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The Homeland Security News Briefing

TO: THE SECRETARY AND SENIOR STAFF

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Leading DHS News:

SUPREME COURT TO HEAR ARGUMENTS ON CHALLENGE TO OBAMA’S IMMIGRATION ORDER.

The Supreme Court on Monday will hear arguments in *United States v. Texas*, in which 26 states, led by Texas, are seeking to block the President’s 2014 executive order on immigration. While the case garners significant print and online coverage this morning, only one of the three network news broadcasts mentioned it Sunday night. Media reports focus on a range of issues, including the possibility the short-handed court could be divided on the case, the case’s importance to the President’s immigration legacy, its long-term impact on executive action, and its potential implications for the 2016 presidential campaign.

A [National Journal](#) (4/17, Subscription Publication, 132K) analysis, which advises “what to watch for during Monday’s session,” says the case “may be the most politically significant test of how well the Court can function – and preserve its above-the-fray image – with only eight justices.” [Reuters](#) (4/17, Hurley) says the High Court’s current 4-4 division between liberal and conservative justices makes it possible the court could split on the issue, which would leave in place a lower court’s ruling that rejected the President’s action. As a result, [The Hill](#) (4/17, Wheeler, Lillis, 862K) noted, a 4-4 split “would still be a win” for the states challenging the President’s actions. In an online report, [CNN](#) (4/17, 3.96M) said if the Court reaches a decision, “it will most likely be one of the last rulings of the term,” while “we could hear much sooner” if the justices “are evenly divided.”

The [New York Times](#) (4/17, A1, Liptak, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) reports on its front page that conservatives “are nervous” about whether Chief Justice John Roberts, who “twice voted to save President Obama’s health care law,” will “disappoint them again” in the immigration case. While the case

“presents fundamental questions about executive power,” Roberts’ record “suggests that he may avoid taking a position on such a divisive and partisan issue, focusing instead on the more technical question of whether the states challenging the Obama administration’s immigration plan have suffered the sort of direct and concrete injury that gives them standing to sue.” Such a “jurisprudential off-ramp would avoid a deadlock or a grand pronouncement from a short-handed court on a politically charged issue in a presidential election year,” which “may prove attractive to a chief justice who has said he does not want the Supreme Court to be viewed as a forum where ‘partisan matters would be worked out.’”

[AFP](#) (4/17) reports the case “puts the spotlight on Obama’s efforts to circumvent a hostile Congress, with his detractors accusing him of unfair, even illegal, overreach.” [Politico](#) (4/17, Kim, 1.07M) said the President’s “immigration legacy” is on the line in the case, and the [AP](#) (4/17) noted a ruling in the Administration’s favor “would allow the programs to take effect in the waning months of Obama’s presidency,” while a “loss or even a tie vote would block them for the foreseeable future.”

Pete Williams said on [NBC Nightly News](#) (4/17, story 6, 2:27, Snow, 16.61M) the case is the President’s “last hope for enforcing the program while he is still in office,” while the [Dallas Morning News](#) (4/17, Siron, 1.24M) notes that even if the Court rules in the Administration’s favor, it “would have only six months” to roll out the initiatives, and “all that work could be undone after a new president is elected in November – or if immigrant families don’t apply because they fear their applications could be used against them.” The [Louisville \(KY\) Courier-Journal](#) (4/16, Kenning, 472K) says while the Administration “has said it will move quickly to enact the program if it is upheld,” some GOP presidential candidates “have said they would reverse the actions, leading some immigration advocates to predict that unauthorized immigrants might wait until November to apply.” A [Christian Science Monitor](#) (4/17, Gass, Medrano, 442K) analysis considers the impact of the case on millions of undocumented families who are “faced with more legal uncertainty, and now the added alarm of rhetoric from Republican presidential candidates on illegal immigration,” noting they say “they have never been more unsure about whether to stay in the shadows or come out into the light.”

On its website, [Voice of America](#) (4/17, Gypson, 60K) reported that while the Court is considering “the fate of as many as 4 million undocumented immigrants,” its decision “will have far-reaching implications on executive actions by future presidential administrations.” The [San Antonio Express-News](#) (4/17, Nelsen, 952K) similarly says this is “a blockbuster case with far-reaching implications,” noting that “observers say a ruling in favor of Texas’ standing arguments could have implications beyond the immigration lawsuit, opening the federal government to other litigation.”

In a story highlighting the case’s constitutional implications, the [Washington Times](#) (4/17, Dinan, 285K) says it is “shaping up to be the biggest...of the term, and perhaps one of the most consequential in a generation.” The justices will “consider whether President Obama has overstepped his constitutional powers.” Josh Blackman, associate professor at the South Texas College of Law, said, “In 225 years, the Supreme Court has never had occasion to ask the president whether he has reneged on his oath to take care that the laws are faithfully executed. However, with pens and phones replacing checks and balances, the Supreme Court is now poised to break new constitutional ground in order to preserve our embattled separation of powers.”

Meanwhile, the case’s potential political implications are considered in a number of reports. For example, [Vice](#) (4/17, Owen, 1.65M) said the fact that the states challenging the President “have governments which are Republican-dominated” is “an indication of just how politically polarizing the issue of immigration has become,” while [Politico](#) (4/17, Kim, 1.07M) reported whichever way the Court rules, the decision “will inject the volatile issue of immigration into an already-explosive presidential campaign.”

