigo, 2806K]

Three civil rights groups on Monday filed a class action lawsuit against Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE) over the medical and mental health care provided at migrant detention centers.

The Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC), Civil Rights Education and Enforcement Center (CREEC) and Disability Rights Advocates (DRA), working with Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP, filed the lawsuit at the U.S District Court for the Central District of California on behalf of 15 individuals detained at eight ICE facilities. It seeks to "reform the way our nation treats the human beings who have immigrated to the United States."

The lawsuit alleges ICE has failed to provide appropriate medical and mental health care at the roughly 158 facilities it operates around the country. And it alleges violations of the Fifth Amendment by using detention to punish immigrants and claims the detention centers failed to meet standards for disabled detainees outlined in Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

Plaintiffs in the suit allege they were given improper care at facilities where they reside. One man claims he lost eyesight in his left eye after not receiving surgery recommended by a doctor. Another diabetic man alleges that he was given an overdose of insulin and never evaluated by a doctor afterward. Another plaintiff says he suffered a back injury and cannot walk without assistance, but has not been given a physical therapy appointment. That plaintiff claims staff has at points taken away his crutches and wheelchair.

"This administration's horrific mistreatment of immigrants is not limited to individuals at the border," said Lisa Graybill, deputy legal director for the SPLC.

"The fact that immigrant detention is supposed to be civil, and not punitive, is a distinction without a difference when it comes to how detained immigrants are treated. At least twenty-six people have died since Trump took office, and tens of thousands have suffered as a result of the federal government's abject failure to provide basic medical care at the facilities where taxpayers are spending billions to detain immigrants,' Graybill continued. "More will suffer, and more will die, without court intervention."

The lawsuit also names the Department of Homeland Security, acting DHS Kevin McAleenan and other top agency officials as defendants.

Conditions at border facilities drew increased scrutiny this summer as border crossing numbers hit record highs.

Democratic lawmakers toured detention facilities, sharing images and stories of immigrants in tight spaces with limited access to food or showers.

Immigration numbers have steadily dropped in recent months, which the administration has credited to increased funding for Customs and Border Protection and expanded collaboration with Mexico to limit immigration from Central America.

However, ICE still has more immigrants, roughly 55,000, in detention than it was designed to hold at any given time, causing significant stress on infrastructure and accommodations.

An ICE official disputed the claims in the lawsuit, saying that "comprehensive medical care" is provided to all detainees.

### **Lawsuit alleges poor medical and mental health care in ICE detention facilities (CNN)**

CNN [8/19/2019 2:39 PM, Geneva Sands, 6094K]

The Southern Poverty Law Center and other immigration advocacy groups filed a class action lawsuit Monday alleging a lack of medical and mental health care inside Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention facilities across the United States.

The lawsuit, brought on behalf of 15 named detainees and others, claims that individuals held in ICE custody have been denied healthcare, refused accommodations for disabilities and subjected to "arbitrary and punitive isolation."

For example, the complaint alleges that two detainees have been denied daily doses of insulin for diabetes and another has been denied treatment for a likely brain parasite. Another plaintiff, who suffers from schizophrenia and depression, spent approximately nine months in near-total isolation without adequate monitoring of her well-being, according to the lawsuit.

Attorneys also alleged that detainees have had recommended surgeries delayed or denied by ICE.

ICE spokesman Bryan Cox said ICE does not comment on pending litigation, but he said that comprehensive medical care is provided to all individuals in ICE custody. Staffing includes registered nurses, licensed mental health providers, physician assistants and a physician.

Cox added that detainees also have access to dental care and 24-hour emergency care.

Additionally, ICE detainees receive a comprehensive physical exam "within 14 days of arrival to identify medical, mental health and dental conditions that require monitoring or treatment," Cox said.

Immigration authorities have been under increasing scrutiny in recent months as the number of migrants arriving at the southern border spiked, and the Trump administration has made immigration enforcement a national priority.

The Department of Homeland Security inspector general found expired food

and dilapidated bathrooms during unannounced visits to four immigrant detention facilities in 2018, according to a report released in June.

The report also found segregation policies that violated detainee rights and a failure to provide appropriate clothing and hygiene items at some of the facilities.

As of August 10, there were 55,530 people detained in ICE custody, according to the agency.

The lawsuit, which was filed in federal court in California, covers all current and future ICE detainees and includes about 160 detention facilities. The lawsuit seeks to force ICE to take immediate steps to improve conditions and provide adequate staffing.

"We ask that if ICE cannot ensure the safety and well-being of those in its custody, it has to take measures to release them. They cannot be continually subjected to these abusive and inhumane conditions," said Elissa Johnson, a senior attorney with the Southern Poverty Law Center.

### **Medical help ignored, wheelchair requests denied: Detained immigrants file lawsuit (USA Today)**

USA Today [8/19/2019 1:11 PM, Amy Taxin, 6620K]

Immigrants held in U.S. detention facilities filed a lawsuit Monday demanding adequate medical care and treatment and accommodations for disabilities.

In the suit filed by disability and civil rights advocates in U.S. District Court, immigrants said they're placed in isolation as punishment and denied recommended medical treatment and surgery. Some said they've been denied wheelchairs and a deaf detainee who communicates in American Sign Language said he has not been provided an interpreter.

Monica Porter, a staff attorney at Disability Rights Advocates, said the problems harm disabled immigrants and threaten anyone in one of Immigration and Customs Enforcement's more than 50,000 detention beds who winds up getting sick or isolated from other detainees.

"Frankly, we haven't found a facility that does it well," she said.

He said he fears returning to Jordan because he was threatened after converting to Christianity.

Another detainee at the facility about 60 miles northeast of Los Angeles said he was placed in segregation for a week after filing a grievance against an officer, the suit said.

"Our goal is to force the government to either comply with the law and ensure immigrants receive adequate medical and mental health care and disability accommodation, or end immigrant detention," said Lisa Graybill, deputy legal director for criminal justice reform at the Southern Poverty Law Center.

### **Trump administration says "Remain in Mexico" program is one "we're building to last" (CBS News)**

CBS News [8/19/2019 1:35 PM, Camilo Montoya-Galvez, 3332K]

In recent weeks, the Trump administration has directly pointed to the controversial "Remain in Mexico" policy as one the chief reasons the number of apprehensions along the southwestern border have decreased over the past two months. Ken Cuccinelli, President Trump's top official at U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), recently lauded the program as a "spectacular success."

The administration is now signaling that the program will continue indefinitely, even if there are significant declines in border apprehensions.

"MPP is a tool that Congress provided DHS to maintain operational control of our border and to facilitate an expedited removal proceeding process," a Department of Homeland Security official told CBS News, referring to the policy by its official name, the Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP). "While we hope that with lower numbers there will be lower returns under MPP, this is a program that we're building to last."

Under the policy, which is being challenged in court, the Trump administration has returned tens of thousands of asylum seekers to Mexico to wait for their hearings in U.S. immigration court. In addition to this program, U.S. officials have also implemented a policy known as "metering" to limit the number of people who can seek asylum at highly transited ports of entry, effectively ensuring that tens of thousands of migrants are required to wait in Mexico, either for the court date or to seek asylum for the first time.

In Mexico, the vast majority of those returned struggle to find American lawyers, shelter and employment. Many also fear being kidnapped or assaulted during their prolonged stays in Mexican cities like Tijuana, Ciudad Juárez and Matamoros, where crime and insecurity are rampant.

The DHS official said on Monday that more than 31,800 migrants have been placed in the program and returned to Mexico, but cautioned that the figure "is not indicative of the number of people [in Mexico] currently awaiting" a U.S. court hearing. Some of those in the program, citing desperation, opt to go home and abandon their asylum claims, and the Mexican government has already been operating a program to transport them back to their home countries in Central America.

The "Remain in Mexico" policy has been implemented at border sectors near San Diego, Calexico, El Paso, Laredo and Brownsville, located in the busy Rio Grande Valley. Since it reached an agreement in June with the Mexican government to avert the president's threats to impose tariffs on Mexican goods, the Trump administration has pledged to expand the program along the entire border.

The U.S., the DHS official added, is working with the Mexican government and considering "infrastructure and capacity capabilities on both sides of the border" to determine where the program will be implemented next.

When the policy made its debut in San Diego in December of last year, the administration cited a "migration crisis" at U.S.-Mexico border caused by an unprecedented influx of Central American families and unaccompanied children heading north. The agency said the program was instituted, in part,

to deter "false" asylum claims and devote "more attention on those who are actually fleeing persecution."

Apprehensions along the southern border decreased in June and July from the height of the recent surge in May, when U.S. officials apprehended 133,000 migrants. In recent years, border crossings along the U.S.-Mexico frontier have also dwindled in the summer months because of the heat in the region.

[Editorial note: consult source link for video]

### **Boston to New Hampshire march calls for immigration changes (San Francisco Chronicle)**

San Francisco Chronicle [8/19/2019 5:40 PM, Associated Press, 2613K]

Religious groups and immigrant rights advocates are marching from Boston to New Hampshire to call for changes to the nation's immigration system.

More than 100 people gathered in front of Boston's federal immigration court Monday to launch a six-day march to the Strafford County Department of Corrections in Dover, New Hampshire as part of the regional Solidarity Walk for Immigrant Justice.

Supporters in Boston staged a symbolic funeral procession including a small casket to honor migrant children who died trying to enter the country. They'll travel 76 miles through the Massachusetts communities of Lynn, Danvers and Newburyport.

The march culminates Saturday at the Dover jail, where delegations also coming from Maine, Vermont and New Hampshire will call for an end to immigrant detention and deportation until immigration laws are overhauled.

### **A \$25B US counter-drug smuggling operation quietly thrives far south of the border (Washington Examiner)**

Washington Examiner [8/20/2019 12:08 AM, Anna Giaritelli, 855K]

Smugglers flying small cocaine-packed airplanes toward the United States from South and Central America might make it to Mexico thinking they went undetected by American forces staked out in international waters trying to interdict them.

But once on the ground in Mexico, from where they hope to smuggle their contraband into the United States, those tiny planes will be greeted by a swarm of Mexican law enforcement. What's more, they will never know a Department of Homeland Security plane was flying within 100 feet of them, quietly tailing them over the Eastern Pacific or Western Caribbean and then tipping off Mexican authorities.

"Even this airplane weighing 100,000 pounds — we can sneak up behind them and they won't see us. And with the sensors we have on the airplane, a lot of times we don't even have to get that close," said Dan Jordan, a supervisory air interdiction agent for U.S. Customs and Border Protection's Air and Marine Operations.

Jordan, who is based out of Corpus Christi, was standing in the cockpit of the



Lockheed P-3 Orion as we soared through the air over the Gulf of Mexico on our way to do a few practice "interceptions" of planes flying as fast as 300 miles an hour.

It was terrifying and thrilling as our 117-foot-long plane came within 50 feet of another just like it, all while zooming through the sky.

Air and Marine Operations air crews such as this one took down \$71 million worth of cocaine smuggling operations in the air and sea during an average week last year, but they fly largely unnoticed by the public or the bad guys.

Only 1,800 employees make up CBP's AMO component, about 10% of the size of Border Patrol's workforce.

For decades, AMO air crews (previously run by a different federal agency) have made some of the biggest drug hauls by a border agency component, only these take place thousands of miles south of the U.S.-Mexico border.

"The P-3's job is to catch the smugglers with the cocaine off the coast of South and Central America while the loads are still large and the cocaine is in its purest form. Once it gets to points farther north, up around southern Mexico, the cartels start to add other drugs such as fentanyl or heroin or methamphetamine," said Jordan. "They break it up into smaller loads. It's easiest for us to do the most damage to the cartels' operations down south."

In the midst of the cocaine epidemic in the 1980s, the then-U.S. Customs Service (under the Department of Treasury) began sending planes down to the waters on either side of Mexico to find both small aircraft and sea vessels attempting to traffic drugs from Colombia and Venezuela.

The need for counter-drug smuggling is even more necessary now as AMO data show its agents led U.S. partners to more cocaine in fiscal 2018 than the average year between 2008 and 2018.

In fiscal 2018, AMO's 14 P-3 plane crews seized or disrupted 258,296 pounds worth of cocaine, up 57% from the average year over the past decade. By Drug Enforcement Administration values, the crews stopped \$3.37 billion worth of cocaine last year and just shy of \$25 billion worth of cocaine from being trafficked to the U.S. over the past decade.

AMO relies on a variety of planes for international missions. For these long-distance detachments, it uses any of its 14 P-3s based out of its National Air Security Operations Centers in Corpus Christi and Jacksonville, Florida, because of their long-range abilities as well as air and sea detection capabilities.

At any given time, two to three crews are deployed to Panama, Costa Rica, El Salvador, and other nearby countries. Crew members will head out on deployments every four to six weeks. The week-long trips include five days flying up to 10 hours a day over the open ocean. A crew is comprised of three pilots, two flight engineers, three sensor operators, and three mechanics.

Pilots will fly in a specific "box" area, or they will be given a list of suspicious vessels to track down. Crews may fly 1,000 miles west of Mexico to the

Galápagos Islands because smugglers try to avoid detection by going that far out.

"If it's a smuggler, generally we'll stay covert the entire time. We'll come up behind him, get an identification. We'll look at the numbers printed on the side of the airplane, then we'll back off and just track them. We'll trail them all the way to landing. So we'll let them go wherever they were going. If everything works out right, the wingman law enforcement will be on the ground there waiting for them," said Jordan.

He said it is easier to arrest people if they land in the U.S., but they go to Mexico more often and Mexican officials cannot always respond in time. AMO works with the Mexican government to continue getting information about the targets after they enter Mexican airspace and will share that intel with other U.S. agencies in the region.

Interdicting boats can be easier because U.S. partners are often in international waters waiting to respond to calls from AMO. Sea interdictions make up the vast majority of the P-3 crew's work. The boats typically carry larger loads of drugs than small planes.

"Once we get close, once the other boats are inbound, we get close enough for them to see us, or they see the Coast Guard, they'll start dumping bales [of cocaine] overboard," he says. "But while we're sitting there [in the sky], we have a camera on them the whole time."

The Coast Guard cutter will seize the drugs, arrest the smugglers, and sink the boat because it cannot tow it back to its base while it is out weeks at a time. The Coast Guard has announced major hauls following returns to port several times this year, all because of the big tip-offs by AMO.

Jordan says the plane may be the face of their operation, but it is the people inside the aircraft that create the success.

"This airplane is pretty old, pretty used. What we have is the finest group of aviators and sensor operators and flight engineers that I've ever seen," Jordan said.

### **Trump again appears to back away from gun background checks (Washington Post)**

Washington Post [8/19/2019 8:36 PM, Josh Dawsey and David Nakamura, 9425K]

President Trump appears to be backing away from potential support for gun background check legislation, according to White House aides, congressional leaders and gun advocates, dimming prospects that Washington will approve significant new gun measures in the wake of mass shootings that left 31 dead.

Immediately after the carnage in El Paso and Dayton, Ohio, Trump said "there is a great appetite" for tightening background checks on people who buy firearms. But in recent days, Trump has focused in public remarks on the need to keep guns out of the hands of the mentally ill while emphasizing that the nation already has "very strong background checks right now" — positions that hew more closely to the views of the National Rifle Association.

Behind the scenes, Trump's communication with key lawmakers, including Sen. Joe Manchin III, a moderate Democrat from West Virginia who has sought to develop bipartisan gun-control measures, has gone mostly cold, according to Capitol Hill aides, in part because Congress has left town for its summer recess.

Meanwhile, the president spent most of his time with advisers during his week-long vacation in Bedminster, N.J., focused on other matters, including the possibility of an economic downturn, contentious trade talks with China, his nascent 2020 reelection campaign and concerns about how the media portrayed the size of the crowd at his campaign rally Thursday in Manchester, N.H.

On Monday, Democratic leaders said they viewed Trump's shifting posture as a sign that he was never serious about leading a push to tighten gun laws.

"We've seen this movie before: President Trump, feeling public pressure in the immediate aftermath of a horrible shooting, talks about doing something meaningful to address gun violence, but inevitably, he backtracks in response to pressure from the NRA and the hard-right," Senate Minority Leader Charles E. Schumer (D-N.Y.) said in a statement. "These retreats from President Trump are not only disappointing but also heartbreaking, particularly for the families of the victims of gun violence."

A White House official rejected the notion that Trump has shifted his stance, pointing to remarks he made to reporters last week in which he stated support for "strong, meaningful background checks" that would help prevent "people that are insane, people that are mentally ill" from obtaining firearms.

"The president is not backing down," said the official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss the president's position. "The White House continues to work through a policy process and is engaging with congressional staff on several fronts."

The slaughter of 22 people in an El Paso shopping mall and nine in a Dayton nightlife district in less than 24 hours in early August marked the latest instances of mass violence amid increasingly frequent mass shootings and rising concern about domestic extremism.

But after each round of killings, the political debate has failed to produce a significant response by Congress, as Republicans have joined the powerful gun lobby in resisting fresh gun-control legislation.

On Monday, Schumer and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) called on Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) to let his chamber vote on a bill approved by the Democratic-led House that would mandate universal background checks for gun purchases, including private transfers. But McConnell has rebuffed calls to bring the Senate back to Washington to deal with the issue, and his advisers acknowledged that he is unlikely to act without Trump's leadership.

McConnell has told advisers that he would push legislation only if the president were fully on board and it had widespread support among

Republicans in the Senate.

One Democratic aide noted that Trump has signaled that he would seek reelection by rallying his conservative base and that it does not seem plausible that the president would buck his most ardent supporters by leading an effort to strengthen background checks, which is fiercely opposed by the NRA. This aide pointed to the “game of hot potato” between Trump and McConnell, with each insisting that the other should make the first move.

“Trump says it’s on Congress to lead,” said the aide, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to frankly address the political dynamics. “That’s an easy way for nothing to ever get done.”

White House officials said they are preparing a list of other ideas on gun and mental health issues for Trump to review and potentially pass on to Congress with his support.

But Trump’s campaign commissioned a poll on guns after this month’s shootings, and his political advisers warned him that there is little support for significant action among Republican voters, and even some Democrats, people familiar with the conversations said.

“He is going to be very careful,” said one person close to the president, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss private conversations. “He isn’t inclined to do much right now.”

Trump has begun road-testing his talking points on guns. He noted to advisers that he got a roar of approval at the New Hampshire rally when he said: “It is not the gun that pulls the trigger; it is the person holding the gun.”

During an exchange with reporters Sunday as he prepared to return to Washington from Bedminster, Trump answered a question on gun control by talking first about mental illness. He then suddenly shifted topics to assert the need for stricter voting identification measures.

“A lot of people want to see something happen,” Trump said, after reporters pressed him on guns. “But just remember this: Big mental problem, and we do have a lot of background checks right now.”

Since the shootings, NRA officials have repeatedly told the president and senior White House officials that universal background checks won’t do much to prevent mass shootings, according to people familiar with the private conversations.

NRA officials also have lobbied Vice President Pence’s office and acting White House chief of staff Mick Mulvaney, as well as governors and lawmakers who face potentially difficult reelection races in 2020, officials said. White House aides and NRA officials have pointed out to Trump that many of the states he needs to win next year have a strong contingency of NRA members who would be frustrated if Trump made any drastic moves on gun control.

Gun lobby representatives have argued that Trump should focus on prosecuting gun crimes instead, White House officials said.

Some Republicans noted that Trump has shown no inclination to lead an effort on any legislation opposed by the GOP base. Last year, he floated support for offering a path to citizenship for some undocumented immigrants in exchange for billions in funding for a border wall but quickly backed off in the face of a conservative backlash.

And Trump has vaguely suggested doing more on background checks in the wake of past mass shootings only to drop the matter — most notably after 17 people were killed in a shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla., in February 2018.

In February 2017, a week after taking office, Trump rolled back Obama-era regulations aimed at making it more difficult for mentally ill people to buy firearms.

"I can't think of a single time he has really pushed Republicans to do something they weren't going to be doing anyway," said Brendan Buck, who served as a top aide to former House speaker Paul D. Ryan (R-Wis.), who left Congress in January.

"I think he personally wants to do something, but I'm not sure how equipped he is to maintain his attention on it for the next two months — which this would require — in the face of pushback from people he cares about," Buck said. "You have to come back to town, then everyone starts negotiating. Then it becomes a two-month exercise."

Aides in both parties noted that the president already seems distracted by numerous other issues, including his desire for the United States to purchase Greenland — though officials there have ruled it out.

Late Monday, Trump tweeted an illustration of Greenland, with a new gold Trump tower rising over a bay. "I promise not to do this to Greenland!" he wrote.

### **Pelosi, Schumer press for gun screenings as Trump inches away (The Hill)**

The Hill [8/19/2019 4:45 PM, Mike Lillis, 2806K]

Democratic leaders on Capitol Hill pressed President Trump on Monday to support tougher gun laws, a move that comes as the president attempts to shift the focus of gun-violence prevention from firearms to mental illness.

Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) and Senate Minority Leader Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.) contend that the most effective prescription for reining in shooting deaths is to expand background checks prior to the sale of firearms. A pair of House-passed measures, they argued, would do just that.

"Countless lives have been saved since the passage of background checks legislation," Pelosi said in a statement, referring to the screenings required of licensed gun dealers since 1994. "Tragically, efforts to irresponsibly circumvent the law have emerged, enabled by new technologies and techniques: sales made over the Internet, at gun shows and person-to-person.

"These evasions must be swiftly and fully corrected."

Pelosi and Schumer are pushing Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) to take up the House bills in the wake of a pair of deadly mass shootings in Texas and Ohio this month. And they want Trump on board as well.

Monday's pushback from the Democratic leaders is in response to Trump's remarks Sunday night, when he blamed the country's "very, very big mental health problem" — not easy access to firearms — as the driving force behind gun violence.

"It's the people that pull the trigger, not the gun that pulls the trigger," Trump said as he prepared to return to Washington from a 10-day stay at his golf club in Bedminster, N.J. "I don't want people to forget that this is a mental health problem. I don't want them to forget that because it is. It's a mental health problem."

Pressed whether he would support expanded background checks, Trump was noncommittal.

"Congress is going to be reporting back to me with ideas. And they'll come in from Democrats and Republicans, and I'll look at it very strongly," he said. "But just remember, we already have a lot of background checks, OK?"

Schumer suggested the president is simply giving lip-service to gun reform, while hoping to delay the debate and allow public pressure for congressional action to fade.

"We've seen this movie before: President Trump, feeling public pressure in the immediate aftermath of a horrible shooting, talks about doing something meaningful to address gun violence, but inevitably, he backtracks in response to pressure from the NRA and the hard right," Schumer said, referring to the National Rifle Association, the country's largest gun lobbyist group.

"These retreats from President Trump are not only disappointing but also heartbreaking, particularly for the families of the victims of gun violence," he said.

Trump's position on gun-violence prevention has been consistently inconsistent. Before entering politics, he backed tougher gun laws, including a ban on assault weapons. And after several mass shootings during his presidency, he's floated his support for expanded background checks — an idea he promoted again this month immediately following the shootings in El Paso, Texas, and Dayton, Ohio.

"Republicans and Democrats must come together and get strong background checks, perhaps marrying this legislation with desperately needed immigration reform," he tweeted in the early morning of Aug. 5.

Hours later, however, appearing at the White House, Trump shifted the focus back to mental health concerns, as well as "red-flag" laws, which would empower local authorities to seize firearms from those deemed by a judge to be a danger to themselves or others.

"Mental illness and hatred pulls the trigger, not the gun," he said.

Congressional Democrats are pushing a pair of bills passed by the House, largely on partisan lines, in February. One would expand the federal background check requirement to encompass unlicensed sellers, like those on the internet. The second would extend the FBI's window for conducting those screenings from three to 10 days.

Pelosi and Schumer have both pushed McConnell to bring senators back to Washington amid the August recess to take up those bills — an entreaty the Republican leader has rejected as political gamesmanship. Noting the poll-tested support for background checks among voters of all stripes, the Democratic leaders doubled down on that request Monday.

"Once again, I call upon the President to bring Senator McConnell back to Washington to immediately take up House-passed, bipartisan legislation to address this epidemic and to save lives," Pelosi said.

### **Mental health advocates say reopening institutions won't stop mass shootings (CNN)**

CNN [8/19/2019 3:44 PM, Zachary B. Wolf, 6094K]

Ever since mass shootings turned the national focus to gun violence two weeks ago, President Donald Trump has sought to blame anything but guns. He's pointed the finger at Hollywood for violent movies and video games and, even more, he's made the argument that people who commit mass shootings are unwell.

"It's the people that pull the trigger, not the gun that pulls the trigger so we have a very, very big mental health problem, and Congress is working on various things and I will be looking at it," Trump said Sunday in New Jersey.

His comments seemed to signal a backtrack from his openness to a new, more universal background-check system and a new focus on putting people with mental health problems into institutions.

But even mental health experts who agree that the move to eliminate psychiatric beds has gone too far say that putting people back in institutions would do nothing to curb gun violence.

Dominic Sisti is a professor at the University of Pennsylvania who co-wrote a paper titled "Bring Back the Asylum" in the Journal of the American Medical Association in 2015, but he said on Monday that the President was "proposing an idea without any actual evidence or background knowledge."

Sisti has argued that the so-called "deinstitutionalization" movement has gone too far but said reversing it isn't the answer to America's mass shootings.

"We do need more mental health beds to help people with mental illnesses," said Sisti in an email. "However, the dearth of such beds is not the cause of mass shootings, nor will increases in beds be the solution."

He pointed to research he published in June with Isabel Parera, also at Penn, on institutionalization in other countries.

"We show that many other countries closed psychiatric institutions during the period of deinstitutionalization. None even come close to the US in mass shooting frequency."

Trump has repeatedly spoken positively about the system of institutions, which was dismantled in part because of terrible abuse of patients as well as advances in treatment.

"These are people that have to be in institutions for help -- I'm not talking about as a form of a prison, I'm saying for help -- and I think it's something we have to really look at, the whole concept of mental institutions," Trump said. "I remember growing up we had mental institutions, then they were closed -- in New York, I'm talking about -- they were, many of them, closed. A lot of them were closed and all of those people were put out on the street."

Trump made similar comments after the shooting at Majory Stoneman Douglas High School in Florida killed 17 people in 2018 and also in 2017 after it was learned that the man who killed 26 people at First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs, Texas, had years before escaped from a psychiatric hospital while he was in the Air Force.

But mental health advocates see deinstitutionalization in the US very differently than Trump. The reason the institutions were closed was because they didn't work, according to Chuck Ingoglia, the president and CEO of the National Council for Behavioral Health.

"Let's be perfectly clear," he said in a statement. "The president is suggesting we return to an era of forcibly warehousing people with serious mental illness. The nation tried that approach and, rightfully abandoned it decades ago because it did not work."

There has been a long-term effort to deinstitutionalize mental health treatment in the US and rely more on community-based treatment rather than long stays at psychiatric hospitals.

"It did not work because it was applying a criminal solution to a health problem," Ingoglia said. "And it did not work because it robbed people of their dignity. People living with serious mental illness need and deserve quality mental health treatment."

He said people with mental illness shouldn't be turned into scapegoats for the problem of mass violence. And he's lobbying for more funding for community behavioral health clinics.

There has certainly been a decline in the number of beds at mental institutions. But the problem for Trump is that despite his rhetoric in favor of more mental health treatment, he's tried to slash funding for Medicaid, which provides mental health treatment to a large percentage of Americans who need it.

And often, people with severe mental health issues end up in prison or homeless.

After the shootings earlier this month in El Paso, Texas, and Dayton, Ohio,



the American Psychiatric Association issued a statement calling the gun violence a public health crisis that needs attention. But the statement warned about the effects of stigmatizing people with mental illness.

The association, too, called for additional funding for mental health programs.

"Mental health programs are severely underfunded in this country and access to needed care is challenging for individuals and families," according to its statement. "It is important to note that the overwhelming majority of people with mental illness are not violent and far more likely to be victims of violent crime than perpetrators of violence. Rhetoric that argues otherwise will further stigmatize and interfere with people accessing needed treatment. Individuals can also be emboldened to act violently by the public discourse and divisive rhetoric."

**[MD] ICE Requested A Detainer On Illegal Alien Accused Of Rape – Authorities In Democratic County Released Him Anyway (Daily Caller)**  
Daily Caller [8/19/2019 6:39 PM, Jason Hopkins, 785K]

An illegal alien from El Salvador was arrested in Montgomery County, a "sanctuary" for illegal migrants, and charged with second-degree rape and second-degree assault.

ICE lodged a detainer request for the individual, but local authorities ignored the request, and allowed him to walk out of the detention center after posting bail.

Montgomery County has witnessed several high-profile rape cases involving illegal aliens since an executive order was signed that prohibits cooperation with ICE.

A Maryland detention center ignored a detainer request by ICE and released an alleged rapist from custody, the latest run-in between federal immigration authorities and the county since it enacted a "sanctuary city" executive order.

Rodrigo Castro-Montejo, a 25-year-old Salvadoran national, was arrested by local authorities in Montgomery County, Maryland on August 10 and charged with second-degree rape and second-degree assault. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) placed a detainer request on him on August 12 because Castro-Montejo is living in the U.S. illegally, an agency spokeswoman told the Daily Caller News Foundation.

However, the Montgomery County Detention Center ignored the request and released him the following day. News of Castro-Montejo's release marks the latest national headline for the liberal enclave since County Executive Mark Elrich, a Democrat, signed an executive order that largely prohibits how local law enforcement from interacting with ICE.

The executive order forbids police from asking people about their immigration status, and it also prohibits them from cooperating with federal immigration authorities under most circumstances. The order, known formally as "The Promoting Community Trust Executive Order," builds on sanctuary policies already established in the county.

However, in just a month since the order was signed by Elrich, the Democrat-

run county has attracted national attention for the arrests of illegal aliens accused of rape.

Montgomery County Police arrested Mauricio Barrera-Navidad, 29, and Carlos Palacios-Amaya, 28 — both of whom are residents of Montgomery County — for allegedly raping an 11-year-old girl on multiple occasions. One of the suspects allegedly raped the middle school-aged girl orally, vaginally, and anally, according to authorities, all while he lived in the county that afforded him sanctuary protection.

ICE confirmed to the DCNF that both Barrera-Navidad and Palacios-Amaya are Salvadoran nationals living in the U.S. illegally.

“Montgomery County is a welcoming community that values the diversity of communities that are made up of people from a variety of backgrounds, cultures, and nations,” Elrich said in a statement earlier in August regarding the arrests. He went on to say that Montgomery officials would notify ICE when the pair are released from their custody.

The county executive added that the decision to notify ICE was not a rollback of current sanctuary policy because individuals charged with “serious crimes” were always exempt.

However, the release of Castro-Montejo, an illegal alien accused of rape, has brought renewed scrutiny by immigration authorities over how Montgomery officials execute their sanctuary policies.

The Montgomery County Department of Correction and Rehabilitation (DOCR) received a detainer order from ICE on August 12, 2019 for Rodrigo A. Castro-Montejo, “a suspect accused of rape,” read a Montgomery County statement provided to the DCNF. “At 12 p.m. on August 13, 2019, DOCR contacted ICE via telephone – using a number to a local ICE supervisor provided by that agency for notification purposes – in order to inform them that Castro-Montejo was being processed for release that day. DOCR released Castro-Montejo at approximately 6 p.m., six hours later.”

“DOCR has not received a follow-up call from ICE, nor any other communication regarding Castro-Montejo, since notifying ICE of his release,” the statement continued.

Castro-Montejo is accused of raping a female victim he knew personally after heavy consumption of alcohol. After a night of dancing, she allegedly awoke to the Salvadoran national raping her in a hotel bedroom.

### **[VA] Virginia Crime Commission digs into data on mass shootings (Washington Post)**

Washington Post [8/19/2019 6:18 PM, Laura Vozzella, 9425K]

The State Crime Commission, thrust into the center of Virginia’s roiling gun-control debate, spent Monday poring over pie charts, bar graphs and a few eyebrow-raising cartoons.

Law-enforcement officials, epidemiologists and academics spent seven hours presenting information on the growing threat of mass shootings, delving into sometimes obscure data points on a trend no one could miss.

“These events are getting closer together, and they’re getting more devastating,” said Diana Zuckerman, president of the National Center for Health Research.

The 13-member commission, which is bipartisan but controlled by Republicans, is made up of lawmakers, three gubernatorial appointees and one state official. It has been directed to study ways to address mass shootings and other gun violence.

That daunting task landed in the commission’s lap in July, when GOP leaders of the state House and Senate abruptly adjourned a special session that Gov. Ralph Northam (D) called after a mass shooting in Virginia Beach.

House Speaker Kirk Cox (R-Colonial Heights) and Senate Majority Leader Thomas K. Norment Jr. (R-James City) asked the commission to come up with recommendations before the General Assembly reconvenes Nov. 18 — after a pivotal state election in which all 140 legislative seats are on the ballot.

Democrats have dismissed the move as an effort to dodge the issue until after Election Day. Republicans have said they are sincerely seeking a comprehensive study. Whatever the motivation, the effort got underway Monday with the unusually dry forum, which drew none of the raucous gun-control and gun rights protesters who normally flock to Capitol Square when firearms are on the agenda.

They are expected to make up for that Tuesday, when the commission will allow activists, interest groups, legislators and other guests to testify.

Northam called July’s special legislative session following a mass shooting May 31 at a Virginia Beach municipal complex, where 13 people died. Republican House and Senate leaders adjourned after 90 minutes without taking up a single bill. All 78 measures proposed were referred to the commission.

Sen. Mark D. Obenshain (R-Rockingham), the panel’s chairman, opened the meeting saying that he hoped members could eventually agree on legislation to recommend to the General Assembly.

But when Del. Charniele L. Herring (D-Alexandria), a commission member, asked if they might expect to vote at the end of Tuesday’s hearing, Obenshain their work was just beginning.

The day left both sides frustrated.

Catherine Mortensen, a spokeswoman for the National Rifle Association, said the group “appreciates this thoughtful approach to studying the root causes of violent crime and how to prevent it.” But she also dismissed Northam’s “gun-control schemes” as an effort to divert attention from a blackface scandal that erupted this year over a racist photo on his 1984 medical school yearbook page.

Jake Rubenstein, spokesman for the Democratic Party of Virginia, was critical of the staunch gun rights Republicans who ran the hearing, Obenshain and

the commission's vice chairman, Del. Rob Bell (Albemarle).

"Having Mark Obenshain and Rob Bell lead a hearing on gun violence prevention is a sick joke. Why not just have Wayne LaPierre and Phil Van Cleave handle the proceedings?" said Rubenstein, referring to the NRA chief and the leader of the pro-gun Virginia Citizens Defense League, respectively.

Commission members heard about federal firearms laws from a representative of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; got an overview of firearms transactions and gun violence in the state; and learned the latest figures on gun deaths and nonfatal gun injuries.

A Secret Service official gave an overview on mass attacks in public spaces, a Boston University researcher presented a study on the most effective ways to reduce gun homicides, and an official with the John Jay College of Criminal Justice laid out a gang-intervention project.

Steven Driscoll, a research specialist with the Secret Service's National Threat Assessment Center, spoke highly of a system implemented in Colorado after the 1999 Columbine school shooting that allows students to anonymously contact law enforcement about peers whose behavior concerns them.

But he and other speakers mostly avoided endorsing or dismissing particular solutions, even when legislators on the commission tried to pin them down.

When Norment asked what might have helped prevent the shooting in Virginia Beach, Driscoll said he had not yet analyzed that case.

Norment followed up by asking which state has the best "red flag" law, a term typically referring to laws that allow authorities to temporarily take guns away from someone deemed a risk to himself for others. Driscoll demurred again.

ATF lawyer Michael Boyer incorporated some images in his presentation on firearms laws, including a discussion of who cannot legally possess them. A photo of Jack Nicholson, as a psychiatric patient in the film "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest," appeared on a slide about people being involuntarily committed. A cartoon of a woman chasing her husband with a rolling pin illustrated domestic abusers. And for "illegal aliens," he showed a cartoon of one-eyed octopus-looking space creatures.

There was an uproar on Twitter. "News Flash: Undocumented immigrants are human beings," a critic wrote.

Boyer said he was "inserting a little levity. There was no meaning outside that."

#### **[TX] US sued over Honduran man's suicide after family separation (San Francisco Chronicle)**

San Francisco Chronicle [8/19/2019 4:14 PM, Nomaan Merchant, AP, 337K]  
The widow of a Honduran man who took his own life after being separated from his 3-year-old child has sued the U.S. government and the South Texas county that jailed him when he died.

The Texas Civil Rights Project on Monday announced the lawsuit on behalf of the widow of Marco Antonio Muñoz, who died in May.

Muñoz was found unresponsive on May 13, 2018, in a jail cell in Starr County in South Texas.

His death occurred during enforcement of President Donald Trump's zero-tolerance policy that resulted in thousands of family separations.

The lawsuit claims Muñoz "yelled and screamed in desperation" when he was taken away. It says U.S. Customs and Border Protection and Starr County should have known he was a danger to himself.

CBP declined to comment. Starr County did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

### **[TX] Churches train congregants in wake of mass shooting attacks (San Francisco Chronicle)**

San Francisco Chronicle [8/19/2019 4:11 PM, Jake Bleiberg, AP, 2613K]

Acrid gun smoke clouded the entrance of a Texas church on a recent Sunday.

Seven men wearing heavy vests and carrying pistols loaded with blanks ran toward the sound of the shots, stopping at the end of a long hallway. As one peeked into the foyer, the "bad guy" raised the muzzle of an AR-15, took aim and squeezed the trigger.

The simulated gunfight at the church in Haslet was part of a niche industry that trains civilians to protect their churches using the techniques and equipment of law enforcement. Rather than a bullet, the rifle fired a laser that hit Stephen Hatherley's vest — triggering an electric shock the 60-year-old Navy veteran later described as a "tingle."

Mass shootings this month killed more than 30 people at an El Paso Walmart and Dayton, Ohio, entertainment district. But gunmen also have targeted houses of worships in recent years, including a church in rural Sutherland Springs, Texas, where more than two dozen people were fatally shot in 2017.

The anxiety of one mass shooting after another has led some churches to start training and arming their worshipers with guns. Not all security experts support this approach, but it has gained momentum as congregations across the country grapple with how to secure spaces where welcoming strangers is a religious practice.

"Ten years ago, this industry was not a thing," said David Riggall, a Texas police officer whose company trains churchgoers to volunteer as security guards.

In 1993, Doug Walker said security wasn't at the fore of his mind when, as a recent Baptist seminary graduate, he founded Fellowship of the Parks church in Fort Worth. But six years later, after a gunman killed seven people and took his own life at another church in the Texas city, the pastor said his thinking changed.

Today, the interdenominational church has four campuses and 3,000 worshipers on an average Sunday, Walker said. It has increased security as it has grown, asking off-duty police to carry weapons at church events. And it recently hired Riggall's company, Sheepdog Defense Group, to train volunteers in first aid, threat assessment, de-escalation techniques, using a gun and tactical skills, such as clearing rooms during an active shooting.

Walker, 51, said there wasn't a single event that prompted his church to decide its guards needed more training. But Riggall said that after mass shootings congregations reach out.

"Every time the news comes on and there's another shooting in a school or church or something like that, the phone starts ringing," Riggall said.

### **[Mexico] Mexican Man Extradited to U.S. for Alleged Child Sex Trafficking (Breitbart)**

Breitbart [8/19/2019 1:35 PM, Bob Price, 2034K]

Mexican law enforcement officials extradited a man to the U.S. where he faces multiple felony charges connected to sex trafficking of minors and other women. An 18-count indictment connects six men to the trafficking, human smuggling, and money laundering conspiracy.

Police in Mexico arrested Jose Miguel Melendez-Rojas in February on charges related to an 18-count indictment in the Eastern District of New York, alleging a conspiracy to commit sex-trafficking, sex-trafficking of minors, interstate prostitution, human smuggling, and money laundering. The co-conspirators include Mexican nationals with multiple deportations, according to court documents.

"Melendez-Rojas was flown thousands of miles to face charges for his role in trafficking and victimizing young women purely for profit. It's alleged that he, with others in this 'family business,' used intimidation and abuse to force their victims to participate in sexual acts against their will," Peter C. Fitzhugh, special agent in charge for HSI New York, said in a written statement. "The safety and well-being of the victim comes first and we will continue to work with our law enforcement partners in ensuring these criminal organizations cease to victimize for revenue."

Between 2006 and July 2017, Melendez-Rojas and his five co-conspirators allegedly smuggled young women and girls from Mexico to the U.S. by promising them work. When they arrived in New York, they allegedly told the girls they must work as prostitutes, including the underage girls.

In May 2010, one of the co-conspirators, Francisco Melendez-Perez, met with Jane Doe #1, an underage female from Tecamachalco, Mexico, and began dating her. Two weeks later, the young girl moved into his home in Tenancingo, Mexico. At that time, the girl informed him she was only 14-years-old, according to a criminal complaint. In July, Francisco informed the girl they would travel to the U.S. to find work. He allegedly did not specify the type of work, Jane Doe #1 alleged.

Francisco and his aunt, "Ma Ana Perez-Rojas," traveled to the U.S. with the young girl and attempted to cross the border. Border Patrol agents caught

them on two separate crossings and returned them to Mexico under voluntary removal. In October they successfully crossed the border into Arizona and traveled to New York by coyotes, Jane Doe #1 stated in the complaint.

After they moved into an apartment, Francisco told Jane Doe #1 she had to work as a prostitute. When she refused, Francisco allegedly threatened to turn her into immigration officers who would deport her. She said she had no other choice and began working as a prostitute.

The indictment against Melendez-Rojas and the other five men alleges multiple counts of sex-trafficking of minors and sex-trafficking of adult women from Mexico. It includes two counts of sex trafficking a minor related to Jane Doe #1 and 5 and three other counts of sex trafficking Jane Doe #2, 3, and 6. The indictment also includes multiple counts of alien smuggling as the men brought the women and young girls from Mexico illegally into the U.S., the indictment states. The indictment also includes two counts related to money laundering and the distribution of proceeds of a prostitution business.

Multiple conspirators also face charges related to illegal re-entry after removal by immigration officers.

The government seeks forfeiture of assets related to the smuggling and sex-trafficking conspiracy.

"With this extradition, the defendant Jose Miguel Melendez-Rojas will be held accountable in a United States court for sex trafficking women and girls and related crimes," Richard P. Donoghue, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of New York, said in a written statement. "The Department of Justice is committed to prosecuting to the fullest extent of the law those who profit from forcing vulnerable victims into sexual servitude."

If convicted of the charges in the indictment, each conspirator could face a minimum of 15 years and a maximum of life in prison, prosecutors stated.

## **Immigration and Customs Enforcement**

### **ICE defends detaining breastfeeding mom (The Hill)**

The Hill [8/19/2019 9:07 AM, Rebecca Klar - 08/19/19 09:07 AM EDT, 2806K] U.S. Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE) is defending its detention of a mother apart from her three children, including her breastfeeding 4-month-old daughter.

Maria Domingo-Garcia is among 680 immigrants detained earlier this month in ICE raids at Mississippi food processing plants, and has been separated from her children for 12 days at a facility nearly 200 miles from her home, CNN reports.

Lawyers and justice advocates are reportedly working to get her released.

ICE spokesman Bryan Cox told CNN that Domingo-Garcia answered "no" when she was asked if she is breastfeeding, adding in a statement he could not discuss specifics of a person's medical information without a signed privacy waiver.

An ICE spokesperson was not immediately available for comment to The Hill.

Ray Ybarra Maldonado, one of Domingo-Garcia's attorneys, told CNN that his client had not been asked whether she was breastfeeding.

Domingo-Garcia was only asked if she had a 4-month-old, to which she replied "yes," her other lawyer, Juliana Manzanarez, told CNN.

Domingo-Garcia's lawyers, who said they visited her on Saturday, told CNN that she is depressed and in pain from being separated from her children and not being able to pump breast milk.

They said she migrated from Guatemala and has lived in the U.S. for 11 years.

Acting Secretary of Homeland Security Kevin McAleenan has said the raids were done "with sensitivity." He said about 30 people were released on site and more were released later for humanitarian reasons.

**A breastfeeding mom is still being held in an ICE facility 12 days after being detained, attorneys say (CNN)**

CNN [8/19/2019 9:10 AM, Hollie Silverman, 6094K]

Maria Domingo-Garcia left for work 12 days ago, and she hasn't been home.

The mother of three has been separated from her 4-month-old daughter -- who she still breastfeeds -- since being picked up during a US Immigration and Customs Enforcement raid at Koch Foods in Morton, Mississippi.

Domingo-Garcia was among the 680 undocumented immigrants detained August 7 in raids, the most in the agency's history, at seven food processing plants across the central part of the state.

She's being held at a facility in Jena, Louisiana, which is nearly 200 miles from Morton.

When a woman is breastfeeding, her body continues to produce milk that needs to be expressed or it can cause pain and swelling.

In a video posted online by The Clarion-Ledger in Jackson, Mississippi, Domingo-Garcia's husband tried to bottle-feed the crying infant as he explained that he has friends in the area but no family to help care for the children.

He has been trying to take the kids' minds off the situation, he told the newspaper.

"They go to the park and relax so they will not feel the absence of the mom," said Father Roberto Mena of St. Michael's Catholic Church in Forest, Mississippi, interpreting for the father.

"He has another boy who also goes to school, so every time he comes from school he asks, 'What is the situation of the mom?'" Mena said.

Domingo-Garcia's attorneys, Ray Ybarra Maldonado and Juliana Manzanarez, along with Dalila Reynoso, program director for Justice for Our Neighbors in Texas, have been working with the mother and her



family as they navigate her custody and hopeful release.

ICE spokesman Bryan Cox said all detainees receive a medical screening upon intake and many people were released for a variety of reasons. If a woman identified that she was nursing she may have been released because it would be considered a mitigating factor in determining detention, he said.

Cox indicated in a Sunday statement he was unable to discuss the specifics of any person's medical information without a signed privacy waiver, but he did say he was aware of communications between Domingo-Garcia's attorneys and an ICE representative who claimed Domingo-Garcia answered "no" when asked whether she was breastfeeding.

"ICE is, once again, lying," said Ybarra Maldonado. "She said nobody's asked her -- not even one time -- if she's been breastfeeding."

"Can you imagine having a 4-month-old baby and being ripped away from that baby, unsure of who is taking care of her?" he said. "She's devastated." Manzanarez added Domingo-Garcia told her that detention center staff has asked her only if she has a 4-month-old daughter, to which she replied "yes."

Domingo-Garcia is originally from Guatemala and has lived in the United States for 11 years, Ybarra Maldonado said.

Her daughter and two sons, ages 3 and 11, are US citizens.

"It's absolutely a horrific and tragic situation this family is going through," the lawyer said. "As a father and an immigration attorney it doesn't make sense to me."

Manzanarez visited Domingo-Garcia on Saturday and says the mother is feeling the effects of having to suddenly stop breastfeeding.

"She is still really depressed. She is in a lot of pain because of not being able to pump or breastfeed," Manzanarez said.

Added Ybarra Maldonado, "You're in a state of shock. You're in so much pain because you're away from your kids, especially a young baby."

Domingo-Garcia thinks only of her children and especially her baby, Manzanarez said.

"Every other word was 'My daughter,' and, 'She really needs me,'" she said.

Reynoso, an advocate who is working with other migrants detained in the Jena facility, said Domingo-Garcia was third on a list of people her agency was contacting following the raids.

When they met, she said, the mother was devastated.

"She just had this lost look to her," Reynoso said.

As she waits for her hearing date and release, her husband is grappling with how to take care of his children without their mother.

"Distraught is an understatement," Manzanarez said, describing the father. "He's turned upside down. He's trying to figure out how he's going to make it work now."

Both she and Reynoso have visited the family as they wait for their mother and wife to return.

The 3-year-old doesn't really understand what's happening but knows his mother isn't there, Manzanarez said.

The 11-year-old knows and understands why his mother is gone.

"He knows. He's like, 'I want my mom back home. I don't understand why they're keeping here,' and, 'She didn't do anything wrong. We need her here,'" Manzanarez said.

No hearing date has been set for Domingo-Garcia, Ybarra Maldonado said.

He's had several conversations over email with Department of Homeland Security officials and has offered to pay bond, but the agency has not responded to his request. he said. "They've stopped communicating back with me," he said.

His team will continue to offer to pay a bond so she can be released on her own recognizance until she's given a date for a judge to hear her case, he said.

[Editorial note: consult source link for video]

**[NY] Lawyer says ICE detained undocumented worker during deposition against former employer (The Hill)**

The Hill [8/19/2019 5:54 PM, Zack Budryk, 2806K]

A lawyer for an undocumented restaurant worker said Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) wrongly detained his client while he was being deposed in a lawsuit against his employer, according to WNYC.

Brooklyn resident Xue Hui Zhang, who previously worked as a cook for the now-defunct Albany restaurant Ichiban, is suing his former employers for violations of the Fair Labor Standards Act, saying he is owed \$200,000 in back pay. Last Monday, Zhang's attorney Adam Dong said his client was detained when they broke for lunch while Zhang was giving his deposition at the defense counsel's office.

"We got out of the car and we walked toward the diner entrance," Dong told WNYC, at which point he said five or six ICE agents "stopped us and said, 'Mr. Zhang can you come with us?'"

Dong said the agents told him Zhang had an outstanding warrant. He is currently being held at a Buffalo detention facility, according to WNYC.

"It is not difficult to infer ICE was there because someone tipped them off, they were waiting for Mr. Zhang to come out to arrest him," Dong said, adding that Zhang believes his former employers tipped off the agency.

Matthew Mann, who is representing Ichiban in the lawsuit, denied his clients made any such tipoff, according to WNYC. "I have no firsthand knowledge of the facts of Mr. Zhang's arrest," Mann said. "My clients have assured me that they did not call ICE."

ICE has a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Department of Labor not to detain or arrest workers in the process of suing an employer for workplace violations, according to WNYC.

"The goal of this MOU is to prevent what happened in this case, which is employer retaliation, and ICE being the assistant to the retaliation," attorney John Troy, whose firm is also representing Zhang, told the outlet, adding that he plans to cite the MOU when he seeks to free Zhang.

The Hill has reached out to ICE for comment. A spokesperson for the agency told WNYC that "ICE did nothing in violation of this memo."

### **[NY] Sanctuary In The Big Apple: Every ICE Detainer Request Ignored By NYPD (Daily Caller)**

Daily Caller [8/19/2019 12:45 PM, Jason Hopkins, 785K]

Newly-released information shows that the New York Police Department denied thousands of Immigration and Customs Enforcement detainer requests over a one-year timespan.

The New York Police Department (NYPD) received a total of 2,916 detainer requests from Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) between to July 1, 2018 to June 30 of this year, according to data first obtained by the New York Daily News. Despite the high volume of requests during that time period, every single one was ignored by the NYPD.

The Big Apple has long been considered a "sanctuary city" for illegal immigrants — a term given to localities that refuse to help ICE locate or apprehend suspected illegal aliens. NYC Mayor Bill de Blasio, who is running for the Democratic presidential nomination, has established himself as an outspoken advocate for his city's illegal immigrant community. The entire state has also increasingly shifted leftward on the issue, with state lawmakers recently passing a law that allows illegal immigrants to obtain driver's licenses.

"The NYPD does not conduct civil immigration enforcement," Detective Denise Moroney said Monday in a brief response to the Daily Caller News Foundation, reiterating the city's sanctuary policies.

ICE lambasted the practice of ignoring detainer requests in a statement to the DCNF.

"U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) places detainees on individuals who have been arrested on local criminal charges and who are suspected of being deportable, so that ICE can take custody of that person when he or she is released from local custody," an ICE official said Monday. "When law enforcement agencies fail to honor immigration detainers and release serious criminal offenders onto the streets, it undermines ICE's ability to protect public safety and carry out its mission."

Many proponents of sanctuary city laws argue that ICE detainer requests are not legitimate unless they are accompanied by a warrant. The agency took umbrage with this as well.

“Congress has established no process, requirement, or expectation directing ICE to seek a judicial warrant from already overburdened federal courts before taking custody of an alien on civil immigration violations. This idea is simply a figment created by those who wish to undermine immigration enforcement and excuse the ill-conceived practices of sanctuary jurisdictions that put politics before public safety,” the ICE spokesperson continued.

**[MS] Mississippi ICE Raids: No Employers Charged Yet for Hiring Illegal Aliens (Breitbart)**

Breitbart [8/19/2019 10:36 PM, John Binder, 2034K]

This month, ICE agents conducted the largest workplace raid in more than a decade across five food processing plants in Mississippi, netting the arrests of 680 illegal aliens. That same day, however, ICE officials said they released about 300 of the illegal workers back into the U.S. on “humanitarian grounds.” More than 200 of the illegal workers had prior criminal records. The raids have already resulted in job fairs at some of the plants seeking to hire locals.

Despite federal affidavits alleging widespread exploitation and fraud at the five food processing plants, charges against the employers who are accused of “willfully” hiring the illegal workers have yet to be brought by federal prosecutors, the Clarion Ledger reported.

To date, only 40 of the 680 illegal aliens have had charges brought against them since the ICE raid.

Federal affidavits, as Breitbart News noted, allege that the food processing plant employers were fully aware that hundreds of their employees were illegally in the U.S. and in some cases, illegal workers said they were not asked for work authorization documents.

Many of the illegal workers would arrive at the food processing plants wearing ankle monitors, indicating that they had been released by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) into the U.S. interior after crossing the southern border.

The affidavits allege that a woman in charge of the payroll for both P H Food Inc. and A & B Inc., as well as a worker who dealt with the payroll of two plants, were fully aware of the hundreds of illegal workers that were employed. At P H Food Inc., an informant told federal officials that almost the entire staff of 240 workers was illegally in the country.

Some of the employers raided by ICE have a lengthy history of hiring illegal workers over Americans. Koch Foods Inc. which has no relation to the billionaire Koch brothers, for example, was found to have hired at least 144 illegal workers between 2002 and 2019. Last year, Koch Foods Inc. was forced to pay about \$3.75 million after being found to have mistreated female Hispanic workers by subjecting them to hostile work environments, then retaliating against them if they complained.

Today, there are at least eight million illegal aliens holding American jobs in the U.S. economy that would have otherwise gone to American workers and legal immigrants. The mass employment of illegal aliens by hundreds of businesses, though, continues to go largely ignored by the law, as only 11 employers and no businesses have been federally prosecuted for hiring illegal aliens in the last year.

The number of federal prosecutions of employers who knowingly hire illegal aliens over Americans rarely exceeds 15 per year.

Only during brief periods, from 2004 to 2006, and from 2008 to 2010, did employers who hire illegal workers exceed 15 per year.

**[TX] ICE places hold on Texas man accused of letting daughter, 12, drive in crash that killed man, dog (FOX News)**

FOX News [8/19/2019 8:35 PM, Louis Casiano, 10258K]

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement placed a hold on a Houston man who police said let his 12-year-old daughter drive his SUV, which resulted in the death of a man and his dog last week.

The hold was placed on Tomas Mejia Tol, 42, for an immigration violation, court documents cited by Fox 26 read.

Holds are placed on people "arrested on criminal charges for whom ICE possesses probable cause to believe that they are removable from the United States," according to ICE.

Such detainers typically ask jails to notify immigration officials before a person is released to allow agents to launch deportation proceedings.

Tol was charged with negligent homicide and endangering a child in the death of 46-year-old Enrique Vazquez.

Prosecutors said Tol let his daughter drive his Ford Explorer in an apartment complex parking lot on Aug. 17 at the same time Vazquez was walking his dogs in the area.

There was also a 2-year-old in the back seat, investigators said. The girl hit the accelerator and struck Vazquez, one of his dogs and a tree.

Vazquez was pronounced dead at the scene; the dog died later.

## **Citizenship and Immigration Services**

**Trump administration tightens rules for immigrant work permits (FOX News)**

FOX News [8/19/2019 7:13 PM, Gregg Re, 10258K]

The Trump administration issued new policy guidance on Monday tightening the rules for awarding discretionary work permits to immigrants who have been temporarily allowed into the United States for "urgent humanitarian reasons or significant public benefit" under the Immigration and Nationality Act.

The move came a week after the White House issued a long-awaited rule strengthening the ability of federal officials to deny green cards to immigrants deemed likely to rely on government aid.

Section 212(d)(5)(A) of the Immigration and Nationality Act affords the Department of Homeland Security the discretion to decide when to afford aliens entry under "extraordinary" circumstances, such as to visit a dying relative or obtain life-saving medical treatment. The one-time entry is a privilege, not a right — and the administration's guidance made clear that officials were wary it was being abused.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) said the new guidance emphasizes "the use of discretion when determining whether to grant employment authorization for foreign nationals paroled into the United States in keeping with existing policies."

The bulletin also "provides a list of positive and negative factors that an officer may consider when balancing the totality of the circumstances and determining whether an applicant warrants a favorable exercise of discretion," according to USCIS.

"USCIS has determined that it is necessary to issue this guidance at this time because there is a national emergency at the U.S. southern border where foreign nationals are entering the U.S. illegally," the agency said in a statement.

The White House has touted its tough immigration policies as the cause for a recent decline in immigrant detentions at the border. The number of migrants encountered by U.S. authorities at the border with Mexico dropped below 100,000 for the first time in five months amid increased collaboration by Mexico and Guatemala to crack down on the flow of humanity, according to government data released earlier this month.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection encountered 82,049 people in July, down 21 percent from June when there were 104,344 people and down 43 percent from May. The number of families and minors crossing the border also dropped.

Although seasonal declines are common, U.S. officials said the drop was far greater than last year's in the same timeframe.

To avoid punishing tariffs threatened by the Trump administration, Mexico agreed in June to dramatically expand its border enforcement efforts. The country has employed a variety of tools — including a giant X-ray and Mexican National Guard troops — to uphold its end of the bargain and catch hundreds of migrants.

The U.S. has also escalated its domestic enforcement efforts. An operation carried out by Immigration and Customs Enforcement earlier this month resulted in the detention of 680 illegal immigrants. Agents targeted a food processing plant in Mississippi and swarmed the facility with federal search warrants in hand.

"The execution of federal search warrants today was simply about enforcing

the rule of law in our state and throughout our great country," U.S. Attorney Mike Hurst said in a statement at the time.

"I commend these federal agents, our state and local law enforcement partners, and our federal prosecutors for their professionalism and dedication to ensure that those who violate our laws are held accountable."

2020 presidential hopeful Sen. Kamala Harris, D-Calif., called the move a part of a "campaign of terror."

Acting Homeland Security Secretary Kevin McAleenan emphasized last week that, despite the successes, the situation remains an emergency.

"The situation is improving by every available metric, but, and I want to be very clear about this, we remain at and beyond crisis levels," McAleenan said.

**President Trump decision to end DACA was lawful, Justice Department says (FOX News)**

FOX News [8/20/2019 3:01 AM, Danielle Wallace, 10258K]

The Justice Department submitted a legal brief to the Supreme Court Monday that stated President Trump acted lawfully when he decided to end the Obama-era immigration program known as DACA in September of 2017, according to a new report.

The Department of Homeland Security, "correctly, and at a minimum reasonably, concluded that DACA is unlawful," Justice Department lawyers wrote in a brief submitted to the Supreme Court late Monday.

The Supreme Court will begin to hear arguments in November. A ruling is expected in the presidential election year, putting the high court at the center of one of the most politically charged issues of debates. A decision in favor of Trump would allow for the president to deport more than one million young adults residing in the U.S. under DACA protection, the New York Times reported.

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, was created under an executive order in 2012. The program gives some illegal immigrants -- known as "Dreamers" -- who were brought to the United States as children-- the opportunity to receive a renewable two-year reprieve from deportation and become eligible for a work permit.

In 2017, the Trump administration announced its plan to phase out the program, but federal courts have ruled that the phase-out could not apply retroactively and that the program should be restarted.

The White House fought back on those decisions, saying the president has broad authority over immigration enforcement policy. Federal appeals courts around the country have rejected efforts by the federal government to move ahead with phasing out the Obama-era program.

DACA proponents have also argued that Trump's planned termination of the program violates federal law requiring adequate notice-and-comment periods before certain federal rules are changed, as well as other constitutional equal protection and due process guarantees.

A decision from the Supreme Court to end DACA could galvanize young Americans to ensure Trump does not see another four years in the White House, the Times report stated. On the other hand, if the Court chooses to continue the Obama-era program, conservatives could argue Trump needs another four years to fulfill his campaign promises on immigration.

**DACA's dark side: Illegal immigrants use Obama reprieve for criminal activities (Washington Times)**

Washington Times [8/19/2019 8:14 PM, Stephen Dinan, 452K]

Yadel Alvarez-Chio is an illegal immigrant, but she was one of the lucky ones — a “Dreamer” who was able to take advantage of the Obama-era DACA deportation amnesty, which gave her a reprieve to stay in the U.S., a work permit to hold a job and access to a full legal driver’s license.

She used the opportunity to become an immigrant smuggler, authorities say.

Ms. Alvarez was nabbed by Border Patrol agents this month in Woodsboro, Texas, where she was found driving two illegal immigrant Mexicans in a black Cadillac. She admitted she was earning \$4,000 to smuggle the men and said \$3,500 of that would go to pay off a debt she had incurred to the smuggling organizers.

DACA, or Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, crossed the seven-year mark of operations last week. The anniversary sparked a new round of introspection, with immigrant rights advocates saying the program has proved its worth by helping give opportunity to a generation of children who have become doctors, soldiers, lawyers and teachers.

But the program does have a darker side — those who used their reprieve for criminal activities.

Take Jose Yepez-Vega, who earlier this year pleaded guilty to smuggling three illegal immigrants from Mexico, leading Border Patrol agents on a high-speed pursuit along more than 40 miles of Texas highways, at speeds up to 130 miles per hour.

His case was so stark that he told the court he was going to plead insanity. He ended up accepting a guilty plea and lost his DACA status.

Then there’s Rafael Martinez-Alvarez, arrested by Border Patrol agents in June as he and a buddy cruised near the U.S.-Mexico line in southern Texas. His case is still pending.

And Guadalupe Perez-Avila, nabbed by agents as he sat in his car waiting to make a pickup of illegal immigrants in Calexico, California. Agents said he told them he was going to get \$2,000 to pick up six Mexicans, who themselves were paying up to \$7,000 to be smuggled.

Those details emerged from records in court cases The Washington Times has tracked over the last year, revealing more than a dozen cases of young adults with DACA status who have been charged with smuggling of other illegal immigrants.



Some of them like Mr. Yepez have been convicted and face deportation. Others, such as Mr. Perez, pleaded their cases down from felony smuggling to misdemeanor accessory charges that, on their face, appear to have saved them from deportation. DACA recipients are allowed some level of criminal history as long as it's not too serious.

In fact, nearly 8% of those approved for DACA have arrests of some kind on their records, according to Homeland Security data from last year. That included nearly 21,000 with drunken-driving arrests, another 4,600 with other drug charges, and more than 6,600 with theft or larceny charges.

Some 22 DACA recipients were approved despite having dog-fighting or other animal cruelty charges, as were 31 accused rapists, 425 people with hit-and-run arrests and 10 people accused of murder, according to data from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

Just as striking was the number of arrests some DACA recipients had. More than four dozen people with 10 or more arrests were approved for the amnesty.

USCIS said it doesn't specifically track DACA recipients and immigrant smuggling cases. Neither does U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement or the Justice Department. Privacy rules make it difficult to find out status updates on those in the program.

The smuggling cases are particularly because they usually involve cars — and getting a full legal driver's license was one of the big attractions of DACA status, along with the work permit, access to some taxpayer benefits and, of course, the stay of deportation.