Similarly, the [Washington Post](#) (4/17, Nakamura, 8.98M) says the case could “become a flash point in the 2016 elections,” adding that opponents of the President’s actions “said the outcome will resonate in a campaign season that has been animated by the debate over immigration and Obama’s use of executive power.” In a story on the efforts of a “fledgling immigration rights movement” that “won support not only from the police chief but the mayor and City Council, school officials and church leaders” of Lorain, Ohio, [USA Today](#) (4/17, Wolf, 5.45M) reports national immigrant rights groups “say the battle over undocumented immigrants will be a potent political issue in the fall.”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/17, Jordan, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) reports thousands of pro-immigration demonstrators are expected outside the court Monday. Groups opposing the President's policies have not planned demonstrations, according to a spokesman for the Federation for American Immigration Reform.

A pair of editorials this morning argue the against the Administration's assertion the President has the power to implement his immigration policies without legislative approval. A [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/17, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) editorial stresses what it says are the case's implications for the Constitutional separation of powers, arguing the President does not have the authority he asserted to implement the policies. In an editorial, [USA Today](#) (4/17, 5.45M) says while the President's supporters believe the Court will find the President's actions "did not violate the Constitution," that "would be a mistake." While the President's "quest to reform the immigration system is a worthy cause," USA Today argues, this is "simply too sweeping a policy change to exclude the legislative branch. It does the right thing in the wrong way."

In an accompanying [USA Today](#) (4/17, Leopold, 5.45M) op-ed, David Leopold, a former president of the American Immigration Lawyers Association, takes the opposite view, calling the case "a political fight masquerading as a lawsuit." Arguing the case is "a shameless political attack by Republicans on the president's immigration executive actions," Leopold says the issue "should be decided at the ballot box, not in the Supreme Court."

Erwin Chemerinsky writes in a column in [USA Today](#) (4/17, Chemerinsky, 5.45M) that if the Supreme Court justices are consistent as they "should be," the states' challenge to President Obama's executive action on immigration will be dismissed. Chemerinsky points to Chief Justice John Roberts' dissent in *Massachusetts v. Environmental Protection Agency*, joined by Justices Antonin Scalia, Clarence Thomas and Samuel Alito, rejecting "allowing state governments to sue the EPA in federal court." Meanwhile, the majority opinion "made clear the case was unusual and explains exactly why Texas and the other states do not have standing to sue to challenge DAPA." At issue in the current case is that the states' expected harm, which is needed to have standing, is a "self-imposed 'cost'" of processing drivers' licenses for those who are remaining in the country. The conservative justices held that journalists didn't have standing to challenge NSA monitoring of their communications and that taxpayers lacked standing to challenge a law allowing individuals to get a tax credit if they gave money to parochial schools. "It cannot be that Roberts and conservatives allow standing when they like the claim and dismiss cases when they don't."

A front-page analysis in the [Washington Post](#) (4/17, A1, Barnes, 8.98M) says Los Angeles County will be more affected by Monday's arguments than any other area of the country. There are an estimated "1 million undocumented people" in the county, "about 400,000 of whom could be eligible for the protected status that Obama says would bring them 'out of the shadows.'" If the justices rule in favor of the Administration, county officials "plan an aggressive program to sign them up."

US BORDER AGENTS APPREHENDING MORE MINORS, FAMILIES FROM CENTRAL AMERICA.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/17, Jordan, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) reports that US Customs and Border Protection officials say that after a decline in 2015, more unaccompanied minors and families from Central America were apprehended during the first five months of the federal fiscal year as they illegally crossed US borders. Border agents apprehended 23,553 unaccompanied minors between October 1 and February 29, nearly double the 12,490 apprehended in the same months a year earlier.

MEJIA CASE CAUSES FINGER POINTING. The [Des Moines \(IA\) Register](#) (4/16, Bolten, 320K) reported the disappearance while on bail of Eswin G. Mejia, an undocumented immigrant charged with motor vehicle homicide, has "ignited a flurry of finger-pointing over who's to blame for letting him out of jail" and "prompted larger questions about how the U.S. handles people in the country illegally who are accused of crimes." Senators and immigration policy reform advocates "have seized on the case" and "publicly berated the federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency" for not issuing a detainer. However, ICE officials argue if that local officials wanted Mejia to stay in jail, they should have requested a higher bond. Also, an ICE spokesman wrote that the agency "has no record of the police department contacting the local ICE sub-office in Omaha or the Field Office in St. Paul." Furthermore, ICE director Sarah

Saldaña wrote in response to questions from Nebraska Sen. Benjamin Sasse (R) that with the detainer, Mejia still would have been eligible for a bond hearing before an immigration judge, as he had no criminal conviction and wasn't subject to mandatory detention.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement:

TEXAS SHERIFF MEETS WITH ICE, ACTIVISTS ON 287(G) PROGRAM. The [Houston Chronicle](#) (4/15, Zaveri, 1.99M) reported Harris County, Texas Sheriff Ron Hickman, representatives of the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and immigrant rights activists met to discuss the county's participation in the 287(g) program, which "trains local law enforcement officers to help federal agents screen for undocumented immigrants in the jails." Activists criticize the program and say it creates distrust of law enforcement among the immigrant community due to fear of being deported. While the sheriff's office's agreement with the federal government is up for renewal in June, the Harris County Sheriff's Office said "that it's 'not time' to make a decision on whether to continue the county's participation."