"It was a great opportunity and lots of people used it constructively. Unfortunately others exploited it, and are using it against our country as a way to help other people break our immigration laws," said Jessica Vaughan, policy studies director at the Center for Immigration Studies.

"There are plenty of politicians who support DACA and other legalization programs, believe this somehow makes more loyal Americans out of illegal immigrants. It's naive to think that's always the case," she added.

Alexis Castaneda-Meza, a DACA recipient, was able to produce a valid Arizona driver's license when he was pulled over by a federal ranger who thought he spotted suspicious behavior. He told agents he was getting \$300 per person to drive four Mexican migrants from the pickup location on Interstate 8 to a taco joint in Phoenix.

But some DACA recipients didn't even bother to get a license.

Israel Rubio-Rodriguez, charged in June with smuggling five illegal immigrants, had his federal DACA work permit, but was charged by local police with driving without a license.

Requests for comment to the White House for this story went unanswered, while specific questions sent to Homeland Security agencies did not receive detailed responses.

The overwhelming majority of DACA recipients do avoid criminal entanglements, and most used their reprieve to as an opportunity to get better jobs or finish school.

Indeed, 96% were in school or had a job, according to a survey released at the six-year mark last August.

Tom K. Wong, the researcher who compiled the numbers, said those who held jobs saw their earning power surge an average of 78%, and 6% of those enrolled in DACA started their own businesses.

Last week's DACA anniversary spurred another round of praise for the program, begun in the run-up to the 2012 election by President Barack Obama, at a time when he was worried about lagging support among Hispanic voters.

Under the program, Dreamers who arrived in the U.S. by 2007, were under 31 years of age at the time the program was announced, and who have pursued a high school diploma and met other qualifications were able to earn a two-year stay of deportation, renewable in perpetuity.

Initial estimates said as many as 1.3 million Dreamers might qualify, but so far only about 800,000 have been processed and awarded the status over the last seven years. Of those, 674,000 are currently enrolled. Some others have managed to win full legal status, through marriage or another avenue, while still others failed to reapply or — like Yopez — had their status revoked.

Activists see the program as a test for an eventual broader legalization for most of the rest of the illegal-immigrant population.

But President Trump, while saying he supported Dreamers, announced a phase out of DACA in September 2017, saying he concluded the program was illegal.

Several courts have blocked that move, ruling he cut too many corners. The Supreme Court takes that case up later this year.

"Since the program was established in 2012, DACA recipients have been able to pursue higher education, participate more fully in the labor force, purchase homes and cars, and support their families — but now their lives are at risk of being uprooted," the Center for American Progress wrote in a memo last week warning Dreamers to send in their renewals now, while the program is still protected by the courts.

DACA recipients have become the most powerful symbol in the immigration debate. Granting them full citizenship rights is a near-universal position among Democrats on Capitol Hill, and is also popular among a number of Republicans.

Mr. Trump last year even put forward his own proposal for a pathway to citizenship for DACA-eligible migrants.

Ms. Vaughan cautioned lawmakers to take a measured approach, saying the

low bar set by the Obama administration meant people who wouldn't have qualified for any other immigration benefit were granted DACA.

"There does seem to be some political support for a legalization program for DACA but it's important this program re-vet all of the people who received it, because the standards were very lax," she said.

**[Guatemala] U.S. Envoy Offers Farm Visas to Boost Asylum Deal With Guatemala (US News & World Report)**

US News & World Report [8/19/2019 9:29 PM, Sofia Menchu, 3196K]

In a bid to strengthen an asylum deal forged between Guatemala's outgoing president and the United States, a U.S. official offered on Monday to triple the number of temporary farmworker visas available to Guatemalans.

Last month, under threat of painful sanctions issued by U.S. President Donald Trump, Guatemala's Jimmy Morales agreed to require U.S.-bound Hondurans and Salvadorans to seek refuge in Guatemala instead of proceeding north.

The deal, known as a "safe third country" agreement, is meant to reduce U.S. asylum claims. While hailed by Trump, it has also provoked widespread criticism from rights groups citing the risks of sending vulnerable people to a country with endemic poverty and violence.

Guatemala's incoming president, Alejandro Giammattei, won a runoff election earlier this month and said afterwards that the deeply unpopular deal still needs to be approved by Guatemala's legislature as well as the U.S. Congress, further complicating its future.

The conservative Giammattei, who takes office in January, has also criticized the deal as "not right for the country," citing Guatemala's lack of resources to provide for asylum seekers.

On a trip to Guatemala this week, White House Latin America adviser Mauricio Claver-Carone sought to shore up support for the deal.

"We could help Guatemala by tripling the H-2A program," he told reporters on Monday at the U.S. ambassador's residence in the Guatemalan capital.

The H-2A visa is for temporary foreign farmworkers and last year nearly 4,000 Guatemalans were recipients, according to U.S. government data.

Mexican farmworkers were awarded far more H-2A visas in 2018 - around 180,000.

The envoy did not provide further details on the visa offer.

He said Guatemala would soon be entering into an agreement with the United Nations refugee agency UNHCR to help process asylum seekers and that the U.S. government would help finance it.

"UNHCR should be part of the process and the development of the agreement. We're counting on it," he said.

Morales' office and the UNHCR did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

**[North Korea] North Korea disparages new U.S. visa policy (Breitbart)**

Breitbart [8/19/2019 2:57 AM, Staff, 2034K]

North Korea is slamming the United States for prohibiting foreign passport holders from traveling visa-free, if they visited the reclusive nation as private citizens.

Pyongyang's propaganda outlet Uriminzokkiri said Monday the United States is "humiliating" the South Korean people by implementing a new policy that is most likely to have the greatest impact on the South — a country included in the United States' Visa Waiver Program.

"The more [a country] acts obsequiously and subserviently, the greater the shame and humiliation," Uriminzokkiri said in a statement that took aim at South Korea policy. "That is the serious lesson for the pitiful predicament of contemporary South Korea."

The new policy from the U.S. Customs and Border Protection comes at a time when Seoul continues to pursue a policy of engagement in spite of recent North Korea weapons tests.

All South Korean passport holders are eligible to travel visa-free to the United States, provided they submit an Electronic System for Travel Authorization application at least 72 hours prior to travel.

South Korean citizens who visited the North after March 1, 2011 for non-governmental purposes are no longer eligible for ESTA, which facilitates travel authorization online. All foreign nationals of VWP countries must now apply for a separate visa in person by visiting a U.S. embassy.

On Monday Uriminzokkiri said the policy "criminalizes the righteous act" of South Koreans who visited North Korea for the "development of North-South relations, for peace and prosperity."

North Korea has also condemned joint U.S.-South Korea military exercises while building military ties with China, its closest partner.

Yonhap reported Sunday North Korea's Kim Su Gil, director of the General Political Bureau of the Korean People's Army met with Zhang Youxia, vice chairman of China's Central Military Commission.

The meeting took place on Saturday and the two sides agreed to "strengthen communication, and promote cooperation and mutual support."

Beijing and Pyongyang also promised to take the "two armed forces to a higher level," according to Yonhap.

## **Customs and Border Protection**

**[NM] Border Patrol nabs nearly 200 Central American migrants near New Mexico port of entry (FOX News)**

FOX News [8/20/2019 3:46 AM, Danielle Wallace, 10258K]

U.S. Border Patrol on Monday said agents apprehended a large group of nearly 200 illegal immigrants near a base at a New Mexico port of entry over the weekend.

The agency said 194 illegal immigrants were apprehended after 3 a.m. Sunday. They were trying to cross the border near Camp Bounds Forward Operating Base, located near the Antelope Wells Port of Entry in New Mexico, a statement read. The group consisted mostly of families and unaccompanied minors from Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador.

A 7-year-old travelling with a parent was airlifted to a hospital after tests showed he had a high fever. The child was diagnosed with the flu and later returned to Border Patrol custody. Initial medical screenings showed other migrants had lice and scabies.

"Large groups like these exacerbate the current immigration process further impacting our workforce, facilities, and resources," Interim Chief Patrol Agent Gloria Chavez said in a press release. "I commend the incredible work of our Border Patrol Agents who continue to push forward through this border crisis."

Though the number of apprehensions has been down in recent months, border patrol operations are challenged by a high numbers of illegal immigrants entering the United States when compared to last year's figures. 172,000 migrants had been apprehended in the El Paso Sector this fiscal year, a large increase from more than 31,000 migrants apprehended during the entire fiscal year 2018.

#### **[AZ] Migrants Rescued After Being Abandoned for 10 Days in AZ Desert (Breitbart)**

Breitbart [8/19/2019 9:32 AM, Bob Price, 2034K]

A tweet from the White House reports that Border Patrol agents and an aircrew from U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) began a search for a group of lost migrants after receiving a 911 call. The Air and Marine Operations (AMO) located the lost migrants and landed with a Border Patrol emergency medical technician.

The agents provided medical assistance after learning the migrants wandered in the desert for 10 days. Officials report the migrants did not have water for six of those days.

"Crossing the border illegally is dangerous," the White House official tweeted.

So far this year, more than 250 migrants died while or shortly after illegally crossing the border from Mexico into the U.S., according to the Missing Migrants Project. At least 75 of those occurred along the Arizona border with Mexico.

The migrant deaths include 157 men, 30 women, and 13 children, the report states. The gender of 51 migrants could not be determined.

Earlier this month, Border Patrol agents responded to another group of 10

which became lost in Texas after illegally crossing the border, Breitbart Texas reported. One fell unconscious.

Eagle Pass South Station Border Patrol officials received a 911 call about a group needing assistance on August 3. The agents executed a search of a remote area of Maverick County and eventually located the group. A statement obtained from Del Rio Sector officials states that the day was one of the hottest of this year with temperatures reaching above the 100-degree mark.

"Prolonged exposure during the South Texas summer months is extremely dangerous for those not prepared for the unforgiving environment," Del Rio Sector Chief Patrol Agent Raul L. Ortiz said in the written statement. "Our agents know these conditions well and risked their own safety to prevent further loss of life."

One of the men, a 47-year-old Mexican national, became unresponsive. Agents quickly began CPR on the man and contacted an ambulance for assistance. Despite their best efforts, the Mexican man died at the scene, officials stated.

**[CA] What's spicier than a truckload of jalapeños? A truckload of jalapeños concealing nearly 4 tons of marijuana. (Washington Post)**

Washington Post [8/19/2019 10:49 AM, Katie Mettler, 9425K]

The shipment of jalapeño peppers was even spicier than they expected.

At the Otay Mesa cargo facility in San Diego last week, a 37-year-old Mexican citizen attempted to drive a tractor trailer carrying heaping mounds of jalapeño peppers through a port of entry, authorities said.

But before Customs and Border Protection let him pull into California, an officer referred the truck for a secondary inspection. Dogs sniffed out something suspicious among the peppers, and when officers tore open the large cardboard boxes in question, they found more than garden vegetables inside.

The peppers fell away, exposing stacks of 314 packages of marijuana tightly wrapped in bright green packaging.

The shipment weighed 7,560 pounds — nearly four tons — and was valued at \$2.3 million, according to law enforcement.

"I am proud of the officers for seizing this significant marijuana load," Otay Mesa Port Director Rosa Hernandez said in a CBP statement. "Not only did they prevent the drugs from reaching our community, they also prevented millions of dollars of potential profit from making it into the hands of a transnational criminal organization."

Perishable food items — or packages made to look like perishable food items — are commonly used to disguise marijuana shipments.

CBP officers have found marijuana hidden in buckets of frozen mango pulp and stuffed inside fresh coconuts. In 2016, they discovered packages of cocaine concealed in 217 tubs of spicy salsa.

Officers have even seized thousands of pounds of marijuana bundled into little green balls made to look like key limes and elongated in carrot-shaped cones that were wrapped in orange tape.

The jalapeño peppers seizure on Aug. 15 came just three days after officers found 10,642 pounds of marijuana inside a shipment of plastic auto parts at the same San Diego facility.

### **[CA] Spicy With A Twist: Nearly 4 Tons Of Pot Found In Jalapeno Shipment (NPR)**

NPR [8/19/2019 11:41 AM, Merrit Kennedy, 15K]

When U.S. officials opened a trailer full of jalapeno peppers last week, they found something a bit more illicit tucked among the spicy chillies.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers seized nearly four tons of weed mixed in with a large shipment of red and green jalapenos at the Otay Mesa cargo facility in San Diego.

"I am proud of the officers for seizing this significant marijuana load," Otay Mesa Port Director Rosa Hernandez said in a statement. "Not only did they prevent the drugs from reaching our community, they also prevented millions of dollars of potential profit from making it into the hands of a transnational criminal organization."

The drugs seized were valued at \$2.3 million, CBP officials said.

CBP says its officers pulled over the vehicle driven by a 37-year-old Mexican man on Thursday around 6:15 p.m. local time. It's not clear why the vehicle was flagged for secondary screening. The officers used a dog, which indicated there might be more inside the truck than just peppers.

"CBP officers probed the shipment and discovered a leafy-green like substance that field-tested positive for the properties of marijuana," the statement added.

Photos from the scene show a stack of bulky green packages surrounded by chillies. They found 314 packages of pot, weighing 7,560 pounds.

This isn't the biggest recent marijuana bust at the cargo facility. Two days prior to this find, officers seized more than 10,000 pounds of pot hidden in an auto parts shipment.

Marijuana is by far the most common drug seized by CBP officials. From October 2018 through the end of July, they've seized more than 225,000 pounds of pot nationwide. The second-most common drug seized is cocaine, at more than 81,000 pounds during that same period.

Concealing drugs in produce shipments appears to be a common strategy for drug traffickers. Banana shipments, for example, seem to be a favored hiding place by traffickers of cocaine.

### **[CA] Border Patrol Finds Four Tons Of Marijuana Hidden In A Shipment Of Jalapenos (Daily Caller)**

Daily Caller [8/19/2019 12:25 PM, Matt M. Miller, 785K]

Border Patrol agents in California reportedly seized four tons of marijuana hidden in a shipment of jalapeno peppers Thursday.

A 37-year-old male Mexican national driving a tractor-trailer reportedly drove through the port of entry at the Otay Mesa cargo facility in California with a shipment of jalapeno peppers, according to U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

Canines alerted agents to the smell of marijuana within the tractor-trailer. Agents uncovered 314 packages, or nearly four tons of marijuana within the shipment. The weed was worth a whopping \$2.3 million, according to officials.

CBP agents seized the marijuana as well as the tractor-trailer, according to CBP.

"I am proud of the officers for seizing this significant marijuana load," Otay Mesa Port Director Rosa Hernandez said in a press release.

"Not only did they prevent the drugs from reaching our community, they also prevented millions of dollars of potential profit from making it into the hands of a transnational criminal organization," he continued.

**[CA] Chula Vista high schooler who recruited teen drug mules sent to prison (San Diego Union Tribune)**

San Diego Union Tribune [8/20/2019 1:24 AM, Alex Riggins]

A former Castle Park High School student was sentenced Monday to nearly four years in federal prison for recruiting fellow high schoolers to act as drug mules, and for attempting to smuggle two immigrants across the border in his trunk.

Phillip Junior Webb, 20, was arrested in May 2018 after authorities caught him trying to smuggle a Chinese woman and Mexican man into the U.S. in the trunk of his Nissan Maxima. Webb, who at the time of his arrest was 18 and attending MAAC Community Charter School in Chula Vista, was also accused of taking part in a large drug smuggling scheme.

Investigators said Webb, a U.S. citizen who lived in Tijuana, was recruiting Castle Park High School classmates to strap methamphetamine and fentanyl to their bodies and walk into the U.S. at the San Ysidro or Otay Mesa Ports of Entry.

Authorities said the scheme involving Webb was part of a growing, troubling trend over the past few years wherein drug traffickers use high school students to move small loads of narcotics across the border. Authorities say the kids most often being recruited for such work are frequent border crossers — typically Mexican citizens with border crossing cards who attend school in the U.S., often in districts near the border.

In fiscal 2018, U.S. Customs and Border Protection officials documented 87 incidents of minors trying to smuggle a total of 307 pounds of various narcotics through ports of entry along the California-Mexico border, according to agency records. In fiscal 2017, Customs and Border Protection arrested 84 juveniles smuggling narcotics.



Webb pleaded guilty in U.S. District Court in July 2018 to one count of conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine and one count of bringing in unauthorized immigrants for financial gain, according to federal prosecutors.

A judge sentenced Webb on Monday to three years and 10 months in federal prison.

In a criminal complaint filed against Webb last year, five students caught bringing drugs across the border told investigators that they were asked by various friends, including Webb, to smuggle the drugs for a fee of up to \$500. One juvenile said he'd smuggled about 20 times.

Two Castle Park students arrested with meth strapped to their thighs in September 2017 told authorities that they were among many kids recruited by Webb, according to the complaint. They said he offered them each \$500 to cross drugs, and that they had done so successfully on prior occasions. In many cases, records showed Webb had crossed the border within minutes of each of them, the complaint said.

Another student arrested with meth at the border a few weeks later had a similar story, that he'd been recruited by Webb for \$300 to \$400, with payment at least once being exchanged in the high school bathroom. The teen said he'd tried to get out of it at one point, but Webb encouraged him to continue.

"We cannot allow drug cartels to cavalierly recruit our youth to smuggle potent methamphetamine and fentanyl," U.S. Attorney Robert Brewer, Jr., said in a statement. "We will stop this exploitation by bringing the full power of the justice system down on the recruiters who exploit these kids."

A few weeks before Webb was arrested, a 26-year-old San Diego man was arrested in an unrelated case and accused of recruiting high school students to smuggle drugs across the border. Court records show Alejandro Barba pleaded guilty earlier this year to one count of conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine. Like Webb, he was also sentenced to 46 months in federal prison.

Last month, authorities arrested 20-year-old Osvaldo Mendivil Tamayo, a pre-law student at a Tijuana university, and indicted him on charges of conspiracy to import and distribute cocaine, fentanyl, heroin and methamphetamine, as well as conspiracy to launder money.

Prosecutors allege he was running a drug-smuggling cell that used Mexican teenagers who attend school in San Diego as cross-border couriers, using threats of violence to keep them in check.

## **Transportation Security Administration**

### **[MN] Long lines at Minneapolis airport due to security changes (San Francisco Chronicle)**

[San Francisco Chronicle](#) [8/19/2019 11:25 AM, Staff, 2613K]

Changes in the configuration of security checkpoint lanes at the Minneapolis-

St. Paul International Airport led to long wait times for some travelers.

A remodeling project has shrunk the space at one of the security checkpoints at Terminal 1, so airport and Transportation Security Administration officials made that checkpoint — the south checkpoint — available only to TSA PreCheck travelers.

All other travelers must go through the terminal's north checkpoint.

Minnesota Public Radio News reports that some travelers had wait times of more than an hour Monday morning.

The remodeling project is expected to last through mid-December.

U.S. Sen. Amy Klobuchar released a statement Sunday calling for the TSA to increase staffing at the airport, which has seen a rise in passenger traffic. She says it's critical that officials mitigate the impact on wait times caused by the construction.

## **Federal Emergency Management Agency**

### **[VT] How Vermont's Preparing To Weather The Next Big Flood (Vermont Public Radio)**

Vermont Public Radio [8/19/2019 4:14 PM, Jane Lindholm and Ric Cengeri]

Live call-in discussion: Eight years ago, Vermont was waylaid by Tropical Storm Irene, causing intense flooding around the state. For those who suffered loss of home and property, it's an event they'll never forget. We look at what's been done to prepare for future flooding in the state.

We'll hear from Rita Egan, a media relations specialist for Federal Emergency Management Agency, about who might need flood insurance and what it covers.

Also joining the discussion is Ned Swanberg, a regional floodplain manager for Vermont's Department of Environmental Conservation, and Lauren Oates, state hazard mitigation officer for Vermont Emergency Management, about what steps the state has taken to mitigate the effects of future flood events.

### **[MS] 45 Mississippi Counties Primary Ag Disaster Areas (US News & World Report)**

US News & World Report [8/19/2019 6:29 PM, Associated Press, 3196K]

U.S. Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue has named 45 Mississippi counties primary natural disaster areas because of freezing, flooding, flash flooding and excessive rain.

Producers who had losses from those causes since Jan. 15 may be eligible for Farm Service Agency emergency loans.

Farmers and ranchers in adjacent counties can also apply. There are 33 such counties in Mississippi, eight in Alabama, four in Arkansas, eight in Louisiana and five in Tennessee.

Emergency loans can be used for replacing equipment or livestock,

reorganizing a farming operation, refinancing certain debts, and other recovery needs.

The application deadline is April 7, 2020.

The agency has a number of other emergency programs that don't require a disaster declaration.

The Mississippi counties named primary disaster areas are Adams, Alcorn, Benton, Calhoun, Carroll, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Claiborne, Clay, Covington, Forrest, Grenada, Harrison, Holmes, Humphreys, Issaquena, Itawamba, Jefferson, Lamar, Lee, Leflore, Lowndes, Marion, Marshall, Monroe, Montgomery, Oktibbeha, Pearl River, Perry, Pontotoc, Sharkey, Stone, Tippah, Tishominogo, Tunica, Union, Walthall, Warren, Washington, Wayne, Webster, Wilkinson, Winston, Yalobusha, and Yazoo.

The contiguous Mississippi counties are Amite, Attala, Bolivar, Clarke, Coahoma, Copiah, DeSoto, Franklin, George, Greene, Hancock, Hinds, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson Davis, Jones, Kemper, Lafayette, Lawrence, Leake, Lincoln, Madison, Neshoba, Noxubee, Panola, Pike, Prentiss, Quitman, Simpson, Smith, Sunflower, Tallahatchie, and Tate.

Contiguous counties in other states are:

Alabama: Choctaw, Colbert, Franklin, Lamar, Lauderdale, Marion, Pickens, and Washington;

Arkansas: Chicot, Crittenden, Lee, and Phillips;

Louisiana: Concordia, East Carroll, East Feliciana, Madison, St. Tammany, Tensas, Washington, and West Feliciana parishes;

Tennessee: Fayette, Hardeman, Hardin, McNairy, and Shelby.

**[WI] Evers seeks federal disaster declaration for 18 counties (San Francisco Chronicle)**

San Francisco Chronicle [8/19/2019 5:20 PM, Associated Press, 337K]  
Gov. Tony Evers is seeking a federal disaster declaration for 18 counties and two tribes that suffered damage during severe storms in July.

Evers said on Monday that he made the request to President Donald Trump's administration after state and federal agencies verified more than \$19.5 million in damage from thunderstorms, tornadoes and flooding from the storms between July 18 and July 20.

If approved, money would be available to help communities with the cost of infrastructure repair, debris cleanup and other expenses. Businesses and homeowners are not eligible.

The storms brought more than five inches of rain causing flooding in the Vernon and La Crosse counties area before moving across the state. Evers' office says there were more than 17 tornadoes during the storms, which also hit central Wisconsin and the Fox Cities area.

**[WY] Residents allowed to return to homes near Wyoming wildfire (San Francisco Chronicle)**

San Francisco Chronicle [8/19/2019 11:10 AM, Staff, 2613K]

Evacuation orders have been lifted for residences near a wildfire in west-central Wyoming.

The fire on Bureau of Land Management land near Boulder Lake, south of Pinedale, began Saturday afternoon and spread quickly, prompting officials to evacuate about 60 residences and a campground.

Sgt. Travis Bingham of the Sublette County Sheriff's Office says all residents were allowed to return to their homes Sunday evening and the campground was reopened.

There are still restrictions on some backcountry areas.

While the cause of the fire is still under investigation, local authorities are blaming someone shooting at an exploding target.

**[MT] Two New Wildfires Detected Near Missoula (Montana Public Radio)**

Montana Public Radio [8/19/2019 9:30 PM, Staff, 5K]

The Lolo National Forest Facebook page said this afternoon that crews were actively responding to and suppressing two new wildfires on the Missoula Ranger District.

About two miles southeast of Clinton, the Swartz Creek Fire was detected at approximately 1 p.m., and is burning in steep terrain with poor access. Its size is estimated at about one acre. Two helicopters were dropping water on the fire and were reportedly making good progress as crews worked to gain access to it on the ground. No structures were threatened, nor were there any closures associated with the fire. It was exhibiting moderately active fire behavior in heavy timber on a slope near the top of a ridge line. The cause of the fire was unknown.

About 20 miles south of I-90 off Rock Creek Road, the half-acre Miller Gulch Fire was burning about two miles east of the Bitterroot Flat campground. It was detected shortly after the Swartz Creek Fire by aircraft in the area. It was burning on the upper third of a ridgeline in grass and open timber in steep terrain where foot access will be difficult. No structures are threatened and there are no closures. Helicopters were ordered and an engine was responding at the time of the Facebook post.

**[CA] Wildfire acreage way down in California this year — so far (Washington Post)**

Washington Post [8/19/2019 9:19 PM, Brian Melley, AP, 9425K]

California is not burning. At least not as much as it has in recent years.

Acreage burned through Sunday is down 90% compared to the average over the past five years and down 95% from last year, according to statistics from the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

The stats are good news for a state that has seen terrifyingly destructive and deadly blazes the past two years, but the worst of those fires occurred in the

fall.

The precipitous drop could be due to the amount of precipitation the state received during a winter of near-record snowfall and cooler-than-average temperatures — so far.

Scott McLean, a spokesman for CalFire, said the state hasn't dried out as quickly this year and the temperatures haven't been as consistently hot. Hot spells have been followed by cooler weather and winds haven't been strong.

"It's a roller coaster with temperatures this year," McLean said. "There have been very little winds so far. We're crossing all fingers and appendages."

The most current U.S. Drought Monitor map released last week shows only a tiny portion of California listed as abnormally dry. A year ago, almost the entire state was listed in a range from abnormally dry to extreme drought.

Even after another very wet year in 2017 when Gov. Jerry Brown declared the end to a years-long drought, hot weather quickly sapped vegetation of moisture and nearly 4,000 fires had already burned more than 350 square miles (906 square kilometers) at this time of year. In October 2017, fast-moving, wind-driven blazes in Northern California killed 44 people and destroyed thousands of homes.

Last year began with less rainfall and a smaller snowpack and the state dried out even faster with more dire the consequences. It was the worst fire year in state history in both acreage and deaths with the Camp Fire in November wiping out the town of Paradise, destroying nearly 15,000 homes and killing 86 people. At the same time, a Southern California wildfire burned across the Santa Monica Mountains and destroyed more than 1,500 structures.

CalFire has fought fires on 38 square miles (98 square kilometers) this year, down from an average of 416 square miles (1,077 square kilometers) from 2014-18.

Through the same date last year, a total of nearly 4,000 fires had burned more than 970 square miles (2,512 square kilometers). The number of fires this year, about 3,400, is only down about 15% from last year, meaning the fires are much smaller.

Typically, 95% of the fires CalFire fights are smaller than 10 acres and "boy are we living up to that," McLean said.

The state's figures don't compare data on fires on all federal lands, which account for about 45 percent of the state's acreage.

Fires on U.S. Forest Service land this year, however, have also declined. To date, only 41 square miles have burned in national forests, compared to 350 square miles at this time last year, according to fire officials.

### **[CA] California Residents Say They Need More Information On Previous Wildfires To Prepare (NPR)**

NPR [8/19/2019 5:46 PM, Stephanie O'Neill, 5041K] Audio: [HERE](#)

Warm temperatures have Californians again bracing for wildfires. But to

better prepare, the residents of Ventura say they need a clearer picture of what went wrong in the destructive 2017 Thomas Fire.

**[AK] Late-Season Fires Flare Up in Drought-Stricken Parts of Alaska (New York Times)**

New York Times [8/19/2019 6:24 PM, Yereth Rosen, Reuters, 22840K]

Late-season wildfires during one of the driest summers on record in Anchorage have destroyed homes, forced evacuations, closed roads and schools and poured sometimes-dangerous levels of smoke into the state's most populous region.

About 80 miles north of Anchorage, the 3,000-acre McKinley Fire was burning on both sides of the Parks Highway. That blaze had destroyed more than 50 structures as of Sunday night and residents of the area, which lies between Wasilla and Talkeetna, were under evacuation orders, fire officials said.

Some schools in the fire area were closed, local officials said, and thousands of other residents were facing possible evacuation orders.

Anchorage is currently classified as being in a "severe" drought, according to the National Integrated Drought Information System, a first for the city.

"The fuels are dry," said Rick Thoman, climate specialist with the Alaska Climate Assessment and Policy Center. "With the ground being dry, the low-level humidity is lower. It's the perfect combination."

Smoky wildfires have been a near-constant in Anchorage this summer, which so far has been the hottest on record and, for many areas, the driest on record.

As of Monday, Alaska had 659 wildfires for the year that burned about 2.5 million acres, making 2019 among the biggest fire seasons on record for the state, according to fire managers.

Alaska fire officials are being aided by firefighting teams from the Lower 48 states and Canada.

The McKinley and other new or rekindled fires are burning at a time of year when blazes are usually winding down and when late-summer rains normally drench the landscape, said Tim Mowry, a spokesman for the Alaska Division of Forestry. "It's not raining, unfortunately."

On the Kenai Peninsula south of Anchorage, the Swan Lake Fire that had simmered down after burning during much of June and July roared back to life in the past few days.

The fire, estimated at 138,479 acres on Monday, spewed particulate pollution that is currently among the worst in the world, according to the monitoring site Purple Air.

Air quality conditions in the tourist community nearest to the fire, Cooper Landing, and along nearby Kenai Lake were classified as hazardous, with emergency conditions in place for everyone.

**[AK] Alaska wildfires sparked by high winds force mandatory evacuations (USA Today)**

USA Today [8/18/2019 8:40 AM, John Moses, 6620K]

Pilot cars began shepherding motorists through a previously-closed stretch of Alaska's George Parks Highway for several hours Saturday after an unusual combination of high winds and dry weather sparked six blazes in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough.

"Firefighters continue to work furiously to contain two wildfires burning about 20 miles apart on the opposite side of the Parks Highway, one of which temporarily closed the highway between mileposts 88 to 93," the Alaska Division of Forestry said in a release.

An air tanker, a five-person task force of firefighters from Joint Base Elmendorf Richardson and a five-member task force from the Anchorage Fire Department and three more crews would join the late-night effort, according to officials.

More than 20 evacuees had arrived at the Red Cross shelter by 9 p.m. Saturday after the McKinley Fire sparked mandatory evacuations along five miles of the rural highway. The blaze burned about half a mile east of the highway near Mile 91.

Residents seeking to evacuate people were allowed through, but pet owners were not allowed through.

The blaze was reported at 4:20 p.m. AKT, one of a string of blazes the Alaska Division of Forestry attributed to power lines affected by wind and falling trees.

Smoke-jumper crews were dispatched as well as an air tanker and a helicopter. Crews also battled the 200-acre Doshka fire near Mile 68 of the Parks Highway Saturday.

Public radio station KTNA gave community updates despite internet and landline services being out of commission. The station reported the road reopening and that rail service was stopped five miles from the fire line after flames crossed the tracks and headed west toward the highway.

Red Cross volunteer and retired educator Matt Clark said the winds were unusual but the dry conditions were especially unexpected as August is usually marked by wet weather.

The area was under a burn ban due to extreme fire conditions.

**[AK] Alaska wildfire season continues with new fires, hot weather (San Francisco Chronicle)**

San Francisco Chronicle [8/19/2019 7:23 PM, Dan Joling, AP, 337K]

Alaska's wildfire season usually ends well before mid-August but persistent hot, dry weather has contributed to the start of new fires and the spread of old ones.

High winds Saturday damaged power lines or knocked trees into lines, sparking multiple fires, including one that temporarily shut down the highway

between Anchorage and Denali National Park and burned more than 50 structures, said Tim Mowry, spokesman for the Alaska Division of Forestry.

Heavy rain has dampened fires north of the Alaska Range but has not reached areas north and south of Anchorage.

"Usually our folks are in the Lower 48 helping out and we're drowning in rainfall in August in most of Alaska," he said.