RESTAURATEUR SAYS FORMER HSI AGENT TRIED TO MANUFACTURE CRIMINAL CASE AGAINST HIM. The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (4/17, German, 479K) reports that a lawsuit by Las Vegas restaurateur Thomas Kim says former federal Homeland Security Investigations agent Joohoon David Lee, who was convicted of accepting bribes, "abused his authority and tried to manufacture a criminal case against" Kim. The suit alleges that Lee "launched a phony investigation into allegations of drug use, prostitution and human trafficking at Kim's Korean restaurant, Club Yamang, in 2013 to curry favor with" competitor Dong Myung Yu, "who had given the agent thousands of dollars in free food and drinks." The allegations include a federal raid "not supported by probable cause," detaining Kim's South Korean-born fiancée and several employees, and forcing Kim's now-wife, Aeja Kim, to wear an electronic monitoring bracelet "without a federal court order or approval from an immigration judge." The suit also alleges that "when Kim complained to the agent's boss, he was told, 'We can do whatever we want.'" Because federal law doesn't allow Lee to be sued, the lawsuit seeks about \$1.3 million in damages from the federal government.

Customs and Border Protection:

CBP DISCOVERS 140-FOOT LONG TUNNEL UNDER SOUTHERN BORDER. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (4/16, Nelson, 4.1M) reports the US Customs and Border Patrol "discovered a 140-foot-long tunnel across California's border with Mexico" near the Calexico Port of Entry. [Fox News](#) (4/17, 9.42M) reports Border Patrol Sector Chief Rodney Scott said, "This agent saw something that didn't look quite right and it turned out to be a tunnel." Fox News, citing the Los Angeles Times, says a depression in the soil caved in, revealing an 18-inch wide hole into the tunnel.

COCAINE FOUND IN LUGGAGE AT KENNEDY AIRPORT. The [AP](#) (4/17) reports US Customs and Border Protection officers found about \$50,000 worth of cocaine in bags of coffee in the luggage of a Jamaican citizen after she landed at New York's Kennedy Airport.

BORDER PATROL AGENT HELPS CATCH ALLEGED BANK ROBBER. The [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (4/17, 290K) reports Anthony Ferdico is accused of robbing an Alamogordo, New Mexico bank. He fled in an SUV, but "a Border Patrol agent spotted the SUV nearby and followed it until police vehicles stopped" it and arrested Ferdico.

Transportation Security Administration:

CHARLOTTE DOUGLAS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ASKS TSA TO NOT CUT STAFF. The [Winston-Salem \(NC\) Journal](#) (4/17, 186K) reported the Transportation Security Administration and Charlotte Douglas International Airport "presented dueling pictures of the status of airport security last week." The TSA held a tour of its new automated in-line baggage system, which it says is reducing processing time. However, Interim Aviation Director Brent Cagle wrote to the TSA asking it not to make 60 planned staff cuts and to add more workers at checkpoints. He wrote, "The actions of the TSA have had and will

continue to have a detrimental effect on customer wait times and a negative economic impact to the airport and the airlines.” In contrast, Kevin Frederick, federal security director for the TSA in Charlotte, said, “I believe we have enough resources” to meet security and customer service needs.

PRIVATE SERVICE TO AVOID SECURITY LINES PROFILED. [CNBC](#) (4/17, 2.3M) profiles “Clear, a private service that verifies the identity of travelers before sending them to the front of TSA security lines.” However, it is available “at just 13 airports.” Part of its difficulty in expanding is that, with limited space for TSA lines, airports are reluctant to dedicate one line to “Clear and a relatively small number of travelers compared to those going through TSA lanes.” Meanwhile, a TSA spokesperson said, “While we at TSA have a robust plan to address the volume – including more canine use, encouraging ‘PreCheck’ enrollment, overtime, accelerated hiring and more, we are appreciative that our airline partners are working with us and asking travelers to arrive at the airport two hours early for domestic flights to help alleviate some of the expected summer congestion.”

COLUMNIST: SEA-TAC GETTING MORE SECURITY STAFF. Eric Lacitis writes in a column in the [Yakima \(WA\) Herald-Republic](#) (4/17, Lacitis, 91K) that help for Seattle-Tacoma International Airport’s long security lines is coming, as “more TSA agents and more dogs trained to sniff for explosive vapors” were announced Friday. At the event, Sen. Maria Cantwell and Transportation Security Administration Administrator Peter Neffenger “promised major changes by summer travel season.” Neffenger “said the TSA Academy is graduating 200 new officers each week, and that they’ll be ‘front-loaded’ to facilities such as Sea-Tac.” The move comes after travelers expressed their frustrations, and Lacitis showcases some choice criticisms.

Federal Emergency Management Agency:

LAWSUIT PROMPTS NEW FLOOD ZONE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OREGON. The [AP](#) (4/15, Manning) reported, “Building in flood zones is about to get harder across much of Oregon,” due to newly published federal recommendations. The recommendations were a response to a salmon protection lawsuit that was filed by several environmental groups. John Graves, FEMA’s regional branch chief for Floodplain Management & Insurance, said employees of his agency will work on an implementation plan with state and local officials in Oregon. Oregon Congressman Peter DeFazio, however, said he will try and block that effort. DeFazio argued, “We can protect our endangered species without dictating unworkable solutions for communities in flood prone areas.” The [Daily Astorian \(OR\)](#) (4/15, Bengel, 23K), meanwhile, reports Graves said the new recommendations will not change the agency’s flood map appeals process.

US Citizenship and Immigration Services:

CIS HELPS HISTORIANS WITH ANCESTOR SEARCHES. The [Tampa \(FL\) Tribune](#) (4/17, Moody, 385K) reported the US Citizenship and Immigration Service “is interested in helping” family historians “with their ancestor hunting.” The Tribune details how to request an Index Search by providing “information to USCIS, which in turn searches its historical immigration and naturalization record indices for citations related to a specific immigrant.”

TEXAS HOTEL REDEVELOPMENT AWAITING EB-5 PREAPPROVAL. The [Fort Worth \(TX\) Star-Telegram](#) (4/17, Hanna, 489K) reports plans to redevelop Mineral Wells, Texas’ historic Baker Hotel “remain on hold” as developers “are still awaiting pre-approval from the Department of Homeland Security’s EB-5 Immigrant Investor program.” The program has its critics; one of the issues raised is “that most of the foreign investment is going to luxury hotels and condos in places like New York City and South Florida, rather than rural or economically distressed urban neighborhoods as originally intended.”

Immigration:

MANY UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS ARE PROFESSIONALS. In a more than 2,500-word article, the [South Florida Sun Sentinel](#) (4/17, Valverde, Hemlock, 605K) reports that about one million

undocumented immigrants are professionals, according to a report from Migration Policy Institute. Because “it’s not easy to deport undocumented immigrants who don’t have a criminal record or a removal order,” they can hold “a high-profile job or live in a nice home,” although it requires “planning that most Americans never have to think about.” Taxes are paid online, and banking is done with passports and taxpayer identification numbers. The Sun Sentinel adds, “U.S. laws offer few opportunities for workers who want to come to the U.S. legally.” Since 1965, US immigration policy has “focused on family reunification, refugees and certain high-skilled workers.”

FORMER DHS OFFICIAL: BORDER WALL WON’T WORK. Former Department of Homeland Security undersecretary (acting) and deputy undersecretary in the Science and Technology Directorate Daniel M. Gerstein of the RAND Corporation, in an op-ed in [US News & World Report](#) (4/15, Gerstein, 853K), wrote that as illegal entry into the US via its southern border is “an economic migration and smuggling problem,” building a wall “has little chance of success” in solving the problem. Walls have been breached and tunneled under. Meanwhile, such a wall would have a high cost and divert “resources away from other border control measures that have a higher probability of success.” Instead, “border security requires a collection of federal, state, local, tribal and territorial governments working together in unison,” hence the Homeland Security’s unity of effort initiative’s creation of Joint Task Forces East, West and Investigations, which seek “to move from a narrow focus along the border to a layered system of security, enforcement and response measures based on situational awareness, intelligence and information sharing and operational coordination.” Gerstein also calls for international cooperation, streamlining the processing of undocumented immigrants, greater emphasis “on expanding border security beyond the physical dimension,” and consideration of “the delicate balance between border security and the legitimate flow of goods and services.”

LAWSUIT: TEXAS DRONE EXEMPTION ALONG BORDER UNFAIRLY TARGETS MEXICANS. The [Washington Times](#) (4/17, Dinan, 285K) reports that a Texas man sued on Friday “to stop a new state law giving drones ‘unfettered’ rights to snap photos or video along the southwest border, saying it appears to be a racially tinged effort to target Mexicans for intrusive scrutiny.” Manuel R. Flores, of Laredo, “said either Texans should be allowed to film anywhere or nowhere – but treating those who live along the border differently is a violation of his constitutional rights.” The Times adds that Texas law “generally prohibits” the use of drones “to snap unauthorized photos of people or things on private property,” but Texas Gov. Greg Abbott “signed several new drone bills into law last year laying out exceptions such as surveyors, academics, utility workers and realtors, who are allowed to photograph as long as no individuals are shown.”

US Coast Guard:

COAST GUARDSMAN SENTENCED FOR CHILD PORN. The [Miami Herald](#) (4/17, Goodhue, 803K) reports US District Judge Jose E. Martinez sentenced Coast Guardsman Drew Alexander Young to 19 years and six months in prison and 10 years probation after “he pleaded guilty to convincing a 13-year-old girl, who was up front about her age, to send him lewd photographs of herself to his cell phone.” Young also must “abide by a number of conditions, including staying away from children in his private life and at work, undergoing sex offender treatment and agreeing to having restricted computer access.” Coast Guard Investigative Service agents discovered Young’s activities when they “were looking into sexual harassment allegations against” him.