Fire crews are working with the state fire marshal to confirm the numbers of structures lost, which includes homes, businesses and outbuildings.

"We're thinking it's more than 50," Mowry said.

No injuries have been reported but not everyone followed a recommendation to evacuate.

"We're trying to account for any folks who didn't evacuate when they were advised to do so, that's an ongoing process," Mowry said.

July was the warmest month ever recorded in Alaska. On Saturday, a weather system with winds gusting to 40 mph moved into southcentral Alaska.

The fire along the Parks Highway began with a tree falling on a power line. On Sunday night, with strong winds whipping flames, the fire jumped the highway and wildfire crews had to temporarily abandon firefighting to help evacuate threatened residents.

A single lane of the highway reopened Monday but fire officials reported zero visibility. Pilot cars guided motorists through smoke.

The Alaska Railroad shut down passenger service between Anchorage and Denali Park. Burned trees fell across track and crews worked Monday to remove them, said spokesman Tim Sullivan in a release. Rail passengers were transported by bus.

South of Anchorage on the Kenai Peninsula, high winds invigorated a fire that began June 5 in the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge. The fire jumped the Sterling Highway and entered the Skilak Wildlife Recreation Area, stranding residents trying to return from weekend fishing trips.

The highway connects drivers traveling between Anchorage and the cities of Kenai, Soldotna and Homer. All three are fishing destinations for residents and tourists seeking salmon.

Through Sunday the fire had burned 200 square miles (518 sq. kilometers). The highway reopened at noon Monday.

Alaska fire officials have recorded 659 wildfires this year that have burned more than 3,901 square miles (10,104 sq. kilometers).

## **Secret Service**



**[NC] Warrant: Man bought cellphone with counterfeit \$100 bills (WRAL-TV 5 Raleigh)**

WRAL-TV 5 Raleigh [8/19/2019 4:21 PM, Hollie Silverman, 307K]

The private sale of a cellphone from one man to another in Wake Forest led police there to investigate the buyer for passing counterfeit bills.

According to a search warrant for the Rocky Mount home Torie Travon Whitaker, the seller told police that Whitaker paid for the phone with four \$100 bills that "did not seem real." As the seller looked more closely at the money, he said, Whitaker fled.

The seller and police tracked Whitaker through Facebook and law enforcement databases to his home at 402 Cokey Road in Rocky Mount and searched the property on Aug. 14.

Whitaker, who was on probation, faces new charges of obtaining property by false pretense and uttering a forged instrument.

**[TN] Murfreesboro PD: 10 arrests made in 5 counterfeit bill cases; 'know your money' (WZTV FOX 17)**

WZTV FOX 17 [8/19/2019 4:27 PM, Jason Hall, 41K]

The Murfreesboro Police Department is warning residents to "know your money" when dealing with counterfeit bills.

Police have received several reports regarding counterfeit and novelty "look alike" bills being used at local businesses.

The reports have resulted in 10 arrests in five different cases.

Attempting to pass a counterfeit bill is a Class E Felony which could include up to six years in prison, as well as a \$3,000 fine.

Police are advising residents to use caution when accepting cash during online sales.

**[MO] Ellisville police warning business owners about fake \$100s (KMOV CBS 4 St. Louis)**

KMOV CBS 4 St. Louis [8/19/2019 11:57 AM, Stephanie Baumer, 121K]

Police in Ellisville are warning residents and business owners about fake money.

The fake \$100 bills are reportedly used as bank training currency in China. They are stamped with Chinese characters, according to the police department.

Authorities said the fake bills can be bought online. Some people then attempt to pass them off as legitimate money.

**[MO] Counterfeit \$100 bill passed in Ellisville (West Newsmagazine)**

West Newsmagazine [8/19/2019 5:56 PM, Jessica Meszaros, 1K]

On Aug. 19, the Ellisville Police Department was notified by a local convenience store that a customer had passed off a fake \$100 bill as real currency. The customer was not identified before they paid with the fake bill

and left the store, and according to Officer Joey Nickles with the Ellisville Police Department, the authorities were notified of the suspicious bill after it was successfully passed at the store's register.

In addition to bearing slightly altered designs, the counterfeit \$100 bill is also stamped with Chinese characters and markings not seen on authentic bills of the same monetary value.

"It's clearly a fake bill," Nickles said. "This is not one of those sophisticated counterfeiting crimes where they're trying to make the bills legit. They do kind of look real, at a glance, but they're clearly stamped."

Due to the obvious differences, the police department believes the incident is not part of a larger counterfeit scheme. Instead, the fraudulent bill is believed to be part of a widely available variety commonly used as bank training currency in China.

"What they do in China is they use these bills to train tellers and train employees how to count American money," Nickles said. "That's essentially what it boils down too."

The bills can be purchased on websites like eBay, and as a result, individuals sometimes purchase the bills and then attempt to pass them as legitimate at retail locations in other countries, including the United States.

"That's usually what we see is people trying to pass them off as real money at a retail store of some sort, and that's exactly what happened here," Nickles said.

According to Nickles, the Ellisville Police Department is currently pursuing the case to try and determine the origin of the bill and determine the culprit who passed it off at the local business.

"We don't have anything to release necessarily as of right now, but we are in the process of trying to find the individual who passed it," Nickles said.

If a resident comes across a bill believed to be counterfeit, there are multiple ways to verify its authenticity.

"They can bring it to the police station, and we'd be happy to check it," Nickles said. "We do have those PINs. Banks have them as well. They could take it to the bank or they could bring it to the police department to make sure it's legit."

Nickles hopes that the situation also serves as a reminder to local business owners and retailers to continue to train employees to recognize the counterfeit bills and have protocols in place, especially for larger bills like \$100s.

"Always be diligent and always be mindful that these things can and do happen," Nickles said.

**[OH] Akron counterfeiters sentenced (WTAM-AM 1100.0 Cleveland)**

WTAM-AM 1100.0 Cleveland [8/19/2019 1:22 PM, Staff]

Two men from Akron were sentenced to prison for using more than \$38,000 in counterfeit \$100 bills to buy iPads, Apple watches and other items at stores such as Target, Best Buy and Dick's Sporting Goods.

Tori Smith, 35, was sentenced to nearly five years in prison last week. Allyn Bell, 32, was sentenced Monday to three years in prison. Robert Peters, 31, also of Akron, is scheduled to be sentenced later this year.

All three previously pleaded guilty to conspiracy to pass or utter counterfeit obligations or securities.

Smith, Bell and Peters conspired together between April 2017 and April 2018 to pass counterfeit \$100 bills to purchase items that they sometimes returned to cash. They traveled together to stores Pennsylvania, Michigan and Ohio.

For example, on April 6, 2017, Bell passed four counterfeit \$100 bills to an employee at Dick's Sporting Goods in Butler, Pennsylvania to purchase items. Two days later, Bell traveled to the Dicks's Sporting Goods store in Mentor, Ohio, and returned the items he purchased for cash, according to court documents.

On April 27, 2017, Peters passed seven counterfeit \$100 bills to employees at the Kohl's in State College, Pennsylvania to purchase two Citizen watches. The next day, at the Kohl's in Macedonia, Ohio, Peters returned one of the watches for approximately \$409.96, according to the indictment.

The defendants together made more than 20 such purchases as part of the conspiracy, according to court documents.

"These defendants traveled across several states ripping off businesses," U.S. Attorney Justin Herdman said.

"These defendants were part of a ring that passed over \$38,000 in counterfeit currency in Northeast Ohio and multiple other states," said Jonathan E. Schuck, Special Agent in Charge of U.S. Secret Service's Cleveland office. "They used counterfeit money to purchase not only merchandise like electronics and clothes but also paid for gas, food and hotel rooms with counterfeit currency, taking advantage of local businesses. This was a complex case that could not have been solved without the assistance from many other local and state police departments."

This case was investigated by the United States Secret Service and prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Ranya Elzein.

**[OH] Two Akron men sentenced for using \$38,000 in counterfeit bills at area stores (fox8)**

fox8 [8/19/2019 3:48 PM, Staff]

Two Akron men have been sentenced for using more than \$38,000 in counterfeit bills to buy iPads, Apple watches and other items from Target, Best Buy, and Dick's Sporting Goods.

Tori Smith, 35, was sentenced to nearly five years in prison last week. Allyn Bell, 32, was sentenced Monday to three years in prison and

Robert Peters, 31, also of Akron, is scheduled to be sentenced later this year.

According to the U.S. Attorney's Office, the trio traveled to stores in Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Michigan between April 2017 and April 2018 using counterfeit \$100 bills to purchase items they would sometimes return to cash.

Court documents show on April 6, 2017, Bell passed four counterfeit \$100 bills to an employee at Dick's Sporting Goods in Butler, Pennsylvania to purchase items. Then two days later, he went to the Dick's Sporting Goods store in Mentor, where he returned the items he purchased for cash.

Authorities said the men made more than 20 such purchases as part of the conspiracy.

"These defendants were part of a ring that passed over \$38,000 in counterfeit currency in Northeast Ohio and multiple other states," said Jonathan E. Schuck, Special Agent in Charge of U.S. Secret Service's Cleveland office. "They used counterfeit money to purchase not only merchandise like electronics and clothes but also paid for gas, food and hotel rooms with counterfeit currency, taking advantage of local businesses. This was a complex case that could not have been solved without assistance from many other local and state police departments."

**[OH] Using fake money to buy iPads, Apple watches and more lands  
Akron men in prison (Akron Beacon Journal)**

Akron Beacon Journal [8/19/2019 6:20 PM, Katie Byard, 39K]

Three Akron men are going to prison for using more than \$38,000 in counterfeit \$100 bills to buy iPads, Apple watches and other items at stores such as Target, Best Buy and Dick's Sporting Goods over a one-year period ending in April 2018.

Tori Smith, 35, received a nearly five-year sentence last week. Allyn Bell, 32, was sentenced Monday to three years. Robert Peters, 31, also of Akron, is scheduled to be sentenced later this year, according to a new release from the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Ohio.

All three previously pleaded guilty to the federal crime of conspiracy to "pass or utter counterfeit obligations or securities," according to the release.

"These defendants were part of a ring that passed over \$38,000 in counterfeit currency in Northeast Ohio and multiple other states," Jonathan E. Schuck, special agent in charge of the U.S. Secret Service's Cleveland office, said in the news release.

"They used counterfeit money to purchase not only merchandise like electronics and clothes but also paid for gas, food and hotel rooms with counterfeit currency, taking advantage of local businesses. This was a complex case that could not have been solved without the assistance from many other local and state police departments," Schuck said.

Smith, Bell and Peters conspired together between April 2017 and April 2018 to pass counterfeit \$100 bills to purchase items that they sometimes returned to obtain cash. They traveled together to stores in Pennsylvania, Michigan and Ohio.

The defendants together made more than 20 such purchases as part of the conspiracy, according to federal court documents.

For example, on April 6, 2017, Bell passed four counterfeit \$100 bills to an employee at a Dick's Sporting Goods in Butler, Pennsylvania, to purchase items.

Two days later, Bell traveled to the Dick's Sporting Goods store in Mentor and returned the items he purchased for cash, according to court documents.

On April 27, 2017, Peters passed seven counterfeit \$100 bills to employees at the Kohl's in State College, Pennsylvania, to purchase two Citizen watches. The next day, Peters returned one of the watches for about \$410 at the Kohl's in Macedonia, according to the indictment.

The case was investigated by the United States Secret Service and prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Ranya Elzein.

### **[IL] Photos Show Mock Shooting of Trump at Illinois State Senator's Fundraiser (NBC Chicago)**

NBC Chicago [8/19/2019 3:50 PM, Staff, 132K]

An Illinois state senator has issued an apology after photos from a fundraiser surfaced showing an attendee pretending to shoot someone wearing a mask of President Donald Trump, sparking widespread condemnation and outrage.

The pictures were reportedly posted online Friday after a political fundraiser for Sen. Martin Sandoval, a Democrat from Chicago who has been in office since 2003.

In two of the photos, a man is seen holding a fake assault weapon pointed at the head of another man wearing a Trump mask, clutching his chest and dressed in what appears to be a form of traditional Mexican clothing.

A spokesman for the Chicago office of the U.S. Secret Service said the agency was "aware of the fundraiser" but declined to comment as to whether there was an ongoing investigation into the photos.

"The Secret Service investigates all threats to the President and takes them seriously," the USSS spokesman said.

Other photos shared online show the unidentified man who held the fake gun standing with Sandoval at the event, though the lawmaker is not seen in the photos of the mock assassination and it's not clear if he knew about the incident as it was happening.

The fundraiser was held Friday at Klein Creek Golf Club in suburban Winfield, a Facebook page for the event shows. Tickets started at \$250 for general admission and reached \$5,000 for the highest sponsorship level, according to Sandoval's online invitation.

Sandoval, a member of the Senate Democratic Caucus leadership and chair of the Senate Transportation Committee, apologized in a statement emailed to WCIA Saturday night.

"The incident that took place is unacceptable," Sandoval said, according to WCIA. "I don't condone violence toward the President or anyone else. I apologize that something like this happened at my event."

The photos of the mock assassination drew widespread condemnation from Republicans and Democrats alike.

"Dangerous imagery like this will be condemned and seen as inappropriate by people of sound mind; however, a mentally unstable individual who wants to harm President Trump might find them as an inspiration," Illinois Republican Party Chairman Tim Schneider said in a statement, calling Sandoval's apology "too little, too late."

Schneider also said that if the person in the photos was a staffer or volunteer for Sandoval, "they should be terminated immediately."

Democratic Gov. J.B. Pritzker also condemned the photos in a statement Saturday night, according to WCIA, reiterating Monday that the incident was "inappropriate."

"In this moment especially, political civility is important. We also live in a moment when we've seen gun violence proliferate," Pritzker said at an unrelated news conference Monday morning. "I think it was important for me to speak out about it, it was important for Sen. Sandoval, as he did, to speak out about it. It's inappropriate to point even a fake gun at any individual, especially at this moment and I know that he feels the same as I do - we need to call it out when we see it."

The photos also caught the attention of Kellyanne Conway, a top White House aide to Trump. She retweeted the photos with the caption, "Every Democrat should be asked if they support or disavow this."

A spokeswoman for the Democratic Party of Illinois denounced the images as well, pointing to recent mass shootings in Texas and California.

"The tragedies in El Paso and Gilroy have demonstrated how hate-filled political rhetoric can fuel violence," Maura Possley said in a statement. "These images are unacceptable and dangerous. The place to make our voices heard against Trump is at the ballot box."

**[WA] Burglar steals counterfeit money from Moses Lake gas station (Columbia Basin Herald)**

Columbia Basin Herald [8/19/2019 3:53 PM, Emry Dinman, 2K]

Police are looking for a Moses Lake man who allegedly stole a wallet full of counterfeit money from a local gas station Sunday morning.

Upon investigation, Moses Lake police reportedly learned that the suspect reached through an open window at the closed business and grabbed a wallet off the counter. However, the wallet only contained counterfeit money, used for training employees, according to police.

A witness to the theft reportedly chased down the suspect and recovered the wallet, but not before the suspect had already removed the counterfeit money

from the wallet.

Police are looking for help in identifying this burglar and ask anyone with information to call 509-762-1160 and ask to speak with an officer in reference to case number 19ML11129.

**[CA] South L.A. Man Pleads Guilty to Role in Armed Robberies of Postal Trucks, Stealing Nearly \$240K (KTLA)**

KTLA [8/19/2019 4:59 PM, Marissa Wenzke, 355K]

A South Los Angeles man pleaded guilty Monday to robbing postal trucks at gunpoint, stealing nearly \$240,000 in heists he executed with his half-brother, a former U.S. Postal Service employee, according to federal prosecutors.

Myron Crosby, a resident of the South L.A. neighborhood of Athens, admitted in a plea agreement to taking part in two robberies last year — one in February and another in March, according to the U.S. Department of Justice.

He pleaded guilty to one felony count of robbery of U.S. property and faces up to 25 years in federal prison when he is expected to be sentenced on Nov. 25.

Crosby, 28, conspired with other robbers to target trucks leaving two Los Angeles-area postal offices where his half-brother, William Crosby IV, had previously worked.

As a former USPS supervisor, William Crosby knew when the agency's trucks would be transporting cash from sales of money orders and USPS merchandise, federal prosecutors said.

A July 2018 grand jury indictment charging the two men states that such information is not known to all USPS employees.

On Feb. 1, 2018, Myron Crosby acted as the lookout when he and his co-conspirators robbed a USPS truck leaving the Wagner Post Office, located in an area of the South Bay that borders Inglewood.

He admitted the robbers used a white minivan to block the truck just outside the post office while one of them threatened the driver and stole \$37,658 in cash, according to federal prosecutors.

Weeks later, on March 1, 2018, he conspired with the other robbers to target another truck — this time, one leaving the Dockweiler Post Office in the Exposition Park neighborhood of South L.A.

Prosecutors said Myron Crosby admitted to renting a Mercedes-Benz SUV the day of the robbery and using it to box in a USPS truck as it exited the southbound 110 Freeway at Slauson Avenue.

While he was doing this, one of his co-conspirators got out of another vehicle and brandished a gun "to control the USPS driver," the DOJ states in a news release.

The robber stole \$72,563 in cash, according to Crosby's plea agreement, and he admitted the robbery crew stole \$110,221 from USPS.

Crosby's half-brother and co-defendant, 32-year-old William Crosby IV of Inglewood, pleaded guilty to felony counts of robbery of U.S. property and using a firearm in furtherance of a violent crime on July 31.

The Inglewood man admitted in a plea agreement to conspiring with others on a burglary and the robberies of two postal trucks between August 2017 and March 2018, which left USPS with cash losses of \$238,457, according to federal prosecutors.

He faces a statutory maximum sentence of life imprisonment when he is sentenced on Oct. 28.

The U.S. Postal Inspection Service and U.S. Secret Service continue to investigate the case as it involves other co-conspirators and additional robberies.

## **Coast Guard**

### **House committee heads demand Coast Guard Academy explain handling of harassment allegations (The Hill)**

The Hill [8/19/2019 6:15 PM, Ellen Mitchell, 2806K]

Two House committee chairmen on Monday requested that two Coast Guard officials appear for interviews regarding the handling of complaints of racially motivated harassment and retaliation at the Coast Guard Academy.

House Homeland Security Committee Chairman Bennie Thompson (D-Miss.) and House Oversight and Reform Committee Chairman Elijah Cummings (D-Md.) sent a letter to Coast Guard Adm. Karl Schultz asking that Coast Guard Academy Dean Kurt Colella and Rear Adm. Anthony Vogt, commander of the 13th Coast Guard District, appear for transcribed interviews no later than Sept. 18.

The chairmen hope to gain more insight into "the handling of complaints of harassment and retaliation at the Coast Guard Academy as well as the Academy's responses to disparities identified in the Equity Scorecard review," according to the letter.

"We are deeply troubled by what appear to be repeated efforts by the Coast Guard to impede our investigation of the handling" of such allegations, Cummings and Thompson wrote.

They added that they have been asking the Coast Guard for information on the allegations for more than a year.

Cummings and Thompson along with Rep. Joe Courtney (D-Conn.) began an investigation into the Coast Guard Academy after the release of the school's Equity Scorecard, a study by the Center for Urban Education at the University of Southern California that tracks graduation rates by race, ethnicity and gender.

The scorecard on the academy found that "Black/African American cadets have been consistently less likely to graduate than the all-cadet average" and



receive a “disproportionately high share of disciplinary sanctions.”

The lawmakers on June 13, 2018, requested all documents regarding allegations of harassment or bullying made by any student or faculty member at the academy in the past three years as well as “the results of any investigations conducted to examine these allegations, and the terms of any settlements reached.”

The Coast Guard a month later produced about 70 pages of heavily redacted documents but said it was obligated to withhold “predecisional and deliberative records, as well as those records that would constitute invasion of personal privacy if released,” citing the Freedom of Information Act.

The two sides went back and forth for another year, during which Thompson and Cummings claim that the Coast Guard missed deadlines and continued to provide only heavily redacted documents in response to further requests, according to the letter.

The lawmakers and their staff finally met with Colella last week. Staff from Courtney’s office and other Coast Guard officials also attended the meeting.

At that Wednesday sit-down, however, “all of the Coast Guard personnel who were present at the meeting were directed to refuse to answer any questions regarding any past events at the Academy involving either faculty or cadets,” under orders from Schultz, the letter states.

“When asked if the officials present were prepared to answer questions about the past, a Coast Guard official stated, ‘We are not.’ Another official stated, ‘We’re happy to talk about the process as it exists today. We’re not willing to go backwards,’” according to the letter.

If Colella and Vogt do not appear for transcribed interviews by the September deadline, “we will be forced to consider alternative means to obtain compliance,” the lawmakers warn.

**[FL] By air and sea, a desperate search to find a local firefighter, friend missing off Florida coast (Washington Post)**

Washington Post [8/19/2019 6:47 PM, Justin Jouvenal, 9425K]

The two friends and firefighters launched their boat off the Florida coast Friday, headed out for an afternoon of fishing to honor one of the men’s recently deceased father, family members said.

But Fairfax County, Va., firefighter Justin Walker and Jacksonville, Fla., firefighter Brian McCluney never returned, sparking a desperate search by local, state and federal agencies and a flotilla of volunteers that entered its fourth day Monday. As of the evening, the search continued, and authorities announced the discovery of a tackle gear bag belonging to McCluney.

Nearly 40 boats and some aircraft were scouring a section of the Atlantic stretching from Brunswick, Ga., to St. Augustine, Fla., Jacksonville Fire Chief Keith Powers said at a Monday evening news conference. The U.S. Coast Guard estimated searchers had combed more than 24,000 square miles of ocean in recent days.

"We're just all very hopeful," said Kari Futch, a relative of Walker who is in Florida with other family members. "They are both survivors. They are good on the water. We want them home and out of the elements."

Futch said the last time family members heard from Walker was shortly before he and McCluney left for the trip from Port Canaveral, near the Kennedy Space Center and midway down Florida's Atlantic coast. Futch said the pair launched in McCluney's father's 24-foot boat around 11 a.m., headed for a fishing spot about 15 miles off the coast known as the "8A" reef.

The pair were supposed to return at 6 p.m. Friday, but when they did not show up by 8 p.m., family members alerted authorities, Futch said. Neither man has responded to calls. Futch said a tracking app last recorded Walker's location near the 8A reef around 1 p.m. Friday.

Searches have carried on since the pair were reported missing, said Coast Guard Petty Officer Ryan Dickinson, but it remained unclear what happened to the boat. Powers said Monday evening that a volunteer vessel discovered a gear bag about 50 nautical miles off the coast that family members believe belonged to one of the men. The Coast Guard was diverting search vessels to the area.

Dickinson said no distress signal was received from the vessel. McCluney's wife said in media interviews that the boat had broken down in the past and speculated that might have happened this time.

The search has generated national attention and drawn an outpouring of support. Volunteers are plying the seas with their own boats, along with vessels and aircraft from the Coast Guard, Navy and U.S. Border Patrol, among others. Thousands of dollars have been donated to help with the search.

"All search and rescue cases are different, but this one seems to have hit home with a large number of people," Dickinson said.

Futch said Walker is originally from Florida and has been a Fairfax County firefighter for seven years. He is married and lives in the Dumfries area. Futch said he is a motorcyclist and volunteers with the Strength and Honor Motorcycle Club. Walker's dream was to be a firefighter.

"He has an amazing personality," Futch said. "Always energetic and happy. Always wants to help people."

Fairfax County fire officials said Walker is a master technician stationed in Franconia. They said some Fairfax County firefighters traveled to Florida to assist in the search for the missing men.

"We remain optimistic they will be found," the department said in a statement Monday.

Powers said McCluney is married, has two children and is a decorated Navy veteran. Powers said both men were well trained to survive on the water.

Futch said the outpouring of support has been heartwarming.

"The ocean and the air are saturated with average people who want to help," Futch said.

**[FL] Wife of Florida firefighter who went missing on fishing trip opens up about search operation (ABC News)**

ABC News [8/19/2019 10:21 AM, Jon Haworth, 2702K] Video: [HERE](#)

As the desperate search for two firefighters who disappeared during a fishing trip off the coast of Florida continues into its fourth day, the wife of one of the missing men is speaking out about the circumstances surrounding the men's situation.

Brian McCluney, a Jacksonville, Florida, firefighter, and Justin Walker, a member of the Fairfax, Virginia, fire department, were last seen on Friday launching a 22-foot fishing boat at Port Canaveral, near the Kennedy Space Center, U.S. Coast Guard officials said Sunday.

Stephanie McCluney, wife of Brian McCluney, expressed her concerns – and her resolve -- to ABC's local affiliate station in Jacksonville, Florida, WJXX.

"It was supposed to be a fairly short day on the water," she said. "I gave them until 6 p.m. maybe because the fishing was great. But 6 o'clock, I didn't hear and I still could see that he didn't read my messages – they hadn't even been delivered yet ... at 8 p.m. we called the Coast Guard."

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One of the main reasons McCluney and Walker were taking the fishing boat out for the day was to honor Brian McCluney's recently-departed father.

"[Brian] wanted to get those lines wet one more time. You know, one big final hurrah for his dad and it was just supposed to be one great day in his honor ... he was excited to get out there on the water," said Stephanie McCluney.

Instead, the day ended with a massive search party being launched for the two missing men.

About 50 firefighters from the Jacksonville Fire and Rescue Department

joined the Coast Guard in searching for the lost firefighters, combing the waters between Daytona Beach and Vilano in 11 boats over the weekend.

Also looking for the men were crews from the U.S. Navy, the Florida Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Brevard County Sheriff's Office. The Coast Guard also deployed a C-130 plane to search from the air.

Search-and-rescue crews had covered an estimated 24,000 miles of ocean between Port Canaveral and north of the city of Jacksonville, Coast Guard officials said on Twitter Monday morning.

But – as of now at least -- there is still no sign of the two men.

"He was prior military, navy veteran. He has SERE [Search, Evasion, Resistance, and Escape] training, survival training through the navy. Of course, firefighter, paramedic. So he is built to help people. He was a combat medical corpsman during the push through Fallujah so if there is anyone built of an iron man, that's him," said Stephanie McCluney of her husband.

Her confidence in her husband's ability to survive is not just based in the skills he learned throughout his career, but also bolstered by her faith.

"I have an army of support. I know that the ocean is large and my God I serve is larger. He can change the wind and the waters at his command. I have faith. I have so many prayer warriors behind me ... the fire department hasn't left my side. I feel so well held between my spiritual family, my fire family, and my family family," McCluney described.

"If there is ever two people," McCluney stated confidently, "I mean those two men are survivors and they are going to find their way home."

### **[FL] Recovered tackle box gives loved ones hope of finding missing firefighters (FOX News)**

FOX News [8/19/2019 5:34 PM, Louis Casiano, 10258K] Video: [HERE](#)

The sister of one of two firefighters missing since leaving the Florida coast Friday to go fishing told Fox News on Monday she has hope they are still alive after crews pulled one of their tackle bags from the ocean.

"It means they're out there and they're alive and they're trying to tell us 'We're here and to come get us,'" Jessica Bergstresser, sister of Justin Walker, said on "Shepard Smith Reporting."

Walker, a member of the Fairfax County, Va., Fire and Rescue, and Brian McCluney with the Jacksonville Fire and Rescue, disappeared after leaving Port Canaveral for the 8A Reef, an offshore fishing spot.

On Monday, McCluney's wife, Stephanie Young McCluney, wrote on Facebook that she confirmed her husband's tackle bag turned up 50 miles off the coast of St. Augustine.

"Right now we're all just feeling that they're still in their boat and their floating and obviously with the sign of the tackle box, they're there and they're putting out breadcrumbs for us," an emotional Bergstresser told Fox News' Shepard Smith. "That tackle bag... that really helped us."

St. Augustine is about 125 miles north from where the pair went fishing. The Coast Guard has sent search teams to the area.

Crews encompassing the Coast Guard, local agencies and private citizens have scoured nearly 24,000 miles on water and air trying to locate the firefighters from Port Canaveral all the way up to South Carolina.

The men's boat belonged to McCluney's late father and has experienced mechanical problems in the past, McCluney's wife told WKMG-TV.

**[FL] Search for missing firefighters continues as groups ask anyone with boat to help (USA Today)**

USA Today [8/19/2019 3:09 PM, Corey Arwood, Florida Today, 6620K]  
The search continues for two missing firefighters who disappeared Friday after heading out for a day of fishing off Port Canaveral.

Several businesses and individuals are organizing efforts to add to the search as others combed beaches, hoping to find items from the boat.

Since Saturday, the U.S. Coast Guard has searched an estimated 24,000 square miles after Brian McCluney, a Jacksonville Fire Department firefighter, and Justin Walker, a Fairfax County, Virginia firefighter, were reported missing Friday.

A Coast Guard search plane and two 87-foot patrol boats were searching Monday, along with planes from the Navy, Customs and Border Protection, Jacksonville Sheriff's Office, Brevard County Sheriff's Office and dozens of private citizens.

Crews are searching from about 80 miles offshore from Port Canaveral to north of Jacksonville, Dickinson said.

Search crews have responded to at least two false alarms since the search began.

Sunday evening, a civilian aircraft saw what appeared to be a vessel matching the description, along with lifejackets and a cooler floating nearby around 50 miles off the coast of Jacksonville.

No boat was found and the items turned out to be unrelated debris.

Coast Guard units also looked into a reported debris field about 50 miles east of St. Augustine. It also was determined to be unrelated to the boaters.

Calls for help

Coast Guard officials have taken to social media asking for the public's help. Good Samaritans with boats and planes can call the Jacksonville Command Center at 904-714-7558 to coordinate and join the search.

Jacksonville-based boat manufacturer DarkWater Customs LLC is asking anyone with a capable boat to help search for the two firefighters.

The company said it would cover fuel and provisions in a Facebook Post shared by Malabar Fire Rescue Sunday afternoon.

"We have family with JFRD (Jacksonville Fire Rescue Department) and they are asking anyone with a seaworthy vessel to aid in the search for those men who would gladly lay down their lives for you in a time where their lives depend on reciprocal compassion," the company said in the Facebook post.

Darkwater Customs asked anyone interested in helping the search effort to contact 904-438-9521 or 904-465-9040, or by donating to search funds.

Last seen

McCluney and Walker departed from a boat ramp on in Port Canaveral in Florida Friday morning.

Family members notified the Coast Guard when they didn't return Friday evening from their planned trip fishing to "8A" reef in a 24-foot Robalo center console boat.

U.S. Coast Guard planes and boats were immediately deployed and began sweeping the area near where the two men were last seen.

Both men are described as firefighters — one with Jacksonville Fire Department and the other at an agency in Virginia.

About 50 Jacksonville firefighters, including several using 11 boats for the search, were assisting with canvassing beaches along Florida's east coast, the agency reported.

In a social media post, McCluney's wife asked for prayers and asked friends to assist in a search of shorelines.

Over the weekend, the Coast Guard made its ninth update about the search effort and said an overnight search was conducted from air and sea covering nearly 20,029 square miles of the Atlantic over 70 hours.

Stephanie Young McCluney, Brian McCluney's wife, shared to Facebook Sunday she was combing beaches for "anything the guys would have tossed over to signal" like hats, life vests or bean bag seat.

Weather conditions

Boating conditions Friday were "typically considered favorable," according to meteorologist Derrick Weitlich with the National Weather Service Melbourne, but as thunderstorms moved offshore, a marine warning was issued for the area.

Thunderstorms that moved through the area between 3:16 p.m. and 5:15 p.m. could have suddenly and drastically changed those conditions, Weitlich said.

He said the thunderstorm that prompted two-hour special marine warning was expected to produce wind speeds of 39 mph, and increased wave heights

anywhere from 20 to 60 miles offshore.

Anyone with information is asked to contact the Coast Guard Sector Jacksonville Command Center at 904-714-7558.