Secret Service:

TENSE MOMENT OUTSIDE CLINTON FUNDRAISER. [ABC News](#) (4/17, 4M) reports that during a protest by Bernie Sanders supporters outside a Hillary Clinton fundraiser, “there was a tense moment when a Secret Service agent encouraged one of the protesters to the side of the street, prompting others to shout ‘don’t touch her!’”

National Protection and Programs:

BOSTON MARATHON SECURITY WILL BE TIGHT. The [CBS Evening News](#) (4/17, story 4, 2:22, Glor, 11.17M) reported security will be “tight” at Monday’s running of the Boston Marathon. There is no credible threat, but Boston police acknowledge the marathon is a soft target. There will be 5,000 police officers lining the marathon route, while Massachusetts state helicopters “will be on patrol with infrared cameras which can detect a heat signature.” Boston Police Commissioner William Evans “says there is more coordination with federal investigators than ever before.”

Terrorism Investigations:

SANDERS, CLINTON DECLINE TO TAKE POSITION ON SAUDI ARABIA BILL. Bernie Sanders said on [CNN State of the Union](#) (4/17, Bash) that he was not prepared to take a position on bill before Congress to remove Saudi Arabia’s sovereign immunity and allow lawsuits against it by families who lost members in the 9/11 attacks, noting he has “got to have more information on that” before he makes a decision. However, Sanders did say that he has “a lot of concerns about the role, in general, that Saudi Arabia has played and the royal family has played in supporting Wahhabism.” On [ABC This Week](#) (4/17, Stephanopoulos, 6.61M), Sanders said, “The evidence is pretty clear. Saudi Arabia is one of the most powerful and wealthiest families in the world. That’s why they can threaten to withdraw hundreds of millions of dollars from our economy. The evidence is quite clear that sections of that very large royal family have funded Wahhabism, this extremely right-wing fundamentalist ideology, which is what ISIS is about, which is what Al Qaeda is all about.”

On [ABC’s This Week](#) (4/17, Stephanopoulos, 6.61M), Hillary Clinton also said she is unable to give an opinion on the matter because she hasn’t “studied it.” However, Clinton said, “Obviously, we have to make anyone who participates in or supports terrorism pay a price. We have to be aware of any consequences that might affect Americans, military or civilian or our nation.”

THOUSANDS IN BRUSSELS MARCH AGAINST TERRORISM. [NBC Nightly News](#) (4/17, story 8, 0:21, Snow, 16.61M) reported about 7,000 people marched in Brussels on Sunday against terrorism and hate almost one month after bombings there left 32 people dead. Marchers included survivors of those bombings and relatives of some of the victims.

COLLEGE STUDENT REMOVED FROM PLANE AFTER SPEAKING ARABIC. The [New York Times](#) (4/17, Stack, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) reports Khairuldeen Makhzoomi, a senior at the University of California, Berkeley, who came to the US as an Iraqi refugee, was removed from a Southwest Airlines flight from Los Angeles to Oakland on April 6 “after another passenger became alarmed when she heard him speaking Arabic.” Makhzoomi was taken off the flight after he “called an uncle in Baghdad to tell him about an event he attended that included a speech by United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon.” A nearby passenger “told the crew she overheard him making ‘potentially threatening comments,’ the airline said in a statement.”

Cyber News:

DHS RELYING ON SILICON VALLEY OFFICE TO INCREASE PRIVATE-SECTOR COOPERATION. [FedTech Magazine](#) (4/17, Goldstein, 204K) reports on DHS’s National Protection & Programs Directorate (NPPD), which “works with state and local governments and private industry to make the country’s physical and cyber infrastructure more resilient and secure.” FedTech Magazine says that DHS’ Sean McAfee was sent to Silicon Valley to lead the NPPD in an effort to create “closer cooperation on cybersecurity between private-sector technology firms and the federal government.” FedTech Magazine adds “DHS plans to launch similar technology hubs at offices across the country.”

RANSOMWARE REPORTEDLY COST VICTIMS \$209 MILLION IN FIRST THREE MONTHS OF 2016. [CNN Money](#) (4/15, Fitzpatrick, Griffin, 2.9M) reports the FBI’s numbers show that ransomware cost companies and institutions “\$209 million in the first three months of 2016.” CNN Money says that trend continues, “ransomware is on pace to be a \$1 billion a year crime this year.” CNN Money adds that the FBI “said that the losses could even be bigger once other related costs from these extortion schemes are factored in.”

MILITARY CYBER OFFICIALS WARN OF DANGERS OF KEEPING DATASETS AROUND FOR TOO LONG. [Federal Computer Week](#) (4/15, Lyngaas, 263K) reports several military cyber officials spoke at an April 14 panel hosted by FedScoop and warned against keeping datasets around for too long because that data “can pose a security threat to agencies” similar to the recent OPM hack. Federal Computer Week says “datasets created and stored before the development of advanced cybersecurity protections can potentially offer easy pathways for hackers.” Federal Computer Week adds that the military officials advised that datasets should have an expiration date to avoid keeping unsecure data longer than it is useful.