### **[LA] 1 person dead, 2 rescued from Louisiana seaplane crash (San Francisco Chronicle)**

San Francisco Chronicle [8/19/2019 12:10 PM, Staff, 2613K]

Coast Guard officials in Louisiana say one person has died and two more were rescued when a seaplane with a company known for taking fisherman out to the state's barrier islands crashed into the water.

Coast Guard officials in New Orleans confirmed a seaplane with Bourgeois Fishing Charters crashed Sunday afternoon into the Chandeleur Sound near St. Bernard Parish.

The Coast Guard says it received a call from the company saying contact with the plane had been lost. When crews responded, they found two people in the water and transported them to a hospital. One was later pronounced dead. A third occupant was found after a search and transported for medical care.

The survivors' conditions weren't immediately available.

It's unclear if officials have publicly identified the victim.

## **CISA/Cybersecurity**

### **Billions of records exposed: 2019 on track to be worst year ever for data breaches (USA Today)**

USA Today [8/19/2019 12:06 PM, Paul Ausick]

The number of data breaches resulting in exposed records is up by 54% year over year in the first half of 2019, and the number of records exposed in those breaches is up by 52%. More than 3,800 data breaches were reported in the first six months of this year, and just eight of those exposed more than 3.2 billion records, nearly 80% of all records exposed so far in 2019.

In the first three months of 2019, some 1.9 billion records were exposed in 1,903 recorded data breaches, implying that 1.4 billion records were exposed in the second quarter. There were three breaches in the first quarter and five in the second that resulted in the exposure of 100 million or more records each, according to Risk Based Security, the research and security firm that issued its 2019 Midyear Quickview Data Breach Report Thursday morning. All told, those eight breaches exposed 3.2 billion records.

The business sector was responsible for nearly 85% of the exposed records and two-thirds of the reported breaches. The largest involved the first-quarter release of nearly a billion names, email addresses and other personally identifiable information from Verifications.io, a firm that verifies or approves email addresses for third-party customers. The leaked records were the result of leaving a database unsecured and accessible to just about anyone who wanted a peek. The good news is that no passwords or Social Security numbers were included in the breached data.

The second-largest breach so far in 2019 was the second-quarter exposure of personal data in 885 million records related to real estate transactions at First American Financial. The third-largest involved 540 million Facebook users' data exposed due to a misconfigured database managed by Mexico-based Cultura Colectiva. All three are among the top 10 breaches of all time based on the number of records exposed.

Inga Goddijn, executive vice president and head of Cyber Risk Analytics at Risk Based Security explains how they come about:

Risk Based Security noted more than 1,300 leaks in the first half of 2019 exposing email addresses and passwords. The average number of records lost per leak was just 230. But those records remain high-value targets for hackers: 70% of data types exposed in the first half of this year were email addresses and 64% were email passwords.

Web-based breaches, primarily the result of leaving databases accessible to third parties and failing to protect them, accounted for just 149 breaches in the first six months of this year and more than 3.2 billion breached records.

### **Instagram wants hackers to go after its new shopping feature (CNN)**

CNN [8/19/2019 2:48 PM, Kaya Yurieff, 6094K]

Instagram wants hackers to put its latest shopping feature to the test.

The Facebook-owned company said it is inviting a select group of security researchers to stress test its Checkout feature before it expands it beyond the United States.

The tool, which launched in March, allows users to buy products directly on Instagram from a select number of brands, including Zara, H&M and Nike. Previously, users had to leave the Instagram app and purchase the item from the retailer's website.

Instagram previously said payments on the Checkout feature are secure and processed in partnership with PayPal (PYPL). Instagram has also said it doesn't share payment information with sellers, and it keeps financial information on secured servers.

The researchers, who are also called white hat hackers, find vulnerabilities before a bad actor might in order to protect users. In this case, they'll get early access to the global feature and earn rewards for eligible reports. Those who qualify have previously submitted "high-quality" research to its bug bounty program.

In 2018, Facebook paid out over \$1.1 million in rewards to researchers from more than 100 countries, who found and reported security vulnerabilities and data abuse. The average award amount was about \$1,500 last year.

This isn't the first time Instagram's parent company Facebook (FB) has invited white hat hackers to test a feature.

Facebook said it gave a select group of researchers early access to FB5, which is Facebook's redesigned look that it unveiled at its



F8 developers conference earlier this year.

Philippe Harewood, one of the researchers who took part in the private program, found a bug in Facebook's new interface, which could have let someone remove another person's profile photo. The company said Harewood's work allowed the company to fix the issue before it rolled out FB5 around the world.

Facebook is also expanding its data abuse bug bounty program to Instagram, which is intended to find and kick off apps that abuse its platforms. Now researchers will be able to report third-party apps that improperly access and store user data on Instagram.

Facebook started its bug bounty program in 2011. Last year, it launched another program focused on data abuse following revelations that Cambridge Analytica improperly harvested data from millions of users.

The data-abuse-focused program rewards people who report cases where a third-party app collects and transfers people's Facebook — and now Instagram — data to another party to be sold or used for scams and other purposes. Rewards can go up to \$40,000 per case.

Other tech companies also offer bug bounty programs. Google paid out a total of \$3.4 million rewards in 2018 to researchers who found vulnerabilities. Earlier this month, Apple (AAPL) said it would offer hackers up to \$1 million to hack an iPhone.

**FEC chair Ellen Weintraub on Trump claims: 'No evidence of rampant voter fraud in 2016' (USA Today)**

USA Today [8/19/2019 4:58 PM, Rebecca Morin, 6620K]

The chairwoman of the Federal Election Commission pushed back against President Donald Trump's unsubstantiated claim of voter fraud in 2016, saying that there is no evidence of fraud and statements like that are "damaging to our democracy."

Ellen Weintraub, who is a Democrat, said Monday that no one has found any evidence of "rampant voter fraud," despite assertions that that effect from Trump.

"There is no evidence of rampant voter fraud in 2016 or really in any previous election," Weintraub said in an interview with CNN.

"People have studied this. Academics have studied this. Lawyers have studied this. The government has studied this. Democrats have studied this. Republicans have studied this," she continued. "And no one can find any evidence of rampant voter fraud either historically or particularly in the 2016 elections."

Ahead of a rally in Manchester, N.H., Thursday, Trump told reporters that he could have won the Granite State in 2016 if not for "thousands and thousands of people, coming in from locations unknown."

At his rally, he went on to tell supporters that he lost state's four electoral votes due to voter fraud. Democrat Hillary Clinton won New Hampshire in

2016 by fewer than 3,000 votes.

"It was taken away from us," Trump told his supporters at the New Hampshire rally.

Citing Trump's remarks, Weintraub sent a letter to the president on Friday asking him for evidence to substantiate his claims of voter fraud in New Hampshire. When asked Monday whether the White House has been responsive to her letter, the FEC chairwoman said no.

Monday Weintraub also said the unsubstantiated comments that the president keeps making are damaging to our democracy because they cause "people to lose faith" and to "question the results" of elections. She noted that the U.S. has serious threats, such as international cybersecurity threats, that should be taking priority.

"Facts matter, and people of America need to be able to believe what their leaders tell them," she said. "It is damaging to our democracy to spread information that ... is baseless."

"To be suggesting to people that if the candidate they choose doesn't win that it is because of fraud, that undermines our democracy," she continued. "It undermines people's faith, and once that faith is broken, it is very hard to build up again."

### **[China] China's Fake Social Media Accounts Could Be Devastating for U.S., Brett Bruen Says (Bloomberg)**

Bloomberg [8/19/2019 7:35 PM, Staff, 5350K] Video: [HERE](#)

Brett Bruen, Global Situation Room Inc. president, and Samm Sacks, New America China Digital Economy fellow, discuss Twitter Inc. disclosing that it found and deleted hundreds of accounts it said China used to undermine the Hong Kong protest movement. They speak with Bloomberg's Emily Chang on "Bloomberg Technology."

## **Terrorism Investigations**

### **'Red flag' laws may play role in preventing mass shootings, study finds (Washington Post)**

Washington Post [8/19/2019 6:15 PM, Peter Jamison, 9425K]

State laws that allow the removal of guns from people who present a threat to themselves or others may play a role in preventing mass shootings, according to a new study, a finding that could buttress support for "red flag" legislation being debated in Congress.

The study by a team at the nonpartisan Violence Prevention Research Program at the University of California at Davis identified more than 20 cases in which California's red-flag law was used in an effort to prevent a mass shooting.

None of the threatened shootings in those cases took place, according to the study, which will be published this week in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*.

Researchers could not definitively state that California's red-flag law was

responsible, noting that it was impossible to know whether threats would have been carried out.

But the cases “suggest that this urgent, individualized intervention can play a role in efforts to prevent mass shootings, in health care settings and elsewhere,” the researchers said.

Jeffrey Swanson, a professor at the Duke University School of Medicine who studies gun violence, said the research was an advance in the understanding of the effect of red-flag laws.

“This amounts to pretty powerful anecdotal evidence,” Swanson said. “Here are some real cases of real people that made a real threat, and they were identified through the process of this gun violence restraining order.”

Swanson echoed the authors’ cautions against drawing the conclusion that the orders had stopped acts of violence, saying more study of gun-removal laws was needed in additional states. “This is an area where we need more research,” he said.

Red-flag laws have been passed in 17 states and the District of Columbia, according to the Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence.

The findings arrive amid a national debate on the most effective — and politically feasible — measures to avert acts of large-scale gun violence. Back-to-back shootings earlier this month left dozens dead in El Paso and Dayton, Ohio.

The shootings prompted an outcry for action from Congress, where lawmakers have for years been unable to agree on the need for tougher gun-control measures. Red-flag laws, which are intended only for people deemed dangerous and are not supposed to affect most gun owners, have gained traction as a possible bipartisan solution.

A Washington Post-ABC News poll last year found that more than 8 in 10 Americans supported allowing police to take guns from people if a judge determines they are a danger to themselves or others.

Sens. Lindsey O. Graham (R-S.C.) and Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.) are seeking to advance legislation that would create a federal grant program that offers funding for states to enact red-flag programs. President Trump has expressed support for the laws, although it is unclear how hard he would push for them.

Law enforcement officials and academic researchers have found that red-flag laws are primarily used in cases of people threatening suicide, not murder. A study published last year found that gun-confiscation measures were associated with a 13.7 percent drop in the gun-suicide rate in Connecticut and a 7.5 percent reduction in Indiana.

Less evidence exists concerning the impact on potential homicides, including mass shootings. Garen Wintemute, director of the Violence Prevention Research Program and lead author of the new study, said his team at first undertook a broad assessment of the impact of California’s law, which took

effect in 2016.

But in the spring, he said, he decided to publish an early set of findings after seeing that the law had been invoked with surprising frequency to try to avert mass shootings. That choice was made before the recent spate of mass shootings refocused national attention on red-flag laws, he said.

Of 159 cases for which U.C.-Davis researchers have so far obtained records, there were 21 in which the subject was suspected of posing a risk of a mass shooting and a protective order was sought. (In some of those cases, the individual was attempting to purchase a gun but had not yet obtained it because of California's 10-day waiting period.)

The law was invoked in a total of 414 cases in California from 2016 through 2018, according to the study.

Most of the subjects in those cases were white men, with a mean age of 35. They included a 33-year-old armed security service worker who quit his job and threatened to shoot a former co-worker and a 21-year-old who posted threatening statements on Instagram about his former high school.

Adelyn Allchin, senior director of public health and policy at the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence, said the study lends credibility to arguments for widespread adoption of red-flag laws, even without an ironclad finding that California's legislation averted shootings.

"It's really promising to see these results come out," Allchin said. "I think there's some good evidence here that these laws are preventing acts of mass violence."

### **'Red flag' laws can play a role in preventing mass shootings, study says (CNN)**

CNN [8/19/2019 5:37 PM, Jacqueline Howard, 6094K]

Determining how to prevent mass shootings in the United States has been a complicated debate, but there's new evidence that one intervention could play a role in reducing the violence: "red flag" orders.

Extreme risk protection order laws, colloquially known as "red flag" or ERPO laws, allow the temporary removal of guns from people deemed at high risk of harming themselves or others. They've been presented as possible solutions to help prevent the mass shootings that plague the United States.

Preliminary research, published in the journal *Annals of Internal Medicine* on Monday, suggests that this "urgent" and "individualized" intervention can play a role in efforts to prevent mass shootings.

The researchers requested county court records for the 414 gun violence restraining order cases that were initiated in California between 2016 and 2018. They received 159 records for the research and based their analysis on those cases.

Among those records, the researchers found 21 cases that involved someone who had or soon would have access to firearms and "made a clear declaration of intent to commit a mass shooting" or exhibited behavior

suggesting such an intent.

It's impossible to know whether the threatened shootings would have happened, but the orders "allowed for immediate intervention to reduce firearm access, in most instances because of timely reports from threatened parties and members of the public," the researchers wrote.

They added that they "make no claim of a causal relationship" and that "further evaluation of the implementation and effectiveness of ERPO policies in California and other jurisdictions where they have been enacted would be helpful."

Seventeen states and the District of Columbia have passed some type of these laws, and the details vary from state to state.

In the aftermath of two mass shootings -- in El Paso, Texas, and Dayton, Ohio -- that killed at least 31 people this month, attention turned to what could be done to prevent such tragedies. Extreme risk protection orders were among the solutions floated by President Donald Trump.

"We must make sure that those judged to pose a grave risk to public safety do not have access to firearms and that if they do, those firearms can be taken through rapid due process," Trump said at the White House. "That is why I have called for red flag laws, also known as extreme risk protection orders."

The President did not elaborate on what he meant in the speech, so it is not clear whether he was proposing a federal extreme risk protection order law, endorsing an expansion of the laws across more states or simply advocating for better enforcement of the laws currently on the books.

Before the Parkland, Florida, shootings in 2018, five states had such laws: Connecticut (enacted in 1999), Indiana (2005), California (2014), Washington (2016) and Oregon (2017).

After Parkland, laws were passed in Florida, Vermont, Maryland, Rhode Island, New Jersey, Delaware, Massachusetts, Illinois, the District of Columbia, New York, Nevada, Hawaii and Colorado.

Extreme risk protection order laws can vary in detail by state -- such as who is authorized to petition for an order or how an order is implemented -- and such laws remain complex, even for those enforcing them.

How one 'red flag' law works

Sgt. Eric Pisconski, who oversees the Seattle Police Department's crisis response unit, says the unit has done 55 petitions for extreme risk protection orders since 2016. The unit also has vetted 146 people for an initial ERPO and then 33 for potential renewal at the one-year mark.

Of the ERPOs granted, "we have secured a total of 138 firearms from 44 individuals," Pisconski said, adding that 11 people assessed didn't have firearms.

The circumstances around an extreme risk protection order vary. Sometimes, an extreme risk protection order happens when a gun owner tries to kill themselves.

Several people close to that person might call police with concerns that the person is suicidal. Officers might arrive on the scene, have the person undergo a mental health evaluation at a hospital and confiscate the person's gun at the time of the incident. Then, police could file a petition to the court for that person to temporarily lose access to their gun. That way, they won't be able to retrieve it immediately after being released from the hospital.

The same could happen for someone who posts violent threats online.

The person could make comments on social media about killing people, for instance. If someone alerts police to the social media posts, the police could track down the person and determine whether they pose a real threat to the public. That was the case in the Seattle area in 2017, when the Seattle Police Department was notified of a man who was posting threats online to shoot up a church and was facing multiple felony charges based upon his threats and postings.

"We really think that we avoided a potential deadly situation that could have had one or more victims," Pisconski said. The man was arrested with no incident, and police petitioned for a court order to secure his firearms.

Still, that's an extreme case, Pisconski said. "The vast majority of them have been individuals that have had suicidality -- the concern of direct harm to self, not so much others," he said.

"The extreme risk protection orders are designed as a mechanism to temporarily remove a firearm from an individual during a period when they are experiencing a behavioral crisis and there's demonstrated evidence that they are engaging in dangerous or threatening behavior."

Extreme risk protection orders can't stop all gun violence, but Seattle's crisis response unit hopes they could help reduce the possibility of gun violence -- at least among individuals that come to the unit's attention.

"I think that, sometimes, there's a perception that extreme risk protection laws are the panacea, that they're going to stop all mass shootings or be able to catch all potential perpetrators," Pisconski said. "That's not a reality."

There have been some challenges with using extreme risk protection orders as tools to predict and minimize gun violence in communities, including determining when to deem someone a true "threat" to themselves or others and how to petition orders without "criminalizing mental health," Pisconski said.

"It's a sticky situation."

Orders focus on 'dangerous behaviors'

One way to think about extreme risk protection order laws is to see them as "a tool" for the community to de-escalate a situation, according to

Shannon Frattaroli, an associate professor of health policy and management at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

The orders are civil and not criminal, Frattaroli pointed out.

Also, "it's important to recognize that mental illness is not a risk factor that we look for when thinking about risks for violence. We know from the data that people with mental illness are more likely to be victims of gun violence," she said, making a point for the public not to assume that mental health problems are linked with dangerous behavior, which can be stigmatizing.

"These extreme risk laws very specifically focus on dangerous behaviors, not on mental health diagnoses, because dangerous behaviors are the important predictors of future violence," she said.

Those behaviors can include talking about harming yourself or others, writing about plans to be violent or threatening someone with violence and having the means to carry out those plans.

### **3 mass shooting plots stopped around the country in separate incidents, police say (USA Today)**

USA Today [8/19/2019 8:18 AM, Ryan W. Miller, 6620K]

Three mass shooting plots were thwarted in recent days with the arrests of three men in unrelated cases, authorities in Connecticut, Florida and Ohio said.

Tips from the public aided in the three arrests, which occurred from Thursday and Friday. Police in each case said the men, all white and in their 20s, posted online or sent text messages with threats of committing mass shootings.

The arrests come amid renewed cries for legislation to change the country's gun laws in the wake of mass shootings in California, Texas and Ohio. Multiple false alarm and hoax shooting scares have also kept the nation on edge in recent weeks.

Here's what we know about the three cases:

#### **Connecticut**

Brandon Wagshol, 22, of Norwalk was arrested on four counts of illegal possession of large capacity magazines, the city's police department said Thursday.

Wagshol was arrested after a joint investigation from Norwalk police and the FBI was opened after federal authorities received a tip that he was allegedly trying to buy high capacity rifle magazines out-of-state.

Police said Wagshol purchased rifle parts online to build his own weapon and had posted on Facebook showing "his interest in committing a mass shooting."

When executing a search warrant, police found two guns registered to Wagshol's father, multiple rounds of ammunition, body armor and other

tactical equipment, Norwalk police said.

## Florida

The Volusia County Sheriff's Office said Tristan Scott Wix, 25, of Daytona Beach was arrested Friday and charged with making threats to commit a mass shooting.

Sheriff's deputies began investigating after they were alerted to multiple texts Wix allegedly sent with his plans to commit a mass shooting. The office did not say to whom Wix sent the messages.

"A school is a weak target.. id be more likely to open fire on a large crowd of people from over 3 miles away.. I'd wanna break a world record for longest confirmed kill ever," the sheriff's department said Wix texted.

Another text allegedly read: "But a good 100 kills would be nice. I already have a location (laughing cry face emoji) is that bad?"

Wix said he doesn't own firearms but was "fascinated with mass shootings," the sheriff's office said in a statement.

Police also released body cam video of Wix's arrest.

## Ohio

Police arrested James P. Reardon, 20, after receiving a tip about an online video where the man identified himself as the shooter at a Jewish community center — an incident that hadn't happened yet, according to the FBI.

Reardon was arrested Friday on charges of telecommunications harassment and aggravated menacing, FBI Cleveland Division said.

The video post on Instagram tagged the Jewish Community Center of Youngstown from Reardon's account, police say.

A search warrant was executed at Reardon's parent's home the same day local police received the tip about the video. Reardon was arrested without incident and police said rounds of ammunition, semi-automatic weapons and anti-Semitic information were found.

### **How 3 separate mass shooting plots have been thwarted (USA Today)**

USA Today [8/19/2019 5:57 PM, Staff, 6620K] Video: [HERE](#)

Three mass shooting plots were foiled with the arrests of three men in unrelated cases since the mass shooting in Dayton and El Paso.

### **Police Stopped What Could Have Been 3 Mass Shootings In A Single Weekend Across The Country (Daily Caller)**

Daily Caller [8/19/2019 5:50 PM, Audrey Conklin, 785K]

Police arrested three men in their 20s after receiving tips that revealed their interests in carrying out mass shootings.

The men were from Connecticut, Florida and Ohio, respectively.



Two of the shooters had access to a large number of weapons and ammunition in their homes.

Police stopped three potential mass shootings that could have taken place over the weekend in Florida, Connecticut and Ohio with help from the public.

Authorities arrested three men in their 20s who sent threatening social media posts or text messages alluding to the desire to carry out mass shootings late last week.

#### Connecticut

The first arrest took place on Aug. 14 in Connecticut when 22-year-old Brandon Wagshol was arrested on four counts of illegal possession of large-capacity magazines, the Norwalk Police Department said in a statement posted to Facebook.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation National Threat Operations Center received a tip saying Wagshol wanted to purchase large-capacity rifle magazines from out of state.

Authorities later discovered during the FBI investigation that Wagshol was buying rifle parts online in an attempt to build a homemade rifle, and Special Services Officers detained him outside his home on Aug. 14.

Officers seized a .40 caliber handgun and .22 caliber rifle — both of which were registered in his father's name.

They also seized body armor with a rifle scope with a laser, firearm flashlight, titanium plate, camouflage shirt, pant and belt, ballistic helmet, tactical gloves, camouflage bag and computers, as well as numerous .40 caliber, .22 caliber and .300 Blackout rounds of ammunition.

"Today's arrest demonstrates the FBI's commitment to working closely with our local law enforcement partners to mitigate this type of threat to our area," FBI special agent in Charge Brian Turner told reporters. "With our local partners we gather, share and act upon threat information as it comes to our attention."

#### Florida

Police arrested Tristan Scott Wix, 25, on Friday in Daytona Beach on a charge of making written threats to kill.

Wix was detained outside a Winn Dixie grocery store after police were alerted of text messages he had sent saying he wanted to "break a world record for longest confirmed kill," according to WKMG-TV.

The suspect sent several text messages saying he wanted to kill 100 people in a mass shooting and had decided on a location, the Volusia County Sheriff's Office reported.

Deputies said the 25-year-old said he is fascinated by mass shootings but

does not own any guns at home.

Texts from Wix obtained by police revealed that he was interested in shooting up a “large crowd of people from over [three] miles away” and would “need a spotter.”

He also said he did not “intend on walking away alive.”

“A good 100 kills would be nice. I already have a location,” he said in the texts, adding, “I wanna do it and think about it is not the same as actually doing it lol. Was kinda hoping someone would come into my life worth not doing it for, for the sake of all those people. I’m not crazy I just wanna die and I wanna have fun doing it, but I’m the most patient person in the world.”

Ohio

Police arrested James P. Reardon, 20, on Friday in New Middletown on charges of telecommunications harassment and aggravated menacing, FBI Cleveland Division reported, according to USA Today.

Officials began their investigation into Reardon after receiving a tip on July 11 when he posted an Instagram video of a man shooting a semi-automatic weapon with sirens and screams in the background. He tagged the Jewish Community Center of Youngstown in the post, according to ABC News.

“Police identified the Youngstown Jewish Family Community shooter as local white nationalist Seamus O’Reardon,” the caption read.

“According to charges filed, New Middletown Police Department was informed on Friday, August 16, 2019, of an online video posted by James Reardon depicting himself being identified as the shooter at an area Jewish Community Center, the shooting had not actually taken place,” the FBI said.

The Cleveland office for the Anti-Defamation League, a Jewish activist group, thanked the FBI and local law enforcement in a Saturday tweet, saying, “Grateful for the work of the FBI, local law enforcement and our community partners. ... We will continue to employ all our resources to stop the spread of white nationalism and violent extremism.”

Police said they found rounds of ammunition, semi-automatic weapons and anti-Semitic information in Reardon’s residence, and the FBI’s investigation is ongoing, according to USA Today.

“That kicked off an intense investigation, a very rapidly evolving investigation, because of the way the world is,” New Middletown Police Chief Vince D’Egidio told Youngstown ABC affiliate WYTV.

**[OH] Man suspected in Jewish center shooting threat pleads ‘not guilty’ (ABC News)**

ABC News [8/19/2019 9:27 PM, Staff, 2702K] Video [HERE](#)

James Reardon’s arrest was one of several made after the massacres in El Paso and Dayton; demonstrators across the U.S. have marched for tougher gun laws.

**[OH] Ohio man, one of three alleged thwarted mass shooters, denies charges in court (Reuters)**

Reuters [8/19/2019 8:01 PM, Peter Szekely, 5436K]

An alleged self-described white nationalist, one of three men in the United States accused of planning mass shootings in a week, pleaded not guilty on Monday to charges that he threatened to attack a Jewish community center, the court clerk said.

At an arraignment in Struthers, Ohio, where he faced charges of aggravated menacing and online harassment, James Reardon entered his plea by video link from a county jail in Youngstown, 10 miles (16 km) away, Municipal Court Clerk Lorraine Sciortino said by telephone.

Reardon, 20, who was arrested on Saturday in his hometown of New Middletown, is being held on \$250,000 bond, according to jail records. Should he post bond, he faces court-ordered conditions that include not possessing firearms and staying off social media, Sciortino said.

Reardon was arrested after investigators found a social media post in which he appeared to threaten the Jewish Community Center of Youngstown, according to a statement from the Youngstown Area Jewish Foundation.

Television station WYTV in Youngstown reported that a local police chief said Reardon "declared himself a white nationalist" and that he participated in the violent white nationalist rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, in 2017.

The attack Reardon was allegedly planning would have come amid two other mass shootings that authorities claim to have thwarted in Florida and Connecticut in recent days, and follows three other shooting sprees since late July that took 34 lives.

In Florida, the Volusia County Sheriff's Office said it arrested Tristan Wix, 25, of Daytona Beach on Friday after he texted a former girlfriend on Aug. 11 about plans to kill 100 people in a mass shooting.

"I'm not crazy I just wanna die and I wanna have fun doing it, but I'm the most patient person in the world," the Sheriff's Office said Wix wrote in a text.

A Sheriff's Office spokesman said by email that a search of Wix's home turned up a .22 caliber rifle belonging to his stepfather with about 400 rounds of ammunition.

"It's sad and disturbing that what happened here in Volusia County was one of three similar cases across the country in just a few days," Sheriff Michael Chitwood said in a statement.

"But it's also encouraging that in each case, a tip from the public enabled law enforcement to step in and make an arrest before anyone was killed," he added.

Wix, who faces a felony charge of threatening to kill or do bodily injury, is being held without bond. No court date has been scheduled.

In Connecticut, authorities are holding Brandon Wagshol, 22, on \$250,000

bond after Norwalk police said they arrested him last Thursday, accusing him of posting on Facebook an interest in committing a mass shooting. He faces four counts of possessing large-capacity magazines after a search of his home turned up a number of firearms and ammunition, police said.

Lawyers for Reardon and the other two suspects could not be reached.

The arrests follow three mass shootings, including incidents in El Paso, Texas, and Dayton, Ohio, within 13 hours of one another on Aug. 3 and 4, and a shooting in Gilroy, California, on July 28.

**[IL] DOJ arrests Chicago man who allegedly threatened attack on women's reproductive clinic (ABC News)**

ABC News [8/19/2019 6:17 PM, Alexander Mallin, 2702K]

The Department of Justice has announced federal charges against a Chicago man who prosecutors say threatened an attack against a women's reproductive clinic, the latest in a string of potential mass attacks thwarted by law enforcement.

Farhan Sheikh, 19, was arrested last Friday evening after posting on the social media platform iFunny that he would attack a local clinic and "proceed to slaughter and murder any doctor, patient, or visitor I see in the area and I will not back down," according to a criminal complaint filed in the U.S. District Court of Chicago,

"Consider this a warning for anyone visiting," Sheikh allegedly wrote.

The indictment does not list the clinic where Sheikh was allegedly threatening to carry out his attack, but said it is approximately 4 miles from his residence in Chicago.

In a post to the platform last week, Sheikh wrote he was "done" with Illinois' "abortion laws and allowing innocnt (sic) kids to be slaughtered for the so called 'womans right' [expletive]."

According to the complaint, when investigators confronted Sheikh at his residence about the posts he admitted they were his but sought to downplay the seriousness of his threats, despite accompanying posts that warned his threats weren't "satirical."

Sheikh was charged with transmitting a threat in interstate commerce, which is punishable by up to five years in prison.

The arrest follows at least three possible mass attacks thwarted by law enforcement over the weekend, with suspects arrested in Connecticut, Florida and Ohio.

The FBI directly assisted in two of the cases. In Connecticut, a 22-year-old man was charged with illegal possession of high-capacity ammunition magazines after authorities discovered a Facebook post where he expressed interest in carrying out a mass shooting.

In Ohio, police arrested a 20-year-old man who was a self-proclaimed white nationalist that had allegedly posted on Instagram what investigators believed

was a threat to carry out an attack on a local Jewish center. He has pleaded not guilty to telecommunications harassment and aggravated menacing.

And in Florida, a 25-year-old man was arrested after allegedly sending text messages where he expressed interest in carrying out the "longest confirmed kill ever" and was strategizing about locations where to carry out his attack, officials said.

Last week, Attorney General William Barr said the DOJ was crafting a bill that would seek to expedite death penalty proceedings for mass shooters, following a directive from President Trump in the wake of the El Paso, Texas and Dayton, Ohio shootings.

**[IL] Chicago man arrested after allegedly threatening to kill people at women's reproductive health clinic (CNN)**

CNN [8/19/2019 10:15 PM, Darran Simon, 6094K]

A Chicago man has been accused of threatening to kill people at a women's reproductive health clinic, federal prosecutors said Monday.

Farhan Sheikh, 19, allegedly posted the threat this month on iFunny, a social media platform where users can post internet memes, according to a criminal complaint.

He was arrested Friday and charged with transmitting a threat in interstate commerce, federal prosecutors said.

Sheikh's public defender declined to comment Monday.

Sheikh made his first court appearance on Monday before US Magistrate Judge Susan E. Cox. Cox ordered Sheikh to remain in custody pending a detention hearing on Tuesday, federal prosecutors in Illinois said. He faces up to five years if convicted.

Around August 13, the FBI learned that a user on iFunny had posted a threat, according to court papers. In the post, Sheikh allegedly wrote: "I am done with my state and thier (sic) bullsh\*t abortion laws and allowing innocrnt (sic) kids to be slaughtered for the so called 'womans (sic) right,'" according to an FBI affidavit.

Sheikh wrote that he planned to go to the clinic, which was about 4 miles from his home, on August 23 and "proceed to slaughter and murder any doctor, patient or visitor," an affidavit said. He also posted that his account was "NOT a satirical account. I post what I mean, and i WILL carry out what I post," court papers said.

On August 13th, FBI agents searched his home. Sheikh told FBI agents he thought they had come because of a "joke" he posted on iFunny, court papers said.

Sheikh referenced the arrest of Justin Olsen, an 18-year-old Ohio man who was charged this month with threatening to assault a federal law enforcement officer, a criminal complaint said.

Olsen posted a threat to assault federal law enforcement investigators and discussed the 1993 Waco siege on iFunny in June, an affidavit said. Olsen

also blamed the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives for the deaths of scores of people living at the Branch Davidian complex, court papers said.

Olsen was ordered held after a court appearance last week. His lawyer could not be reached Monday evening.

**[TX] Governor brings big tech to the table after El Paso attack (San Francisco Chronicle)**

San Francisco Chronicle [8/19/2019 6:41 PM, Paul J. Weber, AP, 2613K]  
Texas Gov. Greg Abbott called Monday for the help of big tech platforms in the wake of an El Paso mass shooting that authorities say was carried out by a gunman who posted a racist screed online before killing 22 people at a Walmart.

It's unclear what the invited companies, which include Google, Facebook and Twitter, will offer or say in the aftermath of the tragedy. None addressed questions about their role after Abbott announced the tech giants will join the FBI and state lawmakers this week in Austin to discuss the El Paso shooting and how to prevent future attacks.

Authorities say the suspected El Paso gunman confessed to targeting Mexicans during the Aug. 3 shooting at a Walmart. They also believe 21-year-old Patrick Crusius railed against immigrants and an influx of Hispanics into the U.S. in a rambling document that appeared on the 8chan message board.

In April, executives from Google and Facebook acknowledged while testifying before Congress that the companies have a duty to try to curb hate while being grilled about their responsibility for the spread of white supremacist views in the U.S. But they defended policies at the two companies that prohibit material that incites violence or hate.

Abbott, a Republican, described the gathering as a starting point to combat the rise of extremist groups and "hateful ideologies" and keeping guns out of the hands of "deranged individuals." He said they will also discuss domestic terrorism and cybersecurity threats.

Abbott spokesman John Wittman said the tech companies were invited to offer insights. Neil Potts, Facebook director of public policy who appeared before the House Judiciary Committee earlier this year, is also set to represent the company at the meeting in Texas.

Abbott called for cracking down on internet sites used by violent extremists in the immediate aftermath of the shooting. He has not proposed any new major gun control measures ahead of Thursday's meeting, which will include several Democratic lawmakers from El Paso who have pushed for tighter gun restrictions in Texas.

No gun-rights groups are among more than two dozen attendees scheduled to attend the meeting in the Texas Capitol, but Wittman said a gun-rights advocate will be invited to attend a similar gathering late this month in El Paso.

Abbott held similar gatherings in 2018 after a gunman killed 10 people at a high school near Houston. Those meetings resulted in a 43-page report with proposals for more armed guards in schools and boosting mental health screening. A year later, Abbott relaxed gun laws in a legislative session that was applauded by the National Rifle Association.

## **National Security News**

### **U.S. Tests Cruise Missile After Quitting INF Treaty With Russia (Bloomberg)**

Bloomberg [8/19/2019 2:48 PM, Glen Carey, 5350K]

The U.S. conducted a flight test of a cruise missile on Sunday, sending a signal of determination to develop intermediate-range capabilities only weeks after pulling out of a treaty with Russia that barred testing and deploying such technology.

The Pentagon successfully tested “a conventionally configured ground-launched cruise missile at San Nicolas Island, California,” the Defense Department said in a statement Monday, adding that “data collected and lessons learned from this test will inform the Department of Defense’s development of future intermediate-range capabilities.”

The missile “accurately impacted its target after more than 500 kilometers” (311 miles) of flight, the department said.

The Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces treaty of 1987 stipulated that the U.S. and Russia would never deploy ground-based ballistic and cruise missiles with a range of 500 to 5,500 kilometers -- either nuclear or conventional. The Trump administration withdrew this month after complaining about long-time violations by Russia and a desire to include China’s fast-growing arsenal in a new accord.

A senior administration official said on Aug. 2 that the U.S. was planning to conduct tests on new missile technology that would have violated the treaty. Secretary of State Michael Pompeo said that Russia had a long history of noncompliance and “is solely responsible for the treaty’s demise.”

While the Pentagon said the missile tested on Sunday was configured for a conventional weapon, missile technology can be adapted to deliver nuclear warheads.

Russian President Vladimir Putin called on the U.S. to resume nuclear talks to safeguard strategic stability, blaming the Trump administration for the collapse of a key missile treaty and warning of a potential new arms race. The demise of the INF has “created fundamental risks for everyone,” Putin said in a Kremlin statement on August 5. He urged a return to “common sense” in international security policy.

Defense Secretary Mark Esper has said he isn’t asking allies in Asia to deploy U.S. missiles on their territory, after China warned any country accepting intermediate-range American missiles would face retaliation.

The deal between the U.S. and the then Soviet Union eliminated 2,692 short-

and medium-range land-based missiles from their inventories by 1991. The only nuclear agreement still in force between the U.S. and Russia is the 2010 New START treaty limiting their strategic arsenals, and that's due to expire early in 2021.

**'America's military primacy in the Indo-Pacific is over,' Australian analysts worry (Washington Examiner)**

Washington Examiner [8/19/2019 7:14 PM, Joel Gehrke, 855K]

U.S. strategists are confronting "an unprecedented crisis" because of China's growing military strength in the Indo-Pacific, according to a new report from Australian defense analysts.

"America's military primacy in the Indo-Pacific is over and its capacity to maintain a favourable balance of power is increasingly uncertain," researchers at the University of Sydney's U.S. Studies Center warn in a new report. "After nearly two decades of costly distraction in the Middle East, the United States is struggling to meet the demands of great power competition with China and faces the uncomfortable truth that its armed forces are ill-prepared to succeed."

That stark assessment is driven by several factors, including China's development of ballistic missiles designed to launch devastating attacks on U.S. military forces in the region. It raises the prospect that the United States might abandon allies in a crisis if China's People's Liberation Army can win the initial round of a conflict, although U.S. analysts think the gloomy outlook underestimates American advantages.

"This report is part of a predictable wave of anxiety reaching the same conclusion — that U.S. strategic preeminence faces a serious challenge from China (and to a lesser degree Russia) and can no longer expect to prevail without correcting the bad habits built up during decades of comfortable dominance," Denny Roy, a senior fellow at the East-West Center in Hawaii, told the Washington Examiner.

China has designed a modern military to take advantage of perceived U.S. weaknesses, the report explains, with a focus on precision-strike missiles that Beijing could use against U.S. military forces throughout the region.

"This growing arsenal of accurate long-range missiles poses a major threat to almost all American, allied and partner bases, airstrips, ports and military installations in the Western Pacific," the report warns. "In all these scenarios, Beijing's aim would be to strike first to secure longstanding political goals or strategically valuable objectives before the United States can do anything to stop it."

That's not an inaccurate description of the threat, analysts and former U.S. government officials acknowledge, but the Australian report might be unnecessarily alarmist.

"It's a well-researched report, and a timely report, but I do disagree with the level to which they argue the United States has lost military primacy," Patrick Buchan, a former Australian government defense adviser who now leads the U.S. Alliances Project at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, told the Washington Examiner.



Buchan agrees that China's missile systems are a serious threat, but he notes the United States has withdrawn from a landmark Cold War-era treaty that banned land-based intermediate range cruise missiles, in part to begin countering that threat. And those new missiles will be just one component of the military power that can be arrayed against China.

"Look at the assets the United States deploys to the region and the assets the United States has the ability to rapidly deploy to the region, including things like advanced fighters and maritime assets, plus the amount of U.S. carriers," Buchan said. "[And that's] in addition to the U.S. strengthening its alliances with existing allies — plus new partners, which further adds to U.S. capabilities in the region."

Kelly Magsamen, the principal deputy assistant secretary of defense for Asian and Pacific Security Affairs from 2014 to 2017, agreed that the University of Sydney report is "too pessimistic" about the U.S. defense posture. But that pessimism shouldn't be ignored by Washington, she added.

"Obviously, this is a symptom of a much bigger issue of the region's confidence in American leadership in general," said Magsamen, who is now a vice president of national security policy at the Center for American Progress. "It should be a flashing red light to people in the Trump administration about where the region is right now with respect to the United States."

That effort might already be underway. The rising threat of China's military has is driving an extraordinary amount of outreach to countries traditionally regarded as minor geopolitical players, including Mongolia and the Pacific Islands states, which both could provide key advantages to U.S. efforts to blunt the threat of Chinese missiles.

"It is important that, as this report correctly notes, U.S. defense planners are working with a sense of urgency to reshape U.S. military capabilities and posture to account for what China is doing," Roy said. "The bottom line is we would rather have the United States' strategic problems and capabilities than China's strategic problems and capabilities."

### **ISIS Is Regaining Strength in Iraq and Syria (New York Times)**

New York Times [8/19/2019 5:38 PM, Eric Schmitt, Alissa J. Rubin, and Thomas Gibbons-Neff, 22840K]

Five months after American-backed forces ousted the Islamic State from its last shard of territory in Syria, the terrorist group is gathering new strength, conducting guerrilla attacks across Iraq and Syria, retooling its financial networks and targeting new recruits at an allied-run tent camp, American and Iraqi military and intelligence officers said.

Though President Trump hailed a total defeat of the Islamic State this year, defense officials in the region see things differently, acknowledging that what remains of the terrorist group is here to stay.

A recent inspector general's report warned that a drawdown this year from 2,000 American forces in Syria to less than half of that, ordered by Mr. Trump, has meant the American military has had to cut back support for Syrian partner forces fighting ISIS. For now, American and international

forces can only try to ensure that ISIS remains contained and away from urban areas.

Although there is little concern that the Islamic State will reclaim its former physical territory, a caliphate that was once the size of Britain and controlled the lives of up to 12 million people, the terrorist group has still mobilized as many as 18,000 remaining fighters in Iraq and Syria. These sleeper cells and strike teams have carried out sniper attacks, ambushes, kidnappings and assassinations against security forces and community leaders.

The Islamic State can still tap a large war chest of as much as \$400 million, which has been hidden in either Iraq and Syria or smuggled into neighboring countries for safekeeping. It is also believed to have invested in businesses, including fish farming, car dealing and cannabis growing. And ISIS uses extortion to finance clandestine operations: Farmers in northern Iraq who refuse to pay have had their crops burned to the ground.

Over the past several months, ISIS has made inroads into a sprawling tent camp in northeast Syria, and there is no ready plan to deal with the 70,000 people there, including thousands of family members of ISIS fighters. American intelligence officials say the Al Hol camp, managed by Syrian Kurdish allies with little aid or security, is evolving into a hotbed of ISIS ideology and a huge breeding ground for future terrorists. The American-backed Syrian Kurdish force also holds more than 10,000 ISIS fighters, including 2,000 foreigners, in separate makeshift prisons.

At Al Hol, the Syrian Kurds' "inability to provide more than 'minimal security' at the camp has allowed the 'uncontested conditions to spread of ISIS ideology' there," said the inspector general's report, which was prepared for the Pentagon, the State Department and the United States Agency for International Development. The military's Central Command told the report's authors that "ISIS is likely exploiting the lack of security to enlist new members and re-engage members who have left the battlefield."

A recent United Nations assessment reached the same conclusion, saying that family members living at Al Hol "may come to pose a threat if they are not dealt with appropriately."

These trends, described by Iraqi, American and other Western intelligence and military officials, and documented in a recent series of government and United Nations assessments, portray an Islamic State on the rise again, not only in Iraq and Syria, but in branches from West Africa to Sinai. This resurgence poses threats to American interests and allies, as the Trump administration draws down American troops in Syria and shifts its focus in the Middle East to a looming confrontation with Iran.

"However weakened ISIS may now be, they are still a truly global movement, and we are globally vulnerable," Suzanne Raine, a former head of Britain's Joint Terrorism Analysis Center, said in an interview this month with West Point's Combating Terrorism Center. "Nothing should surprise us about what happens next."

One significant indicator that points to the Islamic State's resurgence is the amount of ordnance dropped by American aircraft in Iraq and Syria in recent

months. In June, American warplanes dropped 135 bombs and missiles, more than double what they had in May, according to Air Force data.

Defense officials in the region say the Islamic State is now entrenched in mostly rural territory, fighting in small elements of roughly a dozen fighters and taking advantage of the porous border between Iraq and Syria, along with the informal border between Iraqi Kurdistan and the rest of the country, where security forces are spread thin and responsibilities for public safety are sometimes disputed.

For Iraqis in northern and western provinces where the Islamic State was active in the past, the sense of threat never disappeared, as the attacks slowed but never halted. In just the first six months of this year, there were 139 attacks in those provinces — Nineveh, Salahuddin, Kirkuk, Diyala and Anbar — and 274 people were killed. The majority of the dead were civilians but also included Iraqi security forces and popular mobilization forces, according to reports by Iraqi security forces and civilians gathered by The New York Times.

A particularly brutal episode of the kind not seen since the Islamic State was in control of territory in northern Iraq occurred in early August when armed men claiming ISIS allegiance held a public beheading of a policeman in a rural village south of the city of Samarra in Salahuddin Province, about two hours north of Baghdad.

The area has seen repeated attacks over the past two years, and the police who lived in the village had received warnings to leave their job. Most, like Alaa Ameen Mohammad Al-Majmai, the beheaded officer, worked for the security forces because there are few jobs other than farming, which is seasonal, and occasional construction work.

He was kidnapped at night when he and his brother Sajid went to check on their uncle's land after work, according to accounts from Sajid and other family members. Five armed men — some masked — grabbed the brothers, took them to an empty farmhouse and questioned them until the dawn prayer.

Then they said they would let Sajid go, but instructed him "to tell the people to quit their jobs working for the police force," he recalled. They beheaded Alaa Ameen, leaving his body on his uncle's land.

He became the 170th member of the force to be killed by Islamic State attackers in the area, said Major Zowba Al-Majmay, the director of an Iraqi emergency battalion for the area south of Samarra.

This month, a United States Marine Raider, Gunnery Sgt. Scott A. Koppenhafer, 35, was killed in northern Iraq during an operation with local forces. Marine Raiders, who are special forces, often fight alongside Kurdish Peshmerga, or the Iraqi Special Operations forces, when deployed to Iraq.

His death marked the first American killed in combat in Iraq this year. In January, four Americans were killed in a suicide bombing in Manbij, Syria.

Reports like these fill several new, sobering assessments of the Islamic State's resilience and potency. A July report by United Nations analysts on the Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee said that Islamic State leaders, despite their military defeat in Syria and Iraq, are "adapting, consolidating and creating conditions for an eventual resurgence" in those countries.

A new inspector general's report assessing ISIS activities from April through June concluded the group was "resurging in Syria" and had "solidified its insurgent capabilities in Iraq."

Despite these reports, Mr. Trump has continued to claim credit for completely defeating the Islamic State, contradicting repeated warnings from his own intelligence and counterterrorism officials that ISIS remains a lethal force.

"We did a great job," Mr. Trump said last month. "We have 100 percent of the caliphate, and we're rapidly pulling out of Syria. We'll be out of there pretty soon. And let them handle their own problems. Syria can handle their own problems — along with Iran, along with Russia, along with Iraq, along with Turkey. We're 7,000 miles away."

With 5,200 troops in Iraq and just under 1,000 in Syria, the American military's role in both countries has changed little despite the territorial defeat of the Islamic State in both countries.

After the fall of Baghuz, the Islamic State's last holdout in Syria near the Iraqi border, what remained of the group's fighters dispersed throughout the region, starting what American officials now say will be an enduring insurgency.

The Islamic State is well equipped, the officials said, though its leadership is mostly fractured, leaving most cells without guidance from higher-ranking commanders. Also gone is the Islamic State's heyday, when the group could mass produce roadside bombs, munitions and homemade weapons.

The Islamic State's change in tactics has forced the Americans and other international troops to change theirs, ensuring they can fight a guerilla-style campaign against insurgents who fight among and disappear into local populations.

The Iraqi Army and its counterterrorism forces have run multiple campaigns against the Islamic State, focusing primarily on the triangle where Kirkuk, Nineveh and Salahuddin Provinces come together in a rocky and hilly area known as the Makhoul Mountains.

Though Islamic State fighters are present, the pace of operations in Syria has dropped significantly. Army Special Forces soldiers, alongside conventional troops, often sit on their outposts for long stretches of time and only occasionally go after the low-ranking Islamic State fighters hiding in nearby villages, according to one defense official who recently returned from the country.

One of the greatest challenges, the official said, was the constant ferrying of American troops to and from Syria in an effort to keep the overall troop

presence at the military's official deployment of just under 1,000. Sometimes, the official said, troops are brought into the country for specific missions and then sent out.

"Coupled with a U.S. drawdown, it's setting the conditions for ISIS to retake pockets of territory while coercing local populations," said Colin P. Clarke, a senior fellow at the SoufanCenter, a research organization for global security issues and an author of a new study by the RAND Corporation on the Islamic State's financing.

### **[Iran] Seized Iranian Tanker Leaves Gibraltar Despite U.S. Pressure (New York Times)**

New York Times [8/18/2019 6:31 PM, Megan Specia, 22840K]

An Iranian oil tanker held for six weeks after being impounded left Gibraltar on Sunday, after the authorities in the British territory rejected a request from American officials to turn the vessel over to them, the latest development in an episode that has contributed to raised tensions between Iran and the West.

A marine traffic monitoring website showed the tanker, the Grace 1, leaving Gibraltar's waters shortly after 11 p.m. local time, with a destination of Kalamata, a port city in southern Greece, a move that has raised hopes that Iran will now release a British-flagged ship.

The Iranian vessel is expected to arrive in Greece on Sunday, according to the tracker. News organizations in Iran and Gibraltar confirmed that the ship had left Gibraltar, and Iran issued a warning soon afterward that any attempt by the United States to detain the tanker would have consequences.

The ship was renamed Adrian Darya-1, with its new moniker hastily painted onto the side of the vessel in white lettering seen in images taken shortly before it left the port, with "Grace 1" painted over in black.

The ship was seized on July 4 by British marines and Gibraltar port officials who asserted that the tanker was carrying oil to Syria in violation of a European Union embargo. Iran soon detained a British-flagged tanker, the Stena Impero, in the Strait of Hormuz, the narrow entryway to the Persian Gulf that is a conduit for about 20 percent of the world's crude oil.

The decision to release the Iranian ship last week was seen as a sign of easing of tensions between Gibraltar, a semiautonomous British territory, London and Tehran. A confrontation between Iran and the West, particularly with the United States, has escalated in recent weeks.

The ship's departure also raised expectations that Iran, in turn, would relinquish the Stena Impero.

Gibraltar ordered the release of the Grace 1 on Thursday despite a last-minute request from the United States that it be allowed to seize the ship. The following day, the Justice Department unsealed a warrant issued by a federal court in Washington to seize the tanker, the oil it contains and nearly \$1 million based on statutory violations.

"A network of front companies allegedly laundered millions of dollars in

support of such shipments,” Jessie Liu, the United States attorney for the District of Columbia, said in a news release.

The Justice Department said that multiple parties affiliated with the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps of Iran, which the United States has designated a foreign terrorist organization, were believed involved.

On Friday, Gibraltar’s chief minister, Fabian Picardo, said that because of the American intervention, the case would go back to court.

But on Sunday, the Gibraltar government rejected the American request. It said that the warrant had relied on broad United States sanctions against Iran that were not applicable in the European Union.

Iran’s naval commander said Sunday that his country was ready to dispatch its naval fleet to escort the oil tanker.

“The era of hit and run is over,” Rear Adm. Hossein Khanzadi was quoted as saying by Iran’s Mehr news agency. “If top authorities ask the navy, we are ready to escort our tanker Adrian.”

The United States, which sought to take possession of the ship from Gibraltar, has not said whether it will attempt to to seize the vessel now that it has left the British territory, although any move to intercept the tanker in international waters would most likely be considered illegal.

The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which provides a framework for engagement at sea, maintains that military ships do not have the authority to detain or board foreign-flagged vessels in international waters unless the ship is suspected of serious offenses like piracy or participating in the slave trade.

“If this is done, or even stated, it is a threat to free shipping,” Abbas Mousavi, a spokesman for the Iranian Foreign Ministry, said at a weekly news conference, according to semiofficial news outlet Tasnim. “Through its official channels, and especially the Swiss Embassy, Iran has warned U.S. officials not to make the mistake because they would face bad consequences.”

Switzerland represents American interests in Iran, because the United States does not have diplomatic relations with Tehran and has no embassy there.

In announcing the decision Thursday to release the Iranian vessel, the government of Gibraltar said that it had information that the Grace 1 was headed to Syria when it was initially detained, but that it now had assurances the tanker would not go there. Three crew members who had been detained were also released.

Some speculated that the release could be part of a ship swap, but none of the involved parties confirmed that. The Iranian authorities said on Friday that they had made no promises.

“Iran has made no commitment for the release of the Grace 1 tanker,” said Abbas Mousavi, a spokesman for the Iranian Foreign Ministry, according to a report from the semiofficial Tasnim news agency.

Mr. Mousavi also said, "We announced from the early hours of the oil tanker's detention that Syria was not the oil tanker's destination and remained so to the end." Even if the oil had been headed to Syria, he said, "it would still have nothing to do with anyone."

The Gibraltar government disputed Iran's claims, saying Iran had indeed made commitments to not transport the oil to Syria.

"The evidence is clear, and the facts speak louder than the self-serving political statements we are hearing today," the government said.

The United States has announced additional punitive measures for the crew members of any vessel that transports oil from Iran to Syria.

The State Department said Thursday it would revoke United States visas for the crew members operating Grace 1. The State Department said that it had found that the vessel was helping the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps by transporting Iranian oil.

"This could result in serious consequences for any individuals associated with the Grace I," the State Department said.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo posted the statement on Twitter with a warning: "A message to all mariners — if you crew an IRGC or other FTO-affiliated ship, you jeopardize future entry to the U.S."

### **[Iran] Iran Warns U.S. Against Seizing Oil Tanker Headed to Greece (Bloomberg)**

Bloomberg [8/19/2019 8:58 AM, Brian Wingfield , Arsalan Shahla , and Verity Ratcliffe, 5350K]

Iran warned the U.S. against apprehending a supertanker carrying the Middle East country's oil and said it couldn't be clear on the ship's ultimate destination, leaving the fate of the vessel uncertain as it sailed into the Mediterranean Sea from Gibraltar, where it had been detained.

The tanker, formerly called the Grace 1 and now known as the Adrian Darya 1, was signaling Kalamata, Greece -- at least for now -- with an arrival date of Aug. 25, tanker-tracking data compiled by Bloomberg at 1:45 p.m. London time show.

It left Gibraltar Sunday night after being detained there since early July, when British forces seized it on suspicion of carrying oil to Syria in violation of European sanctions. The U.S., which has sanctions against Iran, is seeking to prevent anyone from doing business with the ship.

U.S. sanctions mean Iran cannot be "very transparent" about the destination of the tanker, Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif said at a press conference in Helsinki. He said the U.S. is trying to "bully others from purchasing our oil" and that he hopes the release of the vessel will de-escalate tensions in the Persian Gulf.

The incident is one of several in recent months that have strained relations between Iran and the West, following the U.S. reinstatement of sanctions on

the Islamic Republic last year. Iran has maintained that the ship's original detention on July 4 was unlawful. The Persian Gulf state continues to hold a U.K.-flagged tanker, the Stena Impero. Aggression in the region has threatened shipping in recent months in the Strait of Hormuz, the world's most critical waterway for oil supplies.

"The U.S. surely can't seize the Iranian tanker and, if it does, it would pose a threat to international maritime security," Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi said. Iran warned the U.S. via "diplomatic channels," including Switzerland, against interfering with the tanker, in international waters, Mousavi said at a news conference in Tehran. Swiss diplomats serve as interlocutors between the U.S. and Iran.

It's not known where the Iranian vessel is ultimately headed. Greek authorities haven't received formal notification that the vessel intends to head to a port in the country, according to a spokesman for Greece's coast guard. Kalamata's port usually serves pleasure craft like sailboats and cruise ships, data compiled by Bloomberg show.

The waters off Kalamata could be a possible location for ship-to-ship cargo transfers, according to two vessel brokers without specific information about the tanker's plans. A ship's destination is entered manually into its Automatic Identification System and is picked up by vessel-tracking. The destinations can be altered multiple times on the same journey.

Gibraltar rejected an attempt by the U.S. to block the Iranian supertanker, saying that EU regulations don't allow it to seek a court order to detain the vessel.

A complaint unsealed in Washington stated that "Oil Tanker 'Grace 1,' all petroleum aboard it and \$995,000 are subject to forfeiture," according to a Justice Department statement. The statement alleges a "scheme to unlawfully access the U.S. financial system to support illicit shipments" of oil from Iran to Syria in violation of U.S. sanctions, money laundering and terrorism statutes.

Gibraltar last week released the vessel, after the government said Iran had provided assurances that the ship would not sail to a destination sanctioned by the EU. In response, the U.S. said it was gravely disappointed with Britain, and it warned that ports, banks and anyone else who does business with the vessel or its crew might be subject to sanctions, according to two administration officials.

### **[Iran] Iran Warns of 'Heavy Consequences' if U.S. Seizes Oil Tanker Released by Gibraltar (Breitbart)**

Breitbart [8/19/2019 12:00 PM, Ben Kew, 2034K]

The Adrian Darya 1 was impounded early last month by the British Royal Marines off the coast of Gibraltar over suspicions that it was transporting Iranian crude oil to Syria in breach of European Union sanctions against Bashar al-Assad's regime. The ship, previously named the Grace 1, was transporting around 2.1 million barrels of oil worth an estimated \$130 million.

Tehran has repeatedly denied claims from the United Kingdom that the oil was destined Syria, declaring the impoundment "illegal" and accusing the United Kingdom of "piracy."



They soon retaliated by seizing the British-flagged oil tanker Stena Impero in a tit for tat move, heightening tensions between Iran and the West. The ship is still yet to be released, with Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Abbas Mouzani disputing claims it was an act of retaliation.

“Regarding the release of the law-breaking British tanker [Stena Impero], we have to wait for the court’s ruling,” he said. “This tanker has committed two to three nautical violations that are being investigated. We hope that these investigations will finish as soon as possible and a verdict will be issued and if the verdict orders its release, it can continue to sail its path.”

Meanwhile, the Adrian Darya was released around 11 pm on Sunday evening after the Gibraltar Supreme Court rejected a last-ditch attempt by the United States to hold the ship, and is currently heading east through the Mediterranean Sea.

However, there is now speculation that U.S. naval forces may attempt to seize the ship, a move that Mousavi said would lead to “heavy consequences” for those involved.

“If such an action is taken or even if it is stated verbally and not done, it is considered a threat against the maritime security in international waters,” he told a news conference on Monday.

“The Islamic Republic of Iran has given necessary warnings to the US officials through official channels, especially the Swiss Embassy in Tehran, not to commit such a mistake because it would have grave consequences,” he continued.

Mousavi also claimed that the vessel’s release represented a blow to U.S. “unilateralism,” as the Trump administration leads international efforts to sanction and isolate Iran over their nuclear weapons program.

“The Americans have not been very successful with their unilateral sanctions that have no legal basis,” he said. “They should come to their senses that bullying and unilateralism cannot get anywhere in the world today.”

Heshmatollah Falahatpisheh, a senior Iranian legislator who sits on the country’s national security and foreign affairs committee, also warned that the diplomatic row was not over until Adrian Darya 1 reached its destination.

“Until the Iranian oil tanker arrives at its destination the British must help end the crisis,” he was quoted as saying by the semi-official ISNA news agency. “This means that the crisis with Britain is not over. Britain has the primary responsibility for ending the oil tanker crisis.”

**[Iran] Iran warns U.S. not to seize newly-freed supertanker (CBS News)**  
CBS News [8/19/2019 6:56 AM, Staff, 3332K]

An Iranian supertanker with \$130 million worth of light crude oil that the U.S. suspects is tied to a sanctioned organization has left Gibraltar and was heading Monday east into the Mediterranean Sea, with its next destination reported to be Greece.

The Iran-flagged Adrian Darya 1, previously named Grace 1, set course for Kalamata, Greece, with an estimated arrival on Aug. 25, according to ship tracking service MarineTraffic. It wasn't immediately clear why the tanker would be heading there or whether the destination could change.

The vessel left Gibraltar late on Sunday after having been detained for a month in the British overseas territory for allegedly attempting to breach European Union sanctions on Syria. Gibraltar authorities rejected attempts by the U.S. to seize the oil tanker again, arguing that EU regulations are less strict than U.S. sanctions on Iran. And Tehran on Monday warned Washington against any effort to grab the vessel again.

Gibraltar said it had been assured by Iran that the tanker wouldn't unload its cargo in Syria.

Iranian government officials have yet to publicly acknowledge the ship's next destination, or where it will discharge its cargo of 2.1 million barrels of crude oil. Iran has denied it was ever headed for Syria.

The tanker's release comes amid a growing confrontation between Iran and the West after President Trump pulled Washington out of Tehran's nuclear deal with world powers over a year ago.

Shortly after the tanker's detention in early July, Iran seized the British-flagged oil tanker Stena Impero, which is still being held by the Islamic republic. Analysts had said the Iranian ship's release by Gibraltar might mean that the Stena Impero could go free.

But Iranian officials denied there was any link between the two ships.

"There is no specific relation between these two ships," Foreign Ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi said of the Stena Impero and the Adrian Darya 1. "We are glad that our stance about the unlawful and illegal seizure of our tanker has been proven."

"Regarding the release of the law-breaking British tanker (Stena Impero), we have to wait for the court's ruling," he added. "This tanker has committed two to three nautical violations that are being investigated. We hope that these investigations will finish as soon as possible and a verdict will be issued and if the verdict orders its release, it can continue to sail its path."

In a last-ditch effort to stop the release, the U.S. unsealed a warrant Friday to seize the Adrian Darya 1 and its cargo, citing violations of U.S. sanctions as well as money laundering and terrorism statutes.

U.S. officials told reporters the oil aboard the ship was worth some \$130 million and was destined for a designated terror organization.

The unsealed court documents argued that Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps are the ship's true owners through a network of front companies.

Authorities in Gibraltar said Sunday that, unlike in the U.S., the Iran's Revolutionary Guard is not designated a terrorist organization under EU, U.K.

or Gibraltar law.

The Iranian spokesman warned Monday against any order by the U.S. Justice Department to have the renamed ship seized again.

"If such an action is taken or even if it is stated verbally and not done, it is considered a threat against the maritime security in international waters," said Mousavi. "The Islamic Republic of Iran has given necessary warnings to the U.S. officials through official channels, especially the Swiss Embassy in Tehran, not to commit such a mistake which (could) bring them severe consequences.

The Reuters news agency quotes Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi as saying, "Such an action, and even the talk of it...would endanger shipping safety in open seas."

Switzerland represents U.S. interests in Iran, which has no diplomatic ties with the U.S.

The Iranian ship was detained while sailing under a Panamanian flag with the name Grace 1. It changed the name on Sunday and hoisted an Iranian flag.

**[Iran] Iran tanker heads to Greece after release, Iran warns U.S against seizure attempt (Reuters)**

Reuters [8/19/2019 8:15 AM, Parisa Hafezi, Lisa Barrington, Anna Ringstrom Jonathan Saul, George Georgiopoulos and Harshith Aranya, 5436K]

An Iranian tanker sailed through the Mediterranean toward Greece on Monday after it was released from detention off Gibraltar, and Tehran said that any at U.S. move to seize the vessel again would have "heavy consequences".

The Grace 1, renamed the Adrian Darya 1, left anchorage off Gibraltar about 11 p.m. (2100 GMT) on Sunday. Refinitiv ship tracking data showed on Monday that the vessel was heading to Kalamata in Greece and was scheduled to arrive next Sunday at 0000 GMT.

The seizure of the tanker by British Royal Marines near Gibraltar in July 4 on suspicion of carrying oil to Syria in violation of European Union sanctions led to a weeks-long stand-off between Tehran and the West. It also heightened tensions on international oil shipping routes through the Gulf.

Gibraltar, a British overseas territory, lifted the detention order on Thursday but the next day a federal court in Washington issued a warrant for the seizure of the tanker, the oil it carries and nearly \$1 million.

Gibraltar said on Sunday it could not comply with that request because it was bound by EU law. Washington wanted to detain the tanker on the grounds that it had links to Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), which it has designated a terrorist organization.

"We are happy this ordeal has ended and I hope this will lead to less escalation," Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said while visiting Finland.

He also said the U.S. warrant had no legal basis and was politically motivated to “make more escalation”.

Greek authorities had no immediate comment on the situation.

Iran said on Monday any U.S. attempt to seize the tanker would have “heavy consequences”.

Asked whether the United States could renew its seizure request after the tanker sailed from Gibraltar, Foreign Ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi said: “Such an action, and even the talk of it ... would endanger shipping safety in open seas.”