“WIRED” WEEKLY ROUNDUP OF CYBERSECURITY NEWS HIGHLIGHTS IRS CYBERSECURITY CAPITOL HILL HEARINGS. [Wired](#) (4/16, Glaser, 3.82M) presents its weekly roundup of cybersecurity top stories with a highlight on the hearings IRS Chief John Koskinen endured last week on Capitol Hill discussing the IRS’ cybersecurity vulnerabilities. Wired also discusses encryption issues by citing a report that the FBI paid hackers to unlock an “iPhone that belonged to a San Bernadino terrorist,” and the first public meeting of the President’s commission on improving cybersecurity.

DOD ENVISIONS LARGER CYBERSECURITY ROLE FOR NATIONAL GUARD. The [Baltimore Sun](#) (4/16, Duncan, 712K) reports a small group of troops from the Maryland National Guard will, for the first time, travel to Estonia to engage in a cyber military exercise that takes place every year. The Sun says the decision to send troops from the National Guard to the exercise is a signal that DOD envisions a larger role in cybersecurity for the Guard. The Sun reports that DOD officials “envision a major [cybersecurity] role for the National Guard, which has members who bring cutting-edge skills from their full-time careers, and the ability to be deployed more easily than regular troops to respond to hacks against civilian targets.”

FEDERAL AND STATE AUTHORITIES INVESTIGATING HACK OF BALTIMORE CITY EMPLOYEE DATA. In continuing coverage, The [Baltimore Sun](#) (4/15, Dance, 712K) reports the “FBI, Secret Service, IRS, state attorney general’s and comptroller’s offices, and city police are involved in the investigation” into last week’s potential hack of Baltimore City employee data, which was used to “file fake tax returns in their names.”

CYBERATTACK STRIKES NEWARK POLICE DEPARTMENT. [New Jersey Local News](#) (4/17, Coleman, 703K) reports a cyberattack on the Newark Police Department network “shut down various systems used by the department for several days last week.” New Jersey Local News says that the “virus temporarily locked down the servers, blocking access to the computer program used by the department to track and analyze crime data, and also the program used to dispatch police and emergency officers.” New Jersey Local News notes that the department is working with several agencies to conduct an investigation into the incident.

CIA’S IN-Q-TEL FIRM INVESTS IN SOCIAL MEDIA SURVEILLANCE TECHNOLOGY. [US News & World Report](#) (4/15, Risen, 853K) reports the CIA’s venture capital firm In-Q-Tel has invested in at least four companies “designing technologies that would help the government collect social media information and rapidly process it to spot people viewed as potential threats.” US News & World Report says four of the companies the CIA is investing in are Pathar, Geofeedia, TransVoyant, and Dataminr. [Mashable](#) (4/15, Fang, 1.72M) details the technologies created by Pathar, Geofeedia, TransVoyant, and Dataminr. [Fortune](#) (4/15, Zarya, 4.02M) reports the investments show that the “U.S. Central Intelligence Agency is investing heavily in tech, particularly in big data analytics, social media mining, and data center infrastructure.” [Engadget](#) (4/15, Hardawar, 439K) also reports.

JAPAN PASSES NEW LEGISLATION TO ADD CYBERSECURITY SPECIALISTS. [Japan Today](#) (4/17, 3K) reports Japan has passed a new cybersecurity law that aims to add 30,000 cybersecurity specialists “ahead of the 2020 Olympics and Paralympics in Tokyo.” Japan Today says that the first qualification exam is planned for April of next year. Japan Today adds that, in addition, the law will “expand the scope of entities subject to vulnerability checks following a massive leak of personal data from the Japan Pension Service last year.”

CHINA REPORTEDLY BLOCKS ONLINE PUBLISHING SITE “MEDIUM”. [Reuters](#) (4/15, Carsten) reports China may have blocked online publishing site Medium, which is used for blog posting. Reuters says China has not confirmed that the site has been censored. Reuters adds that Medium would join news outlets the Economist and Time, which were shut down in China recently after running coverage of Chinese connections to the Panama Papers leak.

National Security News:

CARTER: US WEIGHS SENDING MORE TROOPS TO FIGHT ISIL IN IRAQ AND SYRIA. [NBC Nightly News](#) (4/17, story 9, 0:28, Snow, 16.61M) reported Defense Secretary Carter, who is currently in the Middle East, “says he and his commanders are considering” how to step up the fight against ISIL in Iraq and Syria, including potentially sending more US troops on the ground, and conducting more airstrikes and cyber attacks. NBC will air its exclusive interview with Carter on Monday.

US STEPS UP AIR CAMPAIGN TARGETING ISIL’S FINANCES. [USA Today](#) (4/17, Michaels, 5.45M) reports the US-led coalition has “ramped up” its air campaign on ISIL’s finances, “launching 15 strikes against cash depots and more than 125 attacks on oil infrastructure over the past six months, according to US military statistics.” In a statement, Air Force Lt. Gen. Charles Brown, who “oversees the air war,” said, “We’ve been able to identify and strike strategic targets that place increased pressure on their ability to recruit and sustain operations.” In response to the US shift, USA Today says ISIL has had to “cut pay to its fighters by as much as half,” and oil revenue “has also taken a hit.”

SYRIAN OPPOSITION URGES REBELS TO STRIKE BACK AT ARMY. [Reuters](#) (4/17, Al-Khalidi) reports senior Syrian opposition members on Sunday urged rebels to strike back against the Syrian army, accusing it of taking advantage of a cease-fire to gain ground, and cast doubt over whether they would continue to participate in peace talks.

POPE FRANCIS BRINGS SYRIAN REFUGEES BACK TO VATICAN. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (4/17, story 7, 0:18, Llamas, 14.63M) reported Pope Francis brought 12 Syrian refugees, including six children, back to the Vatican following his trip to the Greek island of Lesbos. [NBC Nightly News](#) (4/17, story 10, 1:50, Snow, 16.61M) reported the three Syrian families were informed of their new homes in Rome “just hours before the Pope’s visit.” All 12 refugees are Muslim, “but they say this is not about religion, it’s about humanity.”

DIEHL: ISIL WILL OUTLIVE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION. Jackson Diehl writes in his [Washington Post](#) (4/17, 8.98M) column that it has become clear “there will be no liberation of Mosul in 2016” and ISIL will “outlive” the Obama Administration, “whose lapses in Syria and Iraq helped to create it. It will be the ugliest piece of Barack Obama’s legacy.”

CIA HONORS 2002 DEATH OF GREEN BERET IN AFGHANISTAN. On its front page, the [Washington Post](#) (4/17, A1, Gibbons-Neff, 8.98M) reports that 13 years after his death in 2002, Army Sgt. Nathan Ross Chapman, who was “the first military casualty to die by enemy fire during the war in Afghanistan,” the CIA has “recognize[d] on its Memorial Wall that Chapman, an Army Green Beret, was also one of its own — the sergeant first class had been officially detailed to the agency in the weeks after the 9/11 attacks and died acting as a CIA paramilitary team’s communications specialist.”

REPORT WARNS OF ELECTROCUTION RISK AT US EMBASSY BUILDINGS IN KABUL. The [Military Times](#) (4/17, Cordell, 763K) cites a new and “unsettling” State Department report that warns of “potentially fatal electrical currents inside two well-populated buildings” at the US Embassy in Kabul. An investigation by the department’s inspector general reveals “significant problems with the power systems in an office building and a staff residence,” which combined accommodate “about 1,200 people.” The department “says it has begun to fix the problems but downplayed the report’s characterization of how significant the safety threat is.”

UN REPORTS 600 CIVILIAN DEATHS IN AFGHANISTAN SO FAR THIS YEAR. The [New York Times](#) (4/17, Mashal, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) reports the UN reported Sunday its “mission in

Afghanistan documented 600 civilian deaths and 1,343 wounded in the first three months of 2016.” According to the report, although “the death toll fell 13 percent from the same period last year, the number of wounded increased 11 percent...with a high rise among children.” The report places blame for “60 percent of the casualties” on insurgents and 19% on government forces, which is “up sharply from last year — roughly 70 percent higher over the same period.”

AFGHAN SOLDIERS ERRONEOUSLY DECLARED DEAD MUST RETURN COMPENSATION MONEY. The [New York Times](#) (4/17, Mashal, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) reports two Afghan Army soldiers who the Afghan government said were killed in an attack on their outpost actually survived the attack. The government, which gave their families “a \$2,300 government payout — roughly a year’s salary for a soldier — to pay for the burial and see them through for a short while,” is demanding the compensation money be returned and the men “were told that they could always take another stint in the army to help.”

RUSSIAN JET BUZZES US RECONNAISSANCE PLANE OVER BALTIC SEA. [USA Today](#) (4/17, Michaels, 5.45M) reports a Russian jet flew “dangerously close” to a US reconnaissance plane operating in the Baltic Sea last week, the “latest in a string of dangerous encounters with Russian forces in the region, according to the Pentagon.” The Russian SU-27 fighter operated in an “unsafe and unprofessional” manner when it approached the RC-135 reconnaissance plane, the Pentagon said in a statement Saturday. Russia, [Reuters](#) (4/17) reports, rejected the claim on Sunday as “running counter to reality.”

NYTIMES ANALYSIS: US-SAUDI TIES STRAINED AHEAD OF OBAMA VISIT. The [New York Times](#) (4/17, Shear, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) reports on the “depth of the strain on the relationship” between the US and Saudi Arabia ahead of President Obama’s visit this week. While under Obama “there has been distrust and disagreement over how to contain Iran, the fight against the Islamic State, the future of Syria and clashes in Yemen,” the Times says Saudi leaders are now “looking past him, to the winner of November’s presidential election.”

In an editorial, meanwhile, the [Washington Post](#) (4/17, 8.98M) calls on the President to call for the release of Saudi blogger Raif Badawi, who has been jailed since 2012, during his visit.

WHITE HOUSE: OBAMA TO DELIVER “MESSAGE OF SOLIDARITY” IN EUROPE. The [New York Times](#) (4/17, Landler, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) reports that as the President prepares to travel to Europe this week, his Administration “is worried about a cascade of events that is destabilizing, and could even potentially unravel, the European Union.” White House officials said Obama would deliver “a message of solidarity” when he visits British Prime Minister David Cameron and German Chancellor Angela Merkel, but his “own well-publicized statements and foreign-policy priorities could complicate his efforts to be a trans-Atlantic cheerleader.”