“Iran has issued the necessary warnings through official channels, especially the Swiss embassy, to American officials not to commit such an error because it would have heavy consequences,” Mousavi said in remarks broadcast on state television.

Switzerland represents U.S. interests in Iran, which has no diplomatic relations with the United States.

The Adrian Darya 1, which was re-flagged to Iran after being de-listed by Panama on May 29, was fully laden and carrying about 2 million barrels of oil, Refinitiv data showed. The cargo was valued at tens of millions of dollars.

U.S. President Donald Trump pulled out of a 2015 nuclear deal with Iran in May last year, while the European Union is still part of the accord, which allows Tehran to sell its oil.

Washington wants to reduce Iran’s oil exports to zero and has re-imposed U.S. sanctions which place heavy penalties on any breaches even for non-U.S. citizens and companies, including asset freezes and being cut off from the U.S. financial system.

While EU regulations still allow for companies and citizens in the bloc to trade with Iran, falling foul of U.S. sanctions has meant most banks are unwilling to process even authorized transactions such as for food and medicine, finance sources say.

This is likely to be the first major foreign policy challenge for Greece’s new Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis since he took office in July if the vessel enters Greek territorial waters.

Zarif said Iran could not reveal where the oil would go.

“Because of US sanctions we cannot be very transparent with the destination,” he said.

A spokesperson for the Greek coastguard said they had no formal information the vessel is heading to Kalamata and are monitoring the matter.

Separately, a senior Iranian lawmaker said a crisis in Iran’s ties with Britain, which included Tehran’s seizure of a British-flagged tanker last month, would

not be over until the tanker reached its destination.

Iran's Revolutionary Guards on July 19 seized the Stena Impero in the Strait of Hormuz waterway for alleged marine violations, two weeks after the Grace 1 was commandeered.

"Until the Iranian oil tanker arrives at its destination the British must help end the crisis," Heshmatollah Falahatpisheh, a member of parliament's national security and foreign affairs committee, was quoted as saying by the semi-official ISNA news agency.

"The crisis with Britain is not over. Britain has the primary responsibility for ending the oil tanker crisis," Falahatpisheh said.

Mousavi said that Tehran was waiting for a court decision on alleged maritime violations by the Stena Impero and he hoped the procedures would be completed as soon as possible.

The head of Iran's judiciary Ebrahim Raisi also said "Iran should claim damages...to teach a lesson to those who acted against international laws and regulations by seizing the tanker".

Iran has denied its tanker was ever headed to Syria, a close ally of Tehran.

The two vessels have since become pawns in a bigger game, feeding into wider hostilities since the United States pulled out of the nuclear agreement with Iran.

### **[Afghanistan] U.S. And The Taliban May Be Near A Deal. What Does That Mean For Afghanistan? (NPR)**

NPR [8/19/2019 5:18 PM, Merrit Kennedy and Greg Myre]

Nearly two decades into the war in Afghanistan, the U.S. suddenly appears to be nearing an agreement with the Taliban that could bring the remaining 14,000 U.S. troops home.

That's causing unease inside the Afghan government, which has been left on the sidelines as the U.S. and the Taliban have held multiple rounds of talks this year in the Gulf nation of Qatar. The latest round wrapped up last week without a deal, but with signs of progress.

The Afghan government says it's prepared to negotiate with the Taliban — but the Taliban are refusing to reciprocate, calling the Afghan government an American puppet.

Roya Rahmani, Afghanistan's ambassador to the U.S., said that while she supports efforts toward peace, "peace negotiations would start when the Taliban are able and ready to face the Afghan people, the people they are fighting, and their legitimate elected government."

The Taliban seized power in her homeland in the 1990s, when she was a teenager. She spent most of those years as a refugee in Pakistan, but in visits home during that time, she says she "found my country drained of energy and worse than that, drained of hope."

Many analysts are wondering whether a U.S.-Taliban deal is simply a way for the Americans to pull out of a gridlocked war, or will it lead to a genuine peace in Afghanistan.

"It remains to be seen if this is a negotiation that just concludes the U.S.'s role in Afghanistan, or if these are negotiations that actually conclude the Afghan conflict and help bring some degree of sustainability to the region after over four decades of war," said Dan Feldman of the Center for American Progress. Under President Barack Obama, he served as the State Department's special representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan.

"That will depend in large part on the leverage that the U.S. will continue to have to encourage and facilitate an intra-Afghan negotiation that will actually achieve some stability in the country," he added.

President Trump has said he wants to bring the U.S. troops home and is suggesting that a deal is plausible.

"Many on the opposite side of this 19 year war, and us, are looking to make a deal - if possible!" he tweeted on Friday.

But there are still obstacles.

The Taliban want a timeline for all U.S. troops to leave. According to people familiar with the talks, the period under discussion would be two years or less.

The U.S. says the Taliban must agree on several things: a permanent cease-fire, renunciation of al-Qaida, and negotiations with the Afghan government.

"We are not cutting and running. We are not looking for a withdrawal agreement. We're looking for a peace agreement," Zalmay Khalilzad, the Trump administration's envoy on Afghanistan, said recently.

But even if the two sides reach a deal, a host of sticky questions remain.

Would the Taliban stick to the agreement? Would it be acceptable to the Afghan government? And to what extent would the Taliban and Afghan government be able to negotiate a power-sharing agreement that would last?

Moreover, what kind of role would the Taliban play in Afghan politics, and would it accept changes since it was driven from power in 2001, such as increased opportunities for women?

Human rights observers are concerned that a deal could significantly roll back women's rights.

"I think if we look at the gains made since 2001, you know, women's rights have been at the forefront of those gains, and they've been hard fought," Patricia Gossman of Human Rights Watch recently told NPR. "I think women ... rightly fear that in any deal, or if in fact things don't lead to peace but lead to renewed fighting, women's rights will suffer."

Finally, militant groups such as ISIS could play a complicating role. Over the weekend, a suicide bombing at a wedding in Kabul killed at least 63 people,

and the attack was reportedly claimed by a local ISIS affiliate.

Trump faces a tough decision. He consistently says he wants to pull U.S. troops out of Afghanistan — one of the few points of agreement with most Democratic presidential candidates.

But the president is getting pushback from the military and other parts of the national security establishment. They are warning that a U.S. pullout could lead to an unraveling of Afghanistan.

The U.S. presence in Afghanistan topped out at more than 100,000 under Obama. It's now down to around 14,000, but the U.S. is providing critical support.

The Americans train Afghan troops, they gather intelligence and they carry out airstrikes.

Rahmani, the Afghan ambassador, stresses that a real peace deal will need to be rooted in trust to succeed.

"What we are seeing now, the way it's going now, that does not ensure and build that trust that is required for a peace deal to succeed, for a real peace to find its way to Afghanistan," she said.

The Afghan government wants security guarantees to make sure the Taliban can't resort to violence if they don't get their way politically.

The government also wants to preserve the country's political system, which includes a presidential election on Sept. 28.

**[Afghanistan] Trump's Afghanistan withdrawal plan: Cutting a deal or cutting and running? (Washington Examiner)**

Washington Examiner [8/19/2019 7:21 AM, Jamie McIntyre, 855K]

The shocking ISIS attack on a wedding party in Kabul, in which a suicide bomber blew himself up in the middle of a dancing crowd of celebrants Saturday night, has raised new fears in Afghanistan that a pending deal between the United States and the Taliban could lead the withdrawal of American and other international troops without a real peace agreement.

The attack killed 63 people, including children, and wounded almost 200 others, prompting Afghan President Ashraf Ghani yesterday to vow the elimination of all safe havens for ISIS.

TRUMP: 'I'M NOT TRUSTING ANYBODY': President Trump and his national security team were briefed Friday at Trump's Bedminster, New Jersey, country club by U.S. special representative for Afghanistan reconciliation Zalmay Khalilzad on the progress in the negotiations with the Taliban, which appear to be in their final stages.

Under the deal, in return for a withdrawal of U.S. troops the Taliban would agree to a ceasefire, begin talks with the Afghan government, and, perhaps most important from the American perspective, take steps to ensure that no terrorist attack on the United States can again be launched from Afghanistan.

Trump put the number of U.S. troops in Afghanistan at about 13,000, less than the Pentagon's latest rough estimate of 14,000, and said he's ready to cut forces further.

"We'll be bringing it down a little bit more, and then we'll decide whether we'll be staying longer or not," Trump told reporters before returning to Washington Sunday. "We're looking at Afghanistan. We're talking to Afghanistan, both the government and also talking to the Taliban, having very good discussions. We'll see what happens."

But Trump indicated he's not yet ready to finalize a deal that relies on the Taliban to protect U.S. interests. "I'm not trusting anybody," Trump said. "It's a horrible situation that's going on in Afghanistan, it has been for many years."

"Look we're there for one reason," he added. "It can't be a laboratory for terror."

**GHANI'S WORRY:** Despite Trump's claim of "good discussions," Afghanistan's U.S.-backed government has largely been sidelined by the talks, and a spokesman for Ghani tweeted over the weekend that the Afghan president had not yet been briefed on what President Trump was told Friday.

Ghani and many Afghans worry that with the Taliban resurgent, a U.S. withdrawal now, on the flimsy promise of future negotiations, could lead to an eventual Taliban takeover.

"We also continue to emphasize that a peace deal will only be meaningful if the two key components of ceasefire and Taliban's readiness to turn to political life could be achieved," tweeted Sediq Sediqqi. "[The] Afghan government is committed to work towards achieving these goals."

**GRAHAM'S STICKING POINT:** South Carolina Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham — one of Trump's staunchest defenders and sometime critic — keep warning Trump not to get out of Afghanistan completely.

"Every national security adviser for President Trump is recommending unanimously that if we do a peace agreement with the Taliban, we must maintain the ability to have a counterterrorism force with intel capability, as long as conditions on the ground warrant," Graham said Sunday on Fox News Channel. "The idea of leaving at a date certain is a disaster for the United States, because ISIS and al Qaeda will regenerate."

When asked about Graham's concern yesterday, Trump replied, "Well, I guess that means Lindsey is a tough man, OK?"

**DON'T TRUST, DETER:** "The Taliban are untrustworthy, and any agreement is non-enforceable after a U.S. exit anyway," writes Gil Barndollar, senior fellow with Defense Priorities, who argues Trump should follow his gut and order a complete withdrawal. "What safeguards U.S. interests is deterrence by punishment: the ability to strike the Taliban should they facilitate harm to the United States, regardless of the state of the Afghan government and security forces post-withdrawal."



## **[China] Intelligence officials tackle Huawei's power as Trump's decision is unclear (Politico)**

Politico [8/19/2019 2:46 PM, Adam Behsudi, 2512K]

U.S. intelligence officials recently brought together experts to game out how Huawei's reach into next-generation 5G wireless technology could test U.S. global alliances. The simulation organized by government intelligence agencies comes even as President Donald Trump has considered using the Chinese telecommunication giant as a bargaining chip in his trade war with Beijing.

Specialists in cybersecurity, China's economy, trade and other areas were practicing, among other scenarios, how the U.S. would respond to a world in which Huawei emerges as the uncontested leader in 5G technology, three people who participated in the exercises said. That would place the Chinese company in a central spot of the vast global communications backbone.

"The point is, what does the world look like in a nightmare scenario?" said one person who was present. This person added that it's still unclear what the findings of the exercise will mean in terms of policy.

The uncommon exercise took place over two days last week in suburban Washington and was organized under the National Intelligence Council, which is part of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence. It is yet another sign that the U.S. intelligence sector's view of Huawei's threat is in sharp contrast with Trump's willingness to ease up on restrictions on Chinese companies in return for trade concessions.

Among U.S. policymakers and lawmakers, the Shenzhen-based company has emerged as a central villain in a broader fight between Washington and Beijing over dominance of technologies like 5G — a new generation of super-fast network technology seen as crucial to the future of the internet.

The company is frequently accused of having deep ties to the Chinese military and of building much of its innovation from stolen U.S. intellectual property. Huawei officials have repeatedly denied such allegations.

The Commerce Department blacklisted Huawei in May as a national security threat, effectively prohibiting the company from buying services and parts from American firms. Semiconductor companies based in the U.S., which rely on Huawei for a good share of business, are pushing for waivers that would allow some sales to resume. On Monday, the Commerce Department extended a temporary general license until Nov. 18, allowing U.S. firms to continue to engage in a limited number of transactions with Huawei.

Trump has also signed an executive order that would block Huawei from selling equipment in the U.S. and Congress passed a law last year that would ban procurement of Huawei products by federal agencies.

Those efforts have buttressed a broader campaign by the U.S. to urge allies to end contracts with Huawei and strip the company's technology from their networks. Japan, Australia and New Zealand have heeded those warnings. But other major allies — including Britain, Canada and Germany — remain unconvinced and continue to do business with Huawei.

Rural wireless networks and internet providers in the U.S. also depend heavily on Huawei technology for their infrastructure equipment.

Despite the intelligence community's concerns about Huawei's power, Trump has indicated that he would be willing to negotiate with Beijing on lifting sanctions if it accedes to U.S. demands in trade talks.

In May, Trump warned that "Huawei is something that is very dangerous" from a "security standpoint, a military standpoint."

But he nevertheless went on to add: "It's possible that Huawei would be included in a trade deal. If we made a deal, I can imagine Huawei being included in some form or some part of a trade deal."

One person involved in last week's exercise said it's clear the meeting was focused on the long term and not meant to offer an immediate policy solution in the context of Trump's trade fight.

"The timeline of this is not consistent with the way the president looks at the world," the person said.

The Office of the Director of National Intelligence was unable to respond to a request for comment.

Another participant in the exercise criticized the process for not being focused enough on the market realities of rolling out new wireless networks.

"It was very big picture" with too much focus on "high-level political machinations," the person said, adding that most of the scenarios envisioned Huawei being taken off Commerce's blacklist.

Trade negotiations between the U.S. and China have been focused on getting Beijing to relent on policies and practices Washington says have forced U.S. companies to hand over technology to do business in the Chinese market.

But Trump has also made other demands that many people see as fulfilling his short-term political ambitions. Those include commitments that Beijing ramp up purchases of U.S. agricultural goods to help farmers already hurting from Chinese retaliatory actions.

The U.S. has already imposed 25 percent tariffs on \$250 billion worth of Chinese goods; by the end of the year, it is set to slap additional penalties on almost all that the nation imports from China.

Lawmakers have pressed Trump not to ease up on Huawei, pointing to the company's efforts to aid North Korea's regime and skirt U.S. sanctions on Iran. The Washington Post reported last month that Huawei secretly helped the North Korean government build a commercial wireless network.

The Wall Street Journal reported last week that Huawei technicians helped African governments spy on political opponents. The company vehemently rebutted the Journal's story in a letter to the newspaper.

The mounting evidence has heightened fears that Huawei's development of 5G infrastructure in other countries could create a so-called backdoor for China to spy via the company's network connections.

In the latest test exercises, U.S. experts also were figuring out the implications of removing Huawei technology from foreign networks, one of the people close to the matter said.

Huawei founder and CEO Ren Zhengfei has dismissed U.S. concerns over the company's involvement in 5G technology.

"5G is just a tool that helps networks operate faster," Ren said last month in an interview with Yahoo Finance. "It's good for the world. 5G is not an atomic bomb. How has it become a threat?"

But the executive, who himself is a member of China's Communist Party, made clear that U.S. actions don't threaten the company's survival "at all," especially when it comes to 5G technology.

"The more advanced a product is, the fewer risks we face," Ren said. "For example, in 5G, America doesn't have many cutting-edge chips, Huawei is the sole provider. Our optical chips are the most advanced in the world. We can live without U.S. suppliers in many areas, but this is not what we want."

Meanwhile, the race to gain more market share over global telecommunications systems continues. Huawei is leading the global 5G race compared to competitors in Europe.

Ericsson's latest count was that it struck 47 agreements with operators, of which it added nine were up and running and 22 were presently being rolled out. Nokia has announced 45 contracts. Huawei said in late June it had secured 50 contracts globally.

### **[China] U.S. Gives Companies More Time to Cease Doing Business With Huawei (New York Times)**

New York Times [8/19/2019 1:11 PM, Alan Rappeport, 22840K]

The United States will allow American companies to continue doing business with Huawei, the Chinese telecommunications giant, for an additional 90 days, Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross said Monday.

The government's reprieve is intended to give rural telecommunications companies in the United States more time to wean themselves from Huawei, which supplies many of those providers with parts and equipment. Rural telecom firms in the United States have been scrambling to figure out how they will replace Huawei equipment since the Trump administration effectively banned the company from United States communications networks in May and have been lobbying the White House for more time.

"As we continue to urge consumers to transition away from Huawei's products, we recognize that more time is necessary to prevent any disruption," Mr. Ross said in a statement.

Huawei has been thrust into the middle of President Trump's trade fight with

China, and the president has given mixed signals about the telecom giant's fate. After trade talks broke down in May, the Commerce Department added the company to a United States "entity list" that effectively banned the firm from buying American technology and other products without government approval.

But after American companies complained that the ban would be hard to comply with on such short notice, Commerce promptly offered a reprieve until Aug. 19. Mr. Trump had hinted that he could yield further on Huawei in exchange for China's purchasing more American farm products, but no such agreement has emerged.

In a sign that the administration is not completely easing pressure on Huawei, the Commerce Department said that it was also adding 46 affiliates of Huawei to the entity list.

In a terse statement issued on Monday, Huawei called the addition of the affiliates "politically motivated" and unrelated to national security and said that it was being treated "unjustly."

"These actions violate the basic principles of free market competition," Huawei said in the statement. "Attempts to suppress Huawei's business won't help the United States achieve technological leadership."

Mr. Trump has called the company a national security threat, and the United States has concerns that Huawei could be used to help the Chinese government's espionage efforts and to disrupt American telecommunications infrastructure in the event of a conflict.

"Huawei is a company we may not do business with at all," Mr. Trump said on Sunday.

The temporary relief for Huawei comes as trade negotiations between the United States and China remain at an impasse.

Mr. Trump agreed last week to delay some additional tariffs on toys and electronics until December, but the United States is still expected to slap levies on more Chinese imports on Sept. 1. Earlier this month it labeled China a currency manipulator for the first time since 1994. China is expected to unveil plans to retaliate.

Despite the escalating tension, Mr. Trump said that he and President Xi Jinping of China were planning to speak and that the two countries would continue to have trade talks.

Republicans and Democrats in Congress have been urging Mr. Trump to keep his hard line on Huawei. Lifting the ban outright would probably be met with strong bipartisan disapproval.

Speaking on the Fox Business Network on Monday, Mr. Ross said that the administration would offer another extension through mid-November.

The Trump administration has warned that Huawei poses a national security threat, and American officials have been warning allies for months that the

United States will stop sharing intelligence if they use Huawei and other Chinese technology to build the core of their fifth-generation, or 5G, networks.

**[China] Commerce Department will extend Huawei reprieve, Ross says (Washington Post)**

Washington Post [8/19/2019 7:57 AM, Felicia Sonmez, 9425K]

Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross said Monday that his department will grant another temporary reprieve to Huawei Technologies, delaying the implementation of a penalty on the Chinese tech giant for another 90 days.

Ross made the announcement during an appearance on Fox Business Network.

"It is another 90 days for the U.S. telecom companies," Ross said. "Some of the rural companies are dependent on Huawei. So we're giving them a little more time to wean themselves off. But no specific licenses are being granted for anything."

The next deadline, he added, is roughly Nov. 19.

On Sunday, President Trump suggested that his administration was not likely to grant another reprieve to Huawei, citing national security concerns. "At this moment, it looks much more like we're not going to do business," Trump said, pushing back against reports of the expected reprieve.

Trump directed the Commerce Department in May to place Huawei on its "Entity List," known to some as the "death penalty." The move makes it difficult for Huawei to do business with any U.S. company. Days later, the Commerce Department announced a 90-day reprieve that allowed some sales to Huawei to continue temporarily, effective May 20.

Ross said Monday that the Commerce Department had also decided to add 46 more Huawei subsidiaries to the Entity List.

"We now have more than 100 subsidiaries on the Entity List," he said, explaining that "adding more entities makes it more difficult for Huawei to get around the sanctions."

The ban is one of three by the U.S. government targeting Huawei. Last year, Trump signed a defense-spending bill that barred the federal government and its contractors from doing business with Huawei and several other Chinese companies on national security grounds. A separate ban prohibits companies that do business with Huawei from providing services to the U.S. government.

Some U.S. tech companies have applied for licenses that would allow them to continue to sell to Huawei, arguing that the Commerce Department ban could harm their bottom lines and their ability to innovate.

[Editorial note: consult video at source link]

**[China] U.S. to Ease Huawei Sanctions for Another 90 Days, Wilbur Ross Says (Bloomberg)**

Bloomberg [8/19/2019 1:46 PM, Vlad Savov , Jordan Fabian , and Shawn Donnan, 5350K]

The U.S. will extend for another 90 days a narrow set of exemptions that had protected rural networks and other U.S. customers from a ban on doing business with China's Huawei Technologies Co., Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross said Monday.

Some telecom companies in the U.S. are "dependent" on Huawei, and thus a 90-day reprieve was deemed appropriate, Ross said in an interview with Fox Business's Maria Bartiromo.

"We're giving them a little more time to wean themselves off," he added. Ross said the next deadline will be around Nov. 19. He added that Commerce decided to place 46 more Huawei subsidiaries on its entity list.

The announcement doesn't address the wider national-security concerns about Huawei and answer the bigger question of whether U.S. chip companies and other major suppliers will be allowed to sell parts to China.

President Donald Trump over the weekend indicated the U.S. was "doing very well with China, and talking" but also suggested he wasn't ready to sign a trade deal.

Stock futures extended gains in New York as investors interpreted the Huawei news as incremental progress toward easing a trade war between the world's two largest economies.

Huawei, China's largest technology company by sales, has been at the heart of worsening tensions and been called a bargaining chip in thorny trade negotiations between Washington and Beijing. Trump had said he anticipated talking with Chinese President Xi Jinping "very soon" and the Huawei move may sweeten the tone of those discussions.

Huawei, for its part, has been trying to carry on operations in face of U.S. sanctions on the sale of the vital technology. The company this month announced its in-house HarmonyOS, an open-source operating system that could one day serve as a replacement for Google Inc.'s Android if its access to that software is curtailed.

Without Android or the numerous American silicon, technology and consultancy suppliers that Huawei does business with, many of its most promising product lines would either cease their rapid growth or be thwarted entirely.

The U.S. Commerce Department previously granted a three-month temporary license to Huawei's U.S. customers shortly after the Trump administration blacklisted the Chinese company. That allowed telecom carriers in rural areas to continue using Huawei equipment and Google to provide only key Android security updates to Huawei phones.

The latest extension came after Trump met in July with the chief executives of key Huawei suppliers from Alphabet Inc.'s Google and Broadcom Inc. to Intel Corp. and Qualcomm Inc. to discuss economic issues including a possible resumption of sales to Huawei. U.S. companies argued that Huawei will turn

to non-American suppliers if sanctions persisted, hurting the U.S. in the long run. But trade talks with Beijing ground to a halt and China refused to resume purchases of American agricultural products.

The announcement Monday came one day after President Trump suggested that Huawei was unlikely to receive another extension, pushing back against news reports about an expected reprieve.

"At this moment, it looks much more like we're not going to do business," Trump told reporters on Sunday in New Jersey. "I don't want to do business at all, because it is a national security threat."

The president tied trade negotiations with the ongoing situation in Hong Kong, saying that a deal between the U.S. and China would be harder if there's a violent conclusion to protests there because of concerns raised by U.S. lawmakers.

Earlier this month, the trade war between the two countries intensified as the U.S. announced a next round of 10% tariffs on Chinese imports between Sept. 1 and Dec. 15. China responded with a boycott of American farm products and allowed its currency to weaken, signaling that this can help cushion the tariff blow.

#### **[China] Trump administration extends grace period for Huawei again (Breitbart)**

Breitbart [8/19/2019 3:17 AM, Staff, 2034K]

Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross said Monday that penalties on Huawei Technologies will be delayed until Nov. 19 so rural companies have more time to find alternative suppliers.

China-based Huawei faces scrutiny from President Donald Trump's administration out of concern that the telecom company installs spying equipment on its phones and network equipment, making it a national security risk. This is the second time the Trump administration has delayed putting the company on its "Entity List," which makes it difficult for Huawei to do business with U.S. companies.

"It's another 90 days for the U.S. telecom companies," Ross said. "Some of the rural companies are dependent on Huawei. So we're giving them a little more time to wean themselves off. But no specific licenses are being granted for anything."

Trump said Sunday a reprieve wasn't likely.

"At this moment, it looks much more like we're not going to do business," Trump said.

In all, more than 100 Huawei subsidiaries have been placed on the Entity List, which makes it harder for the Chinese to circumvent the sanctions.

Huawei has been anticipating being put on the black list for months now, announcing its own operating system earlier this month that will connect phones to smart Internet of Things devices, including smart televisions.

**[China] Huawei dismisses new suspension of 'unjust' US ban (Breitbart)**

Breitbart [8/19/2019 4:37 PM, AFP, 2034K]

Huawei on Tuesday dismissed Washington's three-month delay to a ban on US firms selling to the Chinese tech giant and said the decision would not change the fact it had been "treated unjustly".

The US Commerce Department effectively suspended for a second time tough rules stopping the sale of components and services to the telecoms titan and a prohibition on buying equipment from it.

However, it also said it would add 46 more companies to its list of Huawei subsidiaries and affiliates that would be covered by the ban if it is implemented in full — taking the total on the list to more than 100.

The original ban was announced earlier this year by US authorities who claim it provides a backdoor for Chinese intelligence services — something the firm denies.

"It's clear that this decision, made at this particular time, is politically motivated and has nothing to do with national security," Huawei responded in a statement, adding that the actions "violate the basic principles of free market competition."

"They are in no one's interests, including US companies. Attempts to suppress Huawei's business won't help the United States achieve technological leadership" Huawei said.

"The extension of the Temporary General License does not change the fact that Huawei has been treated unjustly."

Monday's move means Huawei can continue to buy US-made semiconductors and other materials crucial to its phones and network equipment, and that US telecommunications companies can continue to buy Huawei's networking equipment.

Huawei — considered the world leader in superfast 5G equipment and the world's number two smartphone producer — was in May swept into a deepening trade war between Beijing and Washington, which has seen punitive tariffs slapped on hundreds of billions of dollars of two-way trade.

The suspension of the ban does not signal a change in US concerns that Huawei equipment poses a national security threat or lift a general prohibition on the use of its 5G systems in the United States.

"As we continue to urge consumers to transition away from Huawei's products, we recognise that more time is necessary to prevent any disruption," Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross said in a statement.

Earlier this month, Huawei unveiled its own operating system called HarmonyOS, highly anticipated software considered crucial for the tech group's survival as the looming ban could remove its access to Google's Android operating system.



**[China] Trump administration delays penalty on Huawei for another 90 days (The Hill)**

The Hill [8/19/2019 9:43 AM, Chris Mills Rodrigo, 2806K]

The Trump administration is again extending a deadline for U.S. businesses to cut ties with the Chinese telecommunications giant Huawei, Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross confirmed on Monday.

"It is another 90 days for the U.S. telecom companies," Ross said on the Fox Business Network. "Some of the rural companies are dependent on Huawei. So we're giving them a little more time to wean themselves off. But there are no specific licenses being granted for anything."

Ross added that Nov. 19 is the new deadline for the penalty.

"As we continue to urge consumers to transition away from Huawei's products, we recognize that more time is necessary to prevent any disruption," Ross added in a statement later Monday morning.

President Trump directed the Commerce Department in May to place Huawei on its "Entity List," which is seen as a death sentence for included groups as U.S. companies are banned from doing business with them.

A "temporary general license" allowing Huawei to continue doing business in the U.S. had already been granted for one 90-day period.

The U.S. has long considered Huawei a national security threat because of its connections to the Chinese government.

The Trump administration has also banned the telecom firm from contracting with the federal government and also cut off other companies that do business with Huawei from federal contracts.

Trump on Sunday said that he still believes Huawei is a national security threat and indicated that he's still committed to a complete ban.

Ross also announced on Monday that 46 more Huawei subsidiaries are being added the entity list.

"We now have more than 100 subsidiaries on the Entity List," he said, explaining that "adding more entities makes it more difficult for Huawei to get around the sanctions."

**[China] US expands blacklist but gives Huawei another 90-day reprieve (CNN)**

CNN [8/19/2019 10:04 AM, Jill Disis and Brian Fung, 6094K]

The US Commerce Department said Monday it is adding more than 45 new businesses associated with Huawei, the embattled Chinese technology giant, to an export blacklist.

At the same time, Commerce said it was renewing a temporary general license that permits companies in the United States to sell products to Huawei on a limited basis, such as to provide security updates to Huawei devices. The renewal lasts for 90 days and went into effect on Monday.

Huawei is a fulcrum in Trump's wider trade war with China. On Sunday, Trump tweeted that the United States is "doing very well with China, and talking!" after economic adviser Larry Kudlow appeared to indicate progress toward a deal.

Meanwhile, on Fox Business on Monday, Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross claimed that Chinese vendors have borne "all or part of the hit" from Trump's tariffs on Chinese-made goods.

In a statement announcing the entity list move, Ross said the extension of the temporary general license reflects that "more time is necessary to prevent any disruption."

Although the extension is a good thing for Huawei's business, the company continues to vehemently oppose its inclusion on the blacklist. The US government has now expanded the ban to include Huawei and 118 of its affiliated businesses.

"It's clear that this decision, made at this particular time, is politically motivated and has nothing to do with national security," Huawei said in a statement. "These actions violate the basic principles of free market competition. They are in no one's interests, including US companies. ... The extension of the Temporary General License does not change the fact that Huawei has been treated unjustly."

The United States has long argued that Huawei poses a national security threat, and has claimed Beijing can use the company's products to spy on other nations. That claim has driven the US government to urge its allies to restrict or ban the use of Huawei equipment in their 5G networks — efforts that would hurt Huawei's efforts to become the global leader of the next generation of wireless technology. Huawei denies that any of its products pose a national security risk.

Washington escalated its battle with Huawei in May when it placed the company on a trade blacklist, barring American companies from selling the company software and components without a license.

Those restrictions created uncertainties for the company's relationships with its partners, including Google and mobile operators that sell its smartphones.

The Commerce Department clarified in a document sent to CNN Business what kinds of products the temporary general license permits US companies to continue selling to Huawei. These include components for consumer tech devices like the chips sold by Intel (INTC), Micron (MICR) and others for Huawei smartphones, tablets or wifi routers. It also allows for the sale of software for bug fixes or security vulnerabilities for smartphone operating systems.

Huawei smartphones run on Google's Android operating system and come with popular apps like Google Maps and Gmail. Without access to Google services, Huawei's devices become a lot less attractive to users outside of China.

Last quarter, global sales accounted for about one third of Huawei's

smartphone shipments, according to researchers at IDC. In 2018, before the ban, Huawei sold nearly half of its smartphones outside of China. The company also faces fierce competition from Samsung and rival Chinese companies.

Huawei is trying to protect its smartphone business in case it can't work with Google in the future. Earlier this month, the company announced its own operating system, called Harmony, which can in theory be used to replace Google's Android in Huawei smartphones and other devices.

"Today's decision won't have a substantial impact on Huawei's business either way," the company said. "We will continue to focus on developing the best possible products and providing the best possible services to our customers around the world."

However, the company's challenge with its new operating system will be getting developers to build apps for it.

### **[China] U.S. Grants Huawei Another 90 Days to Buy From American Suppliers (US News & World Report)**

US News & World Report [8/19/2019 7:54 AM, David Shepardson and Karen Freifeld, 3196K]

The United States will extend a reprieve that permits China's Huawei Technologies to buy components from U.S. companies to supply existing customers, the Commerce Department said on Monday, but it also moved to add more than 40 of Huawei's units to its economic blacklist.

The extension, dated Thursday and first reported by Reuters on Friday, was announced by U.S. Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross, even though President Donald Trump suggested on Sunday that no such reprieve would be granted.

Shares of U.S. chip makers that sell to Huawei rose, including those of Qualcomm, Intel and Micron Technology.

The 90-day extension "is intended to afford consumers across America the necessary time to transition away from Huawei equipment, given the persistent national security and foreign policy threat," the department said in a statement.

"As we continue to urge consumers to transition away from Huawei's products, we recognize that more time is necessary to prevent any disruption," said Ross.

Huawei said in a statement that the temporary extension "does not change the fact that Huawei has been treated unjustly. Today's decision won't have a substantial impact on Huawei's business either way."

Trump had indicated over the weekend that there would be no extension, saying what would happen would be the "opposite" of what was reported on Friday. "We're actually open not to doing business with them," Trump said on Sunday.

The U.S. government blacklisted Huawei in May, alleging the Chinese company is involved in activities contrary to U.S. national security or foreign

policy interests.

Shortly after the blacklisting, the Commerce Department allowed Huawei to purchase some American-made goods in a move designed to minimize disruption for its customers, including rural U.S. telecommunications firms that use Huawei equipment in their networks. Ross said the latest extension also was aimed at aiding those same customers.

At the same time, he said he was adding 46 Huawei affiliates to the so-called "Entity List" - a list of companies effectively banned from doing businesses with U.S. firms - raising the total number to more than 100 Huawei entities covered by the restrictions.

The list includes Huawei affiliates in Argentina, Australia, Belarus, China, Costa Rica, France, India, Italy, Mexico and numerous other countries.

Huawei said it opposes the decision to add another 46 affiliates to the Entity List. "It's clear that this decision, made at this particular time, is politically motivated and has nothing to do with national security," the company said.

The extension, through Nov. 18, renews an agreement continuing the Chinese company's ability to maintain existing telecommunications networks and provide software updates to Huawei handsets.

The Commerce Department also said on Monday it is requiring the exporter, re-exporter, or transferor to obtain a certification statement from any Huawei entity prior to using the temporary general license.

Asked what will happen in November to U.S. customers of Huawei, Ross said: "Everybody has had plenty of notice of it, there have been plenty of discussions with the president."

The semiconductor industry has lobbied to sell non-sensitive items that Huawei could easily buy abroad, arguing that a blanket ban harms American companies.

When the Commerce Department blocked Huawei from buying U.S. goods earlier this year, it was seen as a major escalation in the Sino-U.S. trade war.

As an example, the blacklisting order cited a pending federal criminal case concerning allegations that Huawei violated U.S. sanctions against Iran. Huawei has pleaded not guilty in the case.

The order noted that the indictment also accused Huawei of "deceptive and obstructive acts."

At the same time, the United States says Huawei's smartphones and network equipment could be used by China to spy on Americans, allegations the company has repeatedly denied.

Huawei, the world's largest telecommunications equipment maker, is still prohibited from buying American parts and components to manufacture new products without additional special licenses.

Many Huawei suppliers have requested the special licenses to sell to the firm. Ross told reporters late last month he had received more than 50 applications, and that he expected to receive more. He said on Monday that there were no "specific licenses being granted for anything."

Washington trade lawyer Doug Jacobson said it is not surprising the extension was granted: "It takes time for telecom providers to find alternative equipment suppliers."

Of \$70 billion that Huawei spent buying components in 2018, about \$11 billion went to U.S. companies.

**[China] U.S. grants Huawei another 90 days to buy from American suppliers (Reuters)**

Reuters [8/19/2019 8:33 AM, David Shepardson and Karen Freifeld, 5436K]

The United States will extend a reprieve that permits China's Huawei Technologies to buy components from U.S. companies to supply existing customers, the Commerce Department said on Monday, but it also moved to add more than 40 of Huawei's units to its economic blacklist.

The extension, dated Thursday and first reported by Reuters on Friday, was announced by U.S. Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross, even though President Donald Trump suggested on Sunday that no such reprieve would be granted.

Shares of U.S. chip makers that sell to Huawei rose, including those of Qualcomm , Intel and Micron Technology.

The 90-day extension "is intended to afford consumers across America the necessary time to transition away from Huawei equipment, given the persistent national security and foreign policy threat," the department said in a statement.

"As we continue to urge consumers to transition away from Huawei's products, we recognize that more time is necessary to prevent any disruption," said Ross.

Huawei said in a statement that the temporary extension "does not change the fact that Huawei has been treated unjustly. Today's decision won't have a substantial impact on Huawei's business either way."

Trump had indicated over the weekend that there would be no extension, saying what would happen would be the "opposite" of what was reported on Friday. "We're actually open not to doing business with them," Trump said on Sunday.

The U.S. government blacklisted Huawei in May, alleging the Chinese company is involved in activities contrary to U.S. national security or foreign policy interests.

Shortly after the blacklisting, the Commerce Department allowed Huawei to purchase some American-made goods in a move designed to minimize disruption for its customers, including rural U.S. telecommunications firms that use Huawei equipment in their networks. Ross said the latest extension

also was aimed at aiding those same customers.

At the same time, he said he was adding 46 Huawei affiliates to the so-called "Entity List" - a list of companies effectively banned from doing businesses with U.S. firms - raising the total number to more than 100 Huawei entities covered by the restrictions.

The list includes Huawei affiliates in Argentina, Australia, Belarus, China, Costa Rica, France, India, Italy, Mexico and numerous other countries.

Huawei said it opposes the decision to add another 46 affiliates to the Entity List. "It's clear that this decision, made at this particular time, is politically motivated and has nothing to do with national security," the company said.

#### 'PLENTY OF NOTICE'

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Of \$70 billion that Huawei spent buying components in 2018, about \$11 billion went to U.S. companies.

**[China] Huawei business ban leaves rural wireless companies with few alternatives (Washington Post)**

Washington Post [8/19/2019 6:51 PM, Jeanne Whalen and Felicia Sonmez, 9425K]

The Trump administration added several dozen more Huawei affiliates to a trade blacklist Monday, but also extended a temporary reprieve that will allow some U.S. companies to continue doing business with the Chinese tech company for at least the next three months.

Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross said the agency was extending the reprieve to give rural U.S. telecommunications companies "more time to wean themselves off" telecom equipment from Huawei, a company the United States has deemed a possible risk to national security.

Rural telecom companies said the 90-day break won't fundamentally change the steep challenge they are facing: the increasing likelihood that they will have to replace their existing Huawei equipment with expensive gear from another supplier, because of several Trump administration actions against Huawei.

"To them, the writing is on the wall," said Carri Bennet, general counsel to the Rural Wireless Association, which represents companies in rural parts of Montana, Wyoming, Alabama and other states. None are yet ripping out equipment, she said, but "they're talking to other vendors about what that cost would be."

The companies operate on tight budgets and don't have the funds for a wholesale overhaul, she said. "My members say, 'We're patriots, if you tell us it's a national security issue, we'll do it, but please provide us with the funding.' "

At a hearing in June, Geoffrey Starks, a member of the Federal Communications Commission, estimated the cost could exceed \$1 billion, "depending on what equipment needs to be replaced."

Starks said the government would need to help finance that work. "We cannot expect carriers to replace this insecure equipment alone. This is a national problem, it needs a national solution," he said. "Mitigation of risk may be possible but a rip-and-replace approach may be required."

The rural carriers serve many farming and ranching communities and remote oil-field sites, Bennet said.

"Some of the rural companies are dependent on Huawei. So we're giving them a little more time," Ross said in an interview with Fox Business Network on Monday.

The White House originally added Huawei and many of its affiliates to the trade blacklist, known as the Entity List, in May. That move prohibited U.S. companies from exporting to Huawei without a special license from the Commerce Department, hurting U.S. software and semiconductor makers that sell to Huawei. It also hurt rural U.S. telecom companies that buy Huawei equipment, because their purchase orders seeking such equipment are technically considered exports, Bennet said.

The Commerce Department said Monday it was adding 46 additional Huawei affiliates to the Entity List, to make it harder for Huawei to get around the sanctions.

Ross also suggested U.S. tech companies that have applied for special licenses to sell to Huawei may not get them soon. "No specific licenses are being granted for anything," he said.

In an emailed statement Monday, Huawei said the blacklisting of the additional affiliates "is politically motivated and has nothing to do with national security." It added that the additional 90-day reprieve "does not change the fact that Huawei has been treated unjustly."

Rural wireless companies originally bought Huawei equipment because it was considerably cheaper than that offered by Ericsson, Nokia and other companies, Bennet said. Huawei's blacklisting, and several other White House actions against the Chinese company, are undermining those purchases.

In May, President Trump issued an executive order prohibiting U.S. companies from purchasing telecom equipment from entities owned or controlled by a foreign adversary, or that are subject to the jurisdiction of a foreign adversary, if the purchase poses "undue risk."

The order didn't name Huawei but was widely interpreted as a move against Huawei. U.S. officials have expressed concerns that the Chinese government could force Huawei to use its telecom gear installed overseas to spy on Western countries, a claim Huawei has denied.

The United States also has banned federal government agencies from buying Huawei gear. And last year, the FCC announced plans to block U.S. telecom and Internet carriers from using federal subsidies to buy foreign equipment that poses a security threat.

Rural telecom companies often receive federal subsidies to carry out their work and would be hit hard by the FCC rule, which has yet to go into effect.

Aside from the cost of replacing equipment, rural companies also are facing a labor shortage, Bennet said. "Taking stuff off towers requires having someone to climb the towers to do it," she said.

With the biggest telecom companies scrambling to construct new high-speed wireless networks known as 5G, "the labor force is really tight right now," Bennet said. "If you're a small carrier without a lot of market power, getting someone in a rural area ... that's hard."



Rural telecom companies say the FCC rule could end up preventing them from buying from another Chinese company: ZTE. John Nettles, president of Pine Belt Communications, a wireless network provider in rural Alabama, said that's hurting his expansion plans.

His company started buying gear from ZTE in 2012 because the cost was so much lower, he said, adding that certain federal incentives at the time rewarded telecom companies for choosing the lowest-priced supplier.

"Our expansion plans have pretty much come to a complete halt," Nettles said. "It doesn't make any sense to me to spend additional dollars with a company I'm expecting to not be able to do business because of regulatory and legal issues."

**[China] China plans to use information to 'dominate in the future,' says defense intelligence chief (Washington Examiner)**

Washington Examiner [8/19/2019 6:49 PM, Russ Read, 855K]

China's government plans to leverage the growing data industry and cutting-edge technologies as part of its strategy to get an edge on its competitors, according to the Department of Defense's intelligence chief.

The data industry is one of the fastest growing industries in the world, set to reach \$100 billion by 2020, and China is laser-focused on using it to its advantage when competing with the U.S., according to Army Lt. Gen. Robert Ashley, the director of the Defense Intelligence Agency.

"[I]nformation is how China plans to dominate in the future. That is their strategy," Ashley said during a keynote address at a conference in Tampa, Florida, on Monday.

"That is their strategy to get behind decision advantage."

Decision advantage is when intelligence is used to help leaders make informed decisions. Intelligence agencies are looking for ways to leverage computing power and the massive amounts of data produced around the world to help gain an advantage on their adversaries. Speed is key to the process, which is why artificial intelligence and super-fast quantum computers are crucial investments for countries that want an edge.

China acknowledged the role these technologies will play in a military context in a white paper published last month, titled China's National Defense in the New Era. The paper offers a rare glimpse into China's military strategy, with technology being touched on at length.

"War is evolving in form towards informationized warfare, and intelligent warfare is on the horizon," the paper read.

Cutting-edge technologies such as artificial intelligence, quantum computing, big data, cloud computing, and the Internet of Things are identified as a key areas that are being increasingly adopted for military use. Technological advancements are a central focus of Chinese President Xi Jinping's goal of making China a world leader in artificial intelligence and a world-class military capable of taking on the U.S. by 2035.

Some of these new technologies are already being used within China. The Communist Party is well on its way toward developing a nationwide social credit system, which aims to keep tabs on the actions each of its more than 1.3 billion citizens. Chinese security officials are also using artificial intelligence and big data to control ethnic minorities, specifically Muslim Uighurs in western China who are living in what has been described as a high-tech modern police state. The People's Liberation Army is applying similar technologies to weapons, increasingly taking the human out.

"Chinese officials generally expect drones and military robotics to feature ever more extensive AI and autonomous capabilities in the future. Chinese weapons manufacturers already are selling armed drones with significant amounts of combat autonomy," a report by the Center for a New American Security published in February read.

To confront the challenges posed by China, Ashley said it is crucial for the U.S. to be able to solve problems with speed and at scale. He pointed to interoperability across the defense community as a major challenge toward this goal and emphasized the responsibility defense officials have in today's environment.

"[I]n great power competition, you gotta bring your 'A' game on day 1, because if you don't, you may not get a day 2," he said.

Chinese officials appear to have similar concerns about falling behind technologically, according to the white paper.

"China's military security is confronted by risks from technology surprise and growing technological generation gap," the paper read. "Greater efforts have to be invested in military modernization to meet national security demands."

**[China] Report: Chinese Missiles Could Wipe Out U.S. and Allied Pacific Bases in 'Opening Hours of Conflict' (Breitbart)**

Breitbart [8/19/2019 3:26 PM, John Hayward, 2034K]

The United States Studies Center at the University of Sydney in Australia released a report on Monday that warned America has lost its military superiority in the Indo-Pacific region and Chinese missiles could wipe out its bases with "precision strikes in the opening hours of a conflict."

"The combined effect of ongoing wars in the Middle East, budget austerity, underinvestment in advanced military capabilities and the scale of America's liberal order-building agenda has left the US armed forces ill-prepared for great power competition in the Indo-Pacific," the authors concluded.

The report warned that too many American politicians and foreign policy officials have an "outdated superpower mindset" because they believe China would never act aggressively because the long-term consequences would include a horrific world war.

In truth, Chinese strategy has focused on limiting American power projection in the Pacific while building up the enormous missile inventory of the People's Liberation Army (PLA). The imbalance of forces has reached the point where the PLA could pull off a quick disarming strike followed by a clear, difficult-to-

reverse victory.

In other words, a swarm of missiles would knock out key U.S. and allied assets in the Western Pacific within a matter of hours. The PLA would quickly move to secure its objectives, establish a foothold on the territory it desires, and then turn the logic of deterrence on its head by asking if the U.S. is prepared to suffer heavy losses in a protracted war to reverse those gains. According to the report:

Having studied the American way of war — premised on power projection and all-domain military dominance — China has deployed a formidable array of precision missiles and other counter-intervention systems to undercut America's military primacy. By making it difficult for US forces to operate within range of these weapons, Beijing could quickly use limited force to achieve a *fait accompli* victory — particularly around Taiwan, the Japanese archipelago or maritime Southeast Asia — before America can respond, sowing doubt about Washington's security guarantees in the process.

This has obliged the Pentagon to focus on rebuilding the conventional military capabilities required to deny Chinese aggression in the first place, placing a premium on sophisticated air and maritime assets, survivable logistics and communications, new stocks of munitions and other costly changes.

The Australian report describes the U.S. problem as “strategic insolvency,” meaning America now has more defense commitments than it can realistically meet with current defense spending.

Rivals like China are surging ahead with force modernization and increasing their combat power, while the U.S. and its allies invested too heavily in Middle Eastern conflicts and nation-building over the past two decades, reduced defense spending to satisfy domestic political demands, provided far too many countries with security guarantees, and convinced themselves none of those markers would ever be called in.

The shift in focus from Cold War great-power competition to counter-terrorist operations has left too many Western strategic planners – and, crucially, the politicians who finance their operations – unable to imagine how a battle between near-peer forces could unfold.

Unfortunately, the world's heavyweight bad actors have no such poverty of strategic imagination. The University of Sydney report noted that China's military buildup has “successfully focused on negating the technological and operational advantages that the US military has grown accustomed to since the end of the Cold War,” saying:

Long-range ballistic and cruise missile complexes, in addition to other counter-intervention systems, now threaten American and allied bases and operating locations from Japan to Singapore. These weapons could see China sink or destroy expensive allied warships and aircraft for a fraction of the cost of US power projection. As the majority of America's forward-deployed air power is concentrated on vulnerable bases within range of Chinese missiles, US aircraft are unlikely to achieve air superiority during a crisis. If unaddressed, this will undercut America's efforts to blunt Chinese aggression and is likely to be compounded by the fact that US surge forces

and logistical support assets are also under resourced and vulnerable to Chinese counter-intervention capabilities.

In short, U.S. forces in the Indo-Pacific region no longer have the mass to absorb a sucker punch like the missile swarm envisioned by the report. It has become disturbingly feasible for the Chinese to hit enough crucial targets to neutralize America's presence in the Pacific for long enough to put Chinese troops on the ground in places such as Taiwan, at which point the game would change from fending off a Chinese attack to dislodging an occupying force without inflicting horrendous civilian casualties and destroying valuable infrastructure.

Launching such an attack might seem even more attractive to China because it would devalue American security guarantees around the world, greatly amplifying China's sales pitch that it can provide better security to its client states with fewer harangues about human rights.

The report recommended "hardening" vital facilities to make them harder to neutralize with a first strike, although China's vast size and closer proximity to likely theaters of conflict give it an inherent advantage – it can launch large numbers of missiles and aircraft quickly from a wide assortment of bases, and they have shorter flight times to contested areas, allowing the PLA to more easily maintain the rapid tempo of operations seen in conflicts like the Gulf War. With these logistics in mind, the report recommended the U.S. develop missiles with longer ranges and heavier payloads, so that every punch it throws is a haymaker.

The University of Sydney report gave the Trump administration credit for setting the right priorities with respect to China, but found a dismaying lack of follow-through from Washington, in part because increased defense spending and more aggressive military recruiting are tough sells on Capitol Hill:

America's capacity to enforce its vast liberal order has also correspondingly declined. Whereas the United States and its allies accounted for 80 per cent of world defence spending in 1995, today their share has fallen to just 52 per cent — leaving them less well-equipped to address an ever growing line-up of international challenges.

As Harvard University academic Stephen Walt observes of US strategy during this period: "The available resources had shrunk, the number of opponents had grown, and still America's global agenda kept expanding."

The consequences of this overstretch are now coming home to roost. Not only have the direct costs of liberal order-building been astronomical — by some estimates, the Department of Defense has spent over US\$1.8 trillion on the global war on terror since 11 September 2001 for little strategic payoff — but the worldwide diffusion of American resources and attention has left the military under-prepared for the return of great power competition. This is what the Pentagon is now working to address.

The report advised Australia, and other key regional allies such as Japan, to step up their efforts and help the United States address its "strategic insolvency" issue in the Pacific. This posture would transform Australia from a "security contributor to a front-line ally" and prepare for a "more unstable

future in which the Australian Defense Force may be required to provide large-scale independent strategic effects to secure its vital national interests.”

This is interesting advice in light of President Donald Trump’s arguments with European leaders over their contributions to NATO funding. Some of the grumbles about Trump’s approach come from Europeans, and Americans, who essentially think of the whole thing as a fiscal game, an argument about how much money to stuff into a jar for a rainy day that will never come because a great-power invasion from Europe has become unthinkable.

From the perspective of “strategic insolvency,” however, it is clear that every American partner must make the maximum contribution so that U.S. security guarantees don’t look like overdrawn checks written from an anemic military bank account. As long as the U.S. appears strategically insolvent, adversaries will consider calling Washington’s bluff and triggering a cascade failure of U.S. credibility.

**[China] China exploiting holes in US bankruptcy system to acquire national security technology (Washington Examiner)**

Washington Examiner [8/19/2019 2:27 PM, Russ Read, 855K]

When lithium-ion battery manufacturer A123 Systems experienced financial trouble, it did what many struggling companies do to stay afloat and arranged to sell off a stake in the firm. But when Congress raised concerns, the Chinese buyer pulled out, waited for A123 Systems to file for bankruptcy, and purchased the assets at auction — conveniently avoiding a national security review by the U.S. government.

Wanxiang Group Corporation made that move in 2017, but China has been acquiring sensitive national security technologies through similar bankruptcy exploitation for years, and the U.S. judicial system isn’t properly equipped to handle the problem, according to intellectual property attorney Camille Stewart, a member of the Foundation for Defense of Democracies’ Transformative Cyber Innovation Lab.

“[T]he judiciary traditionally has not felt like part of the national security apparatus and has not operated as such,” Stewart told the Washington Examiner. “And we’re seeing there is an opportunity here for the judiciary to close the gap.”

Business acquisitions involving national security technologies that could be used by a foreign government are reviewed by the interagency Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States. But Chinese companies can skirt this review by buying up an American company’s assets in bankruptcy proceedings.

With these technologies in hand, China can not only increase its own capacities but damage those of the United States.

“In addition to enhancing their own military capabilities, foreign adversaries can leverage the information acquired to discover and exploit vulnerabilities in the technology to launch highly tailored, sophisticated, and potentially catastrophic cyberattacks and to insert into U.S. supply chains malicious or compromised technology that can be exploited at a later time,” Stewart wrote in an article for the Journal of National Security Law & Policy.

National security officials have long been concerned about adversaries hacking software, but a 2016 University of Michigan study showed how a hacker can exploit circuits in computer hardware, bypassing traditional security precautions. A report in 2019 revealed that the F-35 fighter program incorporated Chinese parts, sparking concerns that the most expensive weapons program in history may be vulnerable to a prime U.S. adversary.

China has also used the bankruptcy process to exploit strategic resources. Leshan Shenghe Rare Earth Co., as part of an American-led consortium, acquired mining rights through a minority interest in the Mountain Pass mine in 2017, the only functioning rare earths mine in the United States. Rare earths are used in the production of everything from cell phones to fighter jets and have been identified by Congress as a major weak point in the U.S. national security infrastructure.

While Chinese companies are technically privately held, the Communist Party has influence over many of the major firms. Chinese firms participate in 10% to 16% of all venture capital deals, according to Stewart, with Chinese investors participating in 16% of the value of all technology deals in 2015 alone. The Council on Foreign Relations found that Chinese venture capital investment skyrocketed past \$45 billion in 2016, a significant increase over the \$15 billion spent the year before.

"This included acquisitions of not just established firms but also early-stage businesses and new initiatives from existing companies in nascent or newly developed technologies, in health and pharmaceuticals, in artificial intelligence (AI), and in other advanced technologies that could have cutting-edge military applications," its report said.

The Chinese government plans to transition from being a global manufacturer of goods to a global innovator through its Made in China 2025 plan. Its rapid acquisition of foreign technology is seen as a way to address its historic weakness in creating intellectual property.

Congress expanded the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States' review powers in 2019 to include transactions "pursuant to a bankruptcy proceeding or other form of default on debt," but Stewart says, the laws can only be applied properly if the judiciary understands the problem and knows what to look for.

"Training will not turn judges and attorneys into national security experts," Stewart wrote. "However, training can elevate the issue for judges and provide enough background that they can ask questions to begin to determine the sensitivity of a technology."

### **[Hong Kong] British Consular Worker From Hong Kong Feared Detained in China (New York Times)**

New York Times [8/20/2019 6:55 AM, Steven Lee Myers, 22840K]

A trade officer at the British Consulate in Hong Kong went missing after crossing into mainland China this month, raising fears that the authorities might be targeting travelers suspected of supporting the protest movement.

The officer, Cheng Man Kit, who also goes by Simon, traveled to Shenzhen,

the city immediately over the border from Hong Kong, to attend a business conference. But he did not return to work on Aug. 9 as planned.

"We are extremely concerned by reports that a member of our team has been detained returning to Hong Kong from Shenzhen," Britain's Foreign and Commonwealth Office said in an emailed statement.

The foreign office said it was providing support to Mr. Cheng's family and seeking further information from the authorities in Hong Kong and in China's Guangdong Province, which includes Shenzhen.

Mr. Cheng, a Hong Kong resident, worked for the consulate's branch of Scottish Development International, a trade and investment promotion office, according to his Facebook biography and a friend.

He holds a British national overseas passport, which entitles him to consular representation. China does not recognize the status, created for Hong Kong residents before the transfer of city to Chinese control in 1997.

HK01, an online Hong Kong news organization that first reported his disappearance, said that Mr. Cheng had traveled to Shenzhen on Aug. 8. He texted his girlfriend later that night as he was about return to Hong Kong aboard the recently opened high-speed railway that links to the territory to the mainland, the report said.

It was not immediately clear why Mr. Cheng would have been detained, though HK01 reported that he was being held in administrative detention, which by law can last for 15 days.

Chinese border officers have stepped up checks on those crossing the border from Hong Kong. They have begun routinely searching the phones of people who enter the mainland from Hong Kong, apparently to identify those sympathetic to the protest movement and to prevent photographs or other information about the demonstrations from spreading to the mainland.

**[Hong Kong] U.K. consular official in Hong Kong disappears while returning from mainland China (Washington Post)**

Washington Post [8/20/2019 4:06 AM, Gerry Shih, 9425K]

The British government said Tuesday it is "extremely concerned" by the disappearance of an employee in its Hong Kong consulate who was reportedly detained by Chinese authorities while returning from a trip to mainland China, in a case that threatens to further strain tense relations between Beijing and the West.

Simon Cheng, a 28-year-old trade and investment officer at the consulate, planned to attend a technology conference in the border city of Shenzhen on Aug. 8 and return to Hong Kong the same day by high-speed train, his girlfriend told Hong Kong news website [HK01.com](http://HK01.com).

Cheng fell out of contact as he tried to pass through Chinese immigration that evening and has since been held in the mainland under administrative detention for unknown reasons, Cheng's girlfriend told [HK01.com](http://HK01.com), citing information she received from Hong Kong immigration officials.

The disappearance risks adding another irritant to the already difficult relationship between China and the West, which has deteriorated of late due to numerous disputes.

Beijing, locked in an increasingly bitter trade dispute with the United States, has accused Washington and London of fomenting protests that have convulsed Hong Kong, a former British colony, over the summer. Canada has criticized China for holding two of its citizens, including a former diplomat, as political hostages in retaliation for the arrest in Vancouver of Meng Wanzhou, an executive at Chinese tech giant Huawei who is wanted in the United States in connection with alleged Iran sanctions violations.

There is no indication that Cheng, a Hong Kong permanent resident, was traveling under a British diplomatic passport when he vanished. Cheng's public social media profiles show that he began working at the consulate in December 2017 after receiving a master's degree from the London School of Economics.

British officials on Tuesday confirmed Cheng's disappearance. But Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang denied knowledge of the incident.

"We are extremely concerned by reports that a member of our team has been detained returning to Hong Kong from Shenzhen," a British Foreign Office spokesperson said. "We are providing support to his family and seeking further information from authorities in Guangdong Province and Hong Kong."

Cheng wrote "Passing through" and "pray for me" to his girlfriend as he approached Chinese immigration at the West Kowloon high-speed rail station in Hong Kong, according to HK01, citing screenshots provided by his girlfriend. Under an arrangement between Hong Kong and mainland authorities, cross-border travelers pass through immigration inside the West Kowloon terminus; mainland Chinese police officers are also on duty in parts of the station that are considered under mainland jurisdiction.

Hong Kong's Immigration Department said it had provided the missing man's family with advice and assistance and had been in touch with Hong Kong officials based in Guangdong Province about the case.

Details of Cheng's disappearance emerged as political tensions continued to simmer in Hong Kong following another huge, though peaceful, street march over the weekend.

A proposal to allow certain suspects to be extradited from Hong Kong to face trial in mainland China's Communist Party-controlled courts triggered weeks of demonstrations in the city, where many saw the now-shelved plan as a ploy by local leaders, acting in concert with Beijing, to erode Hong Kong's autonomy and comparative freedoms.

Hong Kong is governed under a "one country, two systems" arrangement within China, under which the territory is supposed to enjoy a high degree of autonomy for 50 years following its return to Chinese sovereignty in 1997.

The city's leader, Carrie Lam, pledged Tuesday to hold talks with people from across the political spectrum but didn't appear to budge on demonstrators'



key demands.

For weeks, the Chinese government has framed the protests in Hong Kong as a “color revolution” instigated by the United States and Britain to destabilize China.

China publicized the personal details and photo of an American diplomat based in Hong Kong this month, in an apparent effort to portray her as a hostile intelligence officer, drawing severe rebuke from the State Department.

Tensions have been particularly high at the busy southern border where a river separates Shenzhen from Hong Kong.

In recent weeks, Chinese immigration authorities have demanded that travelers unlock their smartphones to show their message records and photo albums for inspection. Foreign journalists have also come under heightened scrutiny.

In an apparent show of force toward the Hong Kong protesters, thousands of Chinese armed forces have been gathering and holding exercises near a Shenzhen stadium along the border.

## **Presidential Tweets**

### **Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump**

Tweet1 [8/19/2019 8:21 AM] Great cohesion inside the Republican Party, the best I have ever seen. Despite all of the Fake News, my Poll Numbers are great. New internal polls show them to be the strongest we've had so far! Think what they'd be if I got fair media coverage!

### **Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump**

Tweet2 [8/19/2019 9:19 AM] Anthony Scaramucci is a highly unstable “nut job” who was with other candidates in the primary who got shellacked, & then unfortunately wheedled his way into my campaign. I barely knew him until his 11 days of gross incompetence-made a fool of himself, bad on TV. Abused staff,.....got fired. Wrote a very nice book about me just recently. Now the book is a lie? Said his wife was driving him crazy, “something big” was happening with her. Getting divorced. He was a mental wreck. We didn't want him around. Now Fake News puts him on like he was my buddy!

### **Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump**

Tweet3 [8/19/2019 9:44 AM] Democrats want Open Borders and Crime! So dangerous for our Country. But we are building a big, beautiful, NEW Wall! I will protect America, the Dems don't know where to start! [Editorial note: consult images at source link]

### **Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump**

Tweet4 [8/19/2019 11:26 AM] Our Economy is very strong, despite the horrendous lack of vision by Jay Powell and the Fed, but the Democrats are trying to “will” the Economy to be bad for purposes of the 2020 Election. Very Selfish! Our dollar is so strong that it is sadly hurting other parts of the world.....The Fed Rate, over a fairly short period of time, should be reduced

by at least 100 basis points, with perhaps some quantitative easing as well. If that happened, our Economy would be even better, and the World Economy would be greatly and quickly enhanced-good for everyone!

**Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump**

Tweet5 [8/19/2019 11:52 AM] Wow, Report Just Out! Google manipulated from 2.6 million to 16 million votes for Hillary Clinton in 2016 Election! This was put out by a Clinton supporter, not a Trump Supporter! Google should be sued. My victory was even bigger than thought! @JudicialWatch

**Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump**

Tweet6 [8/19/2019 2:38 PM] Massive overflow crowds in New Hampshire last week. Couldn't get into packed SNHU Arena. Fake and Corrupt News would like you to believe otherwise. MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN! [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

**Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump**

Tweet7 [8/19/2019 2:40 PM] THANK YOU! #MAGA [Editorial note: consult image at source link]

**Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump**

Tweet8 [8/19/2019 7:43 PM] Spoke to my two good friends, Prime Minister Modi of India, and Prime Minister Khan of Pakistan, regarding Trade, Strategic Partnerships and, most importantly, for India and Pakistan to work towards reducing tensions in Kashmir. A tough situation, but good conversations!

**Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump**

Tweet9 [8/19/2019 7:55 PM] Great discussion with Prime Minister @BorisJohnson today. We talked about Brexit and how we can move rapidly on a US-UK free trade deal. I look forward to meeting with Boris this weekend, at the @G7, in France!

**Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump**

Tweet10 [8/19/2019 8:04 PM] Thank you to my great supporters at the 2019 @IowaStateFair! [Editorial note: consult image at source link]

**Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump**

Tweet11 [8/19/2019 8:07 PM] I promise not to do this to Greenland! [Editorial note: consult image at source link]

**Donald J. Trump @realDonaldTrump**

Tweet12 [8/19/2019 10:51 PM] Nobody ever heard of this dope until he met me. He only lasted 11 days! [Editorial note: consult video at source link]

**{End of Report} RETURN TO TOP**

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