The [Washington Times](#) (4/17, Boyer, 285K) says the President’s trip “could be dubbed an apology tour of allies he has offended,” including Britain and Saudi Arabia. Britons, the Times says, “are smarting over the president’s perceived interference” in the upcoming EU referendum. In fact, [CBS News](#) (4/17, 3.97M) reports on its website that London Mayor Boris Johnson has accused President Obama of “hypocrisy for supporting those who want Britain to stay in the European Union.” He told the BBC, “I don’t know what he is going to say but, if that is the American argument then it is nakedly hypocritical. The Americans would never dream of it.”

Tensions Grow In Greek Debt Talks. The [New York Times](#) (4/17, Thomas, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) reports on “signs of the growing tensions over Greece and its debt,” which it says were “evident at meetings of the IMF in Washington last week.” The Times says “nothing exemplifies the growing discord more than a simple chart” that “depicts just how wide the gap is between Europe and the IMF in terms of assessing Greece’s ability to pay down its growing debt burden...in the coming decades.”

NETANYAHU: ISRAEL WILL NEVER GIVE GOLAN HEIGHTS TO SYRIA. The [New York Times](#) (4/17, Kershner, Subscription Publication, 12.03M) reports Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu led a cabinet meeting in the Golan Heights on Sunday, “calling on the world to recognize Israeli sovereignty

over the conquered territory and vowing that Israel would never give it back to Syria.” The Times says “officially, the occasion for holding the first formal cabinet meeting in the territory was to mark a year” since the formation of Netanyahu’s current government, but the timing “was more likely dictated by Israeli concerns arising” from the Syrian peace talks in Geneva. The [Washington Post](#) (4/17, Booth, 8.98M) notes that in the lead-up to the Geneva talks, Syrian officials “signaled that they wanted the discussions to include a possible return” of the Golan, and the [AP](#) (4/17) reports Netanyahu’s remarks “drew quick condemnation from Syria.”

JPost Analysis: Netanyahu Fears Possible Late-Term Move By Obama. In an analysis, the [Jerusalem Post](#) (4/17, 27K) says that while Israel is “an independent and sovereign nation...our diplomatic and security dependence on the United States was and remains the keystone of our relations to the world.” Netanyahu, it adds, is “especially concerned with a possible diplomatic move by Obama in the final months of his tenure, from November to January. By then it will already be clear who the next president will be and Obama will still be in the White House, with no political price to pay for his actions.”

Israeli Settlers Encouraging “Biblical” Tourism. In a front-page story, the [Washington Post](#) (4/17, A1, O'Connor, 8.98M) reports Israeli settlers are “opening a bold new front in their battle for legitimacy: tourism.” They are seeking to appeal to “biblical tourists — evangelical Christians and Jews who want to vacation at ancient sites that appear in the Old Testament and Torah — and ‘geopolitical tourists,’ travelers who want to see the reality behind the headlines.”

BOTH SIDES OPTIMISTIC AHEAD OF YEMENI PEACE TALKS. [Reuters](#) (4/17, Ghobari) reports both sides in the conflict in Yemen are sending conciliatory signals ahead of UN-backed peace talks starting on Monday. “We are ready for a political transition which excludes no one. ... The world now looks to the Kuwait consultations as a landmark of peace for Yemenis, and we will give everything we can to alleviate the suffering of the people,” Yemeni Foreign Minister Abdel Malek al-Mekhlafi said.

OFFICIALS WORRIED LIN TOLD CHINA ABOUT US RECONNAISSANCE AIRCRAFT. The [Washington Times](#) (4/17, Scarborough, 285K) reports that a Navy officer “has spent eight months in the brig as a captive of U.S. counterintelligence agents, but to hear officials tell the spy tale, they know few details about what he provided to China’s communist regime or Taiwan’s government.” Lt. Cmdr. Edward Chieh-Liang Lin “knows a lot about the Navy’s spying on China,” as he was “a naval flight officer for long-distance patrol aircraft that suck up communications as well as track and take reconnaissance photographs and video of Beijing’s aggressive military operations in the South China Sea and elsewhere. ‘Someone like Cmdr. Lin would have detailed knowledge of not only the technical capabilities of the aircraft, but how the aircraft is employed to accomplish its mission and what the U.S. knows about the signatures of submarines and ships used by other countries,’ said Dakota Wood, a former Marine Corps officer and war planner.”

HELPRIN: US MUST BOLSTER MILITARY, NUCLEAR DETERRENCE. In a [Wall Street Journal](#) (4/17, Subscription Publication, 6.74M) op-ed, Claremont Institute senior fellow Mark Helprin argues that most presidential candidates seem ignorant that an increasingly weakened military and nuclear program under President Obama – coupled with moves by China, Russia, Iran, and North Korea – has created the potential for a disastrous war in the near future. Helprin says the next Congress and Administration must bolster the American military and push allies to do the same. Furthermore, the US should refresh and expand its nuclear deterrence, beginning with Iran.

